Mount Horeb Mail

TRUTH THROUGH JOURNALISM

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SPORTS

Manchester makes history

SEE PAGE 10

Rare bird spotted at Stewart Lake

Photographer Peter Gorman captured this striking image of a little blue heron at Stewart Lake on Tuesday, April 21. Gorman suspects it was likely blown here by the recent storms.

'You can write your own story'

Amy Kalchik reflects on 25 years as a children's librarian in Mount Horeb

By Matt Geiger
Mount Horeb Mail

"I think I get to see the best of it," muses Amy Kalchik, youth services librarian at the Mount Horeb Public Library. "It" in this case is simple: humanity.

For a quarter century now, Kalchik, whose bright, youthful smile belies her lengthy employment there, has helped generations of families hear, tell, and live their own stories.

"I think most stories have been around for a long time," she explains. Those tales can make people feel hope, fear, mirth, courage and more. As G.K. Chesterton famously wrote, they can teach young children that dragons can be defeated.

Most importantly of all, says Kalchik, the stories

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Amy Kalchik has helped generations of local children open their eyes to the power of stories. Photo by Matt Geiger.

Spring concert season is here

The Mt. Horeb school musicians are thrilled to present their upcoming spring concerts. For middle school and high school students involved in band, choir, and orchestra, the spring season brings a variety of musical opportunities, giving students several exciting events to look forward to.

The orchestras will present their spring performances on Thursday, May 7. Grades 4-5 will perform at 7:00 p.m., followed by grades 6-12 at 7:45 p.m. This year's theme is "Across the

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No electric bus after all for school district

The Mount Horeb Area School District is providing an update on its previously announced electric school bus rebate award. While the District was pleased to receive this opportunity last year, it is unable to move forward with this process due to manufacturing errors outside of the District's control.

As the District moved forward in the process, the

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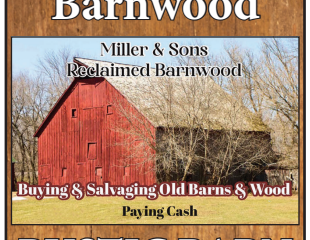

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MoHo Planning Commission grapples with design guidelines

By Cathy Scott
Mount Horeb Mail

The April 22 Plan Commission meeting was called to order by Chair, Ryan Czyzewski. All members were present, except Peggy Zalucha. Village Planner Sonja Kruesel was also in attendance, covering for Ben Rohr.

Mirroring the village board meetings, the PC agenda (and going forward) will now include a consent agenda listing for items that are typically approved, such a past minutes, and extra-territorial Certified Survey Maps (CSM). Any commissioner may request an item to be pulled for discussion, so it is not part of the approved consent items.

Quite a discussion ensued between two separate downtown design alteration reviews for 101 E. Main (Potterton Rule bldg.) and 105 E. Main (Hoff Mall). Prior to this meeting, both items were discussed at the Historic Preservation Commission meeting held just before this meeting, with the first request denied and the second partially denied. The issue? Black smartboard, awnings, and window trim.

The new zoning code, adopted in February and effective March 12, 2026, does not allow the color black in the Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) district. Although any paint manufacturer may be used, the code refers to the Sherwin Williams color palette for historic buildings. Many colors, other than black, are available. In addition, building owners who request a design alteration may choose to keep existing colors if opt not to go with the historic color palette.

Andrea Potterton, 101 E. Main owner, said all new brick is being added to the second floor and the alteration requested is to change the existing blue smartboard awning, front door and blue band on the lower portion of the building to black as well as the trim for the second-floor windows. After discussion, including concern that right after the zoning code approval, a color variance was requested. One of the main intentions of the new zoning code is to avoid variances and stick with the newly written code rules. Commissioner Sarah Best motioned, Andrew Kidd seconded to stick with the HPC recommendation and deny the request to change to black for all three areas. Motion carried unanimously.

Karen Johnson, Executive Relations Officer of the Gallina Companies, presented the design alteration plans for both its 105 E. Main and 100 E. Front (Hoff Apartments) which included black with gold striped awnings for both buildings and black trim for the windows on the Hoff Mall building. The awnings would replace the existing red/white striped ones which need to be replaced due to age. The black trim windows would match those used for the apartment building behind Hoff Mall and on E. Front Street. Johnson brought a sample of the new material for the awnings as well as a drawing of the intended new appearance of the building with the requested alterations.

Commissioner Jill Remmert-Willis questioned how is it valid to say no to the first applicant and even consider approval for the second applicant when both requested using black. Kidd agreed with her. Planner Kruesel explained Chapter 17, Section 17.7.50 (k) addresses awnings and the requirements for awnings are more liberal than alterations on the building façade.

Remmert-Willis motioned to deny the black awning request, Kidd seconded the motion. The five other commissioners voted no on the motion, therefore approving the black with gold stripe awnings on both the Hoff Mall and Hoff Apartments.

Best and commissioner Ben Vondra motioned to approve the awning design alteration and deny the black window trim request, with the window trim to remain the same as is or lighter to blend with the building color. Motion carried with Remmert-Willis and Kidd voting no.

Vondra recused himself from the next item, consideration of the Certified Survey Map (CSM) for 221 S. Fourth Street. Serena Vondra, his spouse, explained the Vondras purchased the property with the intention of building a second home, facing Garfield, on the lot which will be for her parents. With the new zoning code allowing reduced lot size and setbacks, the request has no variances from the code. Unanimous approval was given to recommend the CSM to the Village Board.

Nick Olday, owner of 1348 Field Court, presented for consideration a Site Plan Review for the two additional buildings, with each having two apartments, and will complement the existing two apartment buildings. In addition to the Site Plan Review, Olday requested approval of the CSM for the lot. Both the CSM and Site Plan were approved unanimously. The CSM will be recommended to the Village Board for consideration at the May meeting.

Developer and contractor Tim Kritter, owner of TJK Design Build, and John Walsh, real estate broker and Principal of Lee & Associates, presented a concept plan for 100 Lillihammer Lane. Kritter purchased the corner lot (kiddie corner from Kwik Trip) to build a multi-tenant structure with a drive thru on each end. Two anchor tenants have been secured by Walsh, Dunkin Donuts on the north side and a pickup style restaurant on the south side. The areas between the two could hold up to three additional businesses, depending on interested tenants. Kritter and Walsh asked for feedback from the commissioners before presenting for approval the general development plan at the May 27 PC meeting. A few suggestions were made, such as adding an entrance door to Dunkin Donuts for those biking or walking east on Springdale, increasing the tower element to cover the entire depth, etc., to make pedestrians safer and avoid the drive-thru lane traffic. Kritter appreciated the feedback and will have his team make the changes discussed prior to the next meeting.

Back on the agenda was consideration/recommendation of a Public Art Ordinance. After its presentation at the March PC meeting, commissioners suggested revisions to the village planner, such as shortening it by having less repetition, and getting input from Create Wisconsin that oversees public art. Rohr returned a more concise draft Ordinance, Create Wisconsin provided its regulations, and it was reviewed by the village attorney for its constitutionality.

Kruesel summarized the purpose of the Ordinance was to create a process how public art requests are handled for murals and trolls in a consistent manner. The Ordinance is not part of the zoning code as it is in the Licensing section of the code of Ordinances. Staff would be responsible for the administration of the program. Lastly, she mentioned there are two proposed public arts in the hopper and if the Ordinance is approved, both could move forward quickly.

The discussion for the potential Ordinance lasted for 30 minutes. All but one commissioner voiced his/her thoughts on why the need for it, why assigned to the PC when it is in the Licensing section of the Municipal Code, wouldn't a permit fee turn off artists from presenting a project, don't our existing lighting, public safety and public nuisance codes already cover regulations relating to public art, if public art cannot be regulated, why are we regulating it, this seems like a solution searching for a problem, has there been any case where a piece of public art has been a problem for village staff, how will an Ordinance be of help to staff, should we scrap the Ordinance, we need more advice, we do not have art expertise and, lastly, to the all-important question, what is or is not art?

The result? Return the topic to the planner Rohr to make it simpler and provide examples of other communities this size who do not have an art commission.

Village president offers response on committee appointments

Village president Ryan Czyzewski offered the following statement in response to criticism of his decision to remove Mount Horeb Historical Society Director Destinee Udelhoven from the village planning commission after nine years of her service there. Czyzewski and Udelhoven were on opposing sides of the Langhus on Main development debate last year:

"The nominations are about more than an individual appointment, but as I stated in the meeting, Destinee did a good job as a PC member, and she will continue to serve well on HPC," said Czyzewski. "With the creation of the independent HPC several years ago and its updated role with the revised zoning code, I thought she is most valuable to the Village serving there and bring in a new member to PC. Plan Commission is one of the most sought-after appointments, and Stephanie is a good addition that has been interested in serving for several years. I look forward to Stephanie demonstrating her experience and knowledge of Plan Commission work, with an emphasis on historical preservation too. I fully object that if an applicant disagreed with me they were dismissed, as many of the nomination offers prove otherwise. I'm sorry that perception is out there. Several goals for implementing the application process has been to objectively present the Board nominees that diversify committees with qualified candidates, improve risk oversight, and address the perception that new residents can't get involved in local government. It still needs work, and more applicants to help, but the process creates more engaged and informed stakeholders that benefits the Village's long-term success. As always, people may contact me directly with questions or concerns."

Correction:

Village President Ryan Czyzewski was quoted in last week's article about the village's reorganizational meeting, as saying: "I am disappointed in the experience and am sorry for the way I conducted myself and that that is even thought of as an option as it is not." After review of the meeting's recording, what Czyzewski actually said was: "I'm disappointed that the [my] experience and the way I've conduced myself that's even thought of by some people as an option, it's not."

DATCP denies Sheriff Office's request for beagle breeder walk-through

On April 14, Dane County Sheriff Kalvin Barrett submitted a written request to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), asking to accompany them on an unannounced walk-through at Ridglan Farm in the Town of Blue Mounds.

On April 15, sheriff Barrett received a response from DATCP denying that request.

DACTP confirmed that it continues to conduct unannounced inspections. According to the Dane County Sheriff's Office, the letter went on to confirm that should their inspectors find violations of state animal cruelty laws, they would contact local law enforcement and/or a Humane Officer for further investigation.

DATCP acknowledged that "an on-site assessment by the Dane County Sheriff's Office may be sensible, but does not necessitate DATCP participation."

DATCP also confirmed that Ridglan Farms has agreed to voluntarily surrender its DATCP dog seller license, on or before July 1, 2026, and will no longer operate as a dog breeder as defined by Wisconsin Statute 173.41.

"The Sheriff's Office heard our citizens' concerns about the welfare of the dogs at Ridglan Farms, and we've made every effort to address them," said Barrett.

"Without DATCP's legal authority and expertise in state-licensed animal welfare requirements, the Sheriff's Office lacks both legal authority and expertise in state-licensed animal welfare requirements to conduct an inspection on our own." If the Sheriff's Office receives credible complaints of crimes against animals at Ridglan Farms or any other location within our jurisdiction, we will investigate those complaints," Barrett added.

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Town of Blue Mounds holds annual meeting

By Jill Jonas
Mount Horeb Mail

Just over a dozen electors/property owners, including board members, attended the Town of Blue Mounds April 21st Annual Meeting. Town staff and two law enforcement officers were also present.

Board Chair, Rick VanDomelen called the meeting to order. Although it was a meeting of the Town's Electors and not the Board of Supervisors, those attending were not consistently included in discussion and voting. For approval of the previous year's annual minutes, VanDomelen recognized Supervisors Mary Ann Bellazzini and Kevin Depies. The Board voted 3-0, approving the April, 2025 minutes without discussion or revisions. One item of note in the previous year's minutes, electors passed a motion advising the Board to include "Public Comments" in future agendas.

VanDomelen then requested Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Curt Winter, explain the financial report. Winter encouraged attendees to pay closer attention to large percentage differences between proposed vs actual 2025 budget numbers. As an example, he referred to a significant percentage difference for "Taxes (Other)." Winter explained that the percentage represents an assessor's error. After working with the Town's financial advisor and the assessor, the mistake was corrected, taxes paid and reimbursement recouped. Only half of the reimbursement occurred before the end of the year, creating the larger difference between proposed vs actual budget. Winter covered several other finance items, including a newly added $110,000 road construction loan. Despite work to contain expenses, he noted a Public Works overrun including $42,000 in repairs for the large Kenworth. Winter's presentation closed with the overall message that "expense containment is really the only game in town for us." Rather than having the Town Electors vote, the Board approved the financial report 3-0.

Old Business

Two residents and a property owner expressed concerns on the continuing lack of internet fiber optics availability. They requested that Town officials continue efforts to complete access for all and questioned whether Mount Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC) might be more responsive to elected representatives. Bellazzini noted that all of Dane County is expected to have fiber optics by 2028. She volunteered to contact MHTC and the Dane County Towns Association (DCTA) and report back at the May Town Board meeting. Property owner Helen Kahl spoke on wanting to see MHTC pay more allegiance to decades long paying customers. She suggested the company owes "their long time customers to finish this up." VanDomelen noted he had already asked Clerk Amanda Burghy to place it on next month's Board agenda.

New Business

A Fee Schedule was provided at the meeting. VanDomelen asked people to review it and provide comments or questions on any individual fee. In response to questions, Winter and Burghy clarified that the town is not losing money on fees but perhaps the topic should be revisited next year. Some of the dollar items include: driveway construction permit $500, Rezone application fee $600, Professional Fees $750, Conditional Use Permit $500, Chair Salary $10,000 annually, and Supervisors $6000 annually. The Fee Schedule passed with nine Electors voting in favor.

VanDomelen noted that the agenda item "Caucus vs. Nomination" was added following a suggestion by resident, Wayne Jones. In general, the recommendation is to move away from supervisors being nominated for election at a Caucus meeting to a signature gathering eligibility process. Prior to any motion being placed on the floor, VanDomelen expressed his views and concerns regarding the Caucus Process. Burghy recognized that the Caucus process has been done "historically for a long time." She described some of the Nomination Process requirements and it's related election scheduling. Resident, Al Antonson then motioned that the Town "move from a caucus to a nomination." Resident, Dennis Jelle, seconded. Some questions remained as to whether there were any other requirements for making such a change. VanDomelen placed the motion forward, depending on Burghy's check of Wisconsin's State Statutes. VanDomelen announced passage with a vote of 5-0.

Burghy then described the significant need to update the Town's Recycling Ordinance. She noted the current ordinance is from 1991. She said she was advised "to take the template" from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and shift it to the Town's language. Winter noted a current recycling ordinance is necessary to receive a recycling grant. He mentioned the Town had been "going under the radar for quite some time." Depies questioned whether anything in the ordinance would actually be enforced. VanDomelen offered that, similar to the Board's recent portable storage container discussion, it "would likely be complaint driven." VanDomelen offered that should there be a complaint, "I'll go look into it." Depies expressed "I'm good with that." Bellazzini emphasized the need for coordination with the recently approved Republic Services contract. The ordinance was approved by a 3-0 Board vote.

Antonson then moved to "abolish the Town Constable." Resident, Robin Marohn seconded. There was no discussion. A vote of Electors followed. VanDomelen confirmed whether Burghy had counted the votes and announced the motion passed "something to nothing." VanDomelen then asked for the number. Burghy reported that it was five residents and three board members in favor. VanDomelen again announced, "motion passed." Abolition of the office is effective at the end of the term of the person serving in the office.

Given the severe weather conditions during last week's board meeting, Bellazzini suggested a cancellation policy might be needed. It was noted that after school activities were cancelled that day. VanDomelen stated he would like to hear other opinions but did not think any action should be taken right then. He suggested talking about it in the future.

Following a question by resident, Chris Smith, discussion confirmed the next Comprehensive Plan is due in 2027. Smith asked if the Board had thought about collecting resident input and whether there might be a Town survey or committee formed. All three supervisors acknowledged it would be turned over to the Land Use Committee (LUC) for further consideration. Smith happens to be the newly appointed LUC chair. Kahl reminded attendees of a written statutory process to be followed, including holding a certain number of public meetings. Smith mentioned reading the applicable statute which resulted in his questions to the Board. According to Wis. Stat. § 66.1001(4) "…A local governmental unit shall…adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided… procedures shall provide for wide distribution of proposed, alternative, or amended elements…and shall provide an opportunity for written comments… submitted by members of the public to the governing body and for the governing body to respond to such written comments…"

Next Annual Meeting

April 20, 2027 will be the next Annual Meeting. There was some limited discussion on the scheduling and timing of annual meetings. According to Wis. Stat. § 60.10, all annual town meetings are to held the third Tuesday of April. There are provisions allowing a different date, if it is within 10 days after the 3rd Tuesday of April.

County Board withdraws funds from license readers

On Thursday, April 16, the Dane County Board of Supervisors approved 2025 RES-403, amending the 2026 county budget to remove $80,000 in funding for the Dane County Sheriff's Office use of the Flock automatic license plate reader (ALPR) system and prohibiting further expenditures on the system.

"There are well-documented concerns about how this company operates and uses its technology to violate people's 4th Amendment rights," said County Board Chair Patrick Miles. "The board's action supports protecting our community from a proven bad actor. We have full confidence in our Sheriff and deputies, and we are open to considering other companies that have stronger safeguards in place. At a time when Flock, some of its law enforcement partners, and federal immigration enforcement agencies have been found to collect and misuse personal information for tracking and surveillance in ways that violate constitutional rights, the board has a responsibility to act."

The resolution cites growing concerns raised by residents, policymakers, and privacy experts about reported and verified abuses of data collected through Flock's ALPR network, including informal data-sharing with federal agencies that bypasses oversight and accountability measures. The Dane County Sheriff's Office had granted access to information gathered by the office's 24 Flock cameras to more than 140 law enforcement agencies, including some in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New York, and Tennessee.

"Nothing about this action suggests that our deputies have misused this system," said Supervisor Chad Kemp (District 32), author of the resolution. "But the sheriff's office has not been able to affirmatively confirm that the agencies it shares data with, or Flock itself, are not misusing the information collected by cameras in Dane County. Given what we know about how this technology has been abused elsewhere, the responsible course of action is to end funding for this contract."

Chair Miles noted that board members have ex-

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PERSPECTIVE

Salerno: As May 1 approaches, be gentle, lean on support, and celebrate unity

As we approach May 1st, our hearts naturally turn toward reflection. It has been two years since our community was forever changed by the tragic events at Mount Horeb Middle School. Dates like these carry a heavy weight, and the emotions of that day can remain vivid. We pause to support those who still carry the invisible weight of that day, and remember the courage that defined us in our darkest hour.

While May 1 is a reminder of a profound tragedy, it is also a testament to our perseverance. I have watched this community do something extraordinary. I have seen students support one another with a level of empathy that is wise beyond their years. I have seen staff members lead with an unwavering dedication to our children's well-being, and I have seen parents and neighbors wrap this District in a blanket of care and solidarity.

Resilience is not about "getting over" what happened; it is about finding the strength to carry the memory of it into a future we build together. As the poet Rumi once wrote, "The wound is the place where the Light enters you." Today, that light is visible in the way we have chosen to move forward—not by forgetting, but by growing stronger at the broken places.

During this period of remembrance, I encourage you to:

Be gentle with yourselves and each other. Everyone's journey of healing is different. Whether you find comfort in quiet reflection, shared stories, or going about as "normal," know that your feelings are valid.

Lean on our support systems. Our Student Services team remains available for anyone who needs a safe space to talk.

Celebrate our unity. Let us focus on the kindness, the "small acts of heroism," and the collective spirit that has helped us navigate that dark period.

We are not defined by the tragedy of May 1, 2024. We are defined by our response to it. We are a community that chooses hope. Together, we will continue to heal by demonstrating profound strength and perseverance. Please consider wearing Viking red on Friday, May 1, to continue demonstrating your support for our school community

I am proud to be a Viking, and I hope you are too.

Dr. Steve Salerno
Superintendent

FLOCK

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pressed openness to considering alternative ALPR technology not operated by Flock. "This is about one company and its practices, not about whether law enforcement should have access to modern tools," Miles said. "Supervisors remain open to solutions that support public safety while protecting the privacy and civil liberties of everyone in Dane County."

The 2026 county budget included $80,000 for an annual Flock subscription for the sheriff's office. The current subscription runs through May 31, 2026.

Earlier this year, Sheriff Barrett published a letter in this newspaper laying out his support for the initiative.

"In the rural areas of Dane County, public safety hinges on smart, efficient peacekeeping solutions," he wrote. "As the Dane County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) continues to innovate, license plate readers (LPRs) have emerged as an intelligent resource, enhancing safety while optimizing limited resources."

"LPRs scan vehicle plates in real-time, alerting deputies to amber alerts, silver alerts or stolen vehicles," Barrett continued. "This technology maximizes efficiency amid surging demands. In 2025, the DCSO patrol division responded to approximately 40,000 calls for service. By automating initial scans, deputies focus on genuine threats, freeing time for community engagement and proactive service."

He called the impact "lifesaving."

"In 2025, LPRs have assisted the DCSO solve two homicides, where armed suspects fled the scene in vehicles, providing crucial leads that brought justice and prevented further harm. In an era where criminals leverage apps, drones, scanners, and encrypted communications, DCSO must evolve with tools like LPRs to stay ahead," wrote Barrett. "Critics raise privacy concerns, but safeguards such as data retention limits (30 days) and internal audits ensure responsible use. For Dane County, where response times can stretch due to geography, LPRs aren't just efficient; they're essential for safer communities. Supporting this technology means investing in the safety of Dane County's rural communities."

On Thursday of last week, the ACLU of Wisconsin praised the Dane County Board for pulling Flock funding.

"This resolution serves as a protective measure against the dangers of mass surveillance," said Jon McCray Jones, policy analyst for the ACLU of Wisconsin. "Dane County is doing the right thing by divesting from Flock technology, which scans and stores license plate data to track countless drivers every day without their knowledge or a warrant. The surveillance system allows the government to indiscriminately track a vehicle's location, including vehicles that have no association with a crime."

The ACLU says Flock is part of an "ever-growing array of invasive tools law enforcement uses to collect and centralize sensitive information that can then be analyzed and shared across agencies."

"That means data collected in Dane County does not stay in Dane County. Once captured in the system, local governments lose meaningful control over how that data is used, as it can become accessible to agencies across the country," McCray continued. "Side-door access to Flock has been used by ICE and the Trump Administration to track down and deport immigrants, weaponized against protesters expressing dissent, and routinely misused by law enforcement, eroding civil liberties protections and privacy rights for everyone. Amid the routine abuses of power occurring at the federal level, it has never been more important for state and local leaders to defend the rights of the communities they serve. We commend the Dane County Board for doing just that by refusing to invest in a system that undermines our rights and puts vulnerable communities in harm's way."

"People across Wisconsin and throughout the country are making their voices heard, and the message is clear: Flock cannot be trusted, and it does not belong in our communities," said McCray.

KALCHIK

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young people hear open their eyes to what is perhaps the most fundamental truth for every human: "They show you that you can write your own story," she says.

When Kalchik applied for a job at the Mount Horeb Public Library, having moved to rural Wisconsin from the Chicago area, she had no way of knowing how deeply she would impact the lives of countless families, or how deeply they would impact her. Through stories and songs, games, and simple moments, she has connected, again and again, with some of Mount Horeb's youngest people. The library provides a constellation of services, programs and materials, but at its core, it provides something profoundly basic and essential: "Sometimes they just want to snuggle up next to someone and read," Kalchik says of young patrons. "They want that connection, they want to feel secure and safe."

With a background in education and art, as well as her own experiences raising – and homeschooling – a family, Kalchik knows firsthand how important a simple storytime can be to a child… or to a parent.

"I think more than anything, I just want people to know that everyone is doing their best," she explained. "Parenting is probably the hardest thing anybody will ever do."

Her message to everyone, no matter how young, or how old, or how tired or confused, is short and sweet: "You're gonna be okay."

Twenty-five years is a long time. Kalchik said she knew little about what the job would entail when she interviewed for it all those years ago. As generations of kids have come and gone, and now some of her former storytime kids are actually parents bringing their own children, Kalchik has observed that many of the most striking changes are superficial. Shifting technology, evolving media and more don't fundamentally change what humans are, or what they need.

"We're all still human," she said. "I don't want that to get lost in the society we're currently in."

"On the surface, so many things have changed [over the course of 25 years]," she continued. "But underneath, I think the things people need, and the things people want, haven't changed."

"They are still good people who want to do what's best for their community and their neighbors, who want to find joy," she continued. "People just genuinely are trying their best."

At home, Kalchik is rejuvenated by watching the people her children have grown into, and by the vast menagerie of animals who are part of the extended family, including chickens, dogs, goats and more. But when she goes to work, she finds wellsprings of hope waiting for her there, too.

"Just to come here and see a three-year-old running down the hallway," she says. "I mean, how can that not make you happy?"

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Obituary

Leo Clerkin

Barneveld – Leo Clerkin, age 90, of Barneveld went to be with his Lord on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. He was born on the 19th of July, 1935 to Peter and Mary Clerkin in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Leo always said he had a good life. He grew up during the great depression and loved to talk about the ways he and his family made life work with what they had. He grew up on a dairy farm and attended a one room school house until he was in 7th grade when he and his family moved to a farm in the Barneveld School District. He attended Barneveld Public School and enjoyed playing football, basketball and baseball. He graduated from Barneveld Public School in 1953.

During high school Leo hauled cans of milk for a local cheese factory, after high school he worked for Bill Thousand, Barneveld Gas and Electric installing televisions, which had just been invented. In March of 1955 he joined the army and served during the Korean war. When he was home on his first leave, from the army, he married his wife of 71 years, Norene (Reuter), whom he started dating in high school. They lived their first two years of married life in San Antonio, Texas, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Fort Riley in Kansas and finally Fort Eustice in Virginia where he served in the surgical unit.

After the service Leo became a dairy farmer, something he always wanted to do. After 3 years of renting, he and his wife purchase the Shelby Raisebeck farm north of Barneveld. They farmed until 1983 when Leo's issues with his back caused him to sell the farm and build a home near the farm. He found a career taking care of the Summit Apartments property in Barneveld. He enjoyed getting to know the residents over the years, even after he no longer took care of the property, many were his friends. He also began driving bus for the Mt. Horeb School District and the Barneveld Public School District. He did serve as the bus coordinator for the Barneveld School District and was proud he was able to stop the purchase of the bus service to a private company while serving as coordinator. In 2018, the year he retired from bus driving and received a certificate of appreciation for his 30 years of service to the state of Wisconsin as a bus driver.

Leo had passion for sports, he enjoyed professional, college and high school sports. His children were active in sports in high school and he enjoyed watching them play, but his greatest enjoyment was watching his grandchildren play basketball and baseball. He was proud to watch his granddaughters play in the Wisconsin State Basketball tournament and become state champs. His grandchildren played for Barneveld and Pecatonica schools which kept him finding balance between the two rival schools.

Golf was a passion Leo discovered in his forties. He spent many hours playing golf at Deer Valley Golf Course in Barneveld. Then he started taking trips to Florida, in January, with his brothers to play golf, this tradition lasted for 20 years.

Leo was a devout catholic and served as a lector for 50 years, was on the building committee after the Barneveld tornado and served on church council. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Community was important to Leo, he was a member of the American Legion, member of the Barneveld Advancement Association and drove ambulance for 10 years for the Barneveld Rescue Squad. He received honors as well, Outstanding Young Farmer, Iowa County, Wisconsin, Parade Marshall for the Barneveld Fair parade, inductee into the Barneveld Athletic Hall of Fame, Knight of Columbus Council #10905 Family of the Year and his most cherished honor was the dedication in the Barneveld School yearbook.

He is survived by his wife Norene, his children, Greg (Heidi), Mike (Mary Jo), Diane Beckmann (Don Hipwood), Pat (Sue), Carol Nortman (Paul), Frank, Linda Hendrickson (Steve), Helen Ramdsen (Rob), 29 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. He is further survived by his brothers Tom, Bob (Julie) and sister Donna. Sister-in-laws Pat Bowen, Connie (Roger) Evers and Cindy Reuter. Sister-in-law Veronica Reuter, Bob (Diane) Reuter, Richard (Linda) Reuter and many nieces and nephew. In addition lifelong friends Doug and Judy Johnson.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Peter J and Mary Clerkin, grandparents, Louis and Amelia Trainor and Peter Sr and Dorthea Clerkin, uncles; Allen Clerkin, Leo, Frank, John, Jerome, Peter and Bill Trainor, aunts; Adella and Cecila Clerkin, Eileen, Barb, Catherine Trainor, Regina Burns. Siblings; two stillborn brothers, William and Dorothy. Brother-in laws John Bowen and Richard (Cy) Smith, sisters-in-law Mary Clerkin and Kathleen Clerkin.

Thank you to Jess and Sheri from Agrace Hospice for the care and compassion and Michele Gruenenfelder, PA-C for all of your care through the years.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH in Barneveld. Burial will be held in St. Bridget's Cemetery with Military Graveside Honors accorded by the Barneveld American Legion Post No. 433. Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 10:50 a.m. on Saturday at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Leo Clerkin family which will be shared with local charities.

Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home www.gorgenfh.com

Gleanings

By Barb Johnson
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- May 5, 1886

The blacksmiths and wagonmakers of Mt. Horeb are on a strike.

Mrs. Isenberg left for Minnesota Monday last where she will join her husband Rev. Isenberg, from whence they will go to Norway where they will spend the most of the summer.

O.C. Nuubson's is this season displaying the finest line of millinery goods ever seen at Mt. Horeb.

By count there are 2361 medicinal springs located in different points of Wisconsin. The lists include springs where noted to cure all diseases to which man is heir. The requisites of a medical spring are oxygen, hydrogen, sulphur or iron. Why can't we find one at Mt. Horeb and make a summer resort. We are beautifully located the air is soft, pure, etc., etc.

130 Years Ago- April 30, 1896

The sound of Brattrud's meat market gong is again audible.

Measles is visiting the family of our worthy sheriff.

It's all the same, a slight cold, congested lungs or severe cough. One Minute Cough Cure banishes them.

A Grant Co. lady, Mrs. Garside, was taken to Mendota last week. She had become insane from reading the Record's prize story "Sons and Fathers."

Many of our citizens have taken advantage of the liberality of Iver Halsten in transplanting a lot of fine young trees from his beautiful grove on the Mounds. Most of these trees have been planted on the south side, where they are needed mostly.

Mr. and Mrs. O.B. Dahle came yesterday to take up their abode here. Their costly and elegant home has been completed. We extend a hearty welcome and hope that their remaining days may still be many and that they will find this a pleasant place to dwell.

120 years Ago- May 3, 1906

Word comes from Frank Cunneen that he and his wife escaped with their lives in the recent San Francisco earthquake and fire, but lost all their belongings.

Ole Hulvein purchased a lot in Gordon's Addition, owned by Mark Kerwin and will build a home this summer.

Mrs. Will Cook is in Milwaukee taking treatment for her eyes.

Miss Ella Smith and Albert Weineke were married today by the Rev. Nitardy.

Carpenters are busy with Mr. Lohff's new buildings. The neat appearing barn was the first built and soon the dwelling house will loom up on its elevated location, which gives a fine view over a large span of the country.

Ella Gordon came up from Lake Mills Sunday to spend the day with friends.

George Baker will go to Milwaukee sometime this month as an important witness in a streetcar and automobile smash up case.

Carpenters are busy erecting an oil house west of the tobacco warehouse near the track, a much needed improvement for our local merchants.

Isaac Dahle has developed into a typical commercial man, but has not forgotten his old friends and neighbors. Although he is very busy he finds time to give everybody the glad hand and meets his former acquaintances in the usual courteous manner.

110 Years Ago- May 5, 1916

Henry Brophy came out Tuesday with a delivery car and from now on packages will be delivered right quickly.

Prof. T. S. Thompson will travel as platform manager of the Traver-Wick Chautauqua Company this coming season.

Emery "Pepper" Fink, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Fink, Blue Mounds, is reportedly improving at Madison General hospital where he was taken Friday night by a county ambulance. He was shot in the abdomen by a .22 caliber revolver that accidentally fired as Tom Falk handed the gun to Fink.

A 30-hour rain fell between Saturday evening and Monday morning.

John Birinkott and son Henry have opened a new grocery store in the southwest corner of the National Hotel block.

Mrs. Roman Zwettler, 37, Blue Mounds, passed away May 9, at a Black Earth Nursing Home, after a long illness.

100 Years Ago- May 7, 1926

The managers of the Parkway Theatre have installed an electric player piano in their theatre, which was used for the first time Monday evening.

Orville Bergh has disposed of his honeybees and they have been moved to Perry where they will hereafter be a part of G.M. Ranum's apiary.

Mrs. Fred Kahl, German Valley, was injured when her dress got caught in the gasoline engine when she was working about the cream separator and she was whirled about the building. Her ankle, hips and shoulder were quite seriously injured but no bones were broken.

Our new magistrate, L.M. Kittleson, had his first hearing in his court Thursday evening of last week when George Germaine of Madison was brought before him on the charge of disorderly conduct. "One dollar and cost," said the judge.

John Vilberg has purchased the Stoner building from T.G. Lingard. We understand that the new firm of Peterson & Brannan has a long time lease of the place and have now opened their heating and plumbing business there.

90 Years Ago- May 7, 1936

John Uebersetzig is employed at the Mt. Horeb Hardware Co.

Mrs. William Bilse, 66, German Valley, passed away Friday, May 1, after a week's illness.

Joan Mithus is the valedictorian of the 1936 Mt. Horeb High School graduation class with an average of 94.7 and Kathleen Zwettler with 93.9 average salutatorian.

Mrs. Rhonda Engen has rented her residence on South Second Street and will move to the home of her son, Sever, town of Primrose.

A large assemblage of friends, relatives and neighbors Saturday paid their last tribute to I.M. Halverson, Vermont, whose death May first was shocking, though expected during the short time of his illness. At 55 years of age his death was untimely, especially when a healthy, hardy condition was prevalent, and the entire community extends its sympathy to the bereaved family.

In celebration of its first anniversary Camp Mount Horeb, Company 1694, CCC, will hold an open house from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. tonight. The public is invited to inspect the buildings and grounds at this time. Lt. Herbert Nelson, has arranged to have number of the boys to act as guides. Following this there will be dance a in the mess hall with Music furnished by Wally Lillesand and his Campus Band. Everyone Welcome.

Mrs. Oline Gordon and daughters, Mrs. Arthur Mackeprang, Mt. Horeb and Mrs. W. T. Mason, Chicago, called on Mrs. Mackeprang's son, Milford, who is at a Madison hospital, Tuesday. They found him slowly recovering.

The Gier hardware store building is being remodeled by the new owners, Otto Gilbertson and John Engeseir, who will operate a hardware business there under the firm name of Gilbertson & Engeseth.

We recently purchased a loaf of cheese bread that has been advertised lately from Bergh's Bakery and were really pleased at the tastiness of it. We were informed that this bread is made without a shortening and with very little sugar added to it, the cheese taking the place of both of these ingredients.

50 years Ago- April 29, 1976

National Savings and Loan Association officially opened its doors for business Tuesday at its new office at 300 E. Main.

Mount Horeb will have its first summer recreation director with the Community Recreation Commission's hiring of Dennis Shanks for the part-time position. Shanks, 25, is presently student teaching at Mount Horeb Elementary School.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Owens, Route 2, Mount Horeb, Sunday, April 25, at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison.

20 years Ago- May 4, 2006

Larry Bierke is the new village administrator for Mount Horeb. He has been on the job since April 10.

Private Justin Homes graduated from Army boot camp and AIT from Fort Knox, KY, on March 30, 2006.

Barbara Morkri, a paraprofessional at the Intermediate Center, is this year's recipient of the Stephanie Sutter Award.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patrie to speak at local PFLAG event

PFLAG Mount Horeb continues monthly chapter meetings on Monday, May 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Mount Horeb Public Library meeting room with guest Andrew Patrie.

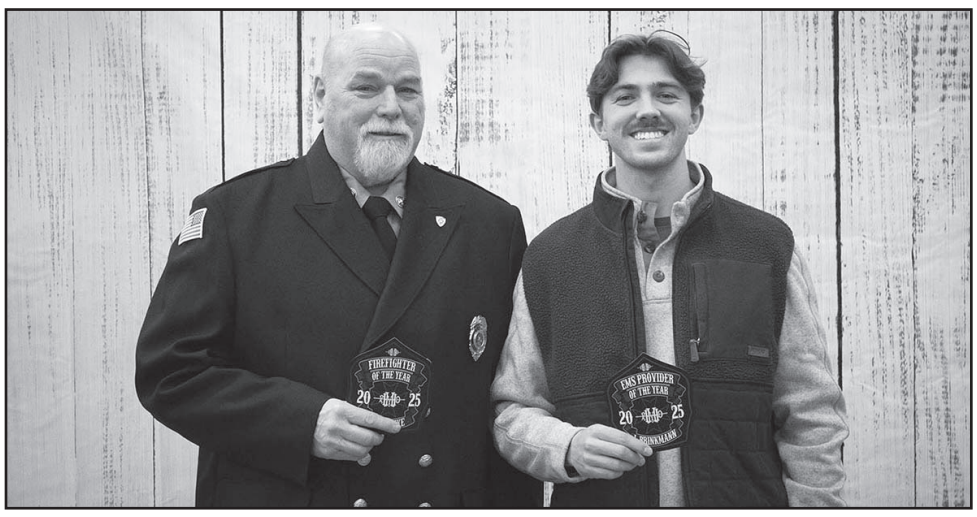
"Andrew Patrie teaches English language, literature, and creative writing in West Central Wisconsin where he lives with his family. He has self-published two previous collections of poems: Nights, Grace (2006) and Half-Life (2016). His work has appeared most recently in Barstow and Grand, Sky Island Journal, Twig, and on Wisconsin Public Radio. He is a contributor to Volume One magazine and the underground Polish heavy metal 'zine Burning Abyss. Andrew will be sharing from his book, Clumsy Love, his first nonfiction book."

Andrew will join via Zoom from 6-7 PM. The remaining time is reserved for sharing and support. There's no need to RSVP if you'd like to join us in person at the library. If you prefer to attend via zoom, RSVP at pflagmoho.org and a link will be sent.

This program is not a library sponsored event. It is made possible by a grant from the Mt. Horeb Community Foundation.

FREE DRYWALL REPAIR AND INSTALLATION CLASS AT LIBRARY

Is your drywall work less than perfect? Gain the skills you need during a free Drywall Repair and Installation class Monday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mount Horeb Public Library. This comprehensive class with Project Home takes the frustration out of drywall projects. The evening will cover everything from the basics to advanced techniques, including proper tool usage, selecting the right materials for any situation, and mastering the tricks of the trade for smooth finishes and invisible repairs. Gain the confidence and skills to tackle any drywall job with ease, saving time and money in the long run. Perfect for homeowners and DIY enthusiasts of all skill levels. For more information about the library visit www.mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021.



Kietzke is First Responder of the Year

The Mount Horeb Area Joint Fire Department is proud to announce our 2025 Responders of the Year, an honor voted on by membership and recently recognized at our annual banquet.

Firefighter Ken Kietzke was presented with our 2025 Firefighter of the Year award. Kietzke has served in the fire industry for over 50 years, and frequently holds the FDMH title of responding to the most calls. He is the proud foreman of Engine 3, and loves serving alongside his son and daughter.

Firefighter/Paramedic Jamison Brinkmann was presented with our 2025 EMS Provider of the Year award. Brinkmann was recognized for his impressive work ethic, willingness to train others, and commitment to providing top-notch patient care. Brinkmann frequently responds as a volunteer on his days off, further demonstrating his dedication to serving his community.

Tomjanovich honored with Student Spotlight

Hailey Tomjanovich, a fifth-grade student at the Intermediate Center, is the latest Student Spotlight recipient. Hailey is recognized for consistently demonstrating excellence in learning and growth, well-being, and community engagement.

Per her teachers, including Art Teacher Alison Winters-Hanson, Hailey truly embodies the spirit of a Mount Horeb Viking through her exceptional kindness and dedication to her school community. Her teachers describe her as a compassionate and responsible leader who is a genuine friend to everyone, making a positive impact every single day at the Intermediate Center.

In the classroom, Hailey is a diligent worker who participates enthusiastically. Her dedication is evident as her creativity shines in art, paired with a constant desire to go above and beyond in her schoolwork. Hailey shows exceptional kindness and compassion, consistently treating both her peers and younger students with the utmost respect. She is praised for being a genuine friend to everyone.

Most impressively, Hailey is always looking for ways to be helpful, frequently asking what more she can do to support her teachers and classmates. She acts as a natural and responsible leader, strengthening the community within the Intermediate Center. The District is so proud to recognize Hailey Tomjanovich for the incredible contributions she makes to her school!

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Steve Salerno, Board Liaison to the Intermediate Center Carly Fisher, star Hailey Tomjanovic, Principal Katie Hauge, Art Teacher Alison Winters-Hanson, Mrs. Tomjanovich, proud sibling Mason, and Mr. Tomjanovich.

'Alive as you and Me'

Hill

On May 1, at 7 p.m., the remarkable theater presentation of "Joe Hill, Alive As You And Me" will be performed. The venue for the event is the historic 1868 Blue Mounds Opera House, located at 2969 Main Street in the Village of Blue Mounds. The event will be hosted by the SouthWest Wisconsin Area Progressives, (SWWAP). The event is free and open to the public. The theater project was initiated by Fermat's Last Theater Company and features Folksinger, actor, and storyteller Tom Kastle. The production honors the memory of Joe Hill, a martyred poet and labor leader.,

The musical delves into the life and songs of Joe Hill, a labor organizer and songwriter for the Industrial Workers of the World, which was founded in 1905. Joe Hill strongly believed in the IWW's guiding principle that men and women of all races and nations could unite to "change the unequal conditions of society through legitimate direct action." For Hill, music and the power of song served as the tools to bring people together. He became one of the most influential topical musicians of the 20th century, and his legacy of protest and activism remains relevant today.

On November 19, 1915, Joe Hill was executed by firing squad in Salt Lake City, Utah. His crime was writing songs. What follows, described by the show's creator is "an evening of songs, stories, and solidarity"

Activists sue county exec & sheriff over response at Ridglan Farms

Utah women file lawsuit against local officials

By Kevin Murphy
Mount Horeb Mail

Two Utah women who participated in the April 18 "rescue" mission at Ridglan Farms filed suit against Dane County officials and the dog breeding facility's owners alleging that they were subjected to excessive force which violated their constitutional rights.

Activists have repeatedly broken into the scientific research and dog breeding facility, including on April 18, when protestors, whose numbers appeared to at least equal the rural town's population of roughly 900, blocked roadways and smashed the property's front gate with an SUV. Activists stood along the winding roads that weave through the area's small farms, holding signs showing beagles with slogans such as "I am not a science experiment." By the end of the day, law enforcement said they had made 25 arrests.

According to the complaint filed April 23 in federal court in Madison:

Plaintiffs Joanna Baird and Linda Gregersen were among the hundreds of individuals who appeared at Ridglan in the town Blue Mounds on April 18 "to save some 2,000 beagles there." They intended to remain non-violent and were met by 100s of law enforcement officers positioned behind a manure-filled trench, large hay bales and a fence.

Dane County Sheriff Kalvin Barrett issued a statement on April 15 saying "all available resources" would be deployed to maintain peace and promised to protect everyone involved, including the rescuers.

On April 18, Barrett said that he "pre-planned a tiered response to resistance" and to those who tried to break into the facility would be met with rubber bullets, pepper balls and other deterrent measures, which said were "appropriate and proportionate."

The plaintiffs believe that Barrett and Dane County Executive Melissa Agard knew about Ridglan's manure trenches and agreed with Barrett's "tiered response" to the protesters.

Baird, 51, crossed over the putrid-smelling trench, the hay bales and, with three other "rescuers" approached the fence where about 10 gun-toting men, dressed in black, with some wearing gas masks stood.

Baird asked if she could cross through a hole in the fence and speak to them about the dogs allegedly being abused at Ridglan.

They allege that without warning, one of the men pushed his knee into Baird's leg and sprayed her face with tear gas. Baird felt her body was on fire and couldn't open her eyes or breathe. Another "rescuer" carried Baird away but fell with her into the manure trench before reaching a medic area the "rescuers" had set up.

For four hours burn cream was applied to Baird's face and hands but she remained blind and skin peeled off her face.

Gregersen, 52, was behind Baird and was pepper sprayed by the men in black clothing, some with "Contractor" displayed on their backs. When Gregersen turned away, tear gas was thrown in her direction four times which halted her breathing.

When Gregersen reached the medic area she saw that about 20 other "rescuers" were screaming in pain while five more tear gas bombs were thrown in their direction.

She believed about 200 law enforcement personnel were present, including state troopers with guns and batons.

The tear gas created a substantial and unjustified risk of bodily injury, amounting to reckless endangerment to those present, they claimed.

Plaintiffs said they were not given a chance to retreat or avoid further exposure and after the chemical agents were deployed, 911 refused to appear.

The tear gas injured those who were not threatening the officers and remained non-violent.

The suit holds Agard, Barrett and up to 25 "John Does" responsible for the injuries the "rescuers" received due to the excessive force used against them. Barrett also failed to intervene to stop the use of tear gas once the "rescuers" were visibly impaired.

The suit seeks class-action status for the "rescuers" injured by the alleged unlawful acts of the defendants and punitive damages for the violation of their constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure.

The activists allege that Ridglan Farms constructed the manure trench which was part of the scheme to expose non-violent persons to contaminated material and was a willing participant in the actions of the county officials.

The county cited Ridglan for constructing a manure storage facility without a permit.

A spokesperson for Barrett said the sheriff's office doesn't comment on pending litigation.

Agard's spokesperson hadn't responded to a request for comment by deadline. Ridglan's promised comment hadn't been received by deadline.

Ridglan agreed to surrender its state dog breeding license by July in an agreement with a special prosecutor investigating allegations of animal abuse.

Recreation Notes

It is almost time for the Recreation Department's Annual Shop Event at DICK'S Sporting Goods! DICK'S Sporting Goods will be hosting a 20% off shop event for all Mount Horeb Recreation athletes, families, and community supporters at the West Madison store from 5/1–5/4/2026. The discount is for in-store purchases only; some exclusions apply. If you can't find an item in the store, ask a sales associate if it can be ordered and still receive 20% off. See our Facebook page or website for the coupon link. This offer is available to ALL Mount Horeb community members.

Pool passes for the Mount Horeb Family Aquatic Center are now available! Call or visit our website to purchase your family or individual pass. *Purchase a family pass before May 14 and receive $10 off plus a free one-day guest pass!*

Join Water Exercise! This class is designed to improve flexibility, range of motion, strength, and muscle tone while using the resistance of the water to cushion the feet, knees, and back. Exercises are performed to music and are easy to follow. Classes take place at the GrandStay Hotel pool from 6:00–6:45 PM. Sess. 1: Mon, 5/18–7/6 (no class 5/25), Sess. 2: Wed, 5/20–7/1, Sess. 3: Mon, 7/13–8/24, Sess. 4: Wed, 7/15–8/26. The fee is $70R/$80NR per session. Registration deadlines: sess. 1 & 2 – 5/11; sess. 3 & 4 – 7/6.

Get outside this summer with Introduction to Mountain Biking! This program is for youth ages 9–13 interested in learning to mountain bike. Riders should have some bike experience, but no mountain biking knowledge is required. Parents are invited to ride along. Instructors will start with fundamental skills and build on them to get riders ready to hit the trails. Classes meet at Grundahl Park to practice skills on the grass before a trail ride on the single-track mountain bike trails at Blue Mound State Park. Riders must have a modern, properly sized, multi-geared mountain bike in 100% working condition, a helmet, closed-toe shoes, and athletic clothing. Classes run from 5:30–7:00 PM. Sess. 1: Monday–Thursday, 6/1–6/4, Sess. 2: Monday–Thursday, 6/15–6/18. The class fee is $60R/$70NR per session. The sess. 1 registration deadline is 5/26.

HOW TO REGISTER: There are multiple ways to register for summer programs and activities.

Online (go to https://secure.rec1.com/WI/mount-horeb-wi/catalog).

In-person at 105 N. Grove Street.

Place completed registration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment in 24-hour drop box.

Email completed registration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment to mhrec@mounthorebwi.info.

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

5/7: T-Ball and Coach Pitch (ages 4-7)

5/11 Water Exercise Sess. 1 + 2

5/19: Adult Swing, Hit, Ace!

5/25: The Audio Oasis: DIY Home Recording Sess. 1

5/26: Introduction to Mountain Biking Sess. 1

The Three Sisters

Three local sisters recently gathered to celebrate nearly three centuries of life. Sister Eileen Kalscheur, 100, Rosie Farrell, 95, and Lois O'Connell, 90, are from Pine Bluff and reunited Sunday, March 22 in Milwaukee. The party was technically at the School Sisters of St. Francis facility where Sister Eileen lives with other retired nuns, but it was also an opportunity for the sibling to get together.

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Mount Horeb Chorale to hold annual concert

The May 10 concert is free and will include a variety of music with a nod to pop music icons Linda Rondstadt and Billy Joel

This year's Mount Horeb Chorale, made up of 80 singers from this community and the area, will sing their annual concert on Sunday, May 10 in the MHHS auditorium starting at 2:30 P. M. Yes, that's right! Mothers' Day! Taking your mother to a concert of beautiful choral music is one of the nicest things you could do for Mom! Just think, having a nice lunch at one our many fine eating establishments followed by a nice concert. Maybe it could be a nice concert followed by a nice dinner at one of our fine eating establishments!

Mount Horeb Chorale mothers and family members singing in the chorale: (1st row L to R) Carlin and William Ramos; Josie Sailor; Anna Tranel; Marc Stoddard; Kara Schaller. (2nd row) Brouge Ramos; Kim Sailor; Kari Tranel; Jennifer Stoddard; Sally Zwettler and Amy Kellesvig.

Within this year's chorale, we have several mothers whose children are also singing with us. They include Amanda Braverman-Brohn and her son Preston, Kim Sailor and her daughter Josie, Shawn Lennix and her daughter Lea Roemer, Brouge Ramos and her sons Carlin and William, Kari Tranel and her daughter Anna, Amy Kellesvig and her daughter Leah, Anastasia Warpinski and her children Ines Gilles and Ro Gilles, Jennifer Stoddard and her son Marc, and finally Sally Zwettler and her daughter Kara Schaller and Kara's daughter Anika.

Yes, the Zwettlers and the Schallers have three generations.

The chorale is also celebrating 40 season's of singing, which also has included singing trips to England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Montreal, Canada, Quebec City, Canada, and New York City. They have sung joint concerts with the South Shore Chorale of Fond du Lac, the Platteville Chorale, the Dubuque, Iowa Chorale and the choirs of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Over 500 different people have sung with the Mount Horeb Chorale at some point with three, Paula Craft, Julie Garfoot and Greg Dennis having sung on every Mount Horeb concert. Of those 500, over 60 are deceased. A special song was written by Greg Dennis titled "Remember Me" with a text be Christina Rossetti for this concert.

BUS

continued from page 1

transportation team conducted a thorough review of the bus. The bus delivery timeline was extended due to a third-party ordering error, missing heating, and an incorrect charge port location that required retrofitting, and was complicated by manufacturing errors such as a corroded electrical panel and a software defect. While some of these challenges are not uncommon with newer technologies, they require careful consideration to ensure the investment delivers long-term value and dependable service for students and our taxpayers.

The District recognizes its exceptional transportation team for its diligence, expertise, and commitment to serving students and the community. Their careful evaluation and attention to detail have been critical in identifying concerns with the manufactured bus and guiding a thoughtful, responsible recommendation to the Board of Education.

The EPA Clean School Bus Program Rebate offered the District $200,000 in EPA funding with a firm May 31, 2026, deadline, making it necessary to decline the bus. Outside the warranty period, fixes for this bus would be costly.

While the District will not move forward immediately, it remains interested in the future of electric transportation and will continue to explore options that meet operational expectations and financial priorities.

CONCERTS

continued from page 1

Ponds," inspired by the high school orchestra's performance in London. The concert will feature music from countries across both the Atlantic and Pacific "ponds" (oceans): Japan and China to the west, England and Ireland to the east, and Puerto Rico to the south. The finale will be Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*.

The annual grades 6-12 "Band-O-Rama" concert will take place on Thursday, May 14. Due to the number of spectators, the concert will be performed twice, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"The spring concert has always been close to my heart as a showcase of all the progress we've made throughout our years as students, and as a senior, it's hitting me extra hard realizing how far I've come since middle school," said senior saxophonist Kait Green.

For band teacher Alyssa Thuli, the spring band concert is a chance for students to explore their past and future through music.

"This concert is a great opportunity for our students to experience music that they and other grade levels and ensembles have prepared. Younger students get to see a glimpse into their future as musicians, and older students get to see what younger musicians have been preparing on their journey. It's a cool moment that students can share as part of an event and activity that is bigger than any individual."

The high school choirs will perform Monday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. The middle school choirs will perform Thursday, May 21, with the sixth grade performing at 7:00 p.m. and grades 7-8 performing at 7:30 p.m.

For high school choir teacher Mat Anderson, this concert is a favorite.

"I enjoy the final concert because it's the finished product of the school year's work. All they have learned, all their progress, and all the connections they've made throughout the year come together for a great final chord!"

"I really enjoy our concerts at the end of the year. We're better musicians than we were at our first concert this year, which allows us to focus on more specific style and technical elements than we were capable of previously," said junior vocalist Madelyn Potter.

Middle school choir teacher Calli Ingebritsen added that this time of year allows students to learn from each other and gives older students the opportunity to mentor younger students.

"It's a great chance for our musicians to work together. Several songs will combine singers from different grades performing together on stage."

The school will stream these concerts live via the Mt. Horeb Music Department YouTube channel. All performances are free and open to the public and will take place in the high school auditorium, except for the band concert, which will be held in the high school main gym.

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Career & Technical Education Month Spotlight: Youth Apprenticeships Turn Classroom Skills into Real-World Careers

By Aubree Hanks

The Mount Horeb Area School District's Youth Apprenticeship (YA) program is a key Career & Technical Education (CTE) initiative that connects classroom learning to real-world careers.

This year, 42 Mount Horeb High School students are enrolled in Youth Apprenticeships, earning paid work experience, high school credit, and career-ready skills.

Youth Apprenticeship is a state-certified CTE program that combines career-focused coursework with mentored, on-the-job training. Students participating in YA are required to be enrolled in a related CTE course, ensuring classroom instruction directly supports workplace learning and skill development.

Mount Horeb High School's extensive Career and Technical Education department plays a critical role in making Youth Apprenticeship accessible to students in the Mount Horeb community. With a wide range of career-related CTE courses offered in-house, students are able to meet YA program requirements while aligning coursework directly to their apprenticeship experience. Keeping required coursework within the building also reinforces equity and access, ensuring all students can participate without relying on outside programs.

Hannah Gervasi, youth apprentice at Mound City Bank.

"Career and Technical Education is about relevance, skill development, and preparation for life after high school," said Craig Smith, School to Career Coordinator. "Youth Apprenticeship brings CTE courses to life by showing students how their learning directly connects to their future careers."

Students are currently participating in Youth Apprenticeships across CTE-aligned career clusters, such as construction (all trades), engineering, hospitality, finance/accounting, health science, auto mechanics, biotechnology, manufacturing, agriculture, and animal science, with other pathways still available. Students work in partnership with local and regional employers who serve as mentors and training providers.

"Youth Apprenticeship gave me real experience instead of just guessing what a career might be like. Working while taking related accounting classes helped me figure out what I enjoy and what I'm good at," shared senior Julia Zimmer, Youth Apprentice in Finance at Farmer Savings Bank.

In addition to technical training, YA opportunities, and the experiential learning in CTE help students build essential employability skills such as communication, teamwork, time management, and problem-solving—skills emphasized across all CTE programs and highly valued by employers.

Participation in Youth Apprenticeship also has a measurable economic impact on the local community. With 42 students working a minimum of 450 hours per year at an average of $15 per hour, Mount Horeb youth apprentices collectively earn approximately $283,500 annually. As high school students, an estimated 70–80 percent of those wages are spent locally on transportation, food, retail, and services, returning roughly $200,000 or more directly back into the Mount Horeb community each year.

Mason Schauf, Youth Apprentice at The Electrician.

The Youth Apprenticeship program is coordinated in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and aligns with Mount Horeb's Academic and Career Planning (ACP) efforts, helping students make informed decisions about their education and career pathways.

As Mount Horeb celebrates Career and Technical Education Month, the Youth Apprenticeship program stands as a strong example of how CTE prepares students not just for a job, but for a future—through relevant coursework, hands-on experience, and meaningful community partnerships.

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Manchester will be a Badger

Mount Horeb standout signs with Wisconsin

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

The process was long, grueling, even frustrating at various points.

Each time Mount Horeb basketball standout Josh Manchester felt his future home was coming into focus, something would muddy the waters.

Patience and persistence, though, eventually won the day. And when Manchester reached the finish line, he did so on cloud nine.

Manchester received a full scholarship from the University of Wisconsin — the team and program he grew up idolizing — and he accepted the offer on April 21.

"When they made the offer, I just said, 'When do I start?" Manchester said. "I mean, I took it without thinking twice. When you get an offer from a place like that, you don't play with it or think about it too long. You take it."

Manchester becomes the first player from Mount Horeb to receive a Division 1 basketball scholarship. Former Vikings standout Mark Emerson played at North Dakota State in the mid-1970s, but the Bison competed in Division 2 at the time.

Manchester had offers from Northern Illinois, UW-Green Bay, Siena and East Tennessee State, but wanted to play in a Power 4 conference. Just days prior to becoming a Badger, Manchester indicated he was leaning towards walking on at Iowa State.

"That's probably what I would have done," Manchester said. "But Iowa State was still figuring some things out, so I wasn't sure if I would have been a walk-on there or it might have been a scholarship."

He didn't have to wait to find out.

On April 19, Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim reached out to UW coach Greg Gard to sing Manches-

continued on page 16

Josh Manchester, the 10th-leading scorer in state history, received a scholarship from the University of Wisconsin last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Rebuild? Not the softball Vikings

Mount Horeb improves to 11-2

by DENNIS SEMRAU
Sports Reporter

Heavy graduation losses usually means a rebuilding season inside most programs.

That isn't the case, though, for the two-time defending Badger Small Conference champion Mount Horeb softball team.

The Vikings' youthful squad continued to display that they are reloading and not rebuilding during an 8-6 win over Portage on April 23.

Junior third baseman Elaina Imbus went 4-for-4 to power a 12-hit attack, while sophomore right-hander Ella Baber survived a six-run fifth inning and finished with 12 strikeouts as the Vikings rebounded from a four-run deficit to surge past the visiting Warriors.

That helped highlight a week in which the Vikings won four of five games and improved to 11-2 overall. Mount Horeb is also 5-1 in the Badger Small Conference, trailing only league-leading Stoughton (8-0, 11-1).

"I always believed we'd come back," said Baber, who allowed six runs, three earned, on six hits with four walks in pitching a complete game. "We were all cheering and yelling, 'We got this' and being positive. My pitching coach always reminds me about positivity and believing in myself."

Mount Horeb held off Portage 4-2 in the team's first meeting on April 7.

But the Vikings earned a sweep the hard way after Portage used four hits, an error and two walks to score six runs in the top of the fifth inning to grab what appeared to be a comfortable 6-2 lead.

However, Mount Horeb — which has made five consecutive sectional appearances and lost in the sectional championship game a year — scored two runs in the fifth inning and regained the lead for good with a four-run seventh inning to remain one game back in the loss column of league-leading Stoughton.

"The biggest thing I told the girls is, you're only down by four runs," Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman said, when the team met before the Vikings turn at the plate in the bottom of the fifth inning. "You can't get them all back at once. You get two here, you're down by two and we've got two innings to get them back.

"You get a couple here and one there and you only have to score one run and you can do that. You've got to have a positive attitude."

Portage (4-4, 2-4) pitcher Trinity Williams allowed two runs on seven hits with one walk and three strike-

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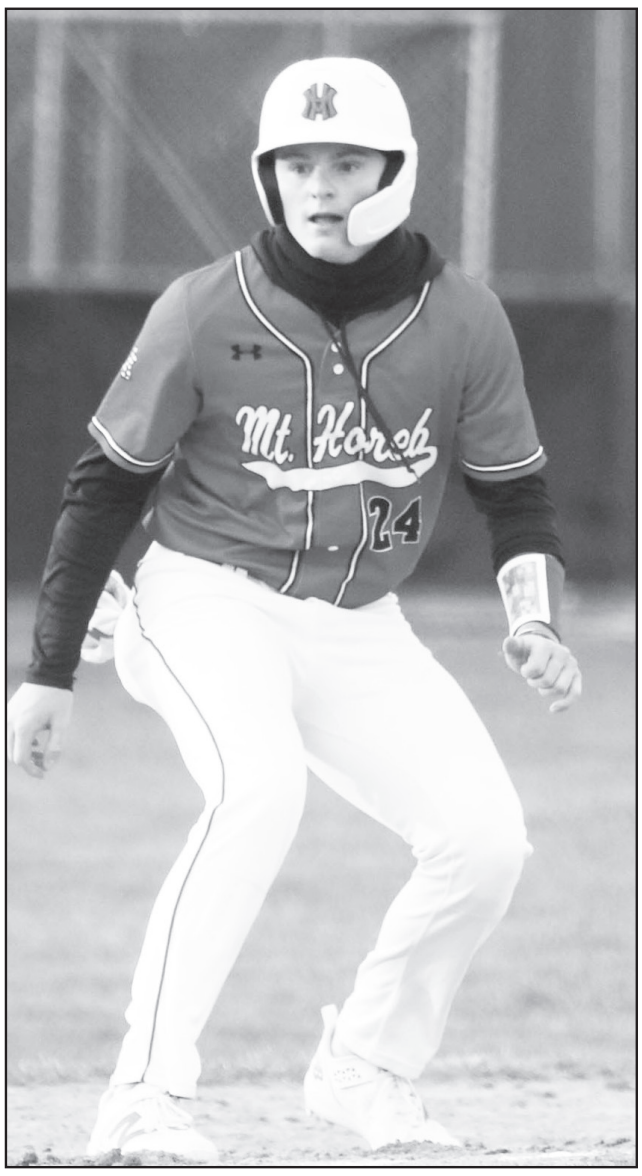
Elaina Imbus and Mount Horeb's girls softball team won four of five games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



Clockwise from above, Logan Ford, Jackson Myers, Carter Vesely and Mount Horeb's baseball team dropped two of three games last week. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Tough week for baseball Vikings

Mount Horeb drops two of three games

by **ROB** REISCHEL
Sports Editor

It was a rough week for Mount Horeb's baseball team.

The Vikings lost twice to Fort Atkinson, 6-3 on April 21 and 11-2 on April 23. Mount Horeb rebounded, though, and rolled past Brodhead/Juda, 14-0, in five innings on April 24.

The Vikings are now 5-4 overall and 2-3 in the Badger Small Conference. Here's a recap of Mount Horeb's week.

• **Fort Atkinson 6, Mount Horeb 3 —** The visiting Blackhawks scored three second inning runs and never trailed in topping the Vikings on April 21.

Hayden Anderson threw 5 1/3 innings for Mount Horeb and took the loss. Anderson allowed four runs (three earned), four hits, struck out five and walked three.

"We aren't hitting the ball great right now as a team and now we are struggling a bit defensively," Mount Horeb manager Ryan Finley said. "We allowed Fort to score 6 runs on just five hits and that's not a recipe for success. We are giving up too many freebies and since we aren't hitting it well, it's putting us in a hole too big to overcome."

Center fielder Josh Kuntz led Mount Horeb's offense going 2-for-4 with a home run, while catcher Jackson Myers also homered. Third baseman Michael Bogue had a hit and an RBI, and shortstop Terek Isley had a double and scored a run.

"Josh Kuntz and Jackson Myers are both swinging it well as we expected," Finley said. "They are both great baseball players. We just need to do a better job of getting guys on base when they come up so they have more opportunities to try guys in."

• **Fort Atkinson 11, Mount Horeb 2 —** The host Blackhawks pounded out 13 hits and beat up the Vikings on April 23.

Mount Horeb starter Brecken Dudley allowed 10 hits and eight runs (five earned) in three innings and took the loss. Josh Kuntz went 2-for-3 and scored two runs to lead the Vikings' offense.

The Vikings also killed themselves with five errors.

"Give credit to Fort Atkinson for hitting the ball like they did, but again, we didn't help ourselves at all," Ryan Finley said. "We committed five errors and didn't make a few other plays that were there to be made. This conference is too good to give as many freebies as we did this week and expect to have any success.

"Despite how well they hit, they shouldn't be scoring 11 runs on 13 hits and we are giving them a lot of momentum and confidence at the plate with our mistakes defensively. I think some of our offensive struggles are carrying over to the field. I need to do a better job of coaching them up on that and not let one mistake turn into another. We have good players and great kids, we will get it figured out."

• **Mount Horeb 14, Brodhead/Juda 0 (5) —** The Vikings scored in every inning, highlighted by a six-run third, and rolled past the Cardinals in a game stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule.

The Vikings pounded out 12 hits in just innings of at bats. First baseman Jackson Myers led the offensive assault going 3-for-4 with two doubles two RBIs and two runs scored.

Shortstop Terek Isely went 2-for-3 with a triple, two RBIs and two runs scored, while Connor Casey had a triple, scored three runs and drove in two. Center fielder Josh Kuntz also had a triple, drove in two runs and scored a run, while catcher Michael Bogue went 2-2.

Designated hitter Sawyer Diercks, third baseman Hayden Anderson and pitcher Jaxen Finley all had RBIs, as well. In all, 18 of Mount Horeb reached base on 18 of its 30 plate appearances.

Finley threw a gem, tossing four shutout innings, allowing just three hits and striking out seven. Finley walked two and threw strikes on 44 of 69 pitches (63.8%).

"Just what the doctor ordered," Ryan Finley said. "We needed a feel good game to get some momentum going.

"The kids played hard and made a lot of plays behind Jaxen on the mound and offensively we kept putting pressure on them with our bats and our legs. Jaxen throw a lot of strikes for us and kept their hitters off balance."

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb hosted McFarland Tuesday, then is at McFarland Thursday at 5 p.m. The Vikings then face Oregon Saturday at noon at Milwaukee's American Family Field.

Golfers win Platteville Invite

Ibinger third individually, Niemetscheck finishes eighth

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's boys golf team won the Platteville Invitational last Saturday. From left are Max Boyle, Jace Stadele, Nolan Niemetscheck, Nick Ibinger, Jacob McWilliams and Finn La Fleur. Photo submitted

Mount Horeb's boys golf team has been trending upward throughout the season.

It all paid off last Saturday when the Vikings won the McKichan Invite held at Platteville Golf and Country Club.

Mount Horeb fired a 330 and edged Reedsburg (334) to win the 15-team invite. Host Platteville (337), Lancaster (338) and Monona Grove (344) rounded out the top five.

"Tremendous effort by our team from start to finish and definitely our most complete performance of the season so far," Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz said.

Mount Horeb senior Nick Ibinger finished third out of 75 golfers with a 78. Ibinger birdied the par-four eighth hole, and added 10 pars on his way to a third place finish.

Freshman Nolan Niemetscheck carded an 82 that included nine pars, a 39 on the back nine and finished eighth individually.

Sophomore Jace Stadele had an 84 that included seven pars and tied for 13th. Junior Finn La Fleur added an 86 that included a birdie at the par-3, 10th hole and five pars.

"While Platteville is not the longest course, its narrow fairways, sidehill lies and small greens provide a tough test for everyone that plays it and that was the case Saturday," Krentz said. "The greens were quick and there were some difficult pin placements making two-putting a challenge if you got on the wrong side of the hole.

"We had arguably our best putting performance of the season, with only seven three-putts amongst our six players competing. Jace Stadele finished his round with no three-putts, an impressive feat on Platteville's greens.

"Hopefully, this performance is a momentum-builder for us moving forward as we enter the busiest part of our schedule."

Mount Horeb also finished seventh out of eight teams at a Badger Small Conference mini-meet held at Yahara Hills Golf Course on April 23.

Madison Edgewood was first with a 292, while the Vikings shot a 333.

Ibinger and La Fleur both posted 82s to tie for 18th place individually and lead Mount Horeb.

Ibinger birdied No. 7 and 11 and recorded five pars during his round, while La Fleur birdied No. 4 and 11 and had seven pars on the day.

Niemetscheck finished with an 83 that included eight pars, while Stadele had 10 pars on his way to an 86.

"Inconsistency plagued us for much of the day," Krentz said. "Our scores were respectable, but on a day where it seemed like everyone was going low, we could not take advantage.

"Collectively, we had 12 scores of double bogey or worse as a team and that proved to be the difference in us finishing much higher in the team standings, as only eight strokes separated fourth through seventh place. We showed what we are capable of with a third place finish in our first mini-meet, so hopefully we can bounce back at Reedsburg in a few weeks."

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb was at the Madison Edgewood Invite at University Ridge Tuesday and at the Holmen Invite on Wednesday. The Vikings are then at the Portage Invite Friday at 9 a.m. and the River Valley Invite Saturday at 9 a.m.

"We have five events in the next week and a half, including some more difficult courses, and we will need to be at our best throughout this stretch of golf," Krentz said.

Mount Horeb's girls soccer team drops two of three

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's girls soccer team had a tough week, dropping two of three games.

The Vikings fell to Portage/Poynette, 4-3, on April 21 and dropped a 3-0 decision to Sugar River on April 23. Mount Horeb then rolled past Cambridge/Deerfield/Waterloo, 8-0, on April 24.

The Vikings are now 2-3-1 overall and 0-2 in the Badger Small Conference.

"Our girls stepped up their game between Tuesday and Thursday," Mount Horeb coach Megan Lemire said.

Here's a recap of the Vikings' week.

• **Portage/Poynette 4, Mount Horeb 3 —** Senior Maddie Ryan had two goals, but it wasn't enough and the visiting Vikings fell to the Warriors.

Sophomore Bella Hoffman added a goal, while juniors Maren Johnson and Avery Monroe both had assists.

"Our loss to Portage/Poynette was disappointing," Lemire said. "But they're a much better team than they have been in years past."

• **Sugar River 3, Mount Horeb 0 —** The Raiders scored twice in the first half and added an insurance goal in the second half and cruised past the Vikings.

"Belleville is a good team, and we couldn't do anything to stop a couple of their goals," Lemire said.

• **Mount Horeb 8, Cambridge/Deerfield/Waterloo 0 —** Junior Maren Johnson scored two goals and the Vikings rolled past the Blue Jays. Sophomore Bella Hoffman had a goal and two assists, while senior Maddie Ryan had a goal and an assist.

Freshman Harper Cassens, junior Jadyn Schellpfeffer, freshman Pippa Barsness and junior Kolbie Severson all had goals, as well.

Sophomore Natalie Sheehan had an assist and keeper Sara Seibel notched a shutout.

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb hosted Madison Edgewood Tuesday, then is at Evansville Friday at 6 p.m.

"It will be a fight," Lemire said of the Edgewood game. "We need everyone to step up and play their best if we want a chance at a good result against them, but it's not impossible."

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Mount Horeb's Max Grundahl was first in the high jump at the Monona Grove Invite. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo track teams have busy week

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's girls track and field team finished in fourth place at the 12-team Monona Grove Invitational on April 24, while the Vikings' boys were sixth.

Verona won the girls' meet with 126 points, while Oshkosh West (118), Sun Prairie East (104), Mount Horeb (82) and Madison Memorial (65.5) rounded out the top five.

Verona also won the boys' meet with 126.75 points, while Sun Prairie East (110.75), Franklin (69), Monona Grove (67) and Madison La Follette (59) rounded out the top five.

Here's a recap of the Vikings' top five finishers.

GIRLS FIRST

• Isla Odgers in the 1,000-meter run (3:02.88).

• Mia Caygill in the 1,600-meter run (5:09.13).

• Willa Vigliotta in the 3,200-meter run (11:24.26).

• The Vikings' 4,000-meter distance medley team (12:48.99).

SECOND

• Aicha Dowling in the 100-meter dash (12.77).

• Mount Horeb's 400-meter relay team (40.75).

THIRD

• Julia Straka in the 600-meter run (1:42.85).

• Avena Myers in the triple jump (34-7).

FOURTH

• Maeve True in the 1,000-meter run (3:24.73).

• Avena Myers in the long jump (16-4).

BOYS FIRST

• Andrew Jones in the 110-meter hurdles (15.66).

• Max Grundahl in the high jump (6-0).

SECOND

• Devin Uptegraw in the 200-meter dash (22.69) and the 300-meter hurdles (42.08).

THIRD

• Jack Wilson in the discus (152.07).

• Kyle Frischmann in the long jump (20-9.75).

OREGON QUAD

Mount Horeb's boys went 3-0 at the Oregon Quad on April 21. The Vikings defeated McFarland, 87-59, downed Oregon, 84-62, and rolled past Watertown, 134-11.

The Vikings' girls went 1-2, falling to McFarland, 67-55, and Oregon, 68.5-63.5, and rolling past Watertown, 108-20.

Here are the Vikings that posted top three finishes.

BOYS FIRST

• Kyle Frischmann in the 200-meter dash (22.45).

• Andrew Jones in the 300-meter hurdles (42.66).

• Jack Wilson in the discus (147-4).

• Gavin Reynolds in the shot put (39-10).

• Django Christian in the triple jump (40-3).

• Mount Horeb's 400- and 800-meter relay teams.

SECOND

• Kelson Baumgart in the 100-meter dash (11.45).

• Devyn Uptegraw in the 200-meter dash (22.97).

• Desmond Kelley in the 800-meter run (2:10.32).

• Samuel Wyse in the 1,600-meter run (4:42.29).

• Harrison Walker in the discus (136-8).

• Mason Hurda in the triple jump (38-8).

• Mount Horeb's 3,200-meter relay team.

THIRD

• Andrew Jones in the 110-meter hurdles (16.40).

• Timothy Kruse in the 300-meter hurdles (47.13).

• Max Grundahl in the high jump (5-10).

• Nolan Beadle in the long jump (19-6).

• Nolan Schauf in the pole vault (9-0).

• Mount Horeb's 1,600-meter relay team.

GIRLS FIRST

• Avena Myers in the 100-meter dash (13.16).

• Aicha Dowling in the 200-meter dash (27.23).

• Mia Caygill in the 800-meter run (2:17.36).

• Mount Horeb's 800-meter relay team.

SECOND

• Eleanor Guenther in the 100-meter dash (13.52).

• Willa Vigliotta in the 800-meter run (2:20.61).

• Mount Horeb's 400- and 1,600-meter relay teams.

THIRD

• Avena Meyers in the 200-meter dash (28.08).

• Kathie Schneider in the 400-meter run (1:09.57).

• Julia Straka in the 800-meter run (2:22.43).

• Lily Wahl in the 1,600-meter run (6:05.27).

• Clementine Christian in the pole vault (6-6).

• Mount Horeb's 1,600-meter relay team.

Girls lacrosse team wins twice

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Verona's girls lacrosse team — which includes players from Mount Horeb, won a pair of games last week.

The Wildcats defeated Oregon, 9-5, on April 20. Verona also rolled past Bay Port, 12-2, on April 24.

Here's a recap of the Wildcats' week.

• **Verona 9, Oregon 5 —** Ava Anderson scored four goals to power the Wildcats past the Panthers on April 20.

Sam Genin added three goals and an assist, while Ellie Schultz of Mount Horeb had a goal and an assist and Rae Olson of Mount Horeb had a goal.

"Oregon is a tough, physical team and they made us earn this one," Verona coach Brian Feiler said. "A win in a game like that says a lot about where this group is right now. The girls competed for every ground ball, every possession, and never backed down.

"We had key players step up with huge performances and honestly we needed all of them. We're leaving a little banged up, but that's what happens when you go to battle. I'm really proud of this team. The schedule doesn't get easier from here and we need to be ready for it."

• **Verona 12, Bay Port 2 —** Senior captain Sam Genin had six goals and an assist as the Wildcats cruised past the Pirates.

Senior Lettie Gauthier and junior captain Ava Anderson both added two goals. Junior Emma Frick had one goal and two assists, while sophomore Ellie Schultz had a goal.

Senior Emma Yaeger had two saves and freshman Rae Olson added an assist.

"I can't say enough about this group," Verona coach Brian Feiler said. "We've been taking steps in the right direction each and every game, and tonight was some of the best lacrosse I've seen played.

"We started a little tight, but once we settled in and found our rhythm, everything started clicking. The girls were working together, hustling after ground balls, and on offense we moved the ball efficiently and scored playing smart, unselfish lacrosse. Defensively we were outstanding. We ran exactly what we wanted to run the entire game and it worked.

"The leaders on this team continue to set the tone by working hard, leading by example, and doing it all while having fun. This has been a special team to be a part of and we're excited to keep getting better."

• **On deck:** Verona hosted Waunakee on Tuesday, then hosts Middleton Thursday at 7 p.m. on Senior Night.

Boys lacrosse team splits a pair

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Verona's boys lacrosse team, which includes players from Mount Horeb, split a pair of games last week.

The Wildcats defeated host Homestead, 7-4, on April 23. Verona then fell at Middleton, 13-5, on April 23.

Here's a recap of the Wildcats' week.

• Verona 7, Homestead 4 — Junior Gabe Weisensel had two goals and two assists, while junior Mason Williams of Mount Horeb had two goals and one assist.

Junior Cooper Blodgett had one goal and one assist, while junior Cullen Olson of Mount Horeb also had a goal and an assist.

Sophomore Ryder Blodgett added a goal and freshman Simon Williams of Mount Horeb had an assist.

Junior Ayden Jagla forced three turnovers, while senior Brady Bowdish had two forced turnovers and had two ground balls. Sophomore Eschton Bethke also had two forced turnovers and had two ground balls, while senior Caleb Jabas notched 17 saves.

Verona led, 3-2, at halftime, then scored a pair of third period goals and stretched its lead to 5-2. The Wildcats struck for two early goals in the fourth period and extended their lead to 7-2 before Homestead scored two goals late.

• Middleton 13, Middleton 5 — The Cardinals, who won the state championship in 2024, showed they're still one of the elite teams in the state in a win over the Wildcats.

Verona's Gabe Weisensel had three goals and one assist, while Ryder Blodgett had two goals. Cooper Blodgett had an assist, while Ayden Jagla forced three turnovers and had one ground ball.

Riley Stagman won 52% of his faceoffs and had four ground balls, while Caleb Jabas notched eight saves.

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SOFTBALL

continued from page 10

outs in four innings. But when Warriors' reliever Julia Chilson took over in the bottom of the fifth inning, Mount Horeb didn't waste any time cutting its deficit in half.

Sophomore shortstop Lauren Mester led off with an infield single and senior left fielder Delaina Nicewander drew a walk to set the stage for back-to-back RBI singles from Imbus and junior first baseman Clare Casey to pull the Vikings within 6-4.

Chilson, though, settled in and struck out the next three batters to stymie the rally.

Baber then rebounded from the disastrous fifth inning by retiring all three Portage players who came to the plate in top of the sixth inning,

Holman said despite the Vikings' youth, which includes four sophomores and two freshmen in the rotation, he likes their resiliency.

"There are no attitudes. They like to come to practice. We have fun," Holman said. "They know what it takes to win. They play hard. I say, 'I don't care if you fail as long as you play hard. You're not going to field every ground ball. But just play hard when you do it.' "

Baber showed no signs of her fifth inning struggles when she needed nine pitchers to strike Avery Preuss and Williams — who had reached base in three consecutive at bats — to open the sixth inning.

After Baber caught an infield popup from Brynn Langan, Mount Horeb delivered its best rally of the season.

Senior catcher Sunny Schrieber said the Vikings came off the field poised to regain the lead.

"We have such a wonderful ability to stay up. No one really gets down," Schrieber said. "This is one of the most positive teams I've ever been on. Everybody is always being positive and cheering.

"There is so much positivity around it helps us stay up. All we said was let's put it in play and see what happens."

Freshman Isla Odgers — who entered the game as a pinch hitter in the fourth inning and delivered an RBI single — lined a lead-off single to left field to begin the inning. After junior center fielder Jozie Clifton singled to center, Nicewander reached base on an infield error to load the bases.

Imbus followed by ripping an 0-1 pitch from Chilson to center field to score Odgers and Clifton to tie the game at 6-6.

"I did what I do best, I hit the ball in the gaps," said Imbus, who finished with four runs batted in.

Imbus' line drive to center field brought on reliever Anna Considine, who promptly walked Casey to load the bases.

But after Considine struck out Baber, Schrieber did exactly what the Vikings preached — put the ball in play. Schrieber hit a hard ground ball to third base and reached first on a throwing error, which scored Nicewander and Imbus to give Mount Horeb the lead for good at 8-6.

"I had seen their first baseman was struggling with scooping the ball and their third baseman with throwing the ball," Schrieber said with a smile. "I thought, if I could put the ball in play, something good could happen, and it did happen. I just had to run hard to first base."

That set the stage for the top of the seventh inning and decision time for Holman.

"In the sixth, I said if one runner gets on, Jozie (Clifton) is coming in," Holman said he told Baber. "But she got through the sixth.

"Once we got the lead, I said 'all right, it's your game to win now.' We've got the lead for you. You pitched hard. It's your time. You've got two runs to play with. You end it yourself, and she did."

While Clifton was ready, willing and able to take over in the circle, Baber showed her mettle despite Portage putting the tying runs on base with two outs in the seventh.

Baber earned her sixth victory of the season when she caught Eliana Considine looking at strike three and the Vikings secured the victory.

"When we got the lead, that relieved the pressure. I felt more comfortable out there," Baber said of the sixth inning rally. "I like that we're having fun and no one is down on each other. We're all really, positive with each other. That's different from other teams I've been on. I like that."

After Stoughton and River Valley both rallied to deal Mount Horeb its two losses this season, Clifton said the comeback win over Portage was a lesson learned.

"It's from our other games. We lost to Stoughton 9-8. We knew how they came back," Clifton said. "We believed we could come back. We stayed up and got our energy up. It was our first time being down and really being able to come back. It was good for us to do that."

Clifton said the victory was also a confidence boost for Baber in her first varsity season.

"Jayse (Holman) graduates, but Ella steps in — literally, it's like having another Jayse," Clifton said of the hard-throwing Baber, who has reached 62 miles an hour in the circle. "Ella is very similar to Jayse. She's quick. She's faster than me, which is good. She's really, intense. She'd doing really, good on the mound."

Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman talks with standout Delaina Nicewander during a recent game. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Clifton said Baber's poise when Portage sent 10 batters to the plate in the fifth inning, was a key to the comeback.

"She didn't get rattled. As a team, we stayed calm," Clifton said. "We knew what we needed to do to get back in the game. We kept our heads up. We've dealt with a lot of errors. But we don't rebuild, we reload."

• **River Valley 7, Mount Horeb 5 —** The host Blackhawks rallied from an early 4-0 deficit and handed the Vikings their second straight loss on April 20.

Mount Horeb scored one run in the first and three in the second to take a quick 4-0 lead. River Valley countered, though, with two runs in the bottom of the second and five in the third.

Second baseman Emily Wittenwyler led Mount Horeb's offense going 2-for-3 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored. Delaina Nicewander also had a double, an RBI and scored a run.

Pitcher Ella Baber had a double and scored a run, and third baseman Elaina Imbus had a double.

Jozie Clifton started and took the loss for Mount Horeb. Baber threw the final 3 1/3 innings, struck out seven and didn't allow a hit or a run.

• **Mount Horeb 12, Sauk Prairie 5 —** Ella Baber struck out 13 and the Vikings pounded out 14 hits in rolling past the Eagles on April 21.

Baber went the distance to pick up the win, allowing three earned runs and just four hits.

Center fielder Jozie Clifton and first baseman Claire Casey both had a big days at the plate. Clifton went 3-for-4 with two runs scored and an RBI, while Casey went 3-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored.

Second baseman Emily Wittenwyler and Delaina Nicewander both had two RBIs and Nicewander added a double. Third baseman Elaina Imbus scored two runs, while catcher Sonja Schreiber and Baber both had RBIs.

Mount Horeb struck for four runs in the third inning and three in the fourth to grab a 7-0 lead and rolled from there. The Vikings also benefitted from seven Sauk Prairie errors.

• **Mount Horeb 4, Jefferson 1 (Game 1) —** Jozie Clifton threw 5 1/3 strong innings to lift the Vikings past the Eagles in Game 1 of a doubleheader last Saturday.

Clifton allowed just one earned run, struck out four, allowed six hits and two walks. Ella Baber then recorded all five outs via strikeout to end things.

Elaina Imbus went 3-for-3 to lead the offense, while Emily Wittenwyler and Sunny Schrieber both had doubles.

• **Mount Horeb 7, Jefferson 5 (Game 2) —** Ella Baber struck out 12 and the Vikings pounded out 13 hits to sweep the doubleheader last Saturday.

Baber went the distance, allowing five runs (two earned) while throwing strikes on a whopping 105 of 152 pitches (69.1%).

Baber also had a pair of doubles, had an RBI and scored a run, while Emily Wittenwyler went 2-for-4 with three RBIs. Delaina Nicewander went 3-for-4 with an RBI and both Lauren Mester and Jozie Clifton had two hits.

• **On deck:** Following a non-conference game on Monday at Dodgeville and a Badger Small Conference game at home vs. Reedsburg on Tuesday, Mount Horeb is at McFarland for a league game on Thursday at 5 p.m.

April 23
Mount Horeb 8, Portage 6
Portage …. 000 060 0 — 6 5 2
MoHo ..... 100 124 x — 8 12 2
Pitchers (ip-h-r-er-so-bb) — P: Trinity Williams (4-6-2-2-3-1); Julia Chilson (L: 1.1-6-6-3-3-1); Anna Considine (0.2-0-0-0-2-1). MH: Ella Baber (W: 7-5-6-2-12-5).
Leading hitters — P: Anna Considine (2B), Alana Brandsma (HR). MH: Elaina Imbus 4x4, Lauren Mester 2x4; Odgers 2x3.

CHURCH NOTES

Good News Lutheran Church - WELS
9975 Pepper Dr, Mt Horeb
Pastor Jonathan Bauer
Thursday Worship: 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
Sunday School and Bible Study: 10:15 am
608-437-4646
GoodNewsLC.org

Immanuel Lutheran- ELCA
310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb
608-437-8733
10am Sunday Worship
www.immanuelmh.org/
1st Steps Childcare
608-218-4425

Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church – ELCA
315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012
www.elcmthoreb.org
5 pm Saturday Worship
9 am Sunday Worship

Mt. Horeb United Methodist
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Black Earth, WI 53515
www.vermontlutheran.org
608-767-3312 (office)
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Perry Lutheran Church ELCA
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608-437-5294
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New Hope Evangelical Free Church
639 S. Eighth St., Mt. Horeb
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www.newhopeefc.org
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Springdale Lutheran Church
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608-437-3493
Pastor Jim Ranney
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twosteeples.org

West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church
2962 Church St., Blue Mounds
608-437-3493
Pastor Jim Ranney
Worship: Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month, 10 am
twosteeples.org

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ
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608-832-6677
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~St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
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Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Thurs-Friday, 8:00 am;
Sat. 5:00 pm
~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am

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TOWN OF VERMONT NOTICE

Town of Vermont Plan Commission Meeting, Monday, May 18, 2026, 6:00 pm, 4017 County Hwy JJ, Black Earth, WI 53517. See townofvermontwi.gov for meeting agenda.

Please note: You can sign up for emailed meeting agendas at www.townofvermontwi.gov

Publish: 4/30/26, 5/7/26, 5/14/26 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PRIMROSE NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Board of Supervisors meeting for May 2026 will be held on Monday, May 4th, 2026, at 8468 County Road A, Verona, WI beginning at 7:30pm. The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, and on the Town website. A summary of the agenda will be available on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

Publish: 4/30/26 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PERRY NOTICE

Land Use Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Perry Town Hall
10084 County Highway A
7:00 PM
Video call link:
https://meet.google.com/itw-vrzh-iew

Agenda

1. Call to Order.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 8, 2026.
3. Jordan Abruzzo, 9738 Overland Rd – accessory building. *
4. Driftless Area Land Conservancy and BadgerLand Foundation – presentation from organizations' representatives, resolution of support.
5. Town Comprehensive Plan – review and edit Element 8, "Land Use."
6. Pending applications – review and discussion.
7. Schedule meetings.
8. Adjourn.

Stephanie Zwettler
Deputy Clerk
www.perry-wi.gov

A quorum of the Town Board may be present at this meeting.

* A site view will be conducted at the Abruzzo site on Saturday, May 2, 2026, beginning at 8:30 AM.

Posted: Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville signpost, Town website – April 30,

Publish: 4/30/26 **WNAXLP**

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TOWN OF PERRY PUBLIC NOTICE

Town of Perry Tire Collection Days
Saturday, May 2 and Saturday, May 9, 2026

Tires will be accepted from 8:00 AM until noon at the Town Recycling Center, 10832 CTH A, Daleyville.

Fees will be charged as follows:

Car Tire	$ 6.00
Small truck or implement tire	$ 8.00
Large truck tire	$ 18.00
Small tractor tire	$ 29.00
Large tractor tire	$ 35.00

Residents are encouraged to participate in this semi-annual opportunity to dispose of tires properly and to contribute to the Town of Perry's recycling efforts.

Mary L. Price, Clerk

Publish: 4/30/26, 5/7/26 **WNAXLP**

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 27, 2026

The Plan Commission of the Village of Mount Horeb will hold a public hearing on the above date at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application from JT Klein Company, INC for an amendment to the PD-Planned Development General Development Plan to construct two multi-family residential apartment buildings at 101 Perimeter Road further described as parcel 0606-124-0065-1. The proposed amendment includes one additional dwelling unit for a total of 90. The existing General Development Plan allows up to a total of 89 dwelling units.

The Village Board, by its Plan Commission will hear all persons concerning all matters and/or objections written or oral at that time.

Publish: 4/30/26, 5/7/26 **WNAXLP**

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TOWN OF PERRY NOTICE

Board of Review
Perry Town Hall
10084 County Highway A
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
7:30PM

The Board of Review of the Town of Perry, Dane County, will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 7:30PM at the Perry Town Hall, 10084 CTH A pursuant to WI §Sec. 70.47(1). It is anticipated that this meeting will be recessed and then reconvened at a later date as the 2026 Assessment Roll is not completed.

Mary L. Price, Clerk
Posted: April 30, 2026

Publish: 4/30/26 **WNAXLP**

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Additional Opening Hours in 2026: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, beginning Tuesday, May 5 and ending Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Publish: 4/23/26, 4/30/26
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TOWN OF PERRY INVITATION TO BID FOR ROAD REPAIRS

The Town of Perry will accept bids for sealcoating on the following Town roads in 2026. Contractors interested in bidding should contact Town Patrolman Mark Eastman at 608-513-1359 for more information.

Single Sealcoat:

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Perry Center Rd from CTH JG to Keller Rd	0.43 mi
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Town Hall parking lot	approx. 5000 sq ft

Sealed bids are due by Monday, May 11, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Hand deliver or mail to:
Town Deputy Clerk, Stephanie Zwettler
9730 County Rd A
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Bids will be opened and awarded at the regular Town Board meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, beginning at 7:30 PM, at the Perry Town Hall, 10084 County Rd A.

The Town of Perry reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any technicality in any bid, and accept any bid deemed most advantageous to the Town of Perry.

Stephanie Zwettler, Deputy Clerk

Publish: 4/30/26, 5/7/26 **WNAXLP**

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BADGER

continued from page 10

ter's praises. Nesheim and Gard have a long history from the time their wives — Kolleen Nesheim and Michelle Gard — shared a classroom together.

The Badgers had shown interest in Manchester since his breakout freshman season at Mount Horeb, and the Vikings' standout attended a few UW practices during his sophomore season.

Things between Manchester and UW had quieted, though, and Nesheim wanted to get the ball rolling again.

"I've always thought Josh could play at that level," Nesheim said of Manchester competing in the Big Ten.

Nesheim sent Gard some recent videos of Manchester on April 20, and by April 21, Manchester and his parents — Paul and Kristine — visited the UW staff.

Gard had a lengthy presentation ready on what UW brings — both on and off the court. Shortly thereafter, basketball general manager Marc VandeWettering offered Manchester a scholarship.

Manchester grew up a die-hard Badger fan and has been going to games since he was a tot. So when the offer became official, Manchester was both stunned and euphoric.

"It was just crazy," said Manchester, whose sister Katie also attends UW and will be a senior this fall. "If I had to pick a college back in middle school, it would have been Wisconsin. It was a surreal moment, just crazy."

The 6-foot-3 Manchester is one of the top scorers in state history, ranking 10th all-time with 2,532 career points. Manchester averaged a whopping 30.1 points per game last season and was named to the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association's Division 2 all-state first team.

Manchester was also named Player of the Year in the Badger Small Conference for a second straight season and was a finalist for Wisconsin's coveted Mr. Basketball Award.

Manchester, a combo guard, made a team-high 60 3-pointers and shot 83.1% from the free throw line last season. Manchester also led the Vikings with 3.1 assists and 3.6 steals per game and added 4.2 rebounds per contest.

Manchester helped Mount Horeb go 67-15 in the last three seasons and win three consecutive regional titles for the first time in school history.

"His ability to score in multiple ways at all three levels was incredible," Nesheim said of Manchester. "He was probably not known for his defense, but yet made a ton of plays with his ability to steal the ball and was a good rebounder."

Interestingly, Gard recruited Paul Manchester — Josh's father — to UW-Platteville three decades ago. Gard was an assistant for Bo Ryan and the Pioneers at the time, while Paul Manchester was a standout at La Crosse Logan.

"It's truly amazing how this profession and game can bring people full circle more than 30 years later," Gard said.

While Josh Manchester is heading to his dream school, earning playing time will undoubtedly be a tall task.

The Badgers have signed international guards Jackson Ball of New Zealand and Owen Foxwell of Australia this offseason. Wisconsin added guard Trey Autry (George Washington) and wing Eian Elmer (Miami-Ohio) in the transfer portal, and brings back guards Hayden Jones, Zach Kinzinger and Jack Janicki.

That means minutes could be tough to come by early on.

"Just like everybody else, I know you start at the bottom and have to work your way up," Manchester said. "I'm just excited to get the opportunity. I'm coming in, not expecting anything. I'm going to work my butt off and hopefully work my way up."

That's how Gard views it, too.

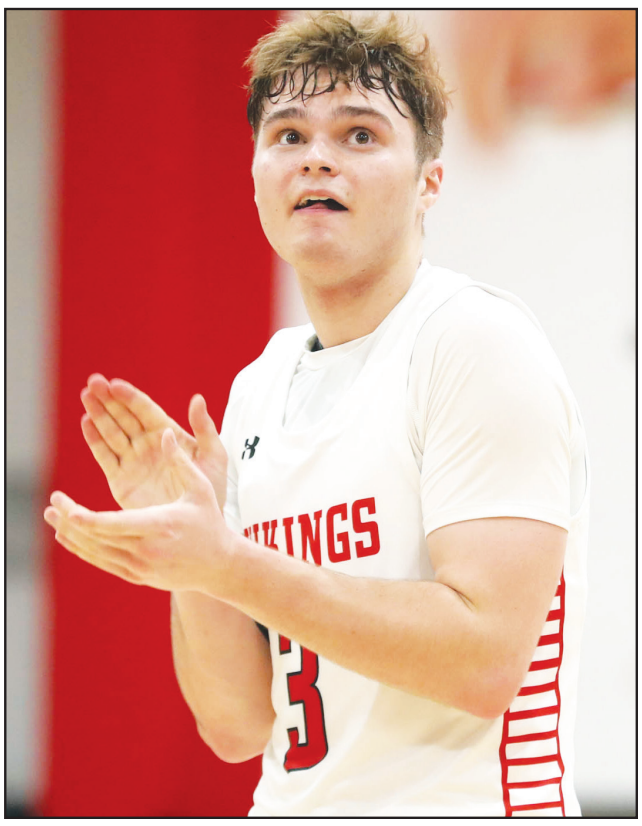
"As we continue to intentionally build out our roster, it's vital to have players in a variety of roles," Gard said. "Josh appreciates and understands the work and development that his role will require. He's got a competitor's mindset paired with a knack for scoring."

Manchester has never shied away from a challenge, though.

In recent years, Manchester had tremendous success playing AAU ball for Team Herro on the Nike EYBL circuit. So betting against him succeeding at UW could be risky business.

"Josh is really fired up to be a Badger," Gard said. "We can't wait for him to arrive on campus this summer and get to work preparing for the coming season."

Manchester, who carries a 3.9 GPA, will head to campus on June 10 to begin summer workouts. He'll also begin taking summer classes as he pursues an Analytics degree.



Mount Horeb basketball standout Josh Manchester received a full scholarship from the University of Wisconsin last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

On some levels, the recent whirlwind that took Manchester to Wisconsin feels almost dreamlike.

Two weeks ago, Manchester had no idea where he'd land when college basketball's unending game of musical chairs stopped this offseason. Now, he's at his dream school, has a full scholarship and is a stone's throw away from his hometown.

"There's a lot of happy people in the community, and I've been getting a lot of congratulations and that's been so great," Manchester said. "I'm just so glad I waited and found the perfect fit for me. It was a very long process, and it was overwhelming at times, but it had a great ending."

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