MOUNT HOREB MAIL
TRUTH THROUGH JOURNALISM
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PFLAG celebrates 10 years with Grundahl Park Celebration



A boy and his dog

Author Steven Stack talks about his latest book, 'Jack: The Story of a Dog'

By Matt Geiger
Mount Horeb Mail

Teacher. Playwright. Author. Father. Southerner. Midwesterner. Dog lover.

Any of those terms could easily and aptly describe Mount Horeb's Steven Stack. But really, each of those roles is built upon seeing, hearing, and telling stories that have the power to make people think, feel, and even heal. In everything he does, Stack is a storyteller.

The author of around 30 plays, Stack has taught at Forte Studios in Mount Horeb for 18 years. But in recent years he has also branched out into new types of writing. He recently published "Jack: The Story of a Dog" (Orange Hat Publishing, March 2025), a children's book in which he tells the tale of his childhood dog and best friend.


Stack

"Jack was my best friend," he said. "He was my constant. When I was sad, he never offered advice. He'd just lick me or steal my food or whatever."

When it comes to dogs, there are two absolute truths: they shower their companions in unconditional love, and they will perish, usually far too soon. Dogs are stalwart companions, but their devotion does not change their impermanence.

"There is always that thing where one *more* time becomes one *last* time," Stack explained.

"All animal stories end the same," he continued. "You know where the story is going. So, for this book, I realized I could start there then move backyard." This story, like so many good stories, turns its protagonist into a canine Lazarus, breathing life back into a dog that has been dead for generations.

"There's that Tennessee Williams line about how death is but one moment, but life is so many more," Stack said. "Yes, there is this sadness, but there are also these moments. And in this story there are no big moments, just these little moments, but those are what make life special."

Stack believes stories are important for people of all ages, and children and

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3rd of July Fireworks light up the sky at Norsk


Photo by Hadley Geiger

ELECTION NEWS

WEC published election observer rule

By Matt Geiger
Mount Horeb Mail

After more than two years of bipartisan collaboration, the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) has voted to publish a new administrative rule addressing the conduct of election observers and their interactions with election officials.

On June 19, commissioners on the WEC voted 5-1 to approve the rule that intends to offer clarity and uniformity to election observation for the benefit of voters, election officials, and observers.

The rule will take effect on August 1 after it has been added to the administrative code as EL 4 and published in the Administrative Register at the end of July.

The final rule order, which took more than two years to develop, specifies who can observe elections, defines the rights and limitations of what election observers may do, differentiates election observers from election inspectors, and creates a more streamlined and accessible set of instructions for election observers to follow during the election process.

For example, the rule specifies how close observers can stand to voters, what documents they can review, and outlines the use of video recording devices. It also details how an observer can be removed by an election official if they don't comply with the administrative rule.

THE RULE STATES:

A member of the public intending to exercise the right to observe

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Gleanings

By Barb Johnson
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago-
July 8, 1885

About one-half of the apple trees in this vicinity are afflicted with a blight this year.

A goodly number of young people attended the 4th of July celebration at Black Earth and returned much pleased.

Capt. Jacobson exhibited his pictures of Palestine with a stereopticon at the Methodist church on the evening of July 4th. The Captain is an old salt of thirty years experience and addresses his audience both in Norwegian and English.

Holver Nelson has rearranged the interior of his building and has now opened up a Temperance restaurant. His first day was on the 4th. In the evening a social dance was given at the hall above the restaurant and a very pleasant time is reported. Music was rendered by Mr. P. P. Moe, violin, and Miss Berg, organ.

The celebration here, on the 4th of July, was a success to the full extent of the word, both financially and entertaining. Notwithstanding the numerous remarks indulged in to predict a failure on account of the absence of King Alcohol, who has often been called upon at previous celebrations to be present with his charming talent.

130 Years Ago-
July 11, 1895

The brick layers on the opera house took a lay off from the 3rd until the 8th.

The singing school at Blue Mounds church with Ole Lee as instructor can not be said to be in a very flourishing condition at present, but nevertheless the leader and a few steadfast members are determined to keep the organization up with the assurance that after the hot weather is over a large attendance can be looked for.

Someone a little too careless threw a lighted fire cracker into John M. Johnson's hay ground thereby burning quite apiece of his uncut hay as well as some fencing.

120 Years Ago-
July 6, 1905

Shirt waists are being sold at cost at Dahle Bros.

Don't eat starch instead of ice cream. Gerke keeps the homemade goods.

The enterprising members of the Springdale Lutheran congregation are putting up a 200-foot shed for teams east of the church, believing their horses as well as the minister's horses need shelter.

On Sunday, July 16, the German Valley Lutheran congregation will take a vote on the question of occasional English services to be held. Rev. Nithardy is well qualified to speak in English and many of the congregation are of other nationality than German and it is most likely that the question will be harmoniously settled to the welfare of all.

The local telephone company here has now issued another new directory, and heavy headlines on each page call attention to rule No. 3, which states that after July 15th, operators will be forbidden to give connections unless 'phone number is given by the party calling.

Arthur Smith left for Portage Tuesday evening to accept a position as time keeper with the Bell Telephone company. We wish him success.

110 Years Ago-
July 9, 1915

Gardiner and Harrison, Samuel Leland and many more live in a tent on the road east of Mount Horeb board themselves while working on the road.

The water in the lake has been in fine condition for bathers and many are enjoying a plunge.

A new barn roof is looming up south of the village and we notice it is on the farm of C.A. Brager, that farmers are prospering is evident by the building they are erecting.

John Cunneen has purchased a fine residence lot on the corner of Second and Verkin, north of Dr. Malone's residence, and has broken ground for the erection of a dwelling house.

The unexpected news that Will Lewis was dead came Tuesday morning and was a great shock to the community. Mr. Lewis had been ailing of late, but even those near to him did not comprehend that there was anything alarming about his condition and it is evident that he himself did not expect such sudden call, his everfaithfull wife waited on him up to about 2 o'clock Monday night and as he was resting easy she reclined on another bed in another room waking about 5 o'clock in the morning and discovered that he was dead, a physician was called who found life extinct.

Clarence Gesme lost four valuable milk cows last Monday from fresh clover.

100 Years Ago-
July 7, 1925

On Tuesday evening, June 30th the sad news was spread around town that our fellow townsman, W.D. Smith, had been killed instantly, on his son's farm near Mt. Horeb. Mr. Smith had been helping his son Jacob with the evening chores so that they could drive to town that evening. The deceased was bedding a horse in the lower part of the barn while his son was throwing hay down from the loft. Jacob heard someone yell "Whoa", and when he came down he found his father's lifeless body lying under the horse, his chest crushed in, his right leg broken and a few crashes and bruises on his face. The explanation of how the accident occurred is a mystery as the horse was not at all vicious or nervous.

Beginning Saturday, July 18th, the Travers Chautauqua System will open a five night stand here.

A crowd of over 3000 people attended the American Legion celebration on July 4th. Festivities included, sport bird shoot, a dandy address by Judge Ole Solen, kitten ball, baseball and the Jewell-Morgan wrestling match. The water fight was a draw and declared the most popular. The big bowery dance was a big success with 220 number sold. A number of farmers who wished to dance to old time music held a dance in the creamery hall and to prove that they were good sports gave the net proceeds of $8.50 to the Legion.

The youngest child of Edward W. Anderson, Blue Mounds, was badly burned Tuesday when he bumped into his mother, causing her to spill hot berries she was canning on the little one's head and arm. Dr. Thompson is caring for the sufferer.

90 Years Ago-
July 4, 1935

Ted Spaanem and Rueben Throndson have purchased the Goebel filling station and will take possession August 1.

The village was cut off entirely from a source of water supply Tuesday when after pumping all day Monday and Tuesday morning; no water was raised into the standpipe. It was found that the old well was clogged up with mud as the result of caving in the walls. Men are working to clear the wall.

Mrs. Sarah Minor, 78, a former Mt. Vernon resident, died suddenly Wednesday, June 26, at Sparta.

We understand that a Northern state man was here a few days ago and bought 14 bulls from John Danielson, Primrose. The bulls will be sent in one shipment.

60 Years Ago-
July 8, 1965

Walter Wirth is a medical patient at Lake View Hospital, Madison.

Ray Julius Osborn, 50, Barneveld, and Edwin R. Anderson, 35, Buchman, Mich., were killed early Saturday evening while en route to Mount Horeb when their single-engine plane crashed into a hill near Mineral Point.

At Bert's Drug Store: Aqua Net purse size cans, 3/79¢; Cashmere Bouquet talcum powder, 44¢; Calamine Lotion, 14¢.

John Newman, 84, longtime resident of Mount Horeb, died Monday (July 5, 1965) at his home after a short illness. He was a carpenter for many years, then custodian at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Comments on Comments by Naomi Daley: A friend of ours has the perfect answer for the pesky magazine salesman. She tells them that the only magazine she's interested in is "National Hog Caller" and that she has a lifetime subscription.

50 Years Ago-
July 1975

Mount Horeb fielded a large group of contestants at the 1975 Dane County Holstein Queen Contest held recently. They include Donna Syvrud, Cindy Baker, Maria Esser and Carol Zarndt.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 7 at the Livingston United Methodist Church for Alta L. Skaife, 71. For 27 years she was an English instructor in the Mount Horeb High School until her retirement in 1969.

Jane Marie Has and Cletus Ambrose Schwoerer were married Saturday, June 28, in St. Thomas Catholic Church in Montfort.

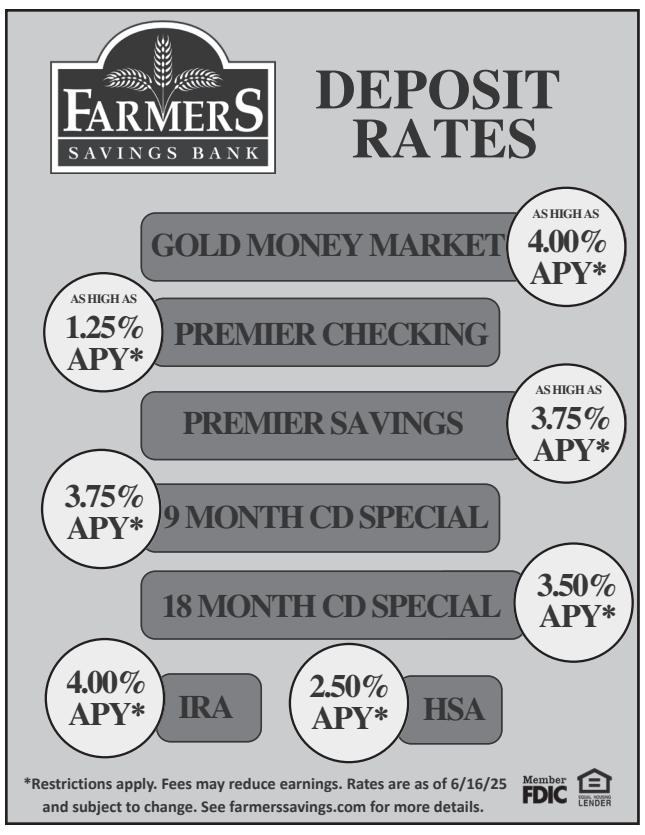
20 Years Ago-
July 14, 2005

ABC has chosen Mount Horeb to be featured in the upcoming television show called "My Kind of Town."

Stanley R. Finke died at Ingleside Care Facility in Mount Horeb early Saturday morning, July 9, one day before his 95th birthday.

Professional pet groomer Cindy Schriber recently opened the Pet Parlour at 103 Front Street in Mount Horeb.





Mount Horeb Mail Letters to the Editor policy

We welcome letters to the editor and want to publish your thoughts and opinions. We are happy to publish your letters about politics, and your endorsements of political candidates.

Please submit all letters to the editor via email. You can email your letters to mgeiger@fingerpub.com

All letters must include the author's name, address and phone number. We won't publish your address and number, but we need to be able to verify who you are. Anonymous letters and letters written under pseudonyms will not be considered.

We prefer letters that are fewer than 600 words and take as their starting point an issue that is important to our community and our readers. To write a guest column of more than 600 words, contact the editor first.

Letters are edited for clarity, fact checked and sometimes trimmed to fit the space available in the newspaper. The opinions expressed are always the writer's own. The editor won't try to make you seem more (or less) intelligent than you really are, but may clean up some grammatical issues according to our style guide. We want your opinions, even when we don't agree with them. But this isn't the Internet, so you can't just say anything you want. Try to base your letters on reason and fact. We will not publish claims that are demonstrably false.

For additional information, contact mgeiger@fingerpub.com.



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Police Report

APRIL:
911 Disconnect – 15
Accidents – 5
Accident – 2
Hit & Run - 1
Property Damage – 2
Adult Arrest – 1

While conducting a traffic stop on a vehicle, it was found that the driver had an active warrant for his arrest. During contact with the driver, the odor of marijuana emitted from the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted, which yielded marijuana. The driver was arrested for the outstanding warrant and the marijuana was seized.

Alarm – 6
Animal Complaint Disturbance - 2
Animal Complaint Stray – 2
Assist Citizen – 10
Assist Citizen – Vehicle Unlock - 3
Assist DCSO – 10
Assist Fire/Police – 5
Assist Other Agency – 6
Assist Village of Mt Horeb – 1
Attempt to Locate – 1
Check Person – 21
Check Property – 19
Civil Dispute – 2

Police were requested to respond to a property and assist with the retrieval of keys from former tenants. Contact was made with the tenants, who stated they would call once they were done removing their property and turn the keys over.

Police responded to a civil dispute between neighbors. The reporting party stated the neighbor was making noises and doing things outside of her apartment that disturbed her. The neighbor was contacted, who stated that she had made contact with her landlord regarding the reporting party and issues between the two of them. Both the reporting party and the neighbor were advised to document instances and to reach out when issues are actively happening.

Damage Property Complaint – 1

A report of a tire being slashed was called in to the police department. A razor blade was removed by the repair shop. There are no suspects in this incident.

Disabled Vehicle - 7
Disturbance Call – 7

A citizen called to report being a witness to a disturbance. While watching the incident take place, the driver of one of the vehicles involved yelled at the witness and threatened to follow her home. The witness did not want contact made. The report is informational.

A coordinator at a residential care facility reported an argument between herself and another employee. The facility will be dealing with things internally and the staff member was escorted out.

Officers took a report of a disturbance where an evicted tenant was at the apartment complex and shouldn't be there. Contact was made with the evicted tenant who stated that she had permission to retrieve her items. The reporting party was advised of this.

Officers responded to a disturbance at an apartment building. One tenant believes others are going in to her apartment and taking or moving items. Officers have been called numerous times for similar reports.

Officers were dispatched to an apartment building for a disturbance between multiple residents. This has been an ongoing issue.

Police responded to ongoing issues at an apartment complex between neighbors. All individuals involved were interviewed and all were warned that if this continues, citations for disorderly conduct would be issued.

Officers were dispatched to a residence for the report of a disturbance. Upon contact at the residence, it was found that the disturbance was verbal only, nothing physical occurred, and neither party felt unsafe.

Domestic/Family Trouble – 4

Officers were dispatched to a residence for the report of a disturbance between family members. After all parties involved were interviewed and a primary aggressor was determined, an arrest was made for Disorderly Conduct. The individual was transported to the Dane County Jail without incident.

Police were dispatched to a residence for the report of a disturbance. Both the male and female gave similar stories and agreed to separate for the night. The disturbance was verbal only and nothing physical took place.

Police were dispatched to a residence for a verbal disturbance. After interviewing all parties involved, it was determined that the disturbance did not meet the threshold for a mandatory arrest. The involved parties were separated for the night. Alcohol was a contributing factor in this incident.

Officers responded to the report of a disturbance. Contact was made with the reporting party who stated her brother struck her and left the scene. Due to the suspect being on probation, a warrant was issued for his arrest. The suspect was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct, Battery, and the active warrant.

Drug Offense – 1

Officers observed suspicious activity outside of a business in the village. Consensual contact was made with the subject who was seated inside of his vehicle. While in contact, the officer noted the strong odor of burnt marijuana emitting from the vehicle. The subject told officers that he had THC vapes in the vehicle, and eventually turned them over to the officer. A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted which yielded additional marijuana and paraphernalia. Citations were issued for Possession of THC and Possession of Paraphernalia.

Dumping - 1
EMS Assist – 45
Fingerprints – 3
Follow Up - 8
Foot Patrol/Check Property - 3
Found Property – 4
Fraud – 2

A resident called to report fraudulent charges on her savings and checking. Officers met the victim at her bank where they were supplied statements and closed the accounts. Due to a lack of suspect information and the possibility of the victim getting her money back, this case is inactive.

A resident reported receiving an email that stated there was an issue with her PayPal account and provided a number to call. The reporting party called that number and talked with an unknown male with a foreign accent for 4.5 hours. When she looked at her checking statement, she was out $300 and $100 from her PayPal account. This was reported to PayPal and her bank among other places. This case is still active

Information – 23
Intoxicated Person – 1

Officers searched the area of the Kwik Trip for a possible intoxicated person driving a dark Nissan car. Officers were unable to locate a vehicle matching the description.

Juvenile Complaint – 2

A complaint came into the police department regarding a juvenile riding a mini bike in the skate park where the juvenile was attempting stunts and wrecked. Contact was made with the juvenile and his mother was called. The juvenile received a warning for the violation and educated on the ordinance regarding mini bikes.

Police took another report of a mini-bike at the skate park. Contact was made with the juvenile who was explained the ordinance on E-Bike and Mini Bikes. The juvenile called his mom and the officer explained to her the ordinances as well. No enforcement action taken at this time.

Landlord/tenant Trouble - 1
Lost Property - 1
Missing Adult – 1

A resident called the police department to report that their adult daughter was missing and they were concerned for her safety. It was found that the last contact with her was in Belleville. Contact was made with Belleville PD, who searched the area, but did not locate the female. A short time later, a friend of the female called the police department and stated she had contact with the female, and will be picking her up in Madison.

Missing Juvenile / Runaway – 3

A resident called to report that their daughter has not come home in days, though they have had contact with her via text. The reporting party stated that her daughter is currently with a friend, but has not been going to school. Officers attempted contact with the juvenile.

Police responded to the report of a missing juvenile. The juvenile was found and transported back to his home where they met with a social worker.

A parent reported that his juvenile daughter did not take the bus home after school and was missing. Upon contact at the residence, the father stated that he just found his daughter at a friend's house. Contact was made with the juvenile who appeared physically okay. Police left the scene

Noise Complaint – 1
OMVWI Arrest / Intoxicated Driver – 3

Officers were dispatched to the report of a hit and run. Officers were able to locate the vehicle and the suspect in this case. The driver of the vehicle refused to conduct Field Sobriety Test and was ultimately arrested for Operating While Under the Influence (5th or 6th), Operating with a PAC of .02 or More (5th or 6th) and Hit & Run Property Adjacent to Highway.

While conducting a traffic stop for Exceeding Speed Zones (11-15 over) the officers noted the odor of intoxicants emitting from the driver and also noted slurred speech. Field Sobriety Test were conducted and the driver was arrested for Operating While Under the Influence and cited for Exceeding Speed Zones and Operate Motor Vehicle W/O Proof of Insurance.

During routine traffic patrol, an officer observed a vehicle swerve to avoid hitting another vehicle. A traffic stop was conducted, and upon contact with the driver an odor of intoxicants emitted from the driver. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were conducted, and the driver was arrested for Operating While Under the Influence, and Operating with a PAC. The driver was also cited for Failure to Yield Right of Way in Roundabout. Warnings were issued for Open Intoxicants and No Proof of Insurance. The subject was transported to the Mount Horeb Police Department and released to a responsible party.

Parking Ticket Warning - 1
Parking Tickets – 33
Phone Call – 21
Pornography /Obscene Material – 3

A CyberTip was reported to the Police Department. This case is actively being investigated.

A search warrant was executed on a residence for possession of child pornography. The suspect in this incident was arrested and transported to the Dane County Jail.

A CyberTip was reported to the Police Department. This case is actively being investigated.

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- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance Program
- Tribal Head Start
- Food Distribution on Indian Reservations
- Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program

Visit **www.lifelinesupport.org** for details and application process.

Military Profiles

An interview with Lt. Lily Jungels

By Jerry Hook
American Legion



Jungels graduated and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant from the Air Force Academy in May. She is headed to pilot training.

Q: Why did you decide to go to the Air Force Academy?

A: I applied to the Academy to become a pilot, primarily. Besides that, the rigor of the application and the school itself became a challenge to me, and I wanted to try and meet their standard of excellence.

Q: Were you mentally and physically prepared for the rigors of the Academy when you arrived?

A: When I got to basic training, I felt unprepared physically, despite having spent months training. Now looking back, I know that I was prepared as best as I could be and feeling inadequate was just a tool they used to make you want to be the best you could be. As my first academic year began, I was completely unprepared for the way that my time would be stretched. It was a trial-by-fire in developing time management skills and the ability to juggle all my tasks.

Q: When did you decide you wanted to go to one of the military academies?

A: I discovered the service academies during my junior year, in the COVID pandemic, after my family and I watched Top Gun. I fell in love with the flying and I spent the next few days trying to figure out how to become a fighter pilot. After learning about the Air Force Academy and their extensive airmanship programs, I decided that was what I wanted to do.

Q: What are some of the things that you will never forget about attending the Air Force Academy?

A: My best memories from the Academy were from Operation Air Force and the Jump program. Operation Air Force is a program that takes place after your sophomore year. Cadets are matched to an Air Force base in the US or internationally and go there for a few weeks to experience the "big" Air Force and learn about different jobs. I went to Eglin AFB in Destin, FL and had a blast seeing how the base is run! The Jump program is a basic free fall parachuting course that allows cadets to perform five solo jumps and earn jump wings. This is the only jump course in the world where your first jump is solo! It was scary but also so much fun. The mountain views from up in the air were unbeatable.

Q: What would you say to someone at Mount Horeb High School who is thinking about applying to one of the academies?

A: I would tell them to go for it! It developed me into the person I am today and I am thankful for my experiences there. The things it teaches are useful outside of the military as well as inside.

Q: Now that you've graduated and commissioned, what are you doing?

A: I am heading to pilot training at Vance AFB in Enid, Oklahoma this fall!

Q: You're challenged each day at the Air Force Academy do you feel like you are more confident in your own abilities and those around you now that you've graduated?

A: I am definitely more confident in myself. Every step of the Academy is built to test you and show that you can do more than you think. From unique experiences like the jump program to the leadership rolls that I had, I was able to grow and expand my own abilities.

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Letter to the Editor

Wisconsin's Fair Maps Are Temporary... We Need to Pass Legislation Now

We aren't all that far from 2030, and after the next Census, Wisconsin will get new voting maps to account for changes in population size and distribution. Right now, we have fair voting maps that are representative of Wisconsin as a purple, competitive state.

Getting these fair maps was no easy feat, and in 2030, we'll start right back at square one again, with the risk that the political party in power may try to gerrymander, which means they'll draw themselves into power.

That is unless we pass legislation to establish an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) for drawing Wisconsin legislative voting districts in the future.

An IRC is a voter-centric reform used to ensure that voters — not politicians — decide how electoral districts are drawn. The structure of IRCs varies from state to state to fit specific needs, but the overall aim is to make the map drawing process more transparent and impartial by establishing standards for who can serve on the commission and criteria for the maps.

Drawing these maps is a highly technical, mathematical process. Commissioners on the IRC will work with experts committed to fairness and the high standards set by the legislation. A key component of an IRC is that Commissioners won't be working on behalf of a political party but rather on behalf of Wisconsinites as committed public servants.

The Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition (FMC) is made up of volunteers throughout the state and nonpartisan organizations. The FMC has been working with experts, academics, and folks from other states with IRCs to write a draft proposal fit for Wisconsin's needs.

The FMC wants to hear from folks around the state to answer their questions about fair maps legislation and get their input. Join Indivisible Southwest Wisconsin on July 13, 4-6 pm at Merrimac & Main, 115 Main St, Dodgeville, WI to learn more. Having fair voting maps and fair representation is an important building block for protecting voting rights.

We need to start now to be ready by 2030.

Stay tuned!
Myra Enloe
Dodgeville

Auxiliary donates to food pantry



The Mount Horeb American Legion Auxiliary recently held a bake sale at Miller's in Mount Horeb. With the proceeds from the bake sale the Auxiliary was able to purchase 40 food pantry bags from the grocery store. These bags will be taken to the Mount Horeb Food Pantry. Pictured at right while getting the food are Kim (Auxiliary Treasurer/Secretary), Connie (Auxiliary President) and Jay (Miller's Grocery Manager). Photo contributed.

POLICE

continued from page 3

Preserve the Peace –1

Police stood by while the reporting party took possession of a vehicle from her daughter. The vehicle was turned over and no issues were observed.

Safety Hazard – 3

School Related Incidents – 14

Juvenile Complaint – 3
Special Events -5
Truancy – 6

Sexual Assault 1-2-3-4 / Rape – 1

A sexual assault was reported to the police department. This case is considered active and being investigated.

Sexual Assault of a Child – 1

CPS reported to the police department a possible sexually assault of a child. Contact was made with the juvenile and parent, who at this time did not want to make a report.

Suspicious Person - 1

Suspicious Vehicle – 7

Theft – 1

During garage sale weekend, a resident called to report that a male stopped to purchase some items. The male put the items in the back of his vehicle but did not come back to pay for them. The victim is out approximately $39.00

Threats Complaint – 4

A resident called to report being threatened by her ex-fiancé. Both are listed as registered owners and on the loan for a vehicle purchased. The ex was frustrated and wants the car due to the fact that the reporting party has not been making payments. Both parties were explained that this was a civil issue.

A Speak Up Speak Out complaint was reported to the Police Department. Upon investigating the tip, it was found that the suspect lived outside of the Mount Horeb. This case was turned over Dane County Sheriff's Office.

A Speak Up Speak Out tip was reported to the police department where a student was caught on bus camera making threats towards another student. Interviews of multiple students were conducted and bus video was observed. The bus video did capture the threats made towards another student. A citation was issued for Disorderly Conduct.

Another Speak Up Speak Out tip was reported where a student made a comment about shooting another student. The suspect and multiple other students were interviewed and it was found that the tip was not credible and was a misunderstanding between students.

Traffic Arrests – 14

Traffic Complaint - 6

Traffic Incident –5

Traffic Warning – 121

Unwanted Person – 1

Officers were dispatched to a residence for the report of an unwanted person. Contact was made with the reporting party and the suspect in this incident. It was found that they had been in a relationship and things ended. The reporting party wanted her ex to leave the property. Due to the intoxication level of the ex, officers were able to transport him and release him to a responsible party.

Violation of Court Order – 1

Officers took a report of a Violation of a Court Order. Contact was made with the reporting party who stated that her ex followed her and approached her, which is a violation of the court order. Contact was made with the suspect, who was warned that if this continues to happen, he would be arrested.

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July 23rd - 2PM — GrandStay Hotel, 175 Lillehammer Ln., Mt Horeb
July 30th - 2PM — Health & Human Services, 303 W Chapel St., Dodgeville

Partnering with:
ADRC Aging & Disability Resource Center & Iowa & Dane County Sheriff's Departments and Dodgeville, Mineral Point & Mount Horeb Police Departments

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EXP 8-31-25
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Black Earth, WI
M-Fr 9-7, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5

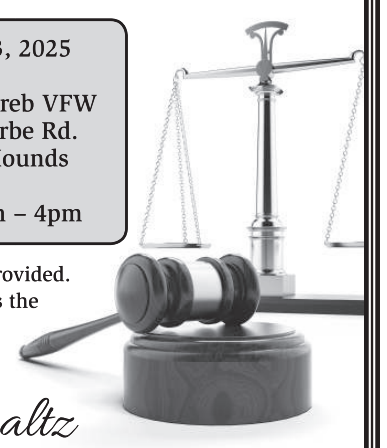
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Serving 5:15 - 6:15 PM
Mt. Horeb Senior Center
107 N. Grove St
Reserve your In-person or Takeout Meals By Saturday, July 12
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The Meal is sponsored by United Methodist Church
Thank you Neighbors Helping Neighbors for your partnership and support.

SAVE THE DATE
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MOUNT HOREB ART FAIR
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INVITATION TO A CELEBRATION
I am inviting you to join me in celebrating my retirement after 56 years as a practicing lawyer.
In addition, I have also decided to celebrate my 90th Birthday, which occurred on June 30, 2025.
When: July 13, 2025
Where: Mt. Horeb VFW, 2787 Erbe Rd., Blue Mounds
Time: 12noon – 4pm
A light lunch will be provided. The only gift allowed is the gift of your presence.
Hope to see you!
Peter J. Waltz



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Mount Horeb Art Fair: Where Creativity Meets Community





Mount Horeb Art Fair returns to the downtown for its 54th year on Saturday, July 19 and Sunday, July 20 Sunday, July 20.

Get ready for a weekend of art, flavor, music, and fun as the Mount Horeb Art Fair returns to the heart of downtown for its 54th year on Saturday, July 19 and Sunday, July 20. With more than 170 artists and crafters from across the Midwest, this beloved summer event transforms Mount Horeb's historic downtown into a vibrant open-air gallery, buzzing with small-town charm and creative energy.

The fair stretches along Second Street, Front Street, and into the Duluth Trading Company parking lot, offering attendees a chance to explore a wide variety of handmade goods, connect with talented artists, and enjoy a welcoming, walkable experience. Visitors can sip and shop thanks to the downtown open intoxicants perimeter, which allows guests to grab a drink from participating bars or restaurants and enjoy it while browsing. The perimeter extends along Main Street from Washington Street to just past Melrose on Main, and from Main Street south to Lincoln Street. To prepare for the fair, South Third and Front Streets will close at 5pm on Friday, July 18, and South Second Street will close at 7pm. Streets will reopen by 6pm on Sunday, July 20.

Artists and crafters will compete for juried awards and cash prizes, including Best Artist, Best Crafter, Honorable Artist, Honorable Crafter, and Best of Show, selected by three volunteer judges and the 2025 Wally Keller Memorial Art Scholarship recipient, who will serve as a special guest judge.

Come Hungry: Local Flavor Meets Global Taste

The Art Fair's food court is a delicious destination in itself. This year's lineup features something for every craving—from savory to sweet. Notable highlights include MyDollyDolls, serving lamb, shrimp, and cotton candy; Greek Gourmet, offering traditional Mediterranean fare; and Tellez Hot Dogs, bringing bold street food flavor.

Adding to the community flavor, the Sons of Norway will serve up traditional Norwegian delicacies on Saturday and offer information about their organization on Sunday. The Mount Horeb High School Band will also be onsite selling root beer floats to raise funds for their trip to London.

Live Music at the Bike Depot Stage

The Bike Depot Stage on Second Street near the food court will host a full weekend of live entertainment:

Saturday, July 19

9–11am:
The Village Brass Band
12–2pm:
Lindsay Feuling
3–5pm:
Three Story Train

Sunday, July 20

11–1pm:
Barb Sorensen
2–4pm:
Down From the Hills

Online Silent Auction Returns

The popular Online Silent Auction is back, featuring unique items donated by participating artists and crafters. Proceeds benefit the Wally Keller Memorial Art Scholarship and beautification efforts throughout Mount Horeb. Items will be on display at the Driftless Historium's Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Room, which also serves as the event's Information Hub. Bidding will open on Sunday, July 13, and will take place at 32auctions.com/artfair2025. Bidding will close at 4pm on Sunday, July 20.

Event Hours & More Information

The Mount Horeb Art Fair runs Saturday, July 19, from 9am–5pm, and Sunday, July 20, from 10am–4pm. For full event details, and to volunteer at the event, visit trollway.com/art-fair.

Founded in 1923, the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly supported local businesses and community growth for over a century. Its mission is to promote the economic well-being of all member businesses and to position Mount Horeb as a remarkable place to live, work, and visit.

Learn more at www.mounthorebchamber.com.

Racial Covenants Traveling Exhibit and Program at the library

Racial covenants were an insidious tool for racially restricting home sales and segregating residential neighborhoods. Learn more about the history of this practice at the Mt. Horeb Public Library on Monday, July 21 at 6:30pm with Rick Bernstein, the Executive Director of the Dane County Historical Society.

For most of the 20th century, racial covenants were a tool used nationwide to segregate whites from Blacks and other minorities in America's burgeoning suburbs and residential neighborhoods. These clauses were inserted into property deeds to prevent non-Whites and non-Christians from buying or occupying land. Although no longer valid or enforceable, they can still be found in the land deeds of almost every American community, including Dane County. Racial covenants were made illegal with the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. Nevertheless, their impacts are pervasive and still with us today. This program will explore the history of racial covenants in Dane County and nationwide. Through the month of July, you can also learn about this through the traveling exhibit on display at the library.

Rick Bernstein, a graduate of Cornell University's Historic Preservation Planning program, worked for nearly 30 years for the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation and Local History until he retired in 2019. Since then, Rick has worked part-time as the Dane County Historical Society's Executive Director. DCHS was established in 1961 to promote Dane County's history and to manage an archival facility at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Lake Farm Park.

No registration needed. For more information about the Library, visit www.mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021. This program is sponsored in part by by Beyond the Page, an endowment that supports free public humanities programming in the Dane County public libraries. To find out more, go to www.beyondthepage.info

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Friends of Military Ridge Trail to hold monthly meeting

Friends of Military Ridge Trail (FMRT) will hold their monthly meeting at 5:30pm on July 14th, 2025 at the Mt. Horeb Comfort Station / Old Train Depot in Mt Horeb, WI. Find more details at https://friendsofmilitaryridgetrail.org.

Correction: Apartment Proposal Address

The apartment proposal in last week's article included the incorrect address. The Grundahl apartments would be at 214 East Main as well as the old Christmas shop next to it. The 120 S. First St. address is the Steve Brown apartment building, which was also discussed at the same planning commission meeting.

CHURCH NOTES

Good News Lutheran Church - WELS
NEW LOCATION:
9975 Pepper Dr
Pastor Jonathan Bauer
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
(in person and online)
Sunday School and Bible Study 10:15 am
608-437-4646 visit GoodNewsLC.org/location for details & directions

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
Corner of Hwy. S & Hwy. 78
Sunday Worship: 9am online and in person
umcmh.org
Celebrating God's Inclusive Love

New Hope Evangelical Free Church
639 S. Eighth St., Mt. Horeb
Phone: 608-437-3273
www.newhopeefc.org
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Perry Lutheran Church ELCA
1057 Hwy 78 S, Mt. Horeb
608-437-5294
Sunday Worship 9:00 am
www.perrylutheranchurchelca.org

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ
1693 Washington St. Verona
608-832-6677
www.mtvernonucc.org
Sunday Worship, in-person and on Facebook Live, 10:15 am
Bible Study 9am-10am
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

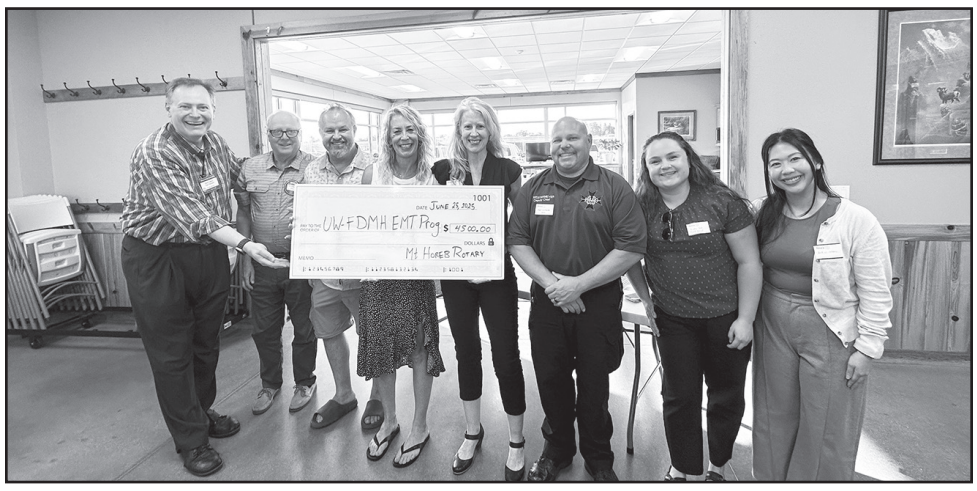
Springdale Lutheran Church
2752 Town Hall Rd. 608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month at 10am
twosteeples.org

St. Michael The Archangel Parish
Rev. Robert Butz- Parish Administrator
St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday thru Friday - 8:00 am
Sat. 5:00 pm
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am

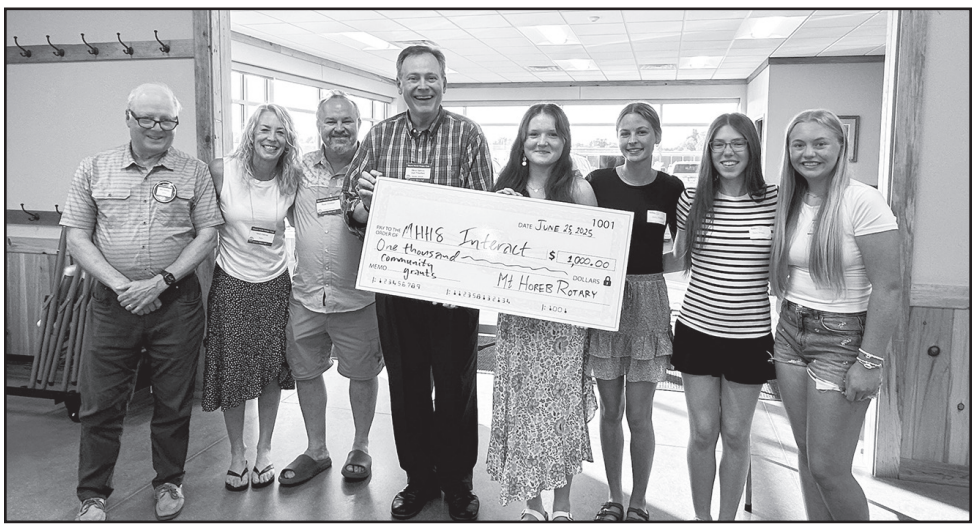
Vermont Lutheran Church-ELCA
9886 Vermont Church Road
Black Earth, WI 53515
www.vermontlutheran.org
608-767-3312 (office)
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church
2962 Church St.,Blue Mounds
608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month, 10:00 am

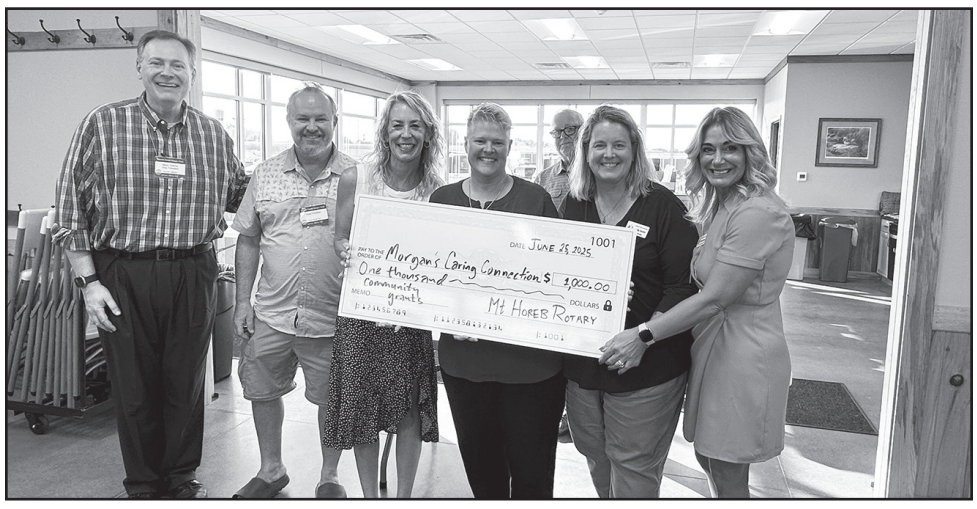
Rotary gives $14,000 in grants to Mount Horeb community



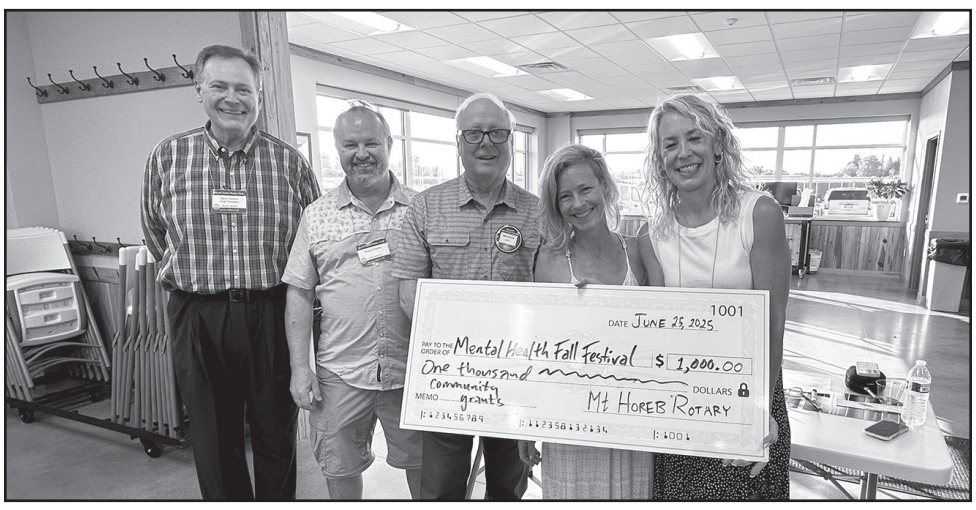
FDMH and UW-Madison grant: From left, Steve Salerno, Mark Rooney, Russ Christian and Heidi Kopras, with Molly Reinhard of UW-Madison, Thane Westermeyer, deputy chief of FDMH, EMT and student Kristen Stott, and Dua Khang of UW-Madison.



Club Interact: From left, Rotary members Mark Rooney, Heidi Kopras, Russ Christian and Steve Salerno with Club Interact students Lorelei Lawry, Julia Straka, Sierra Pitzen and Annika Schaller.



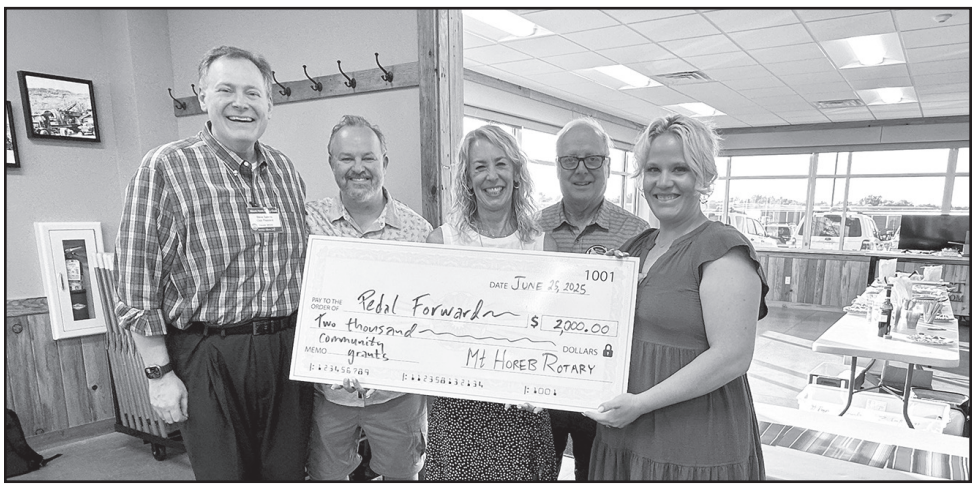
Morgan's Caring Connection: From left, Steve Salerno, Russ Christian and Heidi Kopras, of Rotary; Janis Strutt, Kelly Strutt, and Crissy King of Morgan's Caring Connection, and Mark Rooney of Rotary at rear.



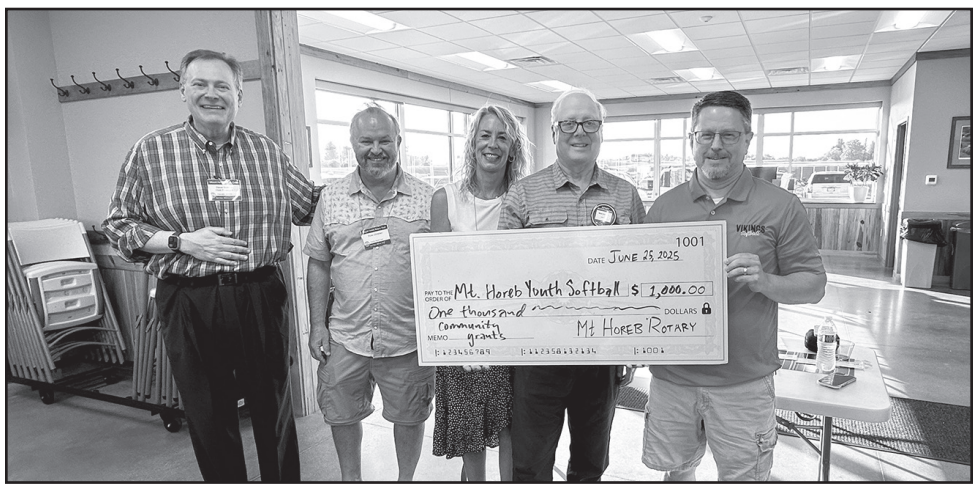
CEDAR Center to fund the Fall Mental Health Festival: From left, Steve Salerno, Russ Christian and Mark Rooney, of Rotary; Elizabeth Seelinger of the CEDAR Center, and Heidi Kopras of Rotary.



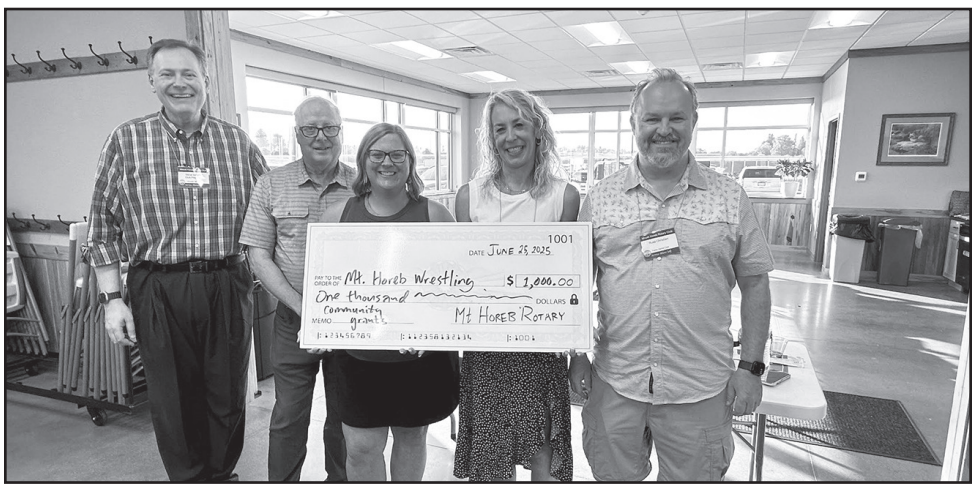
Neighbors Helping Neighbors: From left, Steve Salerno, Mark Rooney, Heidi Kopras, Suzi Grundahl of Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Russ Christian of Rotary.



Pedal Forward: Steve Salerno, Russ Christian, Heidi Kopras, and Mark Rooney of Rotary, with Starlyn Olson of Mount Horeb Area School District.



Mount Horeb Softball Club: Steve Salerno, Russ Christian, Mark Rooney, Heidi Kopras of Rotary, and Kurt Adler of Mt. Horeb Softball Club.



Mount Horeb Wrestling Club: From left, Steve Salerno, Mark Rooney, Heidi Kopras of Rotary; Pam Sutter of the Mount Horeb Wrestling Club, and Russ Christian of Rotary.

Mount Horeb Rotary Club gave out a record amount of grants to support local good works ranging from equine therapy to EMT training to help with estate planning for local families with special needs.

The $14,000 awarded at Community Grants Night June 25 represented a rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic years, when most of the club's fundraising events were shut down.

But while the events and Rotary's membership has recovered, Heidi Kopras, of the Rotary grant committee, noted that the community needs are greater now, too.

"This is one of the biggest years I can remember, but we also had an unprecedented ask for grant funds, so we're going to try to keep raising more money," she said.

If you'd like to support local Rotary fundraising, the annual 10K Raffle is coming up on August 13. If you'd like to enjoy a night of fun and entertainment, vie for a chance to win $10,000 or help make Mount Horeb a better place, contact a Rotarian to buy a raffle ticket. You can also email Paul Christiansen christiansenpaul@mounthorebschools.org

Mount Horeb Rotary supported these worthy local projects in 2025:

Morgan's Caring Connection: $1,000 Janis and Kelly Strutt started this charity to honor their late daughter Morgan.. The grant will help a local family with a special needs dependent to cover the legal fees for setting up trusts, guardianships and other means of long-term support.

Pedal Forward: $2,000 Starlyn Olson, transition coordinator at Mount Horeb Area High School, said this will help empower special needs students, most of whom don't drive, by providing bikes so they have transportation to work and volunteer opportunities.

continued on page 10

'Leading with Love': Scenes from PFLAG's anniversary









PFLAG celebrated its 10-year anniversary in Mount Horeb on Wednesday, June 25 at Grundahl Park. Attendees said it was a celebration of the work they have done and an inspiration to do even more in the community. Photos by Nathan Schultz.

COUNTRY MUSIC CONCERTS
MAGGIE MAE & THE SAWMILL CREEK BAND
$10
Sunday, July 13
Saturday, August 16
Sunday, September 21 • Saturday, October 11
1-4pm
Located at Sawmill Creek Farm
N8855 Badger Rd • Blanchardville
Enjoy the day with with friends listening to some of best traditional country music and yodeling around.
Bring your lawn chair & cooler - concessions also available.
Featuring talented local musicians: (Maggie Mae, Eric Nofsinger, Mark Gruenenfelder, Wally Barger, Dan Smith, Kyle Scott, Stuart Thayer)
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NEXT LEVEL NIGHT
DOUBLE HAUL & CASTING CHALLENGE
Wednesday, July 16
5:30–7:30 PM
Deer Creek Sports and Conservation Club
• Creative Casting Games
Hands-on Double Haul Workshop
Coaching from Certified Casting Instructor Kalyn Hoggard
$25 donation requested
LEVEL UP NIGHT
FLY TYING FEST
TYING • SWAPPING • PRIZES • COMMUNITY
Tuesday, August 5
5:30–7:30 PM
$25 Entry Includes:
• 1 Grand Prize Ticket
• 10 Bucket Tickets
• Fly Tying & Swap
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Want more info or to donate: lineworkersflyfishers@gmail.com | 608-577-5503

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Opposites Attract: 2025 Student Spotlight Art Show is a Study in Complements

Mount Horeb's downtown Driftless Historium (100 S 2nd St) will debut the sixth Annual Student Spotlight art show on Friday, July 18, 2025, featuring the work of Mount Horeb High School's Josetta (Josie) Donaldson and Anneli Wik.

This partner installation, entitled "Ivory Echoes, Colorful Voices" will be on display and open to all in the Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Gallery during the museum's open hours (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) through Tuesday, August 26.

Drop by the Driftless Historium to meet Josie and Anneli at the 2025 Student Spotlight Artist Reception on Friday, July 18 between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and select works and prints featured in this show will be available for sale. All profits will stay with the artist.

While exploring exhibition themes for their joint show, it quickly became clear that their aesthetic strength would be their clear cut artist divergence—the spectacular juxtaposition of Josie's signature ivory-painted ceramics and Anneli's vibrant acrylic canvases brings their collaboration to life.

The artists contend that their display of thought-provoking paintings, sculptures and mixed media artwork represent dueling emotions; shades of white convey serenity and calm, while colorful elements demonstrate joy and chaos. When taken as a whole, "Ivory Echoes, Colorful Voices" creates a rich sensory experience celebrating the beauty of contrast and the full spectrum of the human experience.

The Student Spotlight program will serve as a stepping stone for the recently graduated Donaldson, who is already working towards a graphic design degree. Rising senior Wik, who has medical school aspirations, has used the artistic process as a coping mechanism during her own recent health journey and recognizes its long-term value in cognitive development.

The Driftless Historium's "Student Spotlight" celebrates the talent of area youth. This mentor-driven initiative provides an opportunity for young artists to gain experience producing and promoting a public art installation in a professional setting. It was developed in partnership with MHHS Art Department educators Anna King and Dana Showers, with funding provided by the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society.

For more information, call MHAHS Director Destinee Udelhoven at 608-437-6486 or email mthorebahs@gmail.com.



"Creativity Colors," acrylic, by Wik



Ceramic sculpture by Donaldson



Anneli Wik



Josetta Donaldson



Historical Society Dedicates Collection to Legacy Volunteer Marietta Gribb



Maritta Gribb (left) and Curator Johnna Buysee stand under the newly unveiled plaque commemorating Gribb's four decades of service, a large portion of which was spent building and caring for the Historical Society's impressive clothing and textile collection.



Fittingly, her June 19th Legacy Volunteer Reception included a Museum of Marietta display, showcasing photos, momentos and Marietta-made costumes, quilts and other exquisite handiwork.

As part of its 2025 golden anniversary festivities, the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society's (MHAHS) is celebrating long-serving volunteers who have played an instrumental role in the nonprofit's five decades of local history preservation and education efforts.

MHAHS held the first of these Legacy Volunteer receptions on Thursday, June 19 in honor of Volunteer Curator Marietta Gribb and her impressive forty-two years of service. As stated in Director Destinee Udelhoven's opening remarks, "Marietta's involvement with MHAHS has been invaluable to our growth and success, and we are delighted to recognize her work!"

Marietta Wheaton grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan, one of six children. Marietta's father worked as a blueprint draftsman and her mother was a self-styled interior decorator who later earned a degree in social work. Marietta credits her aunts and the many family heirlooms they passed on to her—including clothing, dolls, furniture, and letters—for inspiring her love of history. According to Marietta, "I've always had a needle in my hand; I've always loved history and old-fashioned stuff, so its's not surprising that I've made a spot for myself in Mount Horeb's Attic" (the moniker she affectionately uses to describe MHAHS's diverse collection of vintage and antique wares).

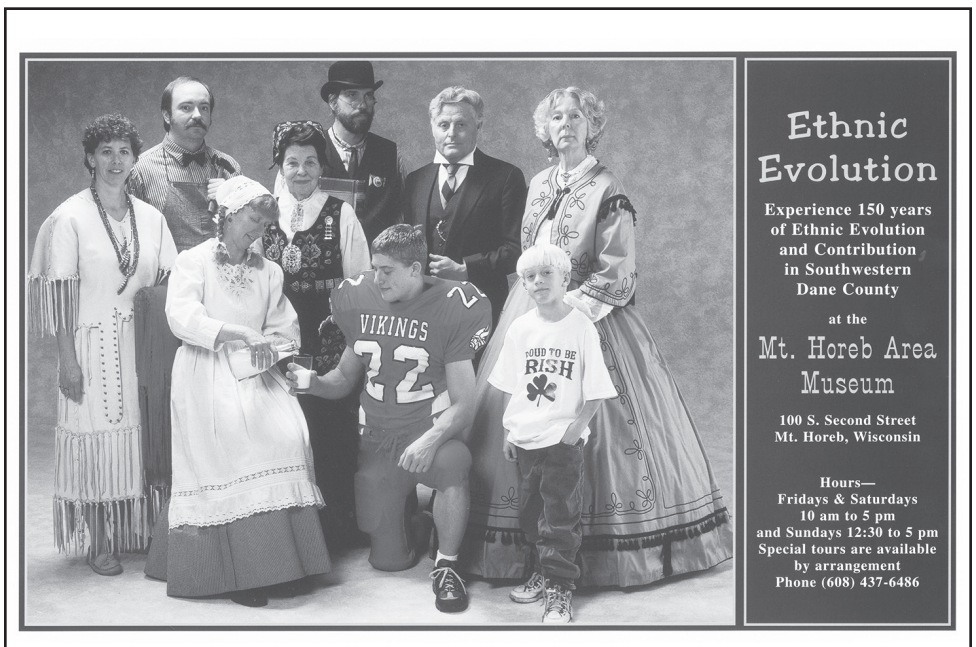
Marietta met her husband John Gribb while both were attending Michigan State University. John was studying to become a veterinarian, and Marietta received a bachelor's degree in Home Economics. They were married in the University Alumni Memorial Chapel in 1959, and moved to Mount Horeb just two years later. They had fallen in love with the rural community after visiting the area when John was taking the Wisconsin veterinary board license exam. Here, they built what Marietta refers to as "their forever home" and raised their four children: Molly, Amy, Tye, and Gil.

Marietta first volunteered for the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, pursuing her interests in antique dolls and historical clothing, while also using her talent for sewing to build an astounding personal costume collection. Chances are, if you have attended a Mount Horeb festival, parade, or high school musical production over the last forty years, then you have benefitted from Marietta's handiwork.

Her volunteer career with the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society began in 1981. The first project she gamely tackled was the creation of a local artists' exhibit for MHAHS—then located in the Village Municipal Building third floor. Since then, Marietta has leveraged her interests and expertise in sewing, quilting, embroidery, antique doll collecting and dressing, and historical clothing for the benefit of the Society. Over the years she has helped develop and care for the MHAHS collection, created exhibits, and presented public programs on a wide variety of topics.

While Marietta has worn many hats over the years (literally and figuratively), it is as Volunteer Curator where she has made her greatest contribution to the Society's evolution and success. In this role, Marietta spearheaded the growth, documentation, and preservation of the Society's comprehensive clothing and textile collection—which includes everything from vintage bedsheets to modern quilts, shoes and accessories to wedding gowns and military uniforms. And then, in 2018, she supervised the careful transfer of every box and hanging garment across Main Street to MHAHS's collection storage space in the all-new Driftless Historium.

With all that in mind, it seems only fitting that MHAHS proclaim this life's work as the *Marietta Gribb Clothing and Textile Collection*. Which they did, via a plaque unveiling ceremony at her June reception.



A 1998 flyer promoting the Historical Society's exhibit celebrating the 150th anniversary of Wisconsin Statehood, featuring Marietta (standing, far right) in yet another of her handmade costumes.

A pattern that many will recognize: what starts off as one person's passion often becomes a family affair!

The Society also recognizes Marietta's late husband John for his ancillary, yet integral service to MHAHS. While supporting his wife's interests, John found himself assisting with display set-up, moving objects and dressing in historical costumes as called upon. And it was John who successfully lobbied the Village Board to assume the remainder of the Society's loan burden after the purchase of the 1895 Gilbertson's Hardware store building. In addition, she introduced her daughters Amy and Molly into the history mix.

Today, Marietta still enjoys the hands-on experience of being Volunteer Curator, where she generously shares her knowledge with others and enjoys collaborating with like-minded friends. Working with MHAHS Curator Johnna Buysse, Marietta continues to help MHAHS care for its clothing and textile collection and is an active member of the Collections Committee. This ten-person assemblage gathers monthly to consider artifact and archive donations offered to MHAHS.

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society Board of Directors, staff and fellow volunteers thank Marietta for her dedication and invaluable service—and look forward to many more years of working side by side!

MHAHS was established in 1975 to preserve and share the history of southwestern Dane County. Visit the Society's downtown Driftless Historium museum and research center, Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To learn more about MHAHS's mission, past accomplishments and 2025 calendar of events, visit www.mthorebhistory.org or call 608-437-6486.

ROTARY

continued from page 5

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: $2,500 Suzi Grundahl, of the NHN board, said the grant will not only support immediate needs but help individuals experiencing food and housing insecurity to achieve more long-term stability.

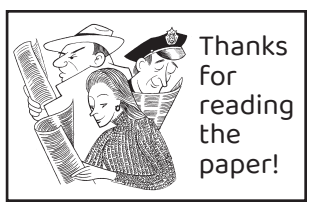
Mount Horeb Wrestling Club: $1,000 Pam Sutter said the club will use the money to replace worn mats in the practice room.

CEDAR Center: $1,000 Elizabeth Seelinger said the center will use the money to rehabilitate horses bound for slaughter and train them to provide equine therapy for people with emotional and relationship needs.

Club Interact: $1,000 These high school students affiliated with Rotary will use the grants to buy fabric to make blankets for patients at the American Family Children's Hospital. Students also tour the facility and learn about preparing for health professions when they present the blankets to the hospital. It will also help supply the club's other charitable efforts throughout the school year.

Mount Horeb Softball Club: **$1,000** Kurt Adler said the club will use it for field upgrades, including safety padding on the fencelines.

The Fire Department of Mount Horeb and the UW-Madison office of pre-health advising: $4,500. This money helps transport UW students to Mount Horeb to fill weekend shifts as Emergency Medical Technicians. The EMT Experience program also provides scholarships for students to become EMT-certified, and does training both at FDMH and at the UW Department of Emergency Medicine for the students. Currently 16 UW-Madison students are filling shifts on the FDMH EMT crew.



RULE

continued from page 1

an election under s. 7.41, Stats., shall notify the designated election official of that intent upon entering the observable location and shall sign the election observer log acknowledging that the observer understands the applicable rules and will abide by them. An observer shall present photo identification showing the observer's name to the designated election official and shall legibly print the observer's full name, street address and municipality, and the name of the organization the observer represents, if any, on the observer log. An observer is not required to be affiliated with or represent an organization. The photo identification does not need to conform to the requirements of s. 5.02 (6m), Stats.

(2) An observer shall comply with the designated election official's commands or shall be subject to removal from the observable location pursuant to s. EL 4.02 (14) (a).

(3) If more than one observation area is established within an observable location, an observer may move between such areas in a manner established by the designated election official.

(4) An observer may direct questions to the designated election official or other election officials as determined by the designated election official and communicated to observers when they sign the observer log pursuant to s. EL 4.03 (2) (a) 1.

(5) An observer who is an elector shall direct any challenges for cause against a voter to an election official in accordance with ss. 6.925, 6.93, and 6.935, Stats., and ch. EL 9.

(6) No observer may engage in any loud, boisterous, or otherwise disruptive behavior, that, in the discretion of the designated election official, threatens the orderly conduct of the election or interferes with voting or registration.

(7) No observer may create or transmit photographs, videos, or audio recordings of any observable location except as expressly permitted by this chapter.

(8) An observer shall keep conversation to a minimum and shall conduct whatever conversation is necessary at a low enough volume to minimize distraction to voters and election officials.

(9) No observer may engage in electioneering, as defined in s. 12.03, Stats., or post or distribute any election-related material as defined in s. 12.035, Stats.

(10) No observer may display the name or likeness of, or text related to, a candidate, party, or referendum position appearing on the ballot, or display text which describes, states, or implies that the observer is an election official.

(11) No observer may engage in any conversation concerning a candidate, party, or question appearing on the ballot.

(12) No observer may use a communication device inside an observer area to make an audio or video communication. Text messaging, email, and other non-audible uses of such a device are permissible except as otherwise prohibited by this chapter.

(13) No observer may initiate a conversation with a voter. If a voter initiates a conversation with an observer inside an observable location, except as allowed by sub.

(14) The observer may briefly respond to the voter if such response does not disturb other voters or the orderly administration of the election. The observer may also refer the voter to an election official for any election related questions, and briefly explain to the voter that the observer is observing the election and is not an election official. A brief wave or greeting to an individual known to the observer does not constitute a violation of this section.

(15) An observer may communicate with the designated election official and any other election officials at the discretion of the designated election official.

(16) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent an observer from assisting a voter in accordance with s. 6.82, 6.87 (5), or 6.875 (6) (c) 1., Stats., provided that the voter requests the observer's assistance

To help develop the administrative rule, the WEC worked with an advisory committee comprised of 24 people, including municipal clerks, poll workers, observers, political parties, and other election-related organizations.

"Today marks a significant milestone that will ensure election observers, election officials, and voters all have a clear and consistent understanding of the observer process," said WEC Administrator Meagan Wolfe. "After years of thorough public hearings, advisory committee input, and careful drafting, this rule enshrines standards for election observers that ensure participation in our electoral process."

Clerks and other election officials will have an opportunity to assess the new provision of code, raise any follow-up questions with the Commission, and begin the process of implementing its requirements before the next election cycle.

The six-member, bipartisan Wisconsin's Elections Commission will also meet later this year to approve guidance for election officials based on the new observer rule.

According to Alyssa Gaffney, the Village of Mount Horeb's clerk, the newly codified rule simply puts into writing the policies already being used by local election officials.

"I read through the rule and do not see anything new that we are not already using as our process," Gaffney said. "I think this 'Rule' just makes it official more specific of the actual guidelines for observers."

STACK

continued from page 1

their adult counterparts both need to grapple with certain fundamental questions that don't have easy answers.

"It's about wonder," he said. "You begin with wonder and then the world tells you all these things are not possible."

Good plays, good books, and good stories in general can resuscitate that wonder, he believes.

"You can see the power if it," he said. "In our family, we were always reading to our kids, and you could see it."

"It's a chance to deal with things they are thinking about but usually don't get to talk about," he said.

For Stack, storytelling shines a light on how unique each person is, and how universal that feeling of uniqueness is. He hypothesizes that a limp he has had since childhood helped him realize that early on.

"I think maybe I realized because I've walked with a limp my whole life, I knew I was never going to fit in anyway," he observed.

He said effective plays and books both plumb the depths of human misery and soar high above it.

"Our scars are part of us," he said. "These scars are the things that happened. We get these scars because we are alive."

Despite this realization, Stack is anything but morose.

"My writing has definitely shifted," he said. "There has always been a darkness, but there is also always a light."

There are many reasons for this, but two stand out above the rest: his children, Chloe and Zoe.

"When my daughters came into my world, they became my *why*," he said. "It's always about them."

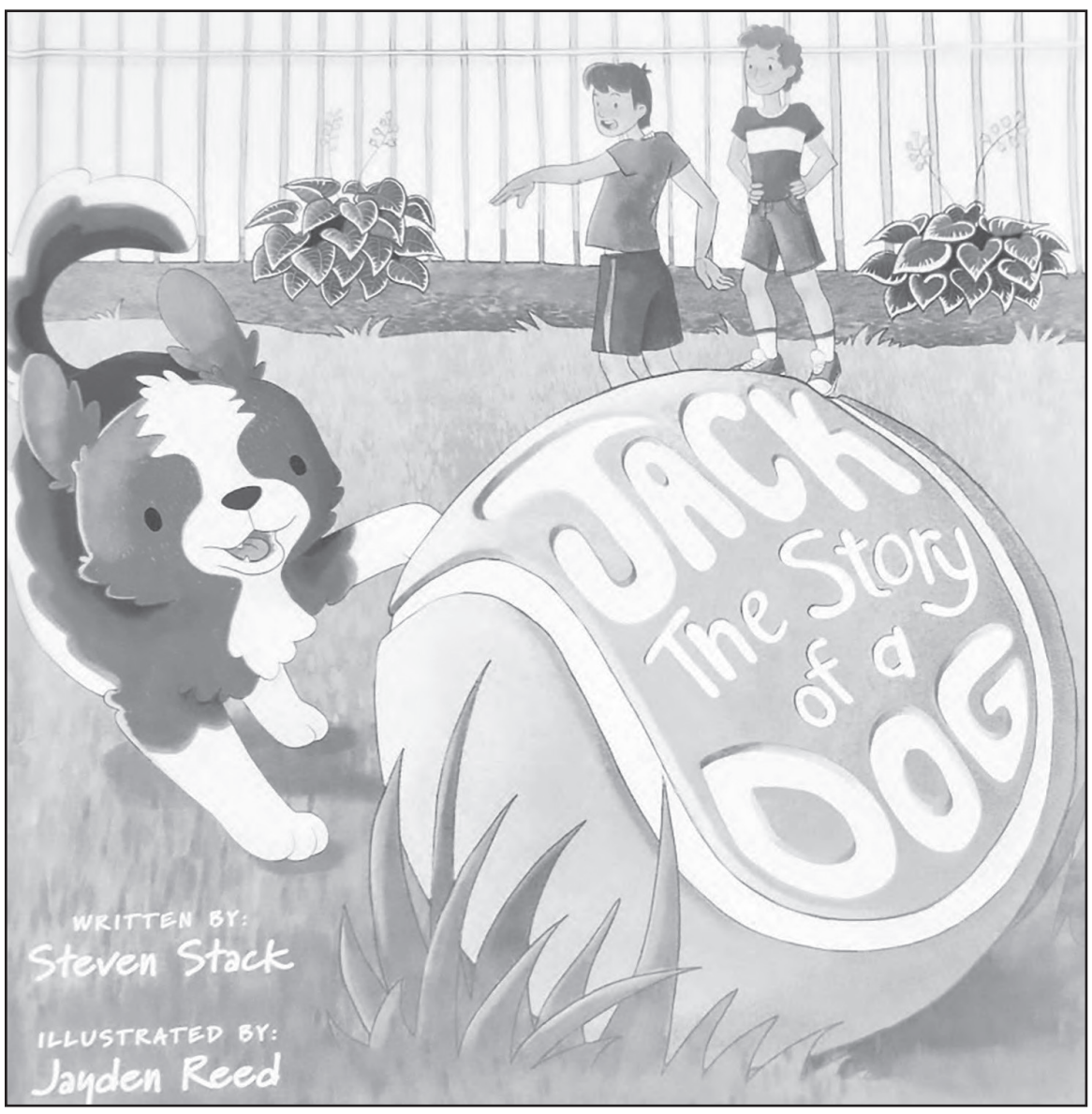
Having children taught Stack a whole collection of lessons, one of which was that things are not always what they seem, and people, rather than being monoliths, embody constellations of qualities and experiences that twinkle and glimmer even in the darkest night.

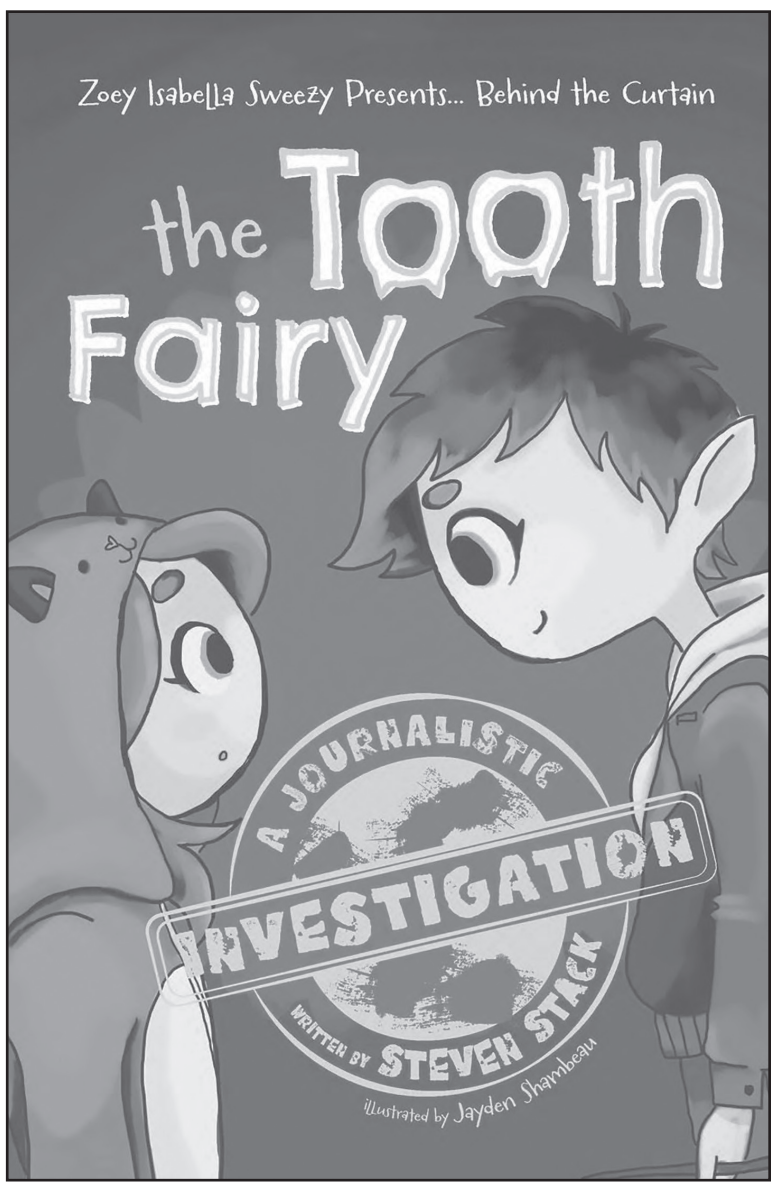
"We're so obsessed with labeling things as good or bad and not seeing them for what they actually are," he said. But all we ever are is a bunch of things. What are we, really? We're the in-between stuff."

That "in-between stuff" shines brightest in a good yarn.

Before his father died, he said something to Stack that illustrated the point: "I just want you to tell stories about me."

So Stack is making his way through life telling stories about everyone, and for everyone. He once wrote a play about a woman he met who was allergic to ketchup. He hears stories in the things his kids and students say, and he even finds them in memories of those, both human and canine, who have long since been laid to rest. "There's always those possibilities," he said. "There's always these opportunities to turn things into stories."





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SPORTS

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Mount Horeb's 'Best of the best'

Vikings' girls enjoyed a stellar year

ROB REISCHEL

The cross country team had a record setting season.

The gymnastics team refused to budge from its lofty perch.

And the softball team had another terrific year.

These were just a few of the highlights in what was another tremendous school year for Mount Horeb's girls sports programs.

It wasn't easy, but the Mount Horeb Mail has selected the 'Best of the Best' from the year that was. Here's our opinion of the Vikings' finest performances from a memorable 2024-25 school year.



Clockwise from top, Julia Straka and Willa Vigliotta helped Mount Horeb's girls cross country team finish third at state and earn the MHM's vote for Team of the Year. File photo

Team of the Year
Cross country

When the cross country season began in August, many wondered if Mount Horeb's girls coach Dave Chancellor had gone batty.

Chancellor had just lost Abby Sadler — arguably the greatest runner in school history who's now competing at Harvard — to graduation. Yet before the Vikings' new season began, Chancellor predicted his 2024 squad would be better than the group that finished fifth at state in 2023.

"I think a lot of people were surprised when I said that," Chancellor said.

By the end of the year, Chancellor looked like savant.

The Vikings put the bow on what was a memorable season when they raced to a third place finish at the WIAA Division 2 state meet held at Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids on Nov. 2. That was Mount Horeb's best finish since the 1995 team won a state title.

University School of Milwaukee finished first with 60 points, while Bloomer was second with 80. Mount Horeb was third at 108, while Lancaster (138) and New Berlin Eisenhower (158) rounded out the top five.

"Finishing third really meant a lot to me and our team," said sophomore Julia Straka. "Coming into this year I did not know really what to expect, especially with the absence of our graduated top runner. It put a lot of us varsity girls in a place where we really stepped up. We proved to ourselves that we were capable of getting to state and placing two places higher than the year before."

Fellow sophomore Willa Vigliotta agreed.

"It was great to see that even though last season we had an outstanding runner (Sadler), we were able to go from getting fifth place to third this year," Vigliotta said. "I am so proud of all the work our team did to get this great accomplishment."

While Chancellor's preseason prediction seemed a tad far-fetched at the time, no one knew these Vikings better than their second-year head coach.

Chancellor saw the strides runners like Vigliotta, Straka and fellow sophomore Maeve True had made. He knew senior Ellie Larson and junior Lily Wahl would be key contributors. Plus, Chancellor believed Mia Caygill would be one of the state's top freshmen, while fellow frosh Emily Wittenwyler could provide a boost.

All of that certainly happened for a group that produced the school's best finish in nearly three decades.

"For us as a program, I

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MOUNT HOREB'S BEST OF THE BEST

BEST

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think this finish points to how not just these girls, but the whole team is buying in and wanting to put the work in to be successful," Chancellor said. "I don't want it to sound that serious though. So much of what makes our team good is that these kids have built an environment where anyone that shows up and tries has a place here. It's got to be fun."

And boy, did these Vikings have fun at state.

Vigliotta, who missed most of the 2024 track season due to a stress fracture in her left shin, battled that same injury much of the fall. She did constant cross training, though, such as biking and the elliptical machine, and even took a two-week break from running to get ready for state.

It paid off in spades.

The course at state is fairly quick early, but the back half has a lot of smaller hills and elements that make it hard to get into a rhythm. But Vigliotta certainly found her groove throughout.

Vigliotta finished 12th overall, but ninth among runners that competed with their teams, finishing the 3.1-mile course in 19 minutes, 10.2 seconds. Despite an uneven fall of training, Vigliotta bettered her time and her place from a year ago.

"She just does an incredible job of locking in races and put together a really good race," Chancellor said of Vigliotta. "Despite coming off an injury and not being able to train at the level she wanted to this season, she managed to run faster and place higher than she did last year."

Straka had a sensational race herself, finishing 14th in the team standings and 25th among all runners in 19:54.5. In 2023, Straka finished in 20:15.2, which was 24th in the team standings and 45th among all runners.

"Going into the race my plan was to start off hard and stay with the pack … and I was able to accomplish it, and more," said Straka, who was 21st after one mile and 18th after two miles. "Throughout the race, I stuck to my advantages and took people on the down hills and the up hills. Due to these strategies I was able to get into a smart position."

Chancellor was thrilled to see Straka post one of the better times of her racing career.

"Julia ran one of the best races of her career," he said. "She dug deep in this one and improved on her performance from last year. Even though she's just a sophomore, Julia has really become a leader for us and her focus is contagious."

Caygill, who was one of the state's top freshmen as Chancellor predicted, finished 29th overall, but 15th in the team standings in 19:54.5. Caygill, an extremely driven and competitive runner, was hoping for more at state. But her performance was nothing to sneeze at and played a huge role in the Vikings' top-three finish.

"I was disappointed in my results because I've beaten some of those girls in previous races and I know I can do better," Caygill said. "I'm thankful my teammates ran really well and we're so happy with the results."

Caygill was ninth overall after she ran the first mile in a blistering 5:51. She was still 15th at the 2-mile mark, before fading a bit coming home.

Still, Chancellor was extremely proud of Caygill's race — and her freshman season.

"Mia had a race she should really be proud of as a freshman," he said. "She got out quick and wasn't quite able to hold on to the spot that she wanted, but she competed so well. She's going to be great and this is just the start for her."

Larson and True worked together for much of the race, and that strategy paid dividends. Larson finished 33rd in the team standings (20:39.3) and True was 37th (20:43.9).

"Ellie's growth as a runner has been a huge part of our success this year," Chancellor said. "As our fourth, she was over a minute ahead of where our fourth place runner was last year.

"Maeve put together a great race for us. Over the last few weeks, she's been a little bit back of Ellie, so we had hoped to tighten up that gap a little more and keep them running together. She did that so well and was able to finish in front of Lancaster's fourth runner, which gave us a big advantage in the scoring."

While only the top five runners have their scores count, the Vikings also got strong races from Wittenwyler and Wahl.

Wittenwyler finished 62nd in the team standings (21:35.2) and Wahl was 65th (21:39.9).

"The plan for Emily and Lily had been to try to work their way ahead of other teams' fifth runners," Chancellor said. "They both ran career-best times and made huge moves in the last mile. I pointed out to them on the bus ride home that they had both run faster than our fourth runner at last year's state meet."

Afterwards, Chancellor was filled with pride seeing how far his team had come this fall — and making him look prophetic in the process.

"I'm really proud of this whole group," he said. "They steadily got better throughout the season and really pulled together to make this happen. It wasn't easy and many of these girls had challenges, frustrating races, and practices that didn't go well across the course of our season."

Yet, the Vikings persevered and eventually prospered.

And now, even better things could await.

Larson was the group's only senior, meaning the Vikings' window to chase a state championship is wide open. And that will likely be at the top of the goal sheet in 2025.

"Our team did great this season and I'm so proud of how we raced as a team and as individuals at the state meet," Vigliotta said. "Next year I hope we can push ourselves even further."

Caygill agreed.

"We constantly push each other to do better and we'll be striving for even more next year," she said.

Honorable mention: Gymnastics, softball.

Coach of the Year Martha Koller Faust, gymnastics

Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team has qualified for the WIAA state tournament a remarkable 38 times — more than any other program in Wisconsin history. The Vikings also rank fourth in state history with six team titles.

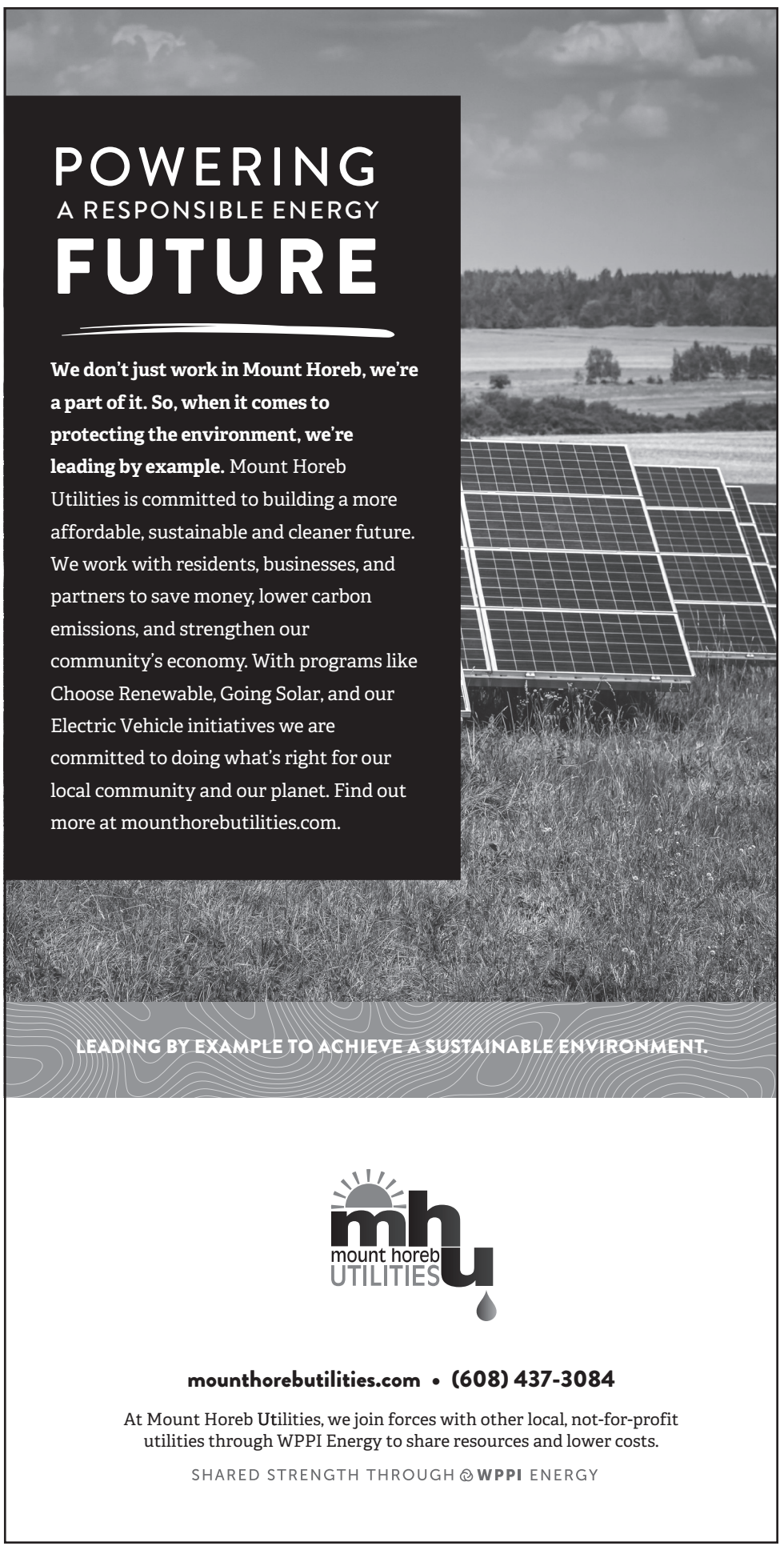
Koller Faust has been in that middle of that success, winning an individual state championship in 1987 and taking the Vikings' program over from her mother, Susan, a decade later.

But Koller Faust and Mount Horeb did something in 2025 the program had never done before. Mount Horeb — a school of just 782 students — was

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Mount Horeb gymnastics coach Martha Koller Faust (left) was the MHM's choice for Coach of the Year. File photo



MOUNT HOREB'S BEST OF THE BEST

BEST

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bumped from Division 2 to Division 1 for the first time ever due to the WIAA's new 'competitive balance formula.'

That didn't stop the Vikings, who continued their run of success by qualifying for state and finishing sixth out of 10 teams. Had the Vikings stayed in Division 2 like past years, they would have finished second.

"I wish I could put into words how proud I am of our Viking gymnasts," Koller Faust said. "Friday's team competition was another example of a true team effort.

"Based on all of the sectional scores, Mount Horeb was ranked seventh, so placing sixth was a great achievement. Our girls reached their season goal of qualifying to team state, so this weekend we reminded them to enjoy every moment."

Mount Horeb jumped to Division 1 because it's excelled in Division 2. In the last three years — the time period used in the 'competitive balance formula' — the Vikings were second, third and fourth at state.

That sent Mount Horeb up a division, where it proved once again that no challenge is too great for the dynasty Koller Faust has established.

"Competing in Division 1 for the first time was a big adjustment, but I think we rose to the challenge and represented our team well," senior Athena Ouradnik said. "The level of competition was intense, but we gave it our all and supported each other every step of the way. We proved that we belong among the strongest teams in Wisconsin, and I couldn't be more proud of this team."

Koller Faust agreed.

"Each of our girls gave 110% in each of their performances," Koller Faust said. "And as a coach, I couldn't have asked for more of them."

Mount Horeb started on the balance beam, where its score of 35.20 was sixth overall. Ouradnik led the way with a 9.083, while Sylviah Seeliger (8.883), Harper Hendrickson (8.717) and Reece Olinger (8.517) had strong showings, as well.

"Great start," Koller Faust said.

Mount Horeb then moved to the floor exercise, where its total of 35.773 was the second-highest in Division 1. Ouradnik again led the Vikings with a 9.167, while Averi Kalscheur (9.150), Seeliger (8.933) and Carmen Oglesby (8.483) had big performances, as well.

Mount Horeb then competed on the vault and totaled a 33.583.

The Vikings finished on the uneven bars, where they posted a 33.567 after all five gymnasts hit their routines. Ouradnik had Mount Horeb's top score with an 8.633, and the Vikings also counted scores from Macie Finley (8.467), Seeliger (8.417) and Kalscheur (8.050).

"Even though we didn't achieve a season-high event total, it was a fantastic finish to the state team competition," Koller Faust said.

Chippewa Falls' co-op team finished first overall with a 143.550, while Oak Creek's co-op team (142.60) and the Verona co-op (142.433) rounded out the top three.

"Our Vikings held their heads high as the team standings were announced — and they had every right to be proud," Koller Faust said.

One day later, the Vikings were just as proud of Ouradnik, who competed as an individual.

Ouradnik earned a spot on the podium with a fourth place finish on the balance beam with her 9.133 score. She also secured a podium berth with her sixth place finish on the floor exercise (9.20).

Ouradnik's overall score of 35.633 was 11th overall.

"I am very pleased with how I did on Saturday," Ouradnik said. "Being the first Mount Horeb gymnast to place at state in Division 1 is so exciting.

"My favorite moment was seeing my team cheering for me as I got called up to the podium. Their excitement for my accomplishments made state a truly unforgettable experience."

Koller Faust found it rather unforgettable, too.

"Athena had an amazing two days, hitting all eight of her events with no falls," Koller Faust said. "Seeing her on the podium receiving medals in two events was a terrific end to her high school gymnastics career."

Overall, the Vikings were thrilled with their performance, where they were the smallest team in Division 1.

"This season our motto was 'Together We Rise,' and that's exactly what we did," Koller Faust said. "Through every challenge and triumph, this team stuck together, lifted each other up and achieved incredible things.

"Our success wasn't just about individual talent. It was about team unity, perseverance, believing in each other and the heart they showed every step of the way."

Honorable mention: Dave Chancellor (cross country).



Mount Horeb volleyball and softball standout Jayse Holman was the MHM's choice for Senior Athlete of the Year. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Senior Athlete of the Year

Jayse Holman (volleyball, softball)

Holman finished her terrific Mount Horeb career with memorable seasons in both volleyball and softball.

In volleyball, Holman — an outside hitter — led the Vikings with 267 kills, was third with 30 blocks and third with 54 aces. She had a tremendous .388 kill percentage and finished third in school history in career kills (846), ninth in career

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TOWN OF PRIMROSE
NOTICE OF SITE VIEW

The Town of Primrose Planning Commission and Town Board will hold two site views on Monday, July 14, 2025 starting at 3:00 PM:

- 3:00 PM: Joseph Kempfer - Agricultural Accessory Building, 132 County Highway U, Parcel 0507-343-8001-5
- 4:00 PM: Mike Nolden - Residential Building, Parcel 0507-251-9500-0

A quorum of the Town Board and/or Town Planning Commission may be present.

Publish: 7/10/25 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF VERMONT
NOTICE

Town of Vermont Board Meeting
July 14, 2025, 7:00 P.M.
Vermont Town Hall
4017 County Rd JJ, Black Earth WI 53515
See townofvermontwi.gov for meeting agenda
To Join the meeting by phone: +1 347-896-0991
PIN: 481 262 925#

Publish: 7/10/25 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PRIMROSE
NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Board of Supervisors meeting for July, 2025, will be held on Monday, July 14th, 2025, 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: 7/10/25 **WNAXLP**

New LEGAL NOTICE DEADLINES

EFFECTIVE ON ALL LEGAL NOTICES PUBLISHED IN THESE PUBLICATIONS:

ADAMS FRIENDSHIP TIMES-REPORTER:
Noon Wednesday, the week prior to publication

POST MESSENGER RECORDER:
11 am Thursday, the week prior to publication

INDEPENDENT STAR NEWS:
Formerly Reedsburg Independent, Star News, Home News
Noon Thursday, the week prior to publication

MOUNT HOREB MAIL:
1 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication

TIMES-TRIBUNE:
Now covering Middleton, Cross Plains, Black Earth & Mazomanie
2 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication

MARQUETTE COUNTY TRIBUNE:
10 am Friday, the week prior to publication

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VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
PUBLIC HEARING JULY 23, 2025

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 the creation of a General Development Plan for a zoning change from PB Planned Business to PD – Planned Development to construct two multi-family residential apartment buildings at 101 Perimeter Road further described as parcel 0606-124-0065-1.

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

Publish: 7/3/25, 7/10/25 **WNAXLP**

MOUNT HOREB'S BEST OF THE BEST

BEST

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blocks (52.5) and third in career sets played (348).

"Jayse had an incredible year in 2024," Mount Horeb coach Josh Smelzer said. "There were several games that she put the team on her back. Jayse brings a fun and relaxing demeanor to the team, but she knows when it's time to turn it on."

During softball season, Holman — a pitcher — went 12-4 overall in the circle and 8-1 in conference play. Holman finished with a 2.27 ERA and won Pitcher of the Year honors for the second straight season.

Holman also batted .410 overall and belted three home runs. In addition, she joined Mount Horeb's 100-hit club this season.

Honorable mention: Morgan Monroe (volleyball, basketball, softball), Ruby Dahlk (volleyball, softball), Ellie Larson (cross country, softball), Hallie Klein (basketball, softball).

Performance of the Year

Girls softball team repeats as conference champs

It wasn't that long ago that Mount Horeb's girls softball program was mediocre — at best.

Today, the Vikings are the bullies inside the Badger Small Conference.

Mount Horeb won its second straight conference title this spring, posting a 13-1 mark in the conference. The Vikings are also 27-1 in league games the last two years.

Mount Horeb finished the year 23-6 and is 43-10 in the last two seasons.

"As for our year I couldn't complain," Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman said. "We set another team record for wins (23).

"For the past four years, each year we've broken our own record for wins. So that shows a lot for our girls because each year we lose a ton of firepower and the girls just keep winning."

After beginning this season 4-4, the Vikings ripped off 13 straight wins. Along the way, Mount Horeb pushed its conference winning streak to 34 games dating back to 2023 when the league was known as the Badger West.

"It's pretty fun," Mount Horeb manager Jeranie Holman said of the Vikings' streak. "The girls know what's at stake and they want to just keep it going."

While that winning streak eventually ended, the Vikings added to another streak. Mount Horeb secured its fifth straight sectional appearance on May 29 with a 5-3 win over Portage.

"Our goal at the beginning of the year was to win conference, we got that," Jermaie Holman said. "Our next goal was to get the number one seed, we got that. The next goal was to win a regional championship, we got that.

"Our next goal was to get to the sectional final. We never say state. That's way out there. You've got to win the sectional final to get to where you want to be. We're almost there again. If we can make it to the sectional final, we'll put all the chips on the table."

Unfortunately for the Vikings, their terrific season ended in the sectional semifinals with a 6-0 loss to West Salem.

Still, it was a memorable year in which eight players were named all-conference and the Vikings' dominance atop the standings continued.



Mount Horeb's girls softball team won its second straight Badger Small Conference title and was the MHM's choice for Performance of the Year. File photo

Seniors Jayse Holman and Ruby Dahlk, along with sophomore Jozie Clifton and freshman Lauren Mester were all named first-team all-conference. Seniors Ellie Larson and Morgan Monroe, along with junior Delaina Nicewander were named second-team all-league, while senior Hallie Klein was named honorable-mention all-conference.

"We are going to miss the 'Fab Five' " Jeramie Holman said of Jayse Holman, Dahlk, Monroe, Klein and Larson. "These girls had 500 hits, 17 home runs 250 RBIs, 59 doubles and scored 350 runs.

"They combined for 15 all-conference (awards) and had the two-time pitcher of the year. They were four times regional champions, two-time sectional finalists, two-time conference champs and had 79 wins in their career."

Honorable mention: Girls golfers send three individuals to sectionals

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MOUNT HOREB'S BEST OF THE BEST

BEST

continued from page 15

Game/Event of the Year

Swimmers shine at state

Mount Horeb remains the new kid on the block in the world of girls swimming.

Still, the Vikings continue to make quite an early impression.

Mount Horeb, which is in just its third season as an independent program, made a splash once again at the WIAA Division 2 state meet held at Waukesha South High School on Nov. 15.

The Vikings got terrific performances from senior Ava Newman and junior Caitlin Patrick-Stern — their two representatives at state — and finished in 18th place overall.

Whitefish Bay ran away with the team title, scoring 360 points. Madison Edgewood was second with 270 points, while Rhinelander (251), Kohler (148) and Wittenberg-Birnamwood (122) rounded out the top five.

Mount Horeb finished with 40 points.

The Vikings had finished 24th in 2022 and 17th in 2023.

"I am so proud of the girls and the way they swam at the state championships," Mount Horeb interim coach Brian Johnson said. "How you perform at a meet of that caliber comes down to preparation and mental strength. Ava and Caitlin had both and were ready to go."

They certainly were.

Newman's first event was the 200-yard freestyle, which was the third overall event of the day.

The top six finishers in each race earn a trip to the podium, which was Newman's goal. She achieved just that by finishing sixth overall by completing the race in 1 minute, 57.56 seconds.

"Ava started the meet out strong," Johnson said. "Her goal was to be on the podium and she did it! Ava had a really strong swim and she was able to race in an incredible way."

Both Newman and Patrick-Stern also competed in the 500-yard freestyle, and each Viking gave a memorable performance.

Newman was seeded fourth overall and held her seed, placing fourth in 5:14.89 and earning her second trip to the podium.

"Ava pushes herself every day in practice," Johnson said. "She is a leader in and out of the water. I am so proud of the way she pushed herself and raced top tier athletes from across the state. Finishing fourth at state is a huge honor and one that she really deserves."

Patrick-Stern had a sensational race of her own, finishing seventh overall in 5:23.45. That was nearly six seconds better than her time from sectionals (5:29.29) and just one spot away from a podium finish.

"Caitlin swam her race with incredible confidence … and swam an incredible race," Johnson said. "She just kept getting faster. Finishing in seventh place is incredible and she just set herself up to have an outstanding senior year."

Breakout Performer of the Year

Lauren Mester, basketball/softball

Mester had a tremendous freshman season on the hardwood and on the diamond.

Mester ranked fourth on the Vikings with 5.0 points per game, made the third-most 3-pointers on the team (22) and made 92.9% of her free throws. Mester was also second on the team in assists (2.0) and was an elite defender.

Mount Horeb loses just two seniors from last year's team, and the return of Mester and other gifted players could help the Vikings have a big 2025-'26 season.

"We lose two great seniors, who will be impossible to replace on and off the court," Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said. "But we do return (a lot) which is a great foundation to build off."

Mester will also be a key returning cog for Mount Horeb's girls softball team last spring.





Ava Newman (top) helped Mount Horeb's girls swimming team finish 18th at state, while Lauren Mester (above) was the MHM's Breakout Performer of the Year. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mester batted .421 overall and .515 in conference games. She was also a standout at second base and became the first Vikings' freshman named first-team all-conference.

"Lauren played great at second base all year and will transition to shortstop for the next three years," Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman said.

Honorable mention: Mia Caygill (cross country)

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