



Jack Schultek Wins Wisconsin Business World's Kwik Trip Innovation Competition

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Village leaders eye the 10-year, \$11.9M Grundahl Park Master Plan

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

The Village of Mount Horeb is eyeing a decade-long, \$11.9 million, multi-phase plan that would make extensive changes to the community's most popular park. Grundahl Park has long been home to Wednesday Night Live, the Summer Frolic, National Night Out, Relay for Life events, and much, much more. With an array of proposed projects, it could become more of a hub for even more activity, according to proponents of the plan.

Grundahl Park began
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Life on the edge

'Liminal' author S.K. Kruse talks about her writing, her essay contest, and the importance of pondering what it means to be human



SK. Kruse is the author of "Tales from the Liminal," which was published by Deuxmers A special Study Edition of the book will be released on April 1 of this year.

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

There is an ancient Persian proverb often attributed to King Solomon. In the story, someone asks the king to say something that will always be true, in good times and bad, now and forever. Solomon replies: "This too shall pass." The only rock-solid fact a person can utter is that nothing is forever, and all things will pass. All places are in-between places. All times are in-between times. As the Greek Philosopher Heraclitus put it, you can never step in the same river twice, because it is not the same river, and you are not the same you.

S.K. Kruse, who is a member of the Guild for Engaged Liminality, knows this, and her stories teach the lesson again and again. In her writing, nothing is ever quite what it seems, and each person stands on one threshold after another. Just like in real life.

She has been busy of late. The Mount Horeb-based writer made her debut more than a quarter century ago in *The Onion*. She subsequently spent much of her life doing all sorts of inter-

"For me, the concept of the liminal provides a much-needed framework - not only for understanding the difficult and confusing times in our human experience as integral and necessary parts of it - but also for discussing these experiences in a pluralistic society." -S.K. Kruse

esting and meaningful things except being an author, including raising 11 children. Then, in 2021, Deuxmers published her "Tales from the Liminal," a debut collection of 15 delightfully mesmeric stories featuring the philosophical depth of Dostoyevsky and the glint-in-the-eye humor of Borges. The world is a strange and baffling place, and living in it requires strange and baffling stories. Life brims with suffering and overflows with beauty, and out of these twin truths rise countless necessary works of poetry, prose, theology and literature, including Kruse's work. Influenced by everyone from

Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Paul Tillich to Victor Hugo, she delights in *almost* seeing and *almost* knowing profound truths.

The title of her debut book was not accidental or insignificant. Liminality is something of a mantra for Kruse. Growing out of the Latin word for threshold, "liminal" is a term for in-between places and states. Merriam-Webster defines it as "of, relating to, or situated at a sensory threshold: barely perceptible or capable of eliciting a response" or "of, relating to, or being an intermediate state, phase, or condition."

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Hundreds to perform at Solo & Ensemble Fest

On Saturday, March 1, over 350 student musicians from grades 6-12 will participate in the District Solo & Ensemble Festival at Mt. Horeb High School. The festival is the culminating event for this period of year, and most students choose to perform their finished product

at the festival. The event is sponsored by the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA), which promotes school music statewide.

Students can participate in various configurations for their performances; they can choose to play in everything from solos to duets and trios

to larger ensembles. Many students participate in more than one event; it is not uncommon for high school students to participate in four or more events.

Students perform their pieces for an adjudicator provided by WSMA; these adjudicators are experienced

musicians, many of them current and retired music educators. After students perform, they work with the adjudicator on a few items and receive written feedback after the festival. Students also receive a rating based on their performance; unlike a competition festival, they

receive ratings based on their performance against a set of standards.

For students, the Solo & Ensemble unit is a chance to learn a lot about music, but it is also a favorite for students as they have a lot of freedom

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Drug testing, new grading system and more

By Aynsley Hoeslcher
Mount Horeb Mail

The Mount Horeb Area School Districty (MHASD) Board of Education approved drug testing policy revisions, discussed independent disability testing and approved budget revisions. They also listened to opposition to evidence-based grading, a presentation on career clubs at the high school, information on literacy remediation and employee retention data.

Drug testing approved

The board approved drug and alcohol testing requirements for those who drive commercial vehicles for the district, such as bus drivers.

Most of the original language of this policy was moved to administrative regulations. The policy was also condensed to improve readability and clarity.

Independent Educational Evaluation

The board discussed revising a policy which outlines procedures for parents who may want to test their student for a disability independently at their expense.

This policy may be voted on at the next meeting.

Budget revisions

Assistant superintendent

of business and finance Scott DeYoung presented some budget revisions which the board approved.

DeYoung said that grant amounts are often estimates until later in the year, leading to necessary revisions.

“Overall, the change in the general fund is just over a \$40,000 increase for both revenues and expenditures,” DeYoung said.

Two separate \$100,000 donations increased the special projects fund, one donation is allocated for scholarships, the other is not spoken for yet but is earmarked to be spent this year.

The budget revisions also reflect the approved referendum funds.

EBG opposition

Citizen Kelly Bronk asked the board to pause the implementation of Evidence Based Grading (EBG) in the middle and high school.

“All I’m asking, why is it not a good idea to stop and send out some surveys to assess the parent community on if they are willing to move forward with EBG systems,” Bronk said.

Bronk cited a study that showed a decrease in ACT scores when high schools used EBG.

“Mount Horeb is choosing a path where ACT scores may be negatively affected,” Bronk said, “and colleges are relying more and more on ACT scores to determine whether their applicants are actually prepared for college,” Bronk said.

The board could not respond during the meeting but superintendent Steve Salerno provided this statement: “As a District, we are continuously committed to grading practices that support the learning process, encourage student success, and accurately reflect student progress toward mastery of identified standards.”

Career Clubs

School to Career and International Baccalaureate Coordinator Craig Smith introduced the school’s career and technical education programs.

High school senior and DECA chief executive officer Laurel Helland presented some information about the DECA program which prepares students for careers in many different businesses.

“It kind of gives students the opportunity to build on their learning within their business field and apply it to

real life,” Helland said.

Helland said they compete against other schools in role-play situations where they apply their learning and work through real world situations. Twenty eight members from MHASD qualified for the state competition.

Smith presented information on the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

“It is one part of our family and consumer science program offering an FCCLA program,” Smith said.

This is its first year and it has 11 participants.

FFA president Anaveja Blizzard Burns presented an overview of FFA at MHASD. FFA members participate in community service, leadership workshops and learning and technical events in addition to agricultural classes. They also attend a national convention and a fishing trip in Canada each year.

HOSA president Alexa Vesely explained some of the activities that HOSA members engage in at MHASD. Healthcare career readiness and education are key areas of focus for HOSA, and they invite a professional from the indus-

try to visit once a month to share their day-to-day work and education experience.

Skills USA president Katherine Straka shared how her club brings together diverse career goals and builds valuable skills.

“This club connects education in the classroom to the industry,” Straka said, “it helps students decide what they want to do before they get to college.”

Literacy Remediation

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Sarah Straka shared the district’s early literacy remediation plan.

Straka explained that each district is now required by the state to publish this plan, and there is no need for official board approval.

Students are screened with assessments to identify students who may be falling behind. Those who score below the 25th percentile are given a diagnostic assessment to pinpoint their needs.

Interventions for those students who need them include a personal reading plan, weekly progress monitoring, and support in and outside the regular classroom setting.

Straka said much of the

plan was already in place, so that made compliance with the new rules simpler.

Employee retention

Human resource director Erin Eslinger presented a report on workforce trends and how that relates to trends within the district.

Eslinger said that although the local unemployment rate is low, education turnover is on the rise both locally and nationally.

Both retirements and resignations in 2024 were slightly down from the previous year.

Almost 50 percent of hiring candidates found out about the job opportunities through WECAN, an education centric job portal. Indeed was the next most used at about 20 percent.

When exiting employees were asked the primary reason to leave, three reasons had two people each; relocating, dissatisfied with present pay and dislike management policies and practices.

A district wellness survey found that 97 percent of respondents agreed that they worked with people who treat them with respect.

Plan commission examines zoning changes

By Aynsley Hoeslcher
Mount Horeb Mail

Planning consultant Ben Rohr presented some options for zoning code edits which could address housing needs and simplify project approval.

Rohr said the rewrites would be discussed in stages over the next several months.

“I know that some of this is difficult to theorize without physically seeing where it applies on the ground,” Rohr said, “but if we gave you every single thing all at once it would be a lot harder to digest.”

Adoption of the new zoning code is planned for sometime in the summer after multiple opportunities for public input and revisions.

Modernization and housing needs are principal reasons for updating the code. It also needs to be brought into compliance with state and federal laws.

Mixed use building regulations are drafted in the rewrite. These allow business and residential occupation in different parts of the same building to promote walkable areas and support downtown storefronts.

Under the current draft, at least 33 percent of the ground floor must be dedicated to non-residential uses, as well as the first 50 feet of the building’s street facing facade.

The mixed-use regulations affect only certain districts in and around downtown. Commercial only buildings would still be permitted in the mixed-use districts, just not residential only.

The zoning rewrite could include stipulations for accessory dwelling units (ADU), which are separate spaces on the same lot as the primary unit often rented to

a non-family member. Currently ADUs are not permitted within the village.

Another proposed change regulates how much of the front facade a garage can occupy. This is currently not limited within the village. The suggested limit would be 50 percent.

Regulations on short term rental properties are limited by state law. However, the village can set a minimum length of stay, a maximum of 180 days rented per year, require a license to operate and collect room tax revenue.

Rohr said the village can-

not legally deny short term rentals through a conditional use permit, as the code is written currently.

The draft zoning code imposes an annual license requirement, permits shorter-term stays in the owner’s primary residence but not in a secondary residence, establishes standards for property management, parking, and aesthetics.

These requirements as written would affect currently operating short-term rentals.

Nonconforming structures, lots and sites that were previously conforming

would be made fully legal conforming to encourage reinvestment. However, property uses that are no longer conforming would stay non-conforming so they would be discouraged from continuing with that use. In the current zoning code draft, flag lots are not addressed.

The next part of the draft zoning code will cover exterior building design, parking and other visual and structural standards. It would also outline administration procedures and definitions.

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A Bird in the Bush

Snow Soup

By William Robichaud
A Bird in the Bush

Saturday afternoon, after a good morning at the writing desk, cold



is pulling another fall of white snow from a gray sky. Time to make soup. The night before I'd put to soak some beautiful beans from last summer's garden, and took venison broth out of the freezer. But these alone will not a worthy soup make, except perhaps for a

monk. So I pull on my Swiss flannel-lined wellies, grab a small spade, and break trail through the snow to the back garden, in search of more flavor. There, when old man winter was still a youth, I mounded loose straw around my last stalk of kale and the remaining leeks. Now with my mitten I part the first hump of snow and straw to expose a shout of rich green kale in an otherwise minimally chromed winter world. Inside its small igloo, through temps that have approached -20F, the kale's leaves have held fresh and crisp. I've been harvesting from this stalk on occasion for a few weeks already, and now I take the last of the good leaves. A few steps away I push aside another mound of

Join some upcoming “Bird in the Bush” events:

Friday, March 7, 7:00 pm, Arcadia Books in Spring Green (a free event): Bill will read from his forthcoming book on conservation of one of the world’s rarest animals, the Saola, found only in Laos and Vietnam. He’ll read in conjunction with award-winning Hmong-American poet Mai Der Vang, who will read from her newest collection, Primordial, about the Saola.

March 8, 1-4 pm, at the farmhouse near Barneveld: Learn to make (and taste!) maple syrup with Bill. This fun gathering is offered through Folklore Village, and for more information, and to register, see “Folk School Classes” at www.folklorevillage.org

May 17-18, also hosted by Bill at the farmhouse: Advance (or start!) your skills in reading wildlife tracks & sign with expert tracker Matt Nelson (and maybe find a morel or two along the way). All skill levels welcome. For more information see “Folk School Classes” at www.folklorevillage.org.

snow and straw, and with the spade probe and chip the hard, somnolent ground and manage to free a few leeks. Somewhere in the woods beyond, deer, turkeys and squirrels have also been pawing through the snow in search of food. The leeks are frozen, but, as I soon

discover in the kitchen, not to their cores, and even the frozen layers remain flush with leek flavor. Working back around to the herb garden below the kitchen windows, I beg pardon of the cardinals, chickadees, and nuthatches that flush from the feeders, and find a stalk of sage rising from the snow, like a flag on a summit. In this particularly stark and cold winter, the leaves have dried well *in situ*. I snap off several and return to the kitchen with my bounty. I chop the leeks, sauté them in my Italian nephew’s olive oil, add the sage, some Szechuan pepper brought home from Laos, the broth, beans, and some slices of remnant carrots from the fridge, and put it all to slow cook. The kitchen soon smells very good - feels and smells *warm*. Life is good on this day. There is both a solace, and a confidence, that comes from feeding yourself well in the depth of winter. The world is ceaseless in its generosity, and sometimes all we have to do is look, and be grateful. Bill (“Bird”) Robichaud is a writer and an award-winning wildlife conservationist who lives on a farm north of Barneveld, on ancestral Ho-Chunk territory. He doesn’t spend much time in grocery stores, and chronicles the experience of living from and with the land at www.birdinthebush.net.

Letters to the Editor

Karakahl is a great location for community building

Dear Editor, Mount Horeb does not have enough spaces for our youth to gather safely. I would like to help the village alleviate this problem by being given time to propose a Youth Center / Multipurpose Center being built where the Karakahl is currently. The location is easily traveled to from school and is neighboring to the library. I would like to be given the opportunity to prove that such a use of the property will not only generate tax revenue, but will also make Mount Horeb an even more attractive place to reside.

I moved to Mount Horeb in 2018. Our family was on the search, like many, for a school district that would provide my children with the positive academic and communal environment that children need and deserve. In 2020, at the very beginning of the pandemic, we committed to staying in Mount Horeb by purchasing our home. Now that we have been here seven years and my children have grown, it has become apparent our town has a dearth of inclusive, accessible community spaces, especially for non-sport participating youth. Yes we have the library, we LOVE the library and are endlessly grateful for it!!! I believe it improves kids’ quality of life and a youth center / multipurpose center could be an extension of

that enrichment. The multipurpose components would extend to all residents of Mount Horeb as well. I grew up with a youth center in the small town of Denmark, Wisconsin and it helped shape the adult I grew into today. I had a safe and warm place to go that was close to our schools in the middle of winter that had cheap delicious food within walking distance. We had video games, a pool table, lounging space, a basketball court and a great individual running it all. We need that kind of place here. Not only would we focus on the youth but the possibilities are endless. We could provide a location for a laundromat, community gardening, class spaces, quiet spaces, loud activity spaces, tutoring, the list goes on.

Sincerely,
Annie Gillaume-Gantz

Concerns about new grading method

The Mount Horeb School District is piloting a new grading policy at the middle and high schools and implementing it school-wide starting in fall, 2025. My daughter has been in three classes as part of the pilot, and I want to share about the new grading policy from a family’s perspective. The policy is called Evidence Based Grading (EBG). Under the new policy, teachers continue giving tests and students continue taking them. The change is that teachers no longer as-

sign a letter grade, such as A-B-C-D-F, based on a percentage score. Instead, they use a sheet that lists different achievement levels and their descriptions. The levels are called Extending, Proficient, Approaching, Beginning, and Needs Evidence. The teacher selects the level that they believe the student has achieved. Then, the teacher posts the level on the online gradebook. Students and families can see the descriptions of the levels and what was earned. The new grading policy doesn’t just replace A-B-C-D-F with E-P-A-B-N. A perfect grade point average (GPA) can be earned with the second highest level, Proficient. There is no GPA benefit for earning the highest level, Extending. With the new policy, students can retake tests to earn Proficient scores. So, they can retake tests to earn perfect GPAs. There should be some consequence for doing the retake, because students learn important lessons

from being held accountable. Also, the new policy is likely to inflate grades and damage the reputation of Mount Horeb schools. An additional concern is that families and students lose access to percentage scores in the online gradebook. Percentages help students know where they stand in a class, and they can’t average their EBG achievement levels. Test scores also prepare students for life, as most professional certificate programs utilize test scores – questions answered correctly out of a total. A major cause for concern is that, under the school’s new grading policy, assignments and homework don’t count in a student’s grade. As parents, we are worried that students will misbehave when they realize that they can skip completing assignments during class time. Actually, they can skip assignments, fail the test, retake the test, and earn a 4.0 GPA. Assignments do represent practice,

not achievement or learning, but making the assignments represent a small part of the grade would help keep students invested. The studies behind grading policies like EBG show mixed results. We don’t know what this grading policy is going to do. Some parts of Mount Horeb’s grading policy are one-of-a-kind, such as the 4.0 score for the second highest achievement level, and this adds uncertainty. If you are concerned about the new grading policy, you can sign a petition asking that the middle and high schools survey the community before implementing school-wide changes. My husband and I care because we have an eighth grader, but we can see how the whole community might want a say. You can find the petition at the website, ipetitions.com, by searching

No EBG Moho. You can also call me if you have any questions. Ann Bronk Mount Horeb

Friends of Donald Park say thanks

The Friends of Donald Park would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mount Horeb Community Foundation for their continued support of Donald Park through their annual grant program. All funds received are used to accomplish many restoration projects at Donald Park so that visitors can continue to enjoy its beauty, rich environmental and cultural resources, and recreational opportunities. Thank You! Barb Hartman Friends of Donald Park

Thank You

The family of Norbert Day would like to express our deepest gratitude for the kindness shown to us with Norb’s recent passing. Saether Funeral Home showed great finesse scheduling the events with a short notice, the Upland Hills Nursing and Rehab staff for the EXCELLENT care Norb received in his short stay.

To the staff at St. Mary’s Hospital and Care Center for the times he was there, your care was very much appreciated. His physicians at each of the locations showed great compassion.

The Upland Hills Hospice Team was great helping us navigate a very unfamiliar territory.

The cards, texts, in person visits all touched us deeply.

The Perry Lutheran Church ladies and men that provided a great luncheon, you are all outstanding!

His card playing expertise and casino visits will live on in his family.

Florence Day, Jim & Jo Day and Family, Noreen & Jeff Way and Family, Cathy Taylor

Congratulations to the winners of our

Red-Hot Valentine’s Day Giveaway!

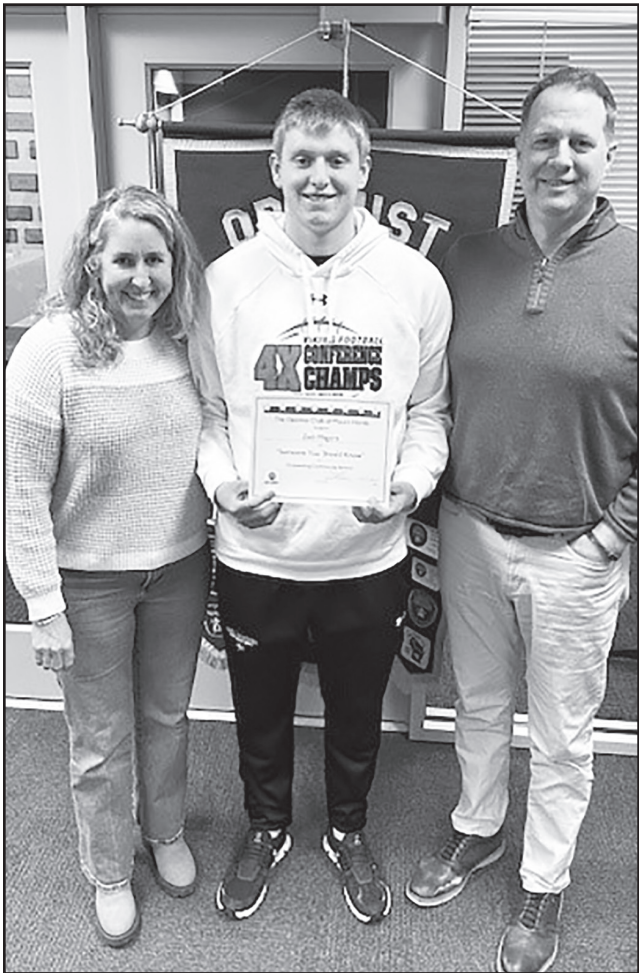
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Each winner will receive a \$30 gift certificate redeemable at any of the participating businesses.

Thank you to our sponsors and to everyone who participated in our contest!

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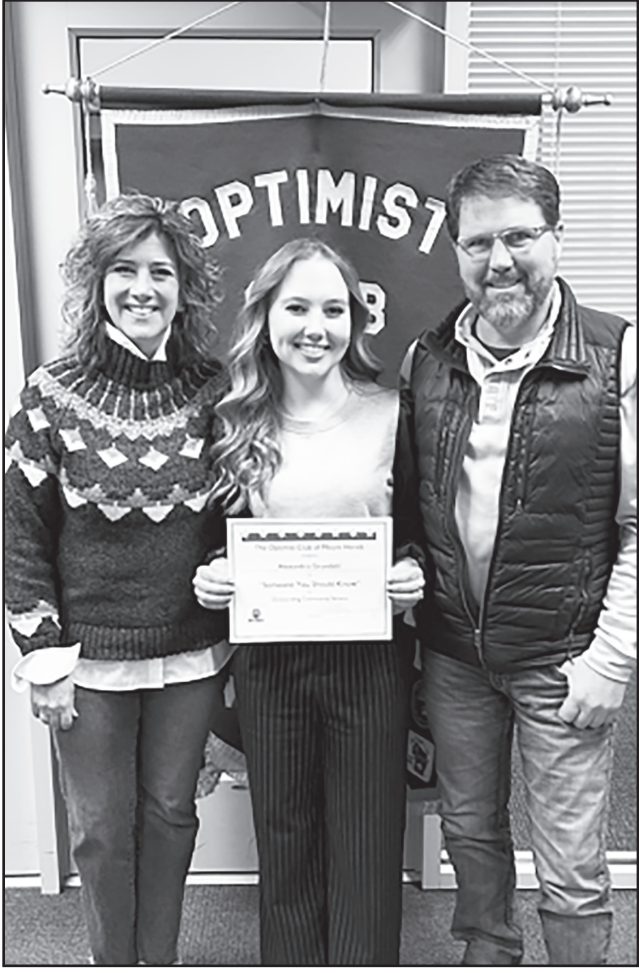
Someone You Should Know: Maguire, Felcyn and Grundahl



Zach Maguire



Allie Felcyn



Alexandria Grundahl

Zach Maguire

Zach Maguire is “Someone You Should Know.” Zach was chosen as the Optimist Club’s high school recipient of the “Someone You Should Know” award for his outstanding community service for the month of February.

Zach is a senior at Mt Horeb High School and has participated on the Mt Horeb Viking Football Team and served as a captain his senior year. He received All-Conference football recognition sophomore, junior and senior years as well as all-region and all-state senior year. He is a member of the high school basketball team and is currently a captain. He received All-Conference basketball recognition sophomore and junior years.

Outside of school as part of his youth apprenticeship, Zach is a part of the student team running Ziro, a non-profit providing access to

free cancer screening kits. Zach is also involved in organizing fundraising events in Mt Horeb and managing accounting records for the non-profit. Zach has volunteered with the youth football and basketball programs throughout his time at the high school.

Zach was honored at the February 17th meeting of the Optimist Club. He received a certificate of recognition, \$50 and will be in the running for one of the Optimist Club scholarships awarded at the Senior Awards Event held in May.

Zach is pictured here with his parents Jennifer and Patrick Maguire.

Thank you for all you do Zach to help make Mt Horeb the wonderful place it is to live, go to school, work and thrive!

Allie Felcyn

Allie Felcyn is “Someone You Should Know.” Alie was chosen as the Optimist Club’s high school recipient of the “Someone You Should Know” award for her outstanding community service for the month of February.

Allie is a senior at Mt Horeb High School and has been an active member in the MHHS Choir program. This year she was elected by her peers to be on the choir board, which works closely with the HS choir director planning class assignments and concerts. she has participated in the Solo & Ensemble competition and has been a state qualifier. Allie was a participant in the Badger Conference Honors Choir. She is also a member of the Chamber Choir, Vocal Jazz and has been a member of the high school musical cast. She was also a student mentor for the Middle School Musical. When she is not singing, she enjoys playing piano, takes private lessons and plays at local nursing homes.

In addition to participating in the music program at high school, Felcyn has been part of the National Honors Society and National Arts Honors Society. She participated in an art show at a Regional Youth Art Month Showcase in Madison.

Allie is a member of the Ecology Club and the current president. She is on student council and is the current Treasurer, is a member of Link Crew, Club Interact, Book Club and Future Problem Solvers and was a state qualifier.

Allie has been part of the MHHS JV and Varsity cross country and track teams. She participated in Badger Girls State and was a student mentor for summer school. She has spent hours volunteering with blood drives, the food pantry at an Ironman aid station, has done yard work/gardening for the elderly and Feed the Children Program.

Allie is pictured here with her parents Mark and Amy Felcyn. She was honored at the Feb 17th Optimist meeting and received a certificate of recognition, \$50 and will be in the running for one of the Optimist Club scholarships awarded at the Senior Awards event in May.

Thank you Allie for all of the wonderful things you have done and continue to do to make Mt Horeb the great place it is to live, work, go to school and thrive.

Alexandria Grundahl is “Someone You Should Know.” Alie was chosen as the Optimist Club’s high school recipient of the Someone You Should Know award for outstanding community service for the month of February.

Alie is a senior at Mount Horeb High School and was a DECA officer and part of DECA International For Business Management. Alie helped coordinate the “Once Upon a Time” event for DECA in 2022. She has been a baseball team manager since her freshman year.

Outside of school, Alie has been on the Evangelical Lutheran Church Council for three years and attended a mission trip in St. Louis to help the homeless and those affected by gang violence. She has taught Vacation Bible School and sings on the Prairie Team on Sundays. She is also a volunteer at Czar’s Promise, a non-profit that raises money for canine and pediatric cancer. She volunteered at Ingle-side, helping with games for residents. She has been a winter down-hill ski coach for kids between the ages of four to eight and was voted most supportive teammate four years in a row. Alie was lead organizer and planner for the MoHo Thanksgiving Day 5K run/walk with proceeds going to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Give Ziro and MoHo Pay It Forward. She volunteered and worked at the Chamber of Commerce for two years where she helped organize local events, such as the Art Fair, Fall Village Market and helped manage the tourism information.

Alie was honored at the February 17th meeting of the Optimist Club and received a recognition certificate and \$50. She will also be considered for one of the Optimist Club’s college scholarships, which will be awarded in May at the Senior Award’s Event.

Alie is pictured here with her parents, Jeff and Mary Grundahl. Congratulations Alie and thank you for all the wonderful things you do that help make Mount Horeb the great place it is to live, work and thrive!

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Officials say Primary went smoothly

Local election officials across Wisconsin reported no significant issues in the Spring Primary on Tuesday, setting the stage for the upcoming Spring Election on April 1.

“We are always pleased when things run smoothly across the state,” said Wisconsin Elections Commission Administrator Meagan Wolfe. “Even in a smaller election such as a Spring Primary, clerks need to be ready to handle whatever comes their way. We’re grateful for the skill and dedication of our clerks in Wisconsin.”

The nonpartisan Feb. 18 Spring Primary narrowed the number of candidates who will appear on the April 1 Spring Election ballot. Based on unofficial results, Jill Underly and Brittany Kinser advanced to the April 1 ballot in the State Superintendent of Public Instruction race in the only statewide contest on the Primary ballot. There were many contested primary elections in local races around the state, the unofficial results of which will be available on each of Wisconsin’s 72 counties’ websites.

Election results are not final until they are certified. Municipal Boards of Canvassers offer the final verification and certification of municipal-level contests, such as primaries for mayor and city council, and also review county and state-level contests before forwarding to the county; School Districts Boards of Canvassers offer final verification and certification of school district contests; county boards of canvassers offer final verification and certification for county-level contests, such as the primaries for county board, and also review state-level contests before forwarding to the WEC; and the chair of the WEC offers the final verification and certification for state-level contests, such as the primaries for circuit court judge.

The Chair of the WEC must certify the Feb. 18 election results by March 4. The WEC will publish official state-level results once they have been through the canvass process certified by the WEC Chair. The WEC does not centrally compile unofficial results. However, unofficial election results are available on county websites, and a list with links to these county election sites is available here: <https://elections.wi.gov/wisconsin-county-election-websites>

The WEC does not plan to calculate preliminary, unofficial statewide turnout figures for Tuesday’s election. The most reliable and accessible source of turnout estimates would be local election officials, who can speak to turnout in their respective communities.

It is normal for unofficial election results to change slightly as election officials conduct canvasses to ensure an accurate vote total while completing the certification process.

Former pharmacy CEO says ‘medical mafia’ is damaging healthcare access

By Alec Finger
Mount Horeb Mail

Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) operate as intermediaries in the healthcare system, managing prescription drug benefits for insurers and employers. On the surface, their role seems essential—negotiating drug prices, creating formularies, and setting reimbursement rates for pharmacies. But Dan Strause, co-founder and former CEO of the board for Hometown Pharmacy, says their actions often go unnoticed while having far-reaching and devastating consequences for patients, pharmacies and communities.

Strause, who has spent decades in the pharmacy industry, said he has seen firsthand how PBMs manipulate the system. He describes them as entities that claim to reduce healthcare costs but actually contribute to skyrocketing expenses.

“People often don’t even

know what a PBM is until it impacts them directly,” Strause said. “But once they find out, they’re blown back by the information. It’s shocking.”

He said one of the primary ways PBMs profit is through practices like spread pricing—charging health plans significantly more than they reimburse pharmacies for the same medication—and “clawbacks,” which require pharmacies to return a portion of their reimbursement after a sale. These practices, Strause argues, are designed to extract maximum profit at the expense of patients and providers.

“They’ve created a stranglehold on the healthcare system,” he said. “They’re driving independent pharmacies out of business, consolidating power, and leaving patients with fewer options.”

The recent closure of Hometown Pharmacy’s Belleville location at the end of last year is a stark example

of the impact PBMs have on local communities, he said. Strause claimed the closure was a direct result of PBM reimbursement cuts, which made it financially unsustainable to operate in the area.

“These are pharmacies that not only provide medications but also serve as trusted healthcare resources,” Strause explained. “When a pharmacy closes, it’s not just a business loss—it’s a community loss.”

Beyond the financial implications, Strause alleged that PBM practices harm patients by limiting access to essential medications and forcing them into mail-order services, which often lack the personal touch and care that local pharmacies provide.

“PBMs are prioritizing profits over people,” he said. “And the ones who suffer most are the patients who rely on their local pharmacy for support and guidance.”

However, some PBMs

argue that their practices benefit consumers by reducing drug costs and increasing transparency. David Fields, CEO of Navitus Health Solutions, a PBM that positions itself as an alternative to traditional models, says Navitus takes costs out of the drug supply chain rather than adding to them. “Unlike traditional PBMs that generate profit by retaining an undisclosed portion of rebates from drug companies, Navitus passes 100 percent of rebates on to plan sponsors and health plans, reducing the cost of the drug. This enables them to make medication more affordable for their members.”

Fields also refuted claims that PBMs steer patients toward higher-cost medications for profit, stating that Navitus prioritizes complete drug price transparency and negotiates effectively to secure the best possible discounts and rebates.

“Every dollar saved through these efforts can

then be passed directly on to clients, which in turn enables greater affordability to their members—the patients—who need them.”

Strause said legislative action is crucial to addressing PBM overreach. Transparency, regulation, and a reexamination of the role PBMs play in the healthcare system are key steps toward reform, he added.

“If Wisconsin government takes the right steps, things could turn around quickly,” he said. However, he expressed skepticism about the state’s ability to act decisively: “It’s hard to trust Wisconsin government at this point, but there’s enough political pressure now that there’s hope.”

Fields, on the other hand, acknowledged that reform is needed but emphasized that not all PBMs operate in the same way. “Traditional PBMs and drug manufacturers play a game behind closed doors. Drug companies charge exorbitant prices

and then offer PBMs large rebates, only part of which are passed along to commercial payers and health insurance plans. This collusion keeps drug costs high at the pharmacy counter, leaving many patients unable to afford their medications.”

The fight against PBM practices has become a personal mission for Strause, who is working to bring awareness to the issue through public advocacy and media. He emphasized the importance of educating the public, noting that most people are unaware of what PBMs are or how they operate.

“The number one thing is education,” he said. “If people don’t know what PBMs are or what they do, they can’t advocate for change.”

Strause is also collaborating with others to produce a documentary series, which calls PBMs the “modern medical mafia” and he said exposes the practices of

continued on page 12

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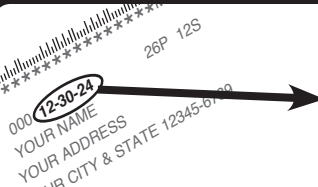
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vortex seeks remarkable veterans for special award

It's time to shine a spotlight on a veteran in our community who's making a real difference.

Do you know a veteran whose actions have been a positive force? Is there a dream you'd like to make a reality for your favorite hometown hero? This is the perfect opportunity.

In partnership with the Madison-area CBS Channel 3000, Vortex® is inviting the public to nominate a remarkable veteran. Nominations are open until March 9, 2025. Access the 2025 Spirit of Service™ nomination form online and join us in celebrating these local heroes. Whether it's a veteran who is widely admired in the community for their character and spirit, or someone who, despite facing personal challenges, remains an inspiring figure, all are eligible. The award seeks to honor any veteran whom you believe deserves recognition for their unique contributions or presence in

the community.

The nomination process is easy. Just describe in no more than 1,000 words why your chosen veteran is a pillar of your community. Highlight their service background and how this award could enhance their life. Starting March 17, the public will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite finalist. The announcement of the lucky winner will be made on April 2, 2025. To see more from Vortex®, visit VortexOptics.com or follow us on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. About Vortex®: Your desire to be your best fuels our promise to provide nothing short of exceptional performance, unmatched service, and memorable experiences. The way we see it, your success is our success.

Piano concert at Good News

On Friday, March 21, Drs. Allison and David Keep will perform a piano recital featuring four-hand and solo piano music of Johannes Brahms and Robert and Clara Schumann.

The husband-wife duo

collaborate on a wide range of four-hand and two-piano repertoire and also work together on theoretical and pedagogical research projects. Both are on the faculty of Hope College in Holland, MI. The recital will be held at Good News Lutheran Church (9975 Pepper Drive in Mt. Horeb). The concert is from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and admission is free.

The fight against invasives

Attention land stewards: Have you had enough garlic mustard in your salads and stir fries? If you want to learn how to control this invasive plant come to an upcoming lecture at the Mt Horeb Senior Center , Thursday March 6 at 7 P.M.

The presenters are Blue Mounds Area Project president Greg Jones and Ecologist Sam Anderson. They will explore the natural history and biology behind one of Wisconsin's most persistent invasive species. Be ready to take action soon because this plant will emerge any day now as spring approaches. Not to worry there will be plenty to eat if you don't get it all. This lecture

is open to all.

The Mt Horeb Senior Center is located at 107 N Grove Street.

Middle School Jazz Fest is March 8

The Mt. Horeb Middle School jazz band students will join middle school students from five area schools for the 20th annual Southwest Wisconsin Jazz Festival on Saturday, March 8, 2025. The festival is the biggest event of the year for Mt. Horeb Middle School jazz band members.

Students will perform for local professional jazz musicians and teachers, who will then give feedback and work with the students on their pieces. From there, students listen to other bands perform and hear those same clinicians work with other bands.

In the afternoon, students will attend jazz improvisation workshops taught by clinicians, followed by masterclasses designed to help each student learn more about how jazz works on their particular instrument.

Mount Horeb music teacher Kellen Dorner says

this festival is an important milestone in the early development of middle school students. "For most of our kids, this is the first time they've heard really good jazz musicians up close, and interacting with cool musicians who play really well tends to light a few fires for our students."

Performances run throughout the day; all performances are free and open to the public. Please visit the Mt. Horeb Band website for a complete listing of performances and times.

Native shrubs are the topic at next Garden Club event

On Tuesday, March 4, Peter Marshall a Master Naturalist and Sylvia Marek an Arboretum Naturalist will present on *Getting Started with Native Shrubs in Your Garden*. This presentation will tell the story of the diversity and vital role of native shrubs in natural landscapes and how you can bring them into your own yard! They will focus on practical information you will need

including; selection of shrub species, purchasing or transplanting, planting and caring for young shrubs and protecting them from rabbits and deer. They will also discuss the benefits of planting native shrubs in your yard including; creating visual beauty and interest, attracting native birds (and insects), planting for screening or accents and harvesting fruits. The presentation will include photos, and brochures will be available.

The club meets monthly, every first Tuesday, 6:45PM, at Wisconsin Surplus, Mt Horeb, 2600 Rte 78 South, in the Violet Room. The building is located on the west side of the village of Mt Horeb (at the second exit heading west off 18/151). Refreshments at 6:45, presentation starts at 7:00, and the club business meeting begins at 8:00. Members of the general public are welcome to attend the program free. The program will be followed by a business meeting of the Mound Vue Garden Club. If you are interested in gardening and community service contact Gloria Davies at jrdgrdquilt@mhtc.net about club membership.

Gov. Evers, DOR Announce Start of Tax Season, Encourage Wisconsinites to Use New Direct File Services

Gov. Tony Evers, together with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR), announced that the individual income tax filing season began on Mon., Jan. 27, 2025, and encouraged Wisconsin taxpayers to use the state's WisTax and new federal Direct File services to file their state and federal income taxes online for free.

"We're working to make sure filing your taxes is as easy and as accessible as possible, and through these programs, we're giving hardworking folks the option to file securely, easily, and directly—hopefully saving folks time and money and giving them some peace of mind," said Gov. Evers. "This year, we're also thrilled to be providing nearly \$73 million in annual tax relief to over 110,000 Wisconsin taxpayers thanks to our new expanded child care tax credit. So, don't wait, Wisconsin! Check out our new direct file program and file your taxes securely and directly this tax season."

Last August, Gov. Evers, along with U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) and DOR, announced that Wisconsin would join the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Direct File program for filing season 2025, enabling eligible Wisconsin taxpayers to file their taxes online directly with the IRS for free. According to the U.S. Department of Treasury, the average taxpayer spends approximately 13 hours and \$270 to prepare their taxes each year. Direct File simplifies that process, saving taxpayers time and money.

Additionally, when Wisconsin families file their taxes this year, they will see additional tax relief thanks to legislation signed by Gov. Evers last March to expand the current child and dependent care tax credit from 50 percent to 100 percent of the federal credit. This will help reduce the tax burden for families struggling to afford the high cost of child

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Volunteer opportunities at the library: Book sale, cookie baking and more...

By Jessica Gretzinger

Occasionally, we get inquiries as to what volunteer opportunities are available. We have a couple of volunteer opportunities that I'd like to highlight below. Please reach out to me at jessica.gretzinger@mounthorebwi.info if you have any interest in serving!

Walking Books Volunteer: A walking books volunteer is matched with a homebound library patron and delivers (and returns) books to that patron on a schedule agreed upon by both volunteer and patron. Walking Books is managed by the Library Director in conjunction with the Friends of the Library. Volunteers must willing to undergo a background check and attend at least one Friends of the Library Board Meeting before being matched with a patron.

Kenya Safari and education tour presentation

CABIN FEVER RELIEVER: Kenya Safari and Educational Tour - Paul Ohlrogge presents his 2-week trip to Kenya where he visited research stations, museums, and went on safari in 4 National Parks. 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Sunday March 9th in the Vermont Church Gathering Place. Light refreshments will be served. The church is located at 9886 Vermont Church Road (midway between Black Earth and Mount Horeb off Highway 78) and is fully accessible. www.vermontlutheran.org



COMMUNITY

Obituary

Karen Mary Riek

May 18, 1945 -
February 11, 2025

VERONA / BLUE MOUNDS – With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Karen Mary Riek, age 79, of Blue Mounds, on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.



The family is planning a celebration of life for a later date.

For more information and online condolences, please visit www.gundersonfh.com.

Gunderson Camacho
Mount Horeb Funeral & Cremation Care
500 N. Eighth St.
(608) 437-5077

Birth



Elliana Ryan Skibba

Matt and Briana Skibba, are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Elliana Ryan Skibba. Elliana was born January 27, 2024 at Meriter Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds and 8 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches long. Elliana joins big sisters Eisleigh age 6 and Emmelynn age 4.

Her Grandparents are Jeff and Robin Paske of Mt. Horeb and Bill and Renee Skibba of Wisconsin Rapids.

TAXES

continued from page 6

care and care for adult dependents. Over 110,000 Wisconsin taxpayers will see an average benefit of over \$656 per filer, totaling nearly \$73 million in annual tax relief. Wisconsinites can check to see if they qualify for the expanded Wisconsin child and dependent care tax credit on the program website.

The Direct File program was made possible through the Inflation Reduction Act, a controversial piece of legislation that was passed by Democrats in 2022, including Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin, who championed the Inflation Reduction Act and has been a staunch advocate for launching Wisconsin’s Direct File program to give taxpayers a no cost filing option for their federal taxes. Launched as a pilot program in a dozen states in 2024, Direct File users claimed more than \$90 million in refunds and saved an estimated \$5.6 million in tax preparation fees. The platform’s success and positive feedback encouraged the IRS to move forward with a rollout nationwide for the 2025 tax filing season.

Evers said Direct File “utilizes robust security measures” to protect taxpayer information. Key security features include: Secure Data Transmission: Tax information is transmitted securely to the IRS using SSL 3.0 128-bit encryption. This creates as many combinations as the number of water molecules in 2.7 million Olympic-size swimming pools; Identity Verification: The program employs rigorous identify verification procedures to ensure the authenticity of filers. Direct File uses ID.me to help prevent identity theft and to protect taxpayer data; and Ongoing Security Monitoring: The IRS continuously monitors the system for any potential security threats.

“We understand that tax information security is paramount,” said DOR Secretary David Casey. “The IRS has implemented strong safeguards to protect sensitive information throughout the Direct File process.”

Eligible taxpayers can file using a smartphone, laptop, tablet, or desktop computer. For eligibility requirements and additional information, visit directfile.irs.gov and revenue.wi.gov. After completing their federal returns in Direct File, Wisconsin taxpayers will be taken to WisTax to complete their state taxes quickly and easily for free. WisTax offers a modern web-based experience that is intuitive, easy to use, and mobile-friendly. This free platform was created to simplify the tax filing process for Wisconsinites and eliminate burdensome costs. Should taxpayers encounter problems while filing, a knowledgeable DOR customer service representative will be available to answer questions and help troubleshoot the issue.

In addition to the Direct File and WisTax, Wisconsinites have other options for filing their taxes, including: Tax Filing Software: Numerous software options are available, ranging from basic to advanced, offering varying levels of guidance and support; Tax Preparer: Enlisting the help of a qualified tax professional can be beneficial for those with complex tax situations or who prefer personalized assistance; and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): Free tax preparation assistance is available to eligible taxpayers through the VITA program, which is offered by community organizations and IRS-certified volunteers. To locate a site near you, use the VITA/TCE Locator Tool or the AARP Site Locator Tool. DOR’s Where’s My Refund tool is the quickest way for Wisconsinites to check their refund status, as it gives taxpayers instant access to the same information call center agents provide. To further assist taxpayers during this busy time, DOR’s Customer Service Call Center is

extending hours in the weeks leading up to the filing deadline. Tax specialists will be available from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. from April 1 to 3, April 7 to 10, and April 14 to 15 to accommodate taxpayers’ schedules.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Mt. Horeb Seniors shopping trip to Dodgeville.
Leave 9:30am. RSVP 608-444-7930

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

BINGO, at Senior Center, 12:30pm. Sponsored by Badger Hearing

Mt. Horeb High School Students Art Show, Driftless Historium, Friday to Tuesday, 10:00am-4:00pm thru March 3. Free and open to all.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors, food closet open 9:00-10:30am (Seniors only); and all shoppers - 3:00-6:00pm, 102 E. Lincoln St.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Neighbors Helping Neighbors, food and clothes closet open 10:00-11:30am, 102 E. Lincoln St.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Mount Horeb Chorale - 7:00-9:00pm. Rehearsal, Choral Music Room, Mount Horeb High School, Door #9

MONDAY, MARCH 3

PFLAG Mount Horeb Meeting, 6:00-8:00pm, Mt. Horeb Public Library and via Zoom. Speaker: Dr. Ish Ruiz, PhD in Theology and Ethics. Topic: Embracing a Queer Spirituality. pflagmoho.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Tai Chi, 1:00pm, Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Ageless Grace, 2:00pm, Mt. Horeb Senior Center

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Mt. Horeb Seniors, Euchre, 12:30pm, Senior Center

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Lecture: Garlic Mustard: Natural History & Management, sponsored by Blue Mounds Area Project; at Senior Center, 7:00pm. Free and open to all.

Little Free Pantries available at: New Hope Evangelical Free Church, 639 S. 8th St., Mt. Horeb; Immanuel Lutheran Church, 310 W. Main St., Mt. Horeb; Zwingli UCC, Hwy. 92, Mt. Vernon. Nonperishable food and other necessities available 24 hrs.a day.”Take what you need, share what you can.”

Information for the Community Calendar must be emailed by noon on the Monday of the week of publication.
Information should be emailed to mhclassies@fingerpub.com.
We reserve the right to edit for length.

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 – ELC
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
twosteeple.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

Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago-
Feb. 27, 1885

There was music at the rink last Tuesday evening, to which all kept time with alacrity.

Andrew Hoff, now of the business college at Madison, called at his old stand Friday, returning Monday.

Already a Casino rink of extended proportions is talked of, and looms up grandly upon the future of our imagination.

I.G. Brader, Jr., has purchased of Daniel Humphrey two purebred Holsteins, and will try to improve the cattle stock of Mt. Vernon.

Dr. Evans and family were called upon by a young lady last Monday morning, who claimed to possess equal rights with the rest of the family to be sheltered under their roof. The young lass clings to her rights.

130 Years Ago-
Feb. 28, 1895

The Dutch measles are playing smart among the young people these days.

Are you going to Miss Anna Gould's wedding next Monday, when she will be married to Count de Castellane?

Mr. Sam Gesme of this place and Mr. Fred Stemple of Madison have bought a barbershop in Madison and will go into business right away. Mr. G. has not decided what he will do with his stand at this place.

Reddeman & Johnson are building an addition to their shop to be used for painting and varnishing buggies.

We will allow a liberal discount on all bills due us if paid inside of 15 days. We

need the money and hope you will please pay us what you can and oblige. Yours truly, Granum & Nygard, Klevenville, Wis.

120 Years Ago-
Mar. 2, 1905

W.M. Curtiss writes from Long Beach, Calif., that he will soon be on his way to Wisconsin, bringing with him the remains of his wife for burial at Mazomanie.

Ole Eggum, returned from Chicago last Friday and in company with his brother, Erick, left yesterday for Los Angeles, Calif.

B. G. Gunhus and family moved here last Tuesday and are now at home in the new building of J.H. Harmon's in Gordon's addition.

I expect a car of coal in a few days and it would be well for coal consumers to look over their wants and notify me so the coal can be delivered from the car if any is wanted. Thos. Ayen

On next Monday Mr. Frank Goebel and Miss Maud O'Connor will be joined in hand, heart and destiny at the Catholic Church at Paoli. Mr. Goebel is the youngest of the family, sober and industrious, respected by all. Miss O'Connor is a very successful teacher, a lady of many good characteristics, of a pleasant and agreeable disposition.

110 Yeas Ago-
Mar. 5, 1915

George Thompson and Rudolph Sylvester have dissolved partnership, Mr. Thompson bought his partner's interest in the electrical business.

Charles Rue and Gilbert Mickelson have purchased from Dr. Evans the building

now occupied by S. Gesme as a barbershop, and will have the building remodeled and enlarged.

Ralph Krohn has bought out the city delivery business from Ted Ayen and will take possession Monday.

Martin Moran of Ridgeway has been associating among friends and relatives here the past few days.

Sunday afternoon Scoutmaster Pickard of the second patrol took part of troop 1 and part of troop 2 and walked to Blue Mounds, returning by train. They all enjoyed their outing very much.

The sophomore class of the Mt. Horeb High School gave a banquet Friday evening to the seniors, juniors, and freshmen. A very pleasant evening was spent by those present.

Now is the time to send in your cloaks to have them repaired and cleaned for spring. Later on I will be crowded with work, so in order to give me time to do the work bring it in early. Those who know themselves indebted to me kindly call and settle as I need the money. Ole Olson.

Kleven Brothers have bought the scaffolding used in the erection of the capital dome, which constitutes several carloads of first class lumber, mostly square timber. The material will be loaded on freight cars and shipped to Mount Horeb.

Mr. and Mrs. Ziola of Madison came out to Mount Horeb Sunday in their new Harley-Davidson motorcy-

cle and sidecar and encountered some very bad roads which put the machine to a very severe test. Mrs. Ziola returned home on the train and Mr. Z was accompanied by Adrie Brattrud in the machine.

100 Years Ago-
Mar. 3, 1925

The Universal Grocery store opened in the Gilbert Mickelson building on Saturday of last week and has been enjoying a brick business.

We had the pleasure Sunday of viewing some of the finest chickens that can be found anywhere in this part of the country. We refer to the splendid White Leghorns, the magnificent Buff Orplingtons and the beautiful R.C. Roode Island Reds at the Tepee Poultry farm, this village.

Grinder & Iverson, proprietors of our Madison-Darlington bus line, have ordered a fifteen passenger Studebaker bus to use on this line.

Palace Beauty Shop is now located upstairs of Hoff's Meat Market on every Tuesday, from 8:00 o'clock to 4:00 o'clock. Marcells and bob curls our specialty.

90 Years Ago-
Feb. 28, 1935

Eighty people were guests at the Stiner Swenson home, town of Blue Mounds, Sunday night and most of Monday as the result of the snowstorm driven by 36-mile an hour gale. Three buses and a number of passenger cars were stalled in the drifts and the occupants were forced to find shelter at the Swenson home. Among the stranded company was little Patsy McKernan, 2, of Madison, who was ill and was returning to Madison with her mother. She was taken to the home of Dr. Bancroft, Blue Mounds, where her condition was reported better on Tuesday.

The local telephone company informs us that the traffic on the switchboard was unusually high Sunday and Monday, showed little decrease until Tuesday evening. On Monday they completed 103 long distance calls to Madison and 30 calls to stations beyond Madison, most calls notifying relatives of the whereabouts of the stranded people at Swensons. The local calls they were unable to estimate other than the fact that it was necessary to call extra switchboard help. Only one rural line was out of order as a result of a broken wire.

The local Kroger store, operated by the Kroger Grocery and Baking Co., which has been managed by G. I. Mickelson for nearly six years, ceases doing business here today. Mr. Mickelson who is the owner of the building in which the store operated, notified the company Feb. 1 that he had decided to conduct a grocery independently in the building.

60 Years Ago-
Mar. 4, 1965

Orrin Baker has his 55th visit to the Mt. Horeb Mail office, for the purpose of renewing his subscription, Tuesday. He has been a reader since March 3, 1910 and has never failed to renew it before the subscription expired.

Funds collected in a drive to help clear hospital expenses for Becky Sime have totaled \$893 in the final week of the campaign. Miss Sime has been in Madison General Hospital since Dec. 11 with injuries sustained in a one-car accident.

A spring-like thaw followed by freezing conditions touched off a series of accidents, which sent three Mount Horeb women to area hospitals last week. Mrs. Tom Reilly, Tea Johnson, and Mrs. Elmer Krohn suffered broken bones.

40 Years Ago-
Feb. 28, 1985

Not often rural congregations the size of Daleyville Lutheran church has three starters going into tournament basketball games. Congratulations to Cathy Day, Audra Mahoney and Tami Thronson for their dedication and contributions to the girls' basketball team for Mount Horeb.

A total of 76 people were certified in CPR at a course at the Mount Horeb Fire Station this weekend.

Mrs. Barbara Joan Allen, age 53, Mount Horeb died on Thursday, Feb. 21, 1985, in a Madison hospital as a result of a car accident on Jan. 24.

30 Years Ago-
Mar. 2, 1995

A son, Alex Michael, was born to Lisa and Michael Schaefer, Mount Horeb, on Friday, Feb. 24 at Meriter Hospital, Madison.

The congregation of the Evangelical Free Church presented the State Bank of Mount Horeb with a print of one of Steve Kozar's watercolors, "Curious cows, end of the day." The artwork was a "thank you" gift from the church members to the bank for letting them use the bank facilities while their new building was under construction.

Joanne Trustem, Clinical Nurse Manager, was presented with a 20-year service award at Ingleside's annual banquet.

20 Years Ago-
Mar. 3, 2005

Kari Rosenbaum and Jeffrey Randolph were united in marriage on February 4 on the island of Culebra, part of the Virgin Islands archipelago. The bride and groom honeymooned on a Caribbean cruise.

Samuel Thomas Erickson is the name chosen by Tom and Jami Erickson of Mount Horeb for their first child. He was born Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2005 at Meriter Hospital, Madison.

Winston Lee Collins, age 67, died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2005 at a Toronto, Canada hospital of pneumonia.

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Three Students – Including Mount Horeb’s Jack Schultek - Win Wisconsin Business World’s Kwik Trip Innovation Competition



Jack Schultek invented a cash bill acceptor to be installed at each gas pump.

Wisconsin Business World last week announced three winners of its Kwik Trip Innovation Competition. The twice-annual contest, sponsored by Kwik Trip, tasks students to innovate a new product for the Kwik Trip convenience stores, create a marketing plan and present the idea in the format of their choice.

The winners of the Fall 2024 Innovation Competition: Jack Schultek, 11th grade, Mount Horeb High School; Caleb Riebe, 9th grade, De Pere High School; Owen Berryhill, 8th grade, Waukegan Middle School.

“I am so ecstatic for this opportunity!” said Schultek. “My invention was a cash bill acceptor installed at each gas pump at the Kwik Trip locations to promote convenience for all users.”

“Let’s be honest, who doesn’t despite getting out of their warm car just to ask for \$20 on pump 11, especially in Wisconsin,” Schultek continued. “This also promotes cash circulation to keep bills in rotation for longer, which helps stimulate the economy, and is incredibly efficient in reducing the queue at the registers.”

“We really believe that business is a force for good in Wisconsin communities,” said senior director of Wisconsin Business World Michelle Grajkowski. “We also know innovation and entrepreneurship are the cornerstone of business. Our goal with this contest is to encourage young students to be innovative problem-solvers and understand how that skill can be utilized in a business setting. Thank you to each student who submitted a project, and congratulations to our three winners!”

Wisconsin-based Kwik Trip is a leader in vertical integration, manufacturing and customer care, giving students an opportunity to create a wide array of products. This year’s winning entries included the Gas Pump Bill Acceptor, Kwik Treats and a Battery Vending Machine. Each entry included a presentation on the product and a marketing strategy identifying a target audience and explaining how the product would increase consumer sales.

“We depend on innovation and creativity,” shared Kwik Trip’s Industry and Trade Association Manager Joe Zietlow. “This contest is a fun way to help students channel their creativity to solve real-world problems. We appreciate all the hard work that went into each of the presentations. Congratulations to Jack, Caleb, and Owen!”

The contest was open to Wisconsin students in grades 6-12. All projects were submitted between October 2024 – January 2025. The winners each received a \$500 cash prize.

Wisconsin Business World – a program of WMC Foundation – educates students on business, entrepreneurship and the free market through its statewide competitions, Summer Camps, one-day programs, online curriculum and classroom presentations. The Business World message is: “Business is a Force for Good.”

More information about Wisconsin Business World and its programs can be found at www.wmcfoundation.org/wisconsin-business-world/.

Firefly looks to lift the spirits of people in need of a smile

A Mount Horeb florist is planning to lift the spirits of a few local people who may need a touch of beauty in their lives.

“We have been using a format of giving to the community since we opened the flower shop in 2023,” said Heidi Lange and Jerry Ziegler, owners of Firefly Events Decor & Flowers. “We have given out arrangements to people that we felt that needed to be uplifted in their spirits because of depression, loss of loved ones, financial difficulties, and loneliness.”

During the Valentine’s Day season, Firefly sent a few complimentary arrangements to people. Now, they want to do it again.

“This past Valentine’s Day we had such great feedback on the ones that we sent out on that day,” they said. “So we are now wanting people to nominate people that need a little boost in their spirits. That way we can show these individuals that we care about them. We feel that this gesture is like when a person opens and holds a door open for another individual. It just makes both individuals feel good. It gives a warm feeling that we can do some good for a stranger. We do know that giving Floral arrangements bring pleasure to their well-being.”

Few people, perhaps apart from bartenders, spend so much of their lives immersed in the important moments that people experience as part of their respective journeys. Weddings. Births. Graduations. Funerals. Everything in between. So being a florist means Lange and Ziegler know firsthand that each day, there are people celebrating, but also mourning.

“We try to look at the surroundings and the individual,” they said. “If it represents a marriage, shower, birthday party, funeral, celebration of life, or any other occasion. We want them to be able to express what this event means to them. We listen to them, then we try to bring in their occupation, likes, loves, and any family ties that would make it a special day or a sincerely special gift. We try to come up with items, even if we don’t stock them, in order to make things work out with their wishes.”

“In all my years, I had thought that people that were happy on the outside were in a good place,” they added. “Now I know that people have different feelings and attitudes that are deep down, and they don’t want to have others know about it, possible showing that they could use a little help or inspiration to make it thru life. I try to be understanding the needs and wants of that individual, if he or she wants to have someone to listen to them. So giving has become more important to us. That is why we were very active in helping last fall when school had that bad. We knew everyone needs support, it wasn’t only to students, teachers, responders, parents, but the whole community.”

“Ourselves, and our employees, we rejoice with the client when it brings a big



Heidi Lange, owner of Firefly Events Decor & Flowers. File photo.

smile to their face,” they continued. “We hear from the Community how beautiful these arrangements are and how long they last. It make us feel good that people can enjoy beauty on a gloomy day or a bright sunny one. So many times we are told that we have made their visions come to life that day. This past Valentine’s Day, we had so many women that had the biggest smile on their face, when they received a beautiful arrangement unexpectedly. It makes us Firefly feel so good also.”

Anyone who wishes to nominate someone they believe deserves some flowers is encouraged to contact Firefly.

“Call, email, message or text us who you’d like to nominate!” they said. “Help us spread the love to our amazing community!”

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HEALTH

continued from page 8

PBMs and their impact on communities. He hopes the series will ignite a broader conversation and inspire action.

Fields stated that transparency and accountability are

necessary to improve the healthcare system, but he urged people to recognize that not all PBMs engage in harmful practices.

“At Navitus, we work on behalf of our clients to enable access to the lowest-cost, clinically appropriate medications,” he said. “We keep the needs of the mem-

ber at the center of what we do, negotiating the lowest possible drug costs and returning 100 percent of rebates or discounts to plan sponsors and members to make medications as affordable as possible.”

“Whenever it comes out that PBMs are behind these

issues, people start asking questions,” he said.

Strause pointed to specific examples, such as the manipulation of insulin prices. He alleged PBMs exploit the system by creating unnecessary complexities that drive up costs while pocketing the profits.

“These are the green monkeys in the room,” he said, referring to the significant players responsible for driving up prices. “If we can shine a light on what they’re doing, we can start to make a difference.”

“I can provide all kinds of ammunition—facts, stats,

and real-world examples,” he said. “When it’s backed up by data, nobody can tell me otherwise.” Strause said he stepped back from his roles with Hometown Pharmacy in 2023 due to concerns about retaliatory actions against the pharmacies from the PBMs.

MUSIC

continued from page 1

to choose what they want to perform and who they want to work with, for example, students have the opportunity to try out new styles, sing in new languages, or work with a group of friends

on a saxophone choir.

For teachers, the Solo & Ensemble unit is the only time of year where students perform more as individual musicians rather than the typical large ensemble settings. Band teacher Kellen Dorner sees this as the time of year when students expe-

rience the most growth because each student must be self-reliant and individually accountable.

“You can’t look at your neighbor and match what they’re doing, since you are the only person playing that specific part in your trio. That kind of independence

improves our entire program and gives students the skills needed to succeed in really amazing large group performances,” says Dorner.

The festival is also popular with the families and friends of the performers, as it is an excellent opportunity

to see individuals perform up close.

This annual event is sponsored by the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA), a leader in providing programs and services that challenge youth to achieve excellence through

music.

Founded in 1932, WSMA is a non-profit, statewide association serving more than 3,500 music teachers and school administrators in the education of over 100,000 students annually.

S.K. KRUSE

continued from page 1

Liminality is the state of limbo experienced by every reader as their eyes pass from one word to another, from one sentence to the next, their fingers turning the page, the sheer joy of seeing or sensing things not yet fully known or fully understood, the thrill of existing on the precipice of everything not yet calcified into the immutable past. To live a liminal life is to feel the swelling of a heart in the chest as you pass through these portals, to know that every moment is tied to the last, and everything that ever happens is a beguiling mystery right up until the moment it passes into history and therefore ceases to exist. All of creation is an eternal mist that floats and hovers, then briefly passed through us, and then is set in stone as the granite, unchanging past. Each step forward in life and in art is a plunge into the fog, and each thinking person takes every step with a mixture of horror, humor and courage. Each

of Kruse’s stories is another step into the fog, and somehow each one helps the reader see and feel the world a little clearer.

On top of everything else, Kruse is also the founder of the Liminal Essay Scholarship.

We recently caught up with her to learn more about her writing, her life, and her essay contest, which is currently open for submissions.

First of all, it’s been a few years since we profiled your “Tales from the Liminal.” What have you been up to, and what writing are you currently working on?

Kruse: Deuxmers released the audiobook for *Tales From the Liminal* the year after the print edition came out. Since then, I’ve been working on three different novels in rotation. One of them is out the door right now with a prospective publisher. Another is back in the door for rewrites. The other will be out the door, end of this month, in search of a new agent, as my old

agent decided a few months ago to switch her focus to romance and romantasy, the hottest selling genres out there. I can’t blame her, but *sigh*. I’ve learned a lot about the business of publishing these last four years. Writing is a long, slow game. Publishing, even more so.

Now, the contest: What inspired you to start the Liminal Essay Contest three years ago?

Kruse: I was looking for ways to generate engagement with the stories and the concept of the liminal. As an English major, I loved delving into stories and excavating themes, so I thought it might be fun to give the contest a try. It’s a much different environment though than when I was in college! If you look at top majors the last few years at UW-Madison, “English” never makes the list. Maybe it never did. But with the emphasis on STEM, the dominance of short form video content, and the fracturing of a monolithic “Western” worldview, along with the accompany-

ing divisive politics around which narratives to use, I worry that our ability to reflect collectively on the deeper questions of life is dwindling. For me, the concept of the liminal provides a much-needed framework not only for understanding the difficult and confusing times in our human experience as integral and necessary parts of it but also for discussing these experiences in a pluralistic society.

Tell us about the kinds of writing you have seen in past years, and what you are looking for in submissions?

Kruse: We’ve seen so many thoughtful essays! And one by Chat GPT, of course—though it fell far short of the human-generated ones. Our judges will evaluate essays on strength of thesis, depth of insight, and quality of writing. Entries by college and high school students will be judged in separate competitions. We look forward to reading all entries!

Talk about the importance of encouraging, and engaging with, young writers. Is that mutually beneficial?

Kruse: Yes, it’s mutually beneficial! I want to live in a world where we continue to ponder what it means to be human and how best to live as individuals and as a species, especially now, in these rapidly changing times. AI used to be the domain of science fiction, but here it is, on our doorstep. Stories are one of the oldest and most powerful forms we have for engaging in these questions, but to have these kinds of stories, we need storytellers who are willing to do the kind of slow, deep reflection required to delve into our human experience and reflect it back to us in new and powerful ways.

Anything else you want to add?

Kruse: I’m happy to announce that Deuxmers Publishing is releasing the *Tales From the Liminal Study Edition*, April 1st. This edi-

tion includes liminal writing prompts, as well as discussion questions developed by Dr. Matthew Flaherty, Literature Faculty, Bard High School, Early College Baltimore and an introduction to the liminal by Dr. Timothy Carson, Professor of Liminal Studies, Honors College, University of Missouri. Dr. Carson is the author and editor of numerous books on liminality and has been using *Tales From the Liminal* these past few years in his course, “Liminality and Literature of the Fantastical.” The aim of the study edition is to facilitate engaging classroom discussion, while helping students develop an eye for the liminal in the world and themselves, along with an appreciation for the growth that can come when they let the liminal do its work.

You can find out more about the study edition and this year’s essay contest at skkruse.com. Contest deadline is March 31.

PARK

continued from page 1

several generations ago as a “thank you” to the village, and to America, from a Norwegian immigrant who came to the United States with 20 cents in his pocket in 1899. Today, it is one of Mount Horeb’s most valued gathering places. It’s exact future isn’t set in stone, but a document formulated at the village hall gives a glimpse of what it could look like.

The village’s Grundahl Park’s Master Plan includes four key phases, with work beginning this year and continuing into 2035. Some of the individual projects will certainly happen, but others might not, because each component still needs to be reviewed by the Mount Horeb Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission (PRF) and approved by the village board as part of the annual budget process before moving forward.

The master plan was se-

lected by the PRF last year after reviewing several visions.

“Basically, we brought in some consultants to tell us about the opportunities, needs, potential weaknesses there,” said Brett Halverson, village trustee and chair of the PRF. “To tell us some things the community wants and needs there in the future.”

In the short term, the village will upgrade the park’s playground and ball fields, among other things. Other, more ambitious work will be considered later on.

“I think it’s good to look at [the Master Plan] as more of a general outline than a blueprint,” Halverson explained. “We’re moving forward with the short-term stuff now, and in the future we can see if it works to move forward with some of the other things.”

Village president Ryan Czyzewski said the master plan provides “enhanced facilities for existing uses



Grundahl Park is home the Summer Frolic (above) and much more. Photo by Jason McMahon.

... with the capability to add more uses.” Czyzewski said that he, too, expects the village to pursue changes at Grundahl at a measured pace, particularly because Mount Horeb is also moving forward with other major projects, including on the other side of town.

“With so many needs and opportunities, and the need to develop the Lukken parkland, it’s designed to be a phased approach to spread out the cost and adjust if needed,” Czyzewski said. “The commission has already started with approving some of the Phase 1

improvements at Grundahl Park and working on others to determine for [the] next budget(s).”

According to Czyzewski, new lights for the baseball diamond are being ordered, the final design for new playground equipment is being honed at the next meeting with a representative from Gerber Leisure Products answering questions, and PRF “is discussing storage options with the Summer Frolic Committee, with potential to expand an existing shelter or usage.”

“It’s a priority of the commission to continue to work

on the Grundahl improvements in conjunction with other park improvements,” Czyzewski said.

If fully approved, phase one costs around \$929,000 and includes improvements to existing concessions, benches, trash cans, lighting, earthwork and more.

Phase two would cost an estimated \$1.3 million and include more lighting, path work, bike racks, a drinking fountain, improvements to the baseball field and more.

Phase three would include similar enhancements, plus a new restroom, kitchen and shelter facility. It would cost an estimated \$1.3 million.

The fourth and final phase would cost roughly \$6 million in today’s money, or close to \$8 million with inflation factored in. It would include native grass seeding, a \$4.5 million, 20,000-square-foot multi-use event building, and more.

Totaling 13 acres, Grundahl Park is located on the

southwest side of the village on Blue Mound Road. According to the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society, it was formerly the site of the village’s sewage treatment plant.

In the late 1950s, Henry Grundahl gave five acres of land to the village on which to build a playground in the future. After the sewage plant was moved in 1978, the first phase of work on Grundahl Park was completed in 1981 with a ball field and hockey rink. In 1985, the village built a shelter on the site. Improvements to the park since then have been largely the result of work by the Summer Frolic Committee.

Halverson said the development of public parkland at the Lukken property could impact changes at Grundahl Park, and vice versa, as village leaders attempt to strike a balance with their long-term goals across the village. “They’re interconnected,” he said.

Representative Roundup

Bare Applauds Evers’ Budget Proposal

Following a joint session of the Wisconsin Legislature where Governor Evers outlined his fourth biennial budget, Representative Mike Bare (D-Verona) released the following statement:

“While Donald Trump and Elon Musk are dangerously slashing federal programs we rely on, Governor Evers is focused on reasonable and responsible budgeting.

“The Governor’s proposed budget provides targeted tax relief, reduces prescription drug costs, and makes historic investments in our public schools. These proposals would deliver meaningful progress on some of our biggest challenges.

“While the Trump administration is increasing prices and weakening our economy with untargeted, and nonsensical actions, Governor Evers has a plan to lower costs for everyday Wisconsinites.

“I fully agreed with Governor Evers when he said ‘No Wisconsinite should have to choose between paying bills and putting food on the table or getting their life-saving medication. Accessing healthcare and picking up basic prescriptions or insulin should not break the bank, folks.’

“The Governor has outlined his plan, it’s now up to the Legislature to deliver.”

Jacobson Responds to Evers’ Budget

Governor Tony Evers delivered his 2025-27 Biennial Budget Message. Representative Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) issued the following response to his address:

“Governor Evers sent us a strong vision for our priorities in Wisconsin: taking care of our kids, investing in education, and reducing the property tax burden for Wisconsinites. We need to support the Governor’s plan to give our kids healthy meals and clean drinking water at school, and make sure they have access to comprehensive mental health services. These are common sense issues, and we owe it to our kids to support these initiatives.

“Governor Evers’ offers a bold plan to provide nearly \$2 billion in tax relief by eliminating sales tax on many everyday costs and by cutting income taxes for middle-class people. He is addressing the rising everyday costs while proposing investments in our kids.

“I look forward to listening to my constituents on their budget priorities during my upcoming listening sessions.”

Sen. Marklein Statement on Governor’s Budget Address

Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) made the following statement in response to Governor Tony Evers’ Budget Address:

“The Governor’s budget is a list of ideas. The legislature will listen to our constituents and stakeholders as we build the state budget. Our budget will fund our priorities, address our obligations, cut taxes, and prepare Wisconsin for the future. We will continue to protect the state’s checkbook.”

Baldwin Introduces Year-Round E15 Bill to Cut Costs at the Pump, Support Wisconsin Farmers

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and a bipartisan group of her colleagues introduced the *Nationwide Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act of 2025*. The legislation would allow the year-round, nationwide sale of E15 which will help lower costs at the pump and support Wisconsin agriculture.

“Homegrown biofuels cut costs at the pump for Wisconsin families while supporting our farmers and increasing our energy independence from foreign oil,” said Senator Baldwin. “I am proud to work with my Democratic and Republican colleagues to ensure cleaner E15 fuel is available year-round, support our agricultural communities, and move our Made in Wisconsin

economy forward.”

Senator Baldwin has long championed increasing the use of biofuels to reduce prices at the pump and support Wisconsin’s farmers, producers, and rural communities. In 2023 and 2024, Senator Baldwin successfully pushed the Biden administration to allow E15 fuel to be sold during the summer months.

The bill is led by Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE) and also co-sponsored by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), John Thune (R-SD), Pete Ricketts (R-NE), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Roger Marshall (R-KS), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Tina Smith (D-MN), and Mike Rounds (R-SD).

The legislation is endorsed by American Petroleum Institute, Renewable Fuels Association, Growth Energy, National Corn Growers Association, National Farmer Union, and National Association of Convenience Stores.

Senator Baldwin Introduces Bill to Cap Prescription Drug Costs

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) joined a group of her colleagues in introducing the *Capping Prescription Costs Act*, legislation that would lower prescription drug costs for millions of Americans by placing annual caps on out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs at \$2,000 for individuals and \$4,000 for families with private insurance. This legislation builds on the success of the Baldwin-backed *Inflation Reduction Act*, which capped prescription drug costs for seniors, extending the savings to the commercial health care market.

“While the big drug companies are raking in billions of dollars in profits, too many families across Wisconsin are scraping to get by and forced to make impossible decisions to afford the prescription drugs they need to stay healthy,” said Senator Baldwin. “It’s wrong and we have to do more to hold these price-gouging companies accountable and keep costs down for families. Our legislation will lower the price of prescription drugs and help ensure that every Wisconsinite has access to the quality, affordable health care that they deserve.”

Over 60 percent of American adults take at least one prescription drug, with 25 percent of adults taking four or more. Yet Americans often pay more for the same prescription drugs than people in other countries, and due to the cost burden, American patients often cannot afford their medications as prescribed. This results in patients skipping doses, cutting doses in half, or taking over-the-counter medications instead of their prescriptions. One study found that 31 percent of patients did not take their medications as prescribed due to cost. The new \$2,000 cap on cost-sharing for individuals and \$4,000 for families will apply to all of the 173 million Americans who have private health insurance.

Senator Baldwin has long championed bringing down prescription drug costs. In August 2022, Senator Baldwin helped pass the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to lower health care and prescription drug costs for older adults, people with disabilities, and families across the nation. Starting in January 2023, the IRA capped the cost of insulin for Medicare Part D beneficiaries at \$35 a month for certain covered insulin products.

Senator Baldwin also launched an investigation into the extremely high prices four large pharmaceutical companies charge for inhalers that 25 million Americans with asthma and 16 million Americans with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) rely on to breathe. In just two months after the investigation was launched, three of the four pharmaceutical

companies capped their out-of-pocket costs for their inhaler products at \$35 per month in the United States.

This legislation is led by Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and is co-sponsored by Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), John Fetterman (D-PA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Maritn Heinrich (D-NM), Andy Kim (D-NJ), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Patty Murray (D-WA), and Peter Welch (D-VT).

Senator Baldwin Leads Bill To Protect Access to Contraception

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, joined a group of her colleagues in reintroducing the *Right to Contraception Act*, legislation that would create a statutory right to obtain and use contraceptives and ensure health care providers have a right to provide contraceptives, contraception, and share information about this essential care.

“Women in Wisconsin have been clear about what they want: the right to make their own health care decisions without interference from politicians,” said Senator Baldwin. “With reproductive rights under attack, I am proud to support this legislation that will safeguard women’s freedoms and ensure all women have the right to control their bodies, regardless of where they live.”

In July 2022, the *Right to Contraception Act* passed the House (220-195). That same month, Republicans blocked an attempt in the U.S. Senate to pass the bill by unanimous consent. They did the same in June 2023. In June 2024, Republicans blocked Senate Democrats’ attempt to pass the bill on the floor.

The legislation is endorsed by Power to Decide, National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, National Women’s Law Center, Guttmacher Institute, Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America), Population Connection Action Fund, Americans for Contraception, Advocates for Youth, National Partnership for Women & Families, American Public Health Association, American Humanist Association, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health, Center for Biological Diversity, Ibis Reproductive Health, Physicians for Reproductive Health, Upstream USA, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, National Health Law Program, SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, Reproductive Health Access Project, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Upstream USA, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda, Center for American Progress, National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum, All* Above All, and Center for Reproductive Rights.

Sen. Johnson, Colleagues Reintroduce Bill to Permanently Repeal the Death Tax

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) joined Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) and 44 senators in reintroducing legislation to permanently repeal the federal estate tax, commonly known as the death tax. The *Death Tax Repeal Act* would end what critics say is a purely punitive tax that can hit family-run farms, ranches and businesses as the result of the owner’s death.

Sens. Johnson and Thune were joined by Senators Jim Banks (R-Ind.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Katie Britt (R-Ala.), Ted Budd (R-N.C.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W. Va.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Ted Cruz (R-Texas), John Curtis (R-Utah), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Jim Justice (R-W. Va.), John Kennedy (R-La.), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Mike Lee (R-

Utah), Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Dave McCormick (R-Pa.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio), Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.), Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Tim Scott (R-S.C.), Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Todd Young (R-Ind.).

Sen. Johnson Joins Finance Committee Republicans in Vowing to Oppose Any Short-Term Tax Package

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) joined U.S. Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.), Majority Whip John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Finance Chairman Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Senators James Lankford (R-Okla.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), members of the Senate Finance Committee, in sending a letter to President Donald Trump vowing to oppose any tax package that only provides temporary relief.

“You were elected with a mandate to do big things. One of those big things is to provide lasting tax relief for small businesses and families across the country. As members of the Senate Finance Committee, we write to express our support for your position that the expiring provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act must be permanent and not sunset. After passage of your tax cuts in 2017, we had a booming economy with soaring investment, higher wages, increased productivity, and zero corporate inversions. Without action, at the end of this year, taxes will increase for Americans in every income group and nearly six million jobs are at risk. A temporary extension of these pro-growth and pro-family policies is a missed opportunity. Businesses need certainty while investing in their companies and taxpayers should not fear tax hikes due to Congressional inaction. Congressional Republicans have an historic opportunity to enact this lasting tax relief. Failure to act boldly does a disservice to the American people who entrusted us to deliver in November. Thus, we will not support a tax package that only provides temporary relief from tax hikes,” the senators wrote.

Sen. Johnson Joins Sen. Graham in Unveiling 2025 Budget Resolution

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) joined U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, in releasing the text of the Senate’s fiscal year 2025 budget resolution.

The FY 2025 budget resolution will be the blueprint that unlocks the pathway for a fully paid-for reconciliation bill to secure the border, bolster our military, increase American energy independence, and begin the process of fiscal sanity.

The FY 2025 budget resolution lays the groundwork for legislation that:

Secures our border by providing funding to finish the wall and upgrade technology for ground and aerial support; Revitalizes the military by providing critical funding for the Department of Defense to strengthen the U.S. military to deter conflict and ensure our nation’s security. Priorities to plus up our national defense include; Facilitates energy independence by unleashing American energy production through on and offshore lease sales, and stopping the Biden Administration’s natural gas tax, also known as the methane emissions fee; Begins the process of restoring what Johnson called fiscal sanity by fully paying for the investments in our border security, national security and domestic energy production up front. Since these investments will be spent in four years, the legislation will be paid for in four years. The bill’s projected increased annual spending of \$85.5 billion will be paid for by a projected \$85.5 billion in reduced annual spending.

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SPORTS

HAIL TO THE VICTORS

Mount Horeb's boys basketball team captures conference title

by DAN LARSON
Sports Reporter

Thread by thread, the net in front of the home team's bench came down.

But the first pair of scissors didn't cut it. They were too dull.

The second pair did the job.

And that's pretty much how it went for the Mount Horeb boys basketball team Feb. 18 against visiting McFarland. The first half left a lot to be desired, but the second half did the trick.

The Vikings got hot after the break, remained stingy on defense and surged to a 56-39 victory over the visiting Spartans, thus clinching the outright Badger Small Conference championship and the opportunity to climb the ladder and cut down the net.

Mount Horeb improved to 19-2 overall and 12-0 in the Badger Small Conference, while second-place McFarland fell to 14-7, 9-3.

Vikings' junior star Josh Manchester, who was uncharacteristically cold from 3-point range (2-of-9) but led the way with 27 points none

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They are the champions

On top, Kam Nesheim (1) cuts the net after Mount Horeb's boys basketball team clinched the Badger Small Conference title. At left, Zach Maguire drives during the Vikings' win over McFarland. Photos courtesy of Holly Stoenner

Vikings earn No. 1 seed in postseason

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Todd Nesheim was on Cloud Nine Sunday afternoon.

And it was easy to see why.

Nesheim, Mount Horeb's boys basketball coach, was thrilled after learning his Vikings received the No. 1 seed on their half of the WIAA Division 2 Baraboo Sectional.

Mount Horeb begins the postseason by hosting either eighth-seeded Monroe or ninth-seeded Jefferson in a regional semifinal on March 7.

"I'm really happy," Nesheim said. "The kids have worked hard and we're happy to be in this spot."

"Being a top-seed, though, doesn't guarantee you anything. You've got to play extremely well to beat the good teams, but I like how we're playing. The guys are playing as well as they have all year."

The Vikings are 20-2 overall and clinched the outright Badger Small Conference

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Super sophs

Maier, Leonard earn return trips to state wrestling tournament

by DAN LARSON
Sports Reporter

WAUNAKEE — Only time will tell if this trip to the Kohl Center will be different.

If this excursion to the state wrestling tournament will include a win or two, or maybe even a spot on the podium.

If this journey will be the one Eli Maier envisioned a year ago when that one ended in heartbreaking fashion.

Following Saturday's WIAA Division 1 Waunakee

Sectional, when the Mount Horeb/Barneveld sophomore won the title at 165 pounds in convincing fashion, Maier at the very least gets a chance to find out.

Maier gets a chance at redemption after earning a return trip to state, which will be held Thursday through Saturday at the UW Kohl Center.

"He hasn't accepted that loss one day since last year," MH-B coach Tim Sarbacker said of Maier's opening-round defeat in the 157-pound bracket in 2024, sending him home almost

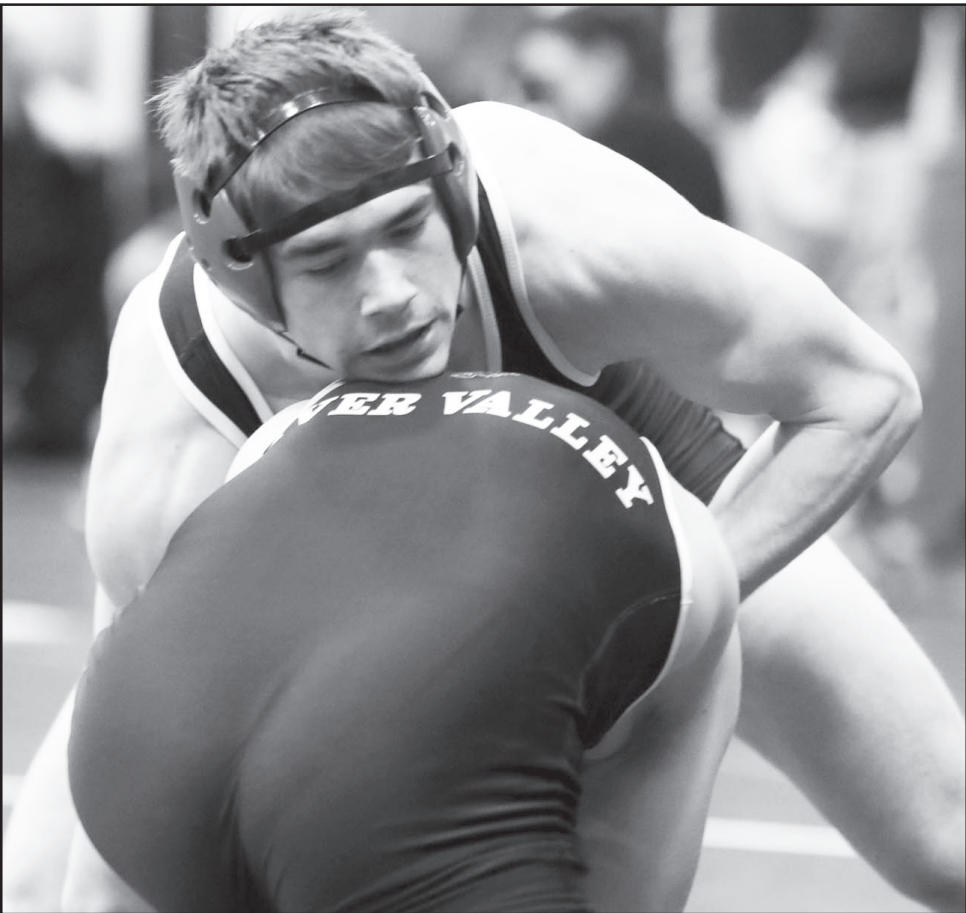
as fast as he arrived. "So he's put in all the work — I mean, it's been hammer down. He's ready to get back there and show he can go deep in this tournament."

For his part, Maier said he's learned a lot from that loss to Slinger's Elijah Terrell.

Maier, who was seeded fifth at last year's state meet, led 7-4 in the match before getting caught and pinned by the 12th-seeded Terrell.

"I way underperformed," Maier said. "I think I've matured a lot in my wrestling."

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Mount Horeb sophomore Eli Maier finished in first place at 165 pounds at the Waunakee Sectional and is headed to state for the second straight year. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Vikings' gymnasts continue dynasty

MoHo wins sixth straight league title

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Dynasty: A succession of rulers of the same line of descent.

That's how Webster's defines the term.

Inside the world of Badger Conference gymnastics, the term dynasty could be defined with two words: Mount Horeb.

The mighty Vikings won their sixth straight Badger Conference title last Saturday, posting a team score of 139.7250. Monona Grove (137.250) was a distant second, while Sauk Prairie (135.8250) rounded out the top three.

Mount Horeb joined the Badger Conference in 2002, and in the time since, the Vikings have won 14 conference titles. Prior to 2002, Mount Horeb gymnastics didn't have a conference.

Since joining the league, the Vikings have been as close to a dynasty as you'll ever find.

"I'm so proud of our gymnasts, as they once again demonstrated the importance of maintaining a positive mindset and of our 'team first' philosophy," said Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust, the architect of the dynasty. "We had a bit of a rocky start with some uncharacteristic falls and missed connections in our first two rounds."

The Vikings didn't let their tricky start spoil their day, though.

Mount Horeb's Athena Ouradnik finished third in the all-around competition with a 35.625, while



Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team won the Badger Conference title for a sixth consecutive season last Saturday. Photo submitted

Averi Kalscheur was eighth (34.30) and Sylviah Seeliger was ninth (34.1250). Waunakee's Annika Lee was first in that event (36.2250).

Ouradnik was fifth on the vault with an 8.850, while Seeliger was seventh (8.80), Kalscheur was 11th (8.50) and Reece Olinger was 12th (8.450).

Finley was third on the uneven bars with an 8.80, while Kalscheur and Ouradnik tied for eighth (8.50) and Olinger added an 8.250.

Ouradnik was sixth on the balance beam (8.7750), while Harper Hendrickson was seventh (8.750), Olinger was eighth (8.6250) and Kalscheur was 10th (8.550).

"After our beam rotation, we huddled up and reminded them that they've got what it takes to win the title — to put aside what may have not gone their way earlier and to keep their chins up," Koller Faust said.

They listened.

The Vikings came back with a terrific performance

on the floor exercise, where Ouradnik was second with a sensational 9.50. Abbey Brummer was third (9.350), while Seeliger added an 8.7750 and Kalscheur posted an 8.750.

"We had a strong finish and what a great feeling it was to learn we had captured the conference team title," Koller Faust said.

• On deck: Mount Horeb jumps up to Division 1 this year due to the WIAA's tournament performance factor.

The tournament performance factor is a three-year cumulative total per division. Programs that have accumulated at least six tournament performance factor points are promoted to the division with the next highest enrollments from the previous year.

In gymnastics, points are accumulated based on the following:

(a) One point for qualifying for the state meet.

(b) Two points for placing 3rd or 4th place at the state meet or for Sectional Cham-

pion.

(c) Three points for winning the state runner up.

(d) Four points for winning the state title.

That means Mount Horeb will be at the Division 1 Sun Prairie West Sectional Thursday beginning at 5 p.m. The top two teams and the top five individuals in each event (vault, bars, beam, floor and all-around) qualify for the state meet March 7-8 at Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln High School.

Teams competing at Sun Prairie are: Madison Memorial, Madison United (Madison East and Madison LaFollette), Madison West, Middleton, Mount Horeb, Sun Prairie West/Sun Prairie East, Verona/Madison Edgewood and Waunakee/DeForest.

"This sectional will be very competitive, but we are cautiously optimistic that we have a very good chance at qualifying our team to state," Koller Faust said. "We just need to compete

like we know we are capable of."

• **JV:** Mount Horeb rolled to the JV title with a new school record score of 133.35. That would have been good for fourth place at the varsity meet and easily outdistanced JV runner-up Sauk Prairie (112.80).

Carmen Oglesby won the all-around competition with a 33.60, while Avena Meyers was second (32.30) and Tessa Soppe was third (32.15).

Oglesby won the beam (8.9) and the floor (9.0), while Marit Barsness won the vault (8.45) and the uneven bars (8.0).

Feb. 21 Badger Conference meet At Watertown
Team scores: 1. Mount Horeb 139.725, 2. Monona Grove 137.25, 3. Sauk Prairie 135.825, 4. Waunakee/DeForest 133.125, 5. Baraboo 132.325, 6. Watertown 130.325, 7. Reedsburg 125.45, 8. Milton/Edgerton 121.6.

Mount Horeb individual scores
Vault: Athena Ouradnik 8.85, Sylviah Seeliger 8.80, Averi Kalscheur 8.5, Reece Olinger 8.45.

Bars: Macie Finley 8.80, Averi Kalscheur 8.50, Athena Ouradnik 8.50, Reece Olinger 8.25, Sylviah Seeliger 8.20.

Beam: Athena Ouradnik 8.775, Harper Hendrickson 8.75, Reece Olinger 8.625, Averi Kalscheur 8.55.

Floor: Athena Ouradnik 9.50, Abbey Brummer 9.35, Sylviah Seeliger 8.775, Averi Kalscheur 8.75.

All-Around: 3. Athena Ouradnik 35.625; Averi Kalscheur 34.30, Sylviah Seeliger 34.125

JV Team Standings:

1. Mount Horeb 133.35, 2. Sauk Prairie 112.80, 3. Watertown 111.40, 4. Baraboo 110.90, 5. Milton/Edgerton 97.35, 6. Waunakee/DeForest 96.95, 7. Monona Grove 81.95, 8. Reedsburg 41.45.

JV Individual Results

Vault: 1. Marit Barsness 8.45, 2. Avena Meyers 8.40, 3. Meredith Cowden 8.35, 4. Carmen Oglesby 8.25.

Bars: 1. Marit Barsness 8.0, 2. Meredith Cowden 7.90, 3. Tessa Soppe 7.75, Carmen Oglesby 7.45.

Beam: 1. Carmen Oglesby 8.90, 2 (tie) Abbey Brummer and Macie Finley 8.40, Avena Meyers 7.70.

Floor: 1. Carmen Oglesby 9.0, 2. Tessa Soppe 8.85, 3. Avena Meyers 8.80, 4. Reece Olinger 8.75.

All-Around: 1. Carmen Oglesby 33.60, 2. Avena Meyers 32.30, 3. Tessa Soppe 32.15.

Co-op hockey team ousted

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

One thrilling week.
One lopsided loss.
And the end of a successful season.

Sauk Prairie's co-op hockey team — which included players from Mount Horeb, Wisconsin Heights, River Valley and Barneveld

— experienced it all last week.

The Eagles edged the La Crosse Aquinas/Holmen Avalanche, 4-3, in double overtime in a WIAA Division 1 regional semifinal on Feb. 18. Sauk Prairie then fell to top-seeded Madison Edgewood, 8-0, in a regional final on Feb. 20.

The Eagles finished the

year 12-14.

Sauk Prairie, seeded eighth, escaped with a win against the ninth-seeded Avalanche when Landon Froese scored an even strength goal on an assist from Greyden Schomber in the second O.T.

Sauk Prairie fell behind, 3-1, then scored the final three goals of the game.

Quinn Payne gave the Eagles a 1-0 lead midway through the first period when he scored an even strength goal on an assist from Ryan Rickard. But the Avalanche answered less than 3 minutes later, then scored twice in the first 11:43 of the second period and surged to a 3-1 lead.

Sauk Prairie answered in a big way, though.

At 14:23 of the second

period, Schomber scored on assists from Payne and Connor Grant. Then at 15:40 of the second, Kaleb Chetwood had a power play goal on an assist from Payne that tied the game, 3-3.

The teams went scoreless in the third period and the first OT, then Froese had the game-winner in the second O.T.

Two nights later, though, Madison Edgewood showed why it's one of the favorites to win a state title.

The Crusaders scored three goals in the first period, four more in the second and were never challenged.

Sauk Prairie goalie Corbin Domka finished with 29 saves, but Edgewood outshot the Eagles, 37-16.



Ryan Rickard and Sauk Prairie's co-op hockey team won their playoff opener, before falling to Madison Edgewood. Photo courtesy of Aaron Jacobus



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Morgan Monroe poured in 28 points in Mount Horeb’s 56-42 win over Reedsburg on Feb. 18. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Vikings hope for postseason magic

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team ended the regular season with a bang. Now, the Vikings are hoping to carry that momentum into the second season.

Mount Horeb posted a 56-42 win at Reedsburg on Feb. 18, then routed visiting Baraboo, 70-33, on Feb. 20. The Vikings improved to 11-13 overall and finished in third place in the Badger Small Conference at 9-5.

“Lots of happy girls in the locker room after both games,” Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said.

With good reason.

Morgan Monroe had a monster game against Reedsburg, pouring in a career-high 28 points and shooting a sizzling 12-of-22 from the floor. Monroe added seven steals, three rebounds and an assist.

Hallie Klein added 11 points, three assists and two rebounds, while Courtney Monroe had nine points, seven steals, five assists and four rebounds.

“Courtney Monroe did a great job with on-ball defense in the second half against their best player in (Lorelei) Williams, who handles the ball for them,” Leibfried said. “She had 11 deflections and seven steals during the game, which led to a lot of easy scores for us. Courtney is one of the best on ball defenders in the area.

“Morgan Monroe did a great job working with her sister to get some backside traps, which led to seven steals for her. The two of them combined for 24 points off turnovers and went 9-of-11 from the field off those turnovers.

“Hallie Klein hit some timely 3’s for us every time Reedsburg would make a run.”

Mount Horeb went on the attack from the start, racing to a 10-0 lead to begin the game. The Beavers chipped away at the lead on several occasions, but each time the Vikings would answer back with a big run of their own.

“The entire game then was a game of runs,” Leibfried said. “In the end we just wore them down. Others may have felt differently, but I felt pretty confident during the game that we would pull away at the end.”

Mount Horeb followed that with a rout of Baraboo.

Morgan Monroe led the Vikings with 19 points, while Maren Johnson added 13 points and Courtney Monroe had 12.

In all, Mount Horeb had 11 players score, and freshmen Aubrey Rockow scored the first varsity points of her career.

Baraboo actually jumped to an 8-2 lead, before Mount Horeb finished the first half on a 42-11 run to take a 44-19 lead at the break.

“We had to use an early

timeout after falling behind to remind them what we do best,” Leibfried said. “I don’t like those timeouts, but this one was definitely needed.”

While the Vikings also had a choppy start to begin the second half, they quickly regrouped and pulled away to end the regular season with an impressive win.

Now, it’s off to the postseason, where Mount Horeb hopes to continue its winning ways.

Mount Horeb is the No. 7 seed in its half of the sectional and hosted 10th-seeded McFarland in a WIAA Division 2 regional quarterfinal on Tuesday. The Vikings defeated the Spartans in both of their regular season meetings.

If Mount Horeb defeated McFarland for a third time, it would travel to second-seeded Milton (19-3) for a regional semifinal on Friday. The regional finals are Saturday, while sectionals are March 6 and 8.

“If we are fortunate enough to win (Tuesday), then it’s off to Milton on Friday night,” Leibfried said. “The girls are really excited where we are right now and the matchups we got, but also realize that we cannot have those lapses like we had against Baraboo or you will be done. Like a lot of teams, I hope we can get over the illness and get healthy so we can play to our potential.”

WIAA: No transgender athletes in girls sports

STEVENS POINT — The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, which oversees most high school sports in Wisconsin, announced on Feb. 19 that it is changing its policy regarding the participation of transgender athletes in girls sports.

“Today the WIAA Board of Control voted to update the organization’s policy regarding student-athlete eligibility — affirming its compliance with federal directives that only students designated as females at birth will be allowed to participate in girls competitions,” Stephanie Hauser, executive director of the WIAA, said in a release. “Working in consultation with legal counsel, our Board updated this policy to ensure clarity is pro-

vided to our membership as they work to comply with new federal guidance from the White House.”

The ruling follows similar actions taken recently by the NCAA, which adjusted its transgender student-athlete participation policy on Feb. 6.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order earlier this month intending to ban transgender athletes from participating in women’s athletics.

The order, titled “Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports,” gives federal agencies wide latitude to ensure entities that receive federal funding abide by Title IX in alignment with the Trump administration’s view, which interprets “sex” as the gender someone was assigned at birth.

The NCAA changed its policy for transgender athletes, limiting competition in women’s sports to athletes who were assigned female at birth, the day after the president signed the order.

The policy was not applied to men’s teams, where the NCAA says any athletes regardless of sex assigned at birth or gender identity can play if they meet all other eligibility requirements.

Transgender men taking hormones, such as testosterone, can practice with women’s teams but can’t compete on a women’s team without risking the team’s eligibility for championships.

MT. HOREB AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF CHANGE IN ADOPTED BUDGET				
Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of Wisconsin Statute 65.90(5)(a), that the School Board of Mt. Horeb Area School District, on February 17, 2025, adopted the following changes to previously approved budgeted 2024-2025 amounts. The following presents only adopted budget line items with changes. Unchanged line items are not presented.				
GENERAL FUND				
LINE ITEM	ACCOUNT CODE	PREVIOUS APPROVED AMOUNT \$	AMENDED APPROVED AMOUNT \$	CHANGE \$
Anticipated Revenue				
Revenue from Local Sources	Source 200	423,000.00	381,065.00	(41,935.00)
Revenue from Interdistrict Sources	Source 300	1,350,000.00	1,385,000.00	35,000.00
Revenue from Intermediate Sources	Source 500	4,500.00	3,880.00	(620.00)
Revenue from State Sources	Source 600	240,000.00	265,292.00	25,292.00
Revenue from Federal Sources	Source 700	180,636.00	161,788.00	(18,848.00)
Revenue from Other Sources	Source 800/900	105,750.00	147,000.00	41,250.00
Total Anticipated Revenue		2,303,886.00	2,344,025.00	40,139.00
Expenditure Appropriations:				
Instruction	Function 100000	5,485,626.00	5,356,316.00	(129,310.00)
Support Services	Function 200000	2,152,089.00	2,119,937.00	(32,152.00)
Non-Program Transactions	Function 400000	1,182,278.00	1,383,879.00	201,601.00
Total Expenditure Appropriations		8,819,993.00	8,860,132.00	40,139.00
Projected Ending Fund Balance	939000	7,176,221.30	7,176,221.30	0.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND				
LINE ITEM	ACCOUNT CODE	PREVIOUS APPROVED AMOUNT \$	AMENDED APPROVED AMOUNT \$	CHANGE \$
AAnticipated Revenue				
Revenue from Local Sources	Source 200	20,000.00	220,000.00	200,000.00
Total Anticipated Revenue		20,000.00	220,000.00	200,000.00
Expenditure Appropriations:				
Support Services	Function 200000	0.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total Expenditure Appropriations		0.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Projected Ending Fund Balance		718,982.99	818,982.99	100,000.00
DEBT SERVICE FUND				
LINE ITEM	ACCOUNT CODE	PREVIOUS APPROVED AMOUNT \$	AMENDED APPROVED AMOUNT \$	CHANGE \$
Anticipated Revenue				
Revenue from Local Sources	Source 200	2,640,000.00	4,284,095.00	1,644,095.00
Total Anticipated Revenue		2,640,000.00	4,284,095.00	1,644,095.00
Projected Ending Fund Balance		1,990,687.97	3,634,782.97	1,644,095.00
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND				
LINE ITEM	ACCOUNT CODE	PREVIOUS APPROVED AMOUNT \$	AMENDED APPROVED AMOUNT \$	CHANGE \$
Anticipated Revenue				
Revenue from Local Sources	Source 200	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Revenue from Other Sources	Source 800/900	0.00	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00
Total Anticipated Revenue		0.00	10,050,000.00	10,050,000.00
Expenditure Appropriations:				
Support Services	Function 200000	0.00	600,000.00	600,000.00
Total Expenditure Appropriations		0.00	600,000.00	600,000.00
Projected Ending Fund Balance		0.00	9,450,000.00	9,450,000.00
Publish: 2/27/25 WNAXLP				

WRESTLING

continued from page 15

He certainly didn’t underperform last Saturday.

Neither did 175-pounder Eli Leonard, a junior who was just as dominant as Maier in bringing home a sectional title.

The top two finishers at each weight earned state berths, although Maier and Leonard left no doubt, both avoiding any possibility of dealing with wrestleback drama.

Maier, who’s now 44-1 on the season, opened the tournament by winning via technical fall (22-4) over Sun Prairie West’s Benjamin Gore in 1 minute, 56 seconds — just before the first-period buzzer sounded.

Then came a 7-3 decision over Middleton’s Finn Grauwels in the semifinals — a tight match considering Maier had pinned Grauwels earlier in the year — followed by a 9-0 win over Monona Grove/McFarland’s Xavier Denman in the finals.

Three takedowns were enough to get the job done over Denman, who Maier defeated 10-0 at the Badger Conference tournament two weeks earlier.

“On bottom he doesn’t really do much and it’s hard to turn him,” Maier said. “But I just wanted to ride him out and show him I was dominant on top. So it was a dominant win.”

It was one more step toward his goal of making some noise at state.

“Every tournament we’ve just got to turn it up more and go harder — more shots, more aggressive,” Maier said. “So every tournament we just keep pushing the pace.”

Meanwhile, the undefeated Leonard (45-0) also won by technical fall (15-0) in the opening round over Madison East’s Kenyan Harper in 1:40.

Leonard advanced to the finals by injury default over Middleton’s Reese Miller then dominated Verona’s Jackson Guenzler-Soda for the championship, winning by tech fall (20-4) in 3:39.

Six takedowns and a 2-point nearfall and Leonard punched his ticket back to state, where he took fourth at 165 in his debut in 2024.

“It was a familiar oppo-

nent. He’s a more difficult kid to pin, so if I can’t get the pin, I’m going to go for the tech fall,” Leonard said of facing Guenzler-Soda. “So my strategy was to just keep cutting him and get the takedowns.”

Now comes the final weekend of the season, the one Leonard has been waiting for since losing 15-3 to eventual state champ Liam Crook of Kaukauna in last year’s state semifinals.

Leonard then suffered a 3-2 loss to Pewaukee’s Caleb Cady in the third-place match.

He’s ready to get back to the Kohl Center and try and make it into the finals this time around.

“Every tournament, I’ve got the Kohl Center in the back of my mind,” he said of prepping for this moment. “It’s my goal every year to make it to state, but ultimately it’s to win state, so I’ve got a job to finish.”

Sarbacker thinks Leonard is capable of doing just that.

“Everybody’s ready to win, but not everybody’s ready to do the work and to grind and to go to war,” Sarbacker said. “He’s spent every day getting ready for this weekend. I guarantee you he’s put in the work.

“This is what he wants to do — this is his dream — and he’s put in the time. I think he’s got a shot. I think he’s got a really good shot.”

Mount Horeb/Barneveld had six sectional qualifiers in all, a list that in addition to Maier and Leonard included Dawson Bell (126 pounds), Nic Bureson (132), Timmy Kruse (138) and Levi Maier (190).

Among them, Sarbacker said he hoped Kruse might be able to make a run and make it through to state.

But it wasn’t to be, as the junior lost by technical fall in the opening round to Madison East’s Silas Hunter, who went on to finish second.

“Unfortunately it’s sectional time and you’ve got to put it all together,” Sarbacker said. “Today wasn’t his day, but he’ll be back next year.”

All in all, Saturday was a success for MHB’s emerging program.

“Good day,” Sarbacker said. “We got two kids to the state tournament. I was hoping for a few more, but our top guys wrestled really

well. We’re ready for the next stage.”

MOUNT HOREB RESULTS

132 — Nic Bureson (13-19) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.

- Championship Bracket - Cooper Feiner (DeForest) 32-18 won by fall over Bureson (Fall 2:31)

138 — Timmy Kruse (19-19) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.

- Championship Bracket - Silas Hunter (Madison East) 41-14 won by tech fall over Kruse (TF-1.5 3:37 (18-2))

165 — Eli Maier (44-1) placed 1st and scored 20.5 team points.

- Championship Bracket – Maier won by tech fall over Benjamin Gore (Sun Prairie West) 18-22 (TF-1.5 1:56 (22-4)

- Championship Bracket - Maier won by decision over Finn Grauwels (Middleton) 41-4 (Dec 7-3)

- 1st Place Match - Maier won by major decision over Xavier Denman (Monona Grove/McFarland) 37-13 (MD 9-0)

175 — Eli Leonard (45-0) placed 1st and scored 23.0 team points.

- Championship Bracket - Leonard won by tech fall over Kenyan Harper (Madison East) 29-22 (TF-1.5 1:40 (15-0)

- Championship Bracket - Leonard won by injury default over Reese Miller (Middleton) 11-5 (Inj. 0:00)

- 1st Place Match – Leonard won by tech fall over Jackson Guenzler-Soda (Verona Area) 45-10 (TF-1.5 3:39 (20-4)

190 — Levi Maier (21-21) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.

- Championship Bracket - Luke Rux (Monona Grove/McFarland) 36-7 won by tech fall over Maier (TF-1.5 3:23 (21-6).

GIRLS

Also making it to the next stage for MH-B is Amelia Soltis, who won the championship at 165 pounds at Friday night’s girls sectional tournament in Prairie du Chien.

Soltis, who’s now 37-3, won by technical fall (18-3) over Waunakee’s Ellie Len-

zendorf in the finals in 2:51 after also winning by tech fall (17-2) over Reedsburg’s Makayla Mittelstaedt with 24 seconds left in the match in the semis.

She pinned Myrikal Johnson of La Crosse Logan in 52 seconds in the opening round.

Meanwhile, MHB’s Sophie Baum took third at 126 pounds and Sofia Serate took fourth at 152.

Baum pinned Madison West’s Maya Assad in 3:52 in the third-place match but got pinned by Richland Center’s Madalynn Mueller in the wrestleback for second place, thus missing out on a trip to state.

126 — Sophie Baum (28-17) placed 3rd and scored 14.0 team points.

- Championship Bracket - Baum won by fall over Maddy Townsend (Kickapoo/La Farge/Youth In.) 20-16 (Fall 3:26)

- Championship Bracket - Dealya Collins (Mineral Point) 30-2 won by tech fall over Baum (TF-1.5 2:08 (15-0)

- 3rd Place Match - Baum won by fall over Maya Assad Thompson (Madison West) 24-7 (Fall 3:52)

- 2nd Place Match - Madalynn Mueller (Richland Center) 33-12 won by fall over Baum (Fall 4:45)

152 — Sofia Serate (12-18) placed 4th and scored 8.0 team points.

- Championship Bracket - Serate won by fall over Lorelai Young (Kickapoo/La Farge/Youth In.) 8-11 (Fall 3:18)

- Championship Bracket - Sophia Burr (Lancaster) 21-14 won by fall over Serate (Fall 0:55)

- 3rd Place Match - Liliana Ferris (Verona Area) 25-16 won by tech fall over Serate (TF-1.5 2:33 (19-1)

165 — Amelia Soltis (37-3) placed 1st and scored 23.0 team points.

- Championship Bracket - Soltis won by fall over Myrikal Johnson (La Crosse Logan/Cen.) 11-14 (Fall 0:52)

- Championship Bracket - Soltis won by tech fall over Makayla Mittelstaedt (Reedsburg Area) 27-10 (TF-1.5 5:36 (17-2))

- 1st Place Match - Soltis won by tech fall over Ellie Lenzendorf (Waunakee) 41-10 (TF-1.5 2:51 (18-3).



Mount Horeb sophomore Eli Leonard finished in first place at 175 pounds at the Waunakee Sectional. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

TOWNS OF SPRINGDALE, PERRY, BLUE MOUNDS, CROSS PLAINS, PRIMROSE & VERMONT & VILLAGES OF MOUNT HOREB & BLUE MOUNDS

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

April 1, 2025 Spring Election

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on **Tuesday, April 1, 2025** for the Spring Election may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. Citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on election day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot.

TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MUNICIPAL CLERK, OR GO TO MYVOTE.WI.GOV

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the Spring Election. You may also request an absentee ballot by letter, email, or fax. Your written request must list your voting (registered) address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, your name, and your signature (if by letter or fax). Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, overseas, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, please contact your municipal clerk. You can also personally go to the clerk’s office, complete a written certification, and vote an absentee ballot in-person. **YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR PHOTO ID TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

The deadline for making application to vote absentee by mail is 5:00 p.m., on the Thursday before the election – March 27, 2025. Dates and times for absentee voting in the clerk’s office are determined by each municipality, but no earlier than Tuesday, March 18, 2025 and no later than Sunday, March 30, 2025. The times set by each municipality for the spring election are listed below.

All voted ballots must be returned to the municipal clerk **by the voter** by mail, in-person, or via drop box, so the ballots can be delivered to the proper polling place before the polls close on April 1, 2025, the day of the election. Ballots will not be counted if they are received after 8:00 pm on election day. **Ballots must be delivered by the person who voted the ballot, with the exception of voters with disabilities. They have the right to assistance in returning their absentee ballot.**

To obtain an absentee ballot, send a written request to:

Town of Springdale
Jackie Arthur, Clerk
2379 Town Hall Road
Black Earth, WI 53515
Absentee Voting Mar 18 & 25
10am-2pm by appt only
Tel: 608-437-6230

Town of Blue Mounds
Amanda Burghy, Clerk
10566 Blue Vista Rd
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
Absentee Voting hours: Mar 18-20
and Mar 24-28 10am-1pm or Appt.
Tel: 608-437-8722

Town of Primrose
Matthew Waite, Clerk
8468 County Road A
Verona, WI 53593
Absentee Voting by Appt
Tel: 608-571-2988

Village of Mount Horeb
Alyssa Gaffney, Clerk
138 E. Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
alyssa.gaffney@mounthorebwi.info
Phone: 608-437-9404
Office hours: 7a-4:30p Mon-Thurs
7am-12:00pm Fridays
Absentee Voting hours: Weekdays
Only, Mar 18-Mar 28 9am-3pm
and Mar 29th 10am-2pm

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Town of Perry
Mary Price, Clerk
1004 State Hwy 78
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Absentee Voting by Appt
Tel: 608-437-4553
mlprice@mhtc.net

Town of Cross Plains
Nancy Meinholz, Clerk
3734 County Road P
Cross Plains, WI 53528
Office hours: 5-6:30pm
Mon-Thurs
Tel: 608-798-0189

Town of Vermont
Katie Zelle, Clerk
4017 County Road JJ
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Absentee Voting by Appt
Tel: 608-767-2457

Village of Blue Mounds
Mary Jo Michek
Clerk/Treasurer
PO Box 189
11011 Brigham Avenue
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
Office hours: Mon-Thurs
8am-4:30pm
Absentee Voting Hours:
Mar 18-20 8am-4pm
Mar 24-27 8am-4pm, and
Mar 28-29 9am-1pm
Tel: 608-437-5197 ext. 1

VILLAGE OF MT. HOREB RESIDENTS NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Horeb, Dane County, Wisconsin adopted the following ordinance amendment at the Village Board meeting on November 6, 2024.

Ordinance 2024-14, “AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FROM I-2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL TO PD-GENERAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT FOR PARCEL 0606-124-1010-1”.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that a copy of the ordinance is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the Village Clerk. It is also available on the village website at www.mounthorebwi.info.

Alyssa Gaffney
Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 26, 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 Norsk Development for a zoning change from A-1 Agriculture to R-1 Single-Family Residential for a proposed 16 lot single-family residential subdivision. Property further described as Parcel Number 157/0606-141-9051-1 Mount Horeb, WI.

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

Publish: 2/27/25, 3/6/25 **WNAXLP**

BOYS BB

continued from page 15

theless, never had a doubt. Not early. Not losing by six at halftime. Not ever. “I knew,” he said. “We weren’t going to lose that game. “We couldn’t make a shot. But I knew, being only down six at (half) that we would pick it up.”

Did they ever. The Vikings — ranked third in Division 2 in the WisSports.net coaches poll — wasted no time, either, opening the second half on a 15-2 run to take a 33-26 lead with 12 minutes, 55 seconds remaining in the game. “You’ve got to win the first three minutes in a game like that,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “If you’re up big, it kind of sets the tone. If you’re down, if it’s close — no matter what the situation is — those first three minutes are going to maybe determine how the rest of the half goes. It was important. Good start.”

Mount Horeb’s second half surge was also sparked by the unlikeliest of players.

Chris Kiel, a 6-foot senior with a football player’s build who’s headed to college football powerhouse North Dakota State, scored six of the first eight points in the run.

In that stretch alone he produced triple his season-scoring average of just under 2 points a game.

But Manchester wasn’t at all surprised Kiel came through.

“He’s a stud. He lives for those moments,” Manchester said of Kiel. “I knew he was going to step up. It was awesome to see.”

Kiel’s first three points of the night cut Mount Horeb’s deficit to 24-21 and came via a line-drive 3-pointer from the right wing that barely cleared the front of the rim.

“I think a little bit too much weight lifting and not enough shooting kind of led to my line drive shot,” Kiel said. “But I’ve had that since I was young. It went in and got the momentum rolling a little bit. Not a ton of ‘em fall for me, so it’s nice to have.”

Kiel was wide open, so no fault there in terms of the attempt.

But don’t count Nesheim among those who expected to see it go in.

“That’s the way he shoots it. That’s why he’s only got

six attempts on the year. He knows he’s not a great shooter,” Nesheim said. “He spins it really well. It just barely gets over the rim, though.”

Griffin Hannah, a 6-3 senior who also rarely scores, scored his only two points of the night for Mount Horeb’s next points, making it 26-23.

Then Kiel tied the game at 26-all in more conventional fashion for him, attacking Spartans’ 6-8 sophomore Eli Krueger at the rim, getting him out of position and then getting a lay-up to fall while getting fouled for an and-one.

“In the locker room at halftime we were talking about how they were all looking for blocks. I knew that, so I pump faked and got him to jump. And then I just went into him physical and trusted my strength,” Kiel said. “That’s all coaching.”

Manchester followed with an acrobatic lay-up to make it 28-26, the Vikings’ first lead since the early going, and he scored the final three points of the run sandwiched around an equally acrobatic lay-up by 6-6 junior Hayden Anderson cutting to the basket.

Mount Horeb then stiff-armed McFarland the rest of the way, allowing the Spartans to get within five on one occasion (at 33-28), six on another (43-37) and eight with 4:27 left (47-39) before slamming the door shut for the program’s first league championship since the 2018-19 season.

The Vikings have bigger goals in mind.

But this was the first one on their checklist, and no matter how the postseason plays out, they weren’t going to dismiss the difficulty of winning a conference title.

“Winning is hard. We told our guys that the other night,” said Nesheim, who now has four conference titles in 17 years at the helm for the Vikings. “We put a lot of time in, in season and out. It’s very rewarding.”

The dagger came with 2:12 left when sophomore Alex Chapman drained an ill-advised — albeit wide open — 3-pointer from the left wing at a time when the Vikings were trying harder to burn time off the clock than they were to score.

“No, no no ... yes, yes yes. That’s exactly what I said,”

Nesheim said. “That was probably the dagger.

“It was good to get to that position (to be able to ice the game). It didn’t look like it was going to go that way early, that’s for sure.”

Chapman had a big hand in helping the Vikings stay within striking range in the first half, scoring six of his nine in the game before the break.

His three made field goals in the first 18 minutes buoyed the Vikings’ shooting percentage from woeful to bad as they were 8-of-29 en route to the 24-18 halftime deficit.

“He’s been great for us all year. He certainly doesn’t play like a sophomore,” Manchester said of Chapman. “We’re going to keep needing him to do that and come up big for us.”

The Vikings missed their first six attempts of the night, then they closed the first half by missing their final six tries spanning a scoreless stretch of 4:35.

But they defended well enough to be down only six, a more-than-manageable deficit considering they were confident their shooting woes wouldn’t continue.

“You’re going to have halves where you struggle to shoot a little bit, but we’ve put enough work in, and enough time in, where it’s going to catch back up to us and they start going in,” Chapman said. “Once one went in, the confidence started rolling in and they started going in more.”

It happened fast after halftime. And the defense didn’t subside, allowing for the big run that gave Mount Horeb firm control of the game.

“The message to my program since I started is, ‘We hang our hat on our defense.’ We’ve got to be able to win 42-40 games,” Nesheim said. “(Big) games are going to be grinders. Teams generally don’t shoot great in those environments, so you better be able to play ‘D.’ ”

Added Manchester: “At points it feels like offense wins, but this is a testament to what (defense) really does. It did win us the game today.”

In addition to being terrific on defense all night, the Vikings were efficient, too. Mount Horeb fouled just 10 times and put McFarland on the free throw line just once

— for a second-half and-one that the Spartans failed to convert.

A big reason the Vikings were able to get going offensively after halftime was the fact they attacked the rim better — challenging the 6-8 Krueger and 6-9 senior Ben Forbes more.

“Their size I thought affected our mindset a little bit, so we just challenged (our guys) to be aggressive,” Nesheim said.

Manchester was aggressive in the first half, but he turned it up a notch in the second, settling for less from the perimeter and more from the paint.

Manchester, the state’s seventh-leading scorer (31.0 points per game), had just seven before halftime. He scored 20 after that, with only three coming from beyond the arc.

“It got to a point in the second half where he just kinda had his way,” Nesheim said. “He wasn’t getting that in the first half. He’d get to the lane and there’d be a wall there.

“In the second half he was able to get to the basket. So what changed? I don’t know. Whether it was a wear-down effect or whatever, but he did a really good job tonight.”

Mount Horeb certainly made McFarland work harder on defense in the second half, effectively winning time of possession by controlling the glass.

The Spartans were mostly limited to one chance after halftime, scoring just 15 points.

Meantime, the opposite was true for the Vikings thanks to their offensive rebounding proficiency -- never more obvious than when Manchester canned a 3-pointer from the right wing on his team’s third field goal try of the possession, making it 39-28 with 11:07 to go.

The junior did the lion’s share of the scoring in leading Mount Horeb to its first league title in six years.

“The last time I remember them winning, I was in sixth grade,” he said. “So it puts it in perspective.

“It’s awesome to finally get one in my high school career. But we’re not done — we’ve got a lot more goals we want to accomplish.”

• Mount Horeb 82, Por-



Josh Manchester scores during Mount Horeb’s 56-39 win over McFarland that clinched the Badger Small Conference title for the Vikings. Photo courtesy of Holly Stoenner

tage 26 — The Vikings raced to a 42-14 halftime lead and were never challenged on Feb. 21.

“This was a game where we expected to get the bench into the game and that’s exactly what happened,” Nesheim said. “We continue to do what we should do.”

Josh Manchester poured in 28 points in just 22 minutes. Alex Chapman added nine points, while Nick Ibinger came off the bench and had nine points.

“In games against better teams, we have found ways to pull away and secure victories,” Nesheim said. “In games where there is a talent difference, we have beaten those teams soundly.

“We have had very few disappointing moments throughout the season. Not all teams in our position can say that.”

Mount Horeb 56, McFarland

39
McFarland 24 15 — 39
Mount Horeb 18 38 — 56
McFARLAND — (fgm ftn- fta pts) — Garrett Crull 4 0-0 10, Hayden Harrison 2 0-0 5, Kellen Peil 1 0-0 2, Eli Krueger 5 0-0 10, Mason Roe 2 0-1 5, Ben Forbes 3 0-0 7. Totals: 17 0-1 39.

MOUNT HOREB — Kam Nesheim 1 0-0 3, Josh Manchester 10 5-6 27, Chris Kiel 2 1-1 6, Hayden Anderson 1 0-0 2, Owen Aeschlimann 1 2-2 5, Zach Maguire 1 0-0 2, Griffin Hannah 1 0-0 2, Alex Chapman 4 0-1 9. Totals: 21 8-10 56.

3-pointers: McF 5 (Crull 2, Harrison 1, Roe 1, Forbes 1), MH 6 (Nesheim 1, Manchester 2, Kiel 1, Aeschlimann 1, Chapman 1) . Total fouls: McF 14, MH 10.

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GUN SHOW: February 28-March 1-2, 2025, Waukesha Expo, 1000 Northview RD. Waukesha, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 9am-3pm \$8 (Under 14 FREE) Buy/Sell, 608-752-6677 www.bobandrocco.com

TOWN OF PRIMROSE NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Board of Supervisors meeting for March, 2025, will be held on Monday, March 3rd, 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: 2/27/25 WNAXL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF PERRY
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Perry Town Hall, 10084 CTH A.
7:00 PM

Teleconference - 425-585-6272 Access - 394-722-206 #

Discontinuance of Part of Moen Road

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM at the Perry Town Hall, prior to the monthly Town Board meeting, the Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed discontinuance of part of Moen Road as petitioned by James Gibson and Susan Medaris.

Description: Moen Road – approximately .11 miles adjoining parcels 050631385009 and 050631390002 – at western road boundary, postal address 123 Drammen Valley Road.

Mary L. Price, Clerk
mlprice@mhtc.net

Publish: 2/20/25, 2/27/25, 3/6/25 WNAXL

TOWN OF PERRY
LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE
Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 8:00 PM
Perry Town Hall, 10084 County Highway A
Teleconference: 425-585-6272 access: 394-722-206 #
Agenda

1. Call to Order.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – January 8, 2025.
3. Diane Erb, 1514 Sutter Rd – review revised CSM to rezone (2) lots from FP-35 to RR-4, site plans for residences and drive-ways.*
4. Wayne & Millicent Bratrud, 1187 County Rd JG – zoning change for existing residence from FP-35 to RM-16. *
5. Doug & Linda Nelson, 9549 Lee Valley Rd – informal discussion, site plan.
6. Pending applications – review and discussion.
7. Schedule meetings.
8. Adjourn.

Stephanie Zwettler, Deputy Clerk
www.perry-wi.gov

A quorum of the Town Board may be present at this meeting.
*Site views will be conducted at the Erb site on Saturday, March 1, 2025, beginning at 8:30 AM, and at the Bratrud site at approximately 9:15 AM.
Publish: 2/27/25 WNAXL

SEEDS

continued from page 15

title last week by improving to 13-0 in the league. Mount Horeb is looking to reach its first state tournament since 2015, when the Vikings won the state title.

The road certainly won't be easy, though.

On Mount Horeb's side of the bracket, Badger Large Conference co-leader Fort Atkinson is the No. 2 seed, followed by Elkhorn, Stoughton, McFarland, Milton, Monona Grove, Monroe, Jefferson, Madison Edgewood and Delavan-Darien.

On the other side of the bracket, Brookfield Central — which dropped from Division 1 to Division 2 for the first time in school history this season — is the No. 1 seed. Wauwatosa West, Milwaukee Lutheran and Sauk Prairie round out the top four seeds.

If Mount Horeb wins its playoff opener, it would host either Stoughton or McFarland in a regional final on March 8. Stoughton (15-8) has eliminated Mount Horeb from the postseason each of the last three seasons, while McFarland (15-8) currently sits in second place in the Badger Small.

While either opponent would be extremely chal-

lenging, Mount Horeb went 2-0 against both teams this year.

"The shoe is kind of on the other foot right now," Nesheim said of potentially facing Stoughton. "That would be interesting."

"And McFarland, we just beat them at our place last week. So we'll see what happens."

If the seeds hold true to form, Mount Horeb would face Fort Atkinson (15-7) in a sectional semifinal on March 13. That game is currently scheduled to be played in Elkhorn, but could be moved if it reduces travel time for the two teams.

The sectional final is March 15, where Brookfield Central and Wauwatosa West — who are both tied for the lead in a primarily Division 1 Greater Metro Conference — are the favorites to emerge. That game is currently scheduled to be played in Baraboo, but could also be moved to a more central location.

"Overall, I feel really good," Nesheim said. "Defensively, we're pretty locked in and playing together. Offensively, we've seen about every kind of defense you can see, so we'll be ready for whatever is thrown at us. Now, we've just got to go and play."



Chris Kiel (4) and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team are the No. 1 seed in their half of the Baraboo Sectional. Photo courtesy of Holly Stoenner

LEGAL NOTICE DEADLINES

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Adams Friendship Times-Reporter.....	Noon Wednesday, the week prior to publication
Post Messenger Recorder.....	11 am Thursday, the week prior to publication
Star News.....	Noon Thursday, the week prior to publication
Mount Horeb Mail	1 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication
Times-Tribune.....	2 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication
Home News	2 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication
Marquette County Tribune.....	10 am Friday, the week prior to publication
Reedsburg Independent.....	10 am Friday, the week prior to publication

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