



Data shows local tax levy rising... but the tax rate is actually down

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

The Wisconsin Policy Forum's Property Values and Taxes DataTool shows that gross property tax levies across Wisconsin increased

by 4.2 percent in 2024, the second largest increase since 2009.

The increase is due to factors including the number of school districts that have passed referenda to increase

their tax levies, and an increase to school district revenue limits in the 2023-25 state budget.

Available data stretches back to 1984, when Mount Horeb's gross property taxes

totaled roughly \$1.6 million. The levy climbed steadily for the next 30 years, reaching \$12.5 million in 2015 then began to rise more sharply in the ensuing decade.

The local property tax levy in 2022 was \$17.3 million. In 2023 it was \$19.7 million.

In the year 2024, the gross levy in Mount Horeb surpassed \$20.8 million.

But the tax levy alone does not tell the entire story. Property values have risen sharply in the area, which means government agencies can collect more in tax

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BLUE MOUNDS

Village board talks road project

By ABIGAIL LEAVINS
Mount Horeb Mail

The Blue Mounds Village Board in August approved the cost of a Division and South Street project, assuming contractors could fix a slope at the Church and Division Street intersection.

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County board delays vote on Blue Mounds dog breeder resolution

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

The vote on a resolution introduced by members of the Dane County Board that would, if approved, call on the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to revoke Ridgman Farms' commercial dog breeder license, has been postponed until at least October.

The resolution also asks that the dogs living at Ridgman Farms be confiscated and placed "in custodial care during [the] ongoing investigation."

The resolution was referred to executive committee by the county board on

August 15.

At the board's September 4 meeting, Supervisors Ritt and Rose, co-sponsors of 2025 RES-119, with Supervisors Boetcher and Blaziewicz, spoke and requested a postponement of action on

the item until October 23 in order to work on "additional refinements and amendments" to the resolution.

Supervisor Downing, who represents the Blue Mounds district where Ridgman

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Wednesday Night Live helps fund Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Each week at the Wednesday Night Live (WNL) concert series this summer, the event hosted food trucks which provided donations. Organizers take all of the monies collected and turn it around directly to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. This year they donated \$500 to the organization. Pictured at right, WNL's Charlie Jeffko presents a check to Mike McNall. Photo contributed.

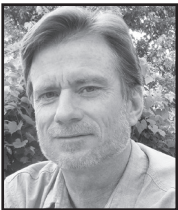


A Bird in the Bush

By William Robichaud
A Bird in the Bush

‘When life hands you apples...’

The metaphorical Adam and Eve weren’t driven out of the Garden



of Eden, they were simply fitted with blinders, or perhaps afflicted with amnesia. They could no longer see, or remember, the abundant Eden that surrounded them, and which surrounds us still. Their myopia is our inheritance, and humans continue to struggle with poverty consciousness. Recovering from it, and rediscovering the Eden we have always had may be our most important task. Love can’t live and breathe in a field of ‘not enough.’ Most conflicts, whether between individuals or nations, start from an illusory poverty consciousness.

Maintaining an awareness of abundance is not always easy in the midst of the challenges of daily life, and regular reminders are helpful. Consequently, I’m grateful for a recent discovery that helped reorient me to the rich generosity of the world. It started, as do many things these days, with trout.

A few years ago I explored one of the most inaccessible streams in the Driftless Area, fished it, and did very well (*now* we’re talkin’ Eden...). I recently decided it was time for a return visit.

After a day of guiding tours at Taliesin and an evening movie in Spring Green, I drove west into Vernon County. By about midnight I was parked and asleep in the back of my Subaru along the road closest to the stream of interest. An early morning start was on order, given that reaching this water is a bit of a project, and several hours later, in that magical, promising time between dawn and sunrise, the tall, dew-wet grass of a late summer meadow was swishing against my waders. It took about 40 minutes to hike to the stream - not remote by, say, western US standards, but pretty much the outback boonies for southern Wisconsin. The dark pink flowerheads of Joe Pye weed and yellows of compass plants and goldenrods showed the way, constellations in the meadow. I love the darker, rich colors at the threshold of autumn, color for poets in black.

Like any good trout stream, I first heard this one. Trout water has tumbling movement, and the sound of the stream, its music, is usually your first sensory experience of it. Like ap-

proaching a concert hall while the musicians are warming up. And the song is saying, is telling you, ‘Come, there are trout here’, and it trips the first release of adrenaline. Ulysses knew the feeling.

This stream flows through a beautiful little open valley framed by thick woods on the valley slopes. No sign of human habitation or regular use. God knows when another fisherman was last here. The late, great fishing writer John Gierach gave as the title of one of his books, *All Fisherman Are Liars*. I’ll add one more: many fishermen are lazy. It doesn’t take much effort or trekking to leave behind the boot prints of most other fishermen.

On this magnificent morning, in this place, the fishing should have been magnificent. But as they say, it’s called ‘fishing’ not ‘catching’ - that is, no guarantees. And on this day things were very, very slow. The late season water was low, and what remained was mostly filled from the bottom up with weeds, leaving in most stretches just a few inches of free water. Trout were probably here, but hunkered in the weed beds, unreachable. More than an hour of careful wading and careful casts yielded nothing.

Time for a break from the futility, and I reached into

a side pocket of my creel for something that’s part of my usual kit, a book. Appropriate for this 67-year old trout bum, this time it was Hemingway’s classic *The Old Man and the Sea*. As a red-tailed hawk kept company, soaring above with its own wild song, I sat along the bank in the morning sun and read this exchange between the old man, Santiago, and the boy who helped him:

“Keep warm old man”, the boy said. “Remember we are in September.”

“The month when the great fish come,” the old man said. “Anyone can be a fisherman in May.”

Alas, no great fish this time, not yet in September. I fished for another hour after the reading break, and again had not a single take from a trout. Santiago went 84 days without a fish, and my couple of hours of complete skunk on this stream felt about the same. It was my worst trout outing in a long time and I eventually accepted the bust of the expedition, closed my telescoping fly rod, and started the walk back through the valley toward the car. Not exactly the Promised Land (or Water) I’d hoped for.

But consolation was at hand. As I wended my way through the meadow, dis-

secting in my head what went wrong with the fishing and how deficient was the world today, I saw ahead a mosaic of red and green - a feral apple tree. I’m rather fond of such trees. For one, free food! (Have you seen the price of organic apples lately?) And at our best, we’re all like feral apple trees - a bit wild and independent, and also deeply good and nourishing, and resilient.

I keep an eye out for feral apples in autumn, and so it was welcome to come upon this tree. And where you find such trees, it’s a signpost of history. At one time there was likely a farmhouse near where any feral apple grows today, and the tree would have fed the family. Who once lived in this now-empty valley?

As I drew closer, I saw that the branches absolutely sagged with perfect, unblemished fruit, with a lovely orange-red hue. Not waiting for nor needing a serpent to tempt me, I took a bite and met one of the finest apples I’ve ever tasted - tart/sweet with a complex flavor reminiscent of cardamom. The tree’s abundance and quality marked it as probably the best feral apple I’ve ever found.

So much for the dud of an outing. I filled my trout-vacant creel with about ten pounds of apples, and

as I picked them I thought about the farm boy or girl who probably picked apples from this same tree many years ago. What became of them, and where they might be today if still alive? This apple tree connected us in a way small yet tangible.

As I finished the walk back to the road, the weight of the creel, heavier than it’s ever been with fish, was a reminder of the abundance of the world. Not always in ways I expect or demand (such as trout on this morning), but in ways that will still nourish if I remain open and willing. My bite of the apple didn’t get me kicked out of Eden, but brought me back to it, to my awareness of it.

Each of us lives in the center of an infinitely abundant universe, so what could be missing? Only, sometimes, our awareness of it. And so stay in love with the task of remembering and seeing the richness of the world - with an abundant return of gratitude each time you find it again.

See photos of this feral apple at www.birdinthebush.net, where Bill (“Bird”) Robichaud chronicles life lived from the Driftless land. And you can follow his explorations with endangered species conservation in Southeast Asia on Substack at “Saola Stories.”

Letters to the Editor

It’s too big

Some of the coolest things in Life are Big! Big Adventures! Big Savings! Big Hearts! Sequoia Trees, Elephants, Hot Air Balloons! The Great Lakes, The Moon, The Grand Canyon!

But the Big FOUR story, SIXTY-SIX-unit apartment building proposed by JG Development and supported by several of the Town Plan Commission is not cool.

Despite a proposed fourth floor set-back at the tippy top, this building would loom over our historic downtown, causing our main thoroughfare to become aesthetically lopsided in contrast with the two-story height of the opposing buildings on the other side of the street. It will put (even more) pressure on the surrounding area.

Preserving Mt. Horeb’s downtown variety, history and uniqueness has been what has drawn the residents, merchants and visitors to Mt. Horeb for generations. I know changes will occur and the definition of ‘historical’ will evolve - that is okay, let us then consider architecturally compatible improvements and reasonable parking ratios.

Towering retail/apartment buildings have been popping up in many neighboring communities, with cookie cutter designs, obliterating individual small-town personality and iconic charm. Our Main Street can change; it can grow in a suitable way. The Plan Commission should do better. It should be scale-appropriate. It should have design

symmetry. The Front St. apartment building should be built first - and see how the parking & traffic challenges work out. It should not advance a plan for our Main Street that does not make sense for the space, the residents, the merchants, the visitors, the Village of Mt. Horeb.

It’s Too Big!

Sharman Moen
Mount Horeb

It matters to have our stories told

When I tell people that I’m an intern at a local print newspaper in my hometown in Wisconsin, I get some interesting reactions. A lot of blank stares; the occasional admiration; and my favorite; “We still *have* a print newspaper?”

From my classmates in the journalism program at Emerson College, mostly East-or-West coasters, I regularly hear, “Oh cool, local news. Good practice for the real stuff.” The ‘real stuff,’ of course, being the hard city news that we regularly cover on our campus in the heart of Boston: campaign trails, homelessness, public policy, college administrations, city-wide festivals, Celtics championships, you name it.

Those stories feel *big*, because they are. Hundreds to thousands of people are affected by every headline. My first year of covering Boston news as a kid from Cross

Plains felt like jumping off a cliff, with no clue if there was a trampoline, a fiery public debate, a pool of lava, or an important city official waiting for me at the bottom. Our professors reminded us every day that our work as city reporters was the front lines. The biggest scoop. The ‘real stuff.’ Everything else - the local news, the small stories, the human interest pieces - they were just *soft* news. Good writing practice, but not important.

After my two months as an Editorial Intern, I couldn’t disagree more.

See, the thing most people forget about local news is that it’s the *only* news coverage small towns receive. There’s hardly ever any mention of small towns in the *Wisconsin State Journal*, not to mention national news sources. And if we are named in a big publication, it’s almost always for something negative: a terrible flood, a school shutting down, a scandalous crime case. Rarely do we get to see our home in the headlines - never do we get to see our joy, our triumphs, our happy stories.

Social media, like Facebook and Instagram, can show these stories as well. They’ve become an integral part of our small-town life. But our “What’s Happening in...” Facebook pages are still social media, susceptible to all the same hurtful tropes as TikTok: arguments in comment sections, accidental sharing of false news, spreading untrue rumors.

Simply put, there is no comparable outlet for the communication of stories - hon-

est, joyful, human, small stories - like local news, especially in the small towns we call home.

I came to local news with personal love of our community. I grew up here, went to school here, played sports here, made my friends here. I feel the joy on people’s faces at the Memorial Day parade. I see the frustration of residents sharing their thoughts at Town Hall meetings. I understand how a simple act like putting a kayak launch in a public park can transform a neighborhood’s entire summer. I hear the gratitude of tireless volunteers, finally seeing some media traction for their cause. I see how much it matters to have our stories told.

That’s what makes local news different - not because it’s smaller, softer, or less important. In some ways, I think covering local news is even more important than the ‘real stuff’, the big audience, big click stuff. Because local news isn’t meant for a big audience. It’s meant for each other.

Through this job, I’ve realized that I’m not jealous of my classmates’ impressive TV news gigs or national headlines. Sure, their resumes and LinkedIn’s might look a little cooler than mine, and they might have sat behind the same desk as Rachel Maddow. But when I think about the people I’ve met, the stories I’ve seen, and the way that our community comes together, I couldn’t be happier to be a local news intern.

Laina Gustafson,
Finger Publishing

Mounds View Mountaineers shine at Dane County Fair

**Dane Country Fair 2025
Springdale 4-H members
placings**

Harper Baldwin-Hart: Shooting Sports Archery Indoor Spots Jr 3rd gr-age 11, 10 yds Score 290 with 18Xs-Blue-**Grand Champion**, Air Pistol Shoot Jr 9-11 Score 38-White, Air Rifle Shoot Jr 8-11 Hunter Score 286-Blue- **Grand Champion Award**, Archery 3-D Jr 3rd grade Bowhunter Score 153-Blue **Grand Champion Award**, Wildlife Ecology Knowledge Challenge Jr 3rd grade 11 age Knowledge-Blue-**Grand Champion Award**

Levi Baldwin-Hart: Shooting Sports: Air Rifle Intermediate Hunter Class Score 320-Blue-**Reserve Champion Award**, Air Rifle Intermediate Sporter Class Score: 261-Blue-**Grand Champion Award**, .22 Rifle Intermediate Hunter Class Score 261-Blue-**Grand Champion**, Air Pistol Intermediate Score 127-Blue-**Grand Champion Award**, .22 Pistol Intermediate Score193-Blue-**Grand Champion Award**, Shotgun Senior Trap Score 37-Blue, Shotgun Senior Skeet Score 6-White, Indoor Archery Intermediate Bowhunter Score: 296 with 32Xs Blue-**Grand Champion Award**, 3D Archery Intermediate Bowhunter Score 170-Blue-**Grand Champion Award**, Wildlife Ecology Knowledge Challenge Intermediate-Blue- **Grand Champion Award**

Aimee Carr: Shooting Sports Archery Sr. (Age 15-19), 20 yards bowhunter Indoor-Blue, Archery 3-D Archery Bowhunter-Blue, Wildlife Ecology Knowledge Challenge Senior-Red

Delaney Chronister: **Dane County Fair Dairy** Senior Showmanship-Blue, Registered Holstein Winter Calf-White, Registered Holstein Fall Yearling-Blue; Flowers-Annual Arrangement, Miniature-Red, Annual Arrangement, Circular Arrangement-Blue-**Grand Champion Award**; Annual Arrangement-Bouquet of Mixed Flowers-Blue-**Reserve Champion**, Arrangement, purchased cut flowers-Blue, Petunia (cut flowers)-Red, Astilbe (cut flowers)-Red, Day Lily (cut flowers)-Red, Desert Garden-Blue-**Award of Merit**, Hanging Basket (petunias)-Red, Hanging Basket (any other flowering plant)-Blue, Patio Planter-Blue-**Grand Champion**; Clothing-Non-wearable quilted article (Quilt)-Blue-**Grand Champion**; Woodworking Article for Home (Bookcase)-Blue-**Judge’s Favorite-State**

Fair entry
Stoughton Fair: Dairy-Senior Showmanship-Blue, Registered Holstein Winter Calf-Red, Registered Holstein Fall Yearling-Blue, **Congeniality Award** awarded to the Dairy exhibitor who is kind, helpful, and displays a positive attitude towards the other exhibitors; Clothing-Non-wearable quilted article (Quilt)-Blue-**Award of Merit**; Woodworking-Article for Use in Home (Bookcase)-Blue-**Champion**; Flowers Hydrangea (cut flowers)-Blue-**Award of Merit**, Petunia (cut flowers)-Blue, Any other Annual (cut flowers)-Blue, Cut Flower Arrangement-Red

Wisconsin State Fair: Dairy Holstein class 19 yr old Dairy Showmanship-8th overall, Registered Holstein Winter Calf-10th, Registered Holstein Fall Yearling Heifer-12th; **Graduated from the Dane County 4-H Program** after an active history of showing & serving the Springdale 4-H Club

Dalton Corrigan: Shooting Sports Air Rifle shoot Jr. (age 8-11) Plinker-Blue; Archery Indoor Spots Jr. 3rd grade (Age 11) 10 yds Limited-Blue, Wildlife Ecology Knowledge Challenge-White; Swine Crossbred Market Barrow-Blue, Swine Showmanship Grade 3-4-Blue; Mechanical Projects Legos grade 3-7 vehicle kit-White, display building kit-White, any display kit-Red

Jackson Corrigan; Shooting Sports, Air Rifle shoot Jr (age 8-11) Plinker-Blue, Archery Indoor Spots Jr. 3rd Grade (Age 11) 10 yds Bowhunter-Blue, Wildlife Ecology Knowledge Challenge-Red; Swine Market Gilt Crossbred **Champion-Reserve Champion**, **5th Overall Market Hog**, Showmanship Grade 5-6-4th Blue; Mechanical Projects Legos gr 3-7 vehicle kit-Pink, building kit-Pink, any display kit-White

Preston Corrigan: Cloverbud Participation Ribbon My favorite hobby, Item made from kit,

Liam Crolla: Home Environment Grade 6-8 Creative Room Accessory wooden charcuterie board Blue-**Judge’s Favorite/State Fair Entry**; Foods & Nutrition Perishable & Baked goods Grade 7 yeast-ed bread-Blue; Food Preservation Grade 7+ strawberry freezer jam-Blue; Poultry chickens large Bird American Hen-Red, Showmanship Intermediate Grade 6-8-Blue; Woodworking Grade 7-8 Article for Home cutting board-Blue, End table-Blue;

Mechanical Projects Models Race Car-Blue

Kynan Darley: Poultry Chickens Large Birds Hen American-White, Hen English-White, Showmanship Poultry Junior Grade. 3-5-Blue-**Reserve Champion Award**

Ruah Franzmann-Simmer: Poultry Chickens Large Birds Hen American-Red, Hen English-White, Cock Continental-Red, Showmanship Poultry Senior Grade 9+-White

Henry Healy: Shooting Sports Wildlife Ecology Knowledge Challenge Senior Age 15-19-Red, Archery Indoor Spots Sr. Age 15-19 20 yds Barebow-Blue-**Reserve Champion Award**

Serenity Humphrey: Cultural Arts Diamond Art-Red; Scrapbooking Scrapbook pedal tractor pulling 8-12 pages-Blue; Home Environment Grades 3-5 Pillow Room Accessory-Blue; Mechanical Projects Legos grade 3-7-Red; Photography deer 8 x 10 color-Red, 8 X 10 color-Squirrel-White; Rabbits Showmanship-Red

Finn Judd: **Stoughton Fair** Dairy-Beginner Showmanship-Red, Registered Holstein Winter Calf-White; Farm Crops field Corn-Pink, Sheaf Forage Bale or Slice-White; Vegetables Potatoes-Blue; Woodworking Article for Kitchen or Living Room (Book Stand)-Blue

Dane County Fair Dairy-3rd Grade Showmanship-Blue, Registered Holstein Winter Calf-Red; Farm Crops Corn-Blue, Soybeans-Pink, Silage-Pink, Alfalfa Hay-White; Flowers Hanging Basket-Blue, Patio Planter-Blue-**Award of Merit**, Woodworking-Game (checker board)-Blue-**Grand Champion**; Article for use in Home (Book stand)-Blue

John-Henry Lee: Shooting Sports Intermediate Trap Age 12-14 Shotgun Shoot-Blue

Jasper Lokken: Cloverbud Item made from kit, Arts or crafts exhibit, Fruit or vegetable raised, Houseplant from cutting

Mathew Mahoney: Shooting Sports Indoor Archery-Red, Shot gun-senior trap-Blue-**Merit- Grand-Champion**; Flowers Foliage plant previous year-Blue-**Reserve Champion**, Foliage plant trailing-Blue, Foliage plant 3-previous year-Blue, Foliage plant this year-Blue, Coleus-Red, Hanging basket-any other

flowering-Blue-**Reserve Champion**, Hanging basket petunia-Blue, Hanging basket foliage-Blue, Patio planter-Red, Succulent-Blue, Hydrangea-Blue, Phlox-Red, Calla Lily-Red, Lily-Red, Bedding plant maintained in a pot-Blue, Potted vegetable-Blue

Sam McGinnity: Mechanical Projects Model Senior diorama of truck dealership-Red; Welding model tractor made from painted scrap metal pieces-Blue; Photography Grades 9+ Enlargement 8”x10” Scenery Color abandoned classic International truck in landscape-Red, Enlargement 8”x10” color Kenworth Semi-Blue, Multiple Photos 3 best color photos vintage car grilles-Blue-**Reserve Champion Award**, Multiple Photos 3 scenery color-Blue; Shooting Sports .22 Pistol Shoot Senior (age 15-19)-Red, .22 Rifle Shoot Hunt Rifle-Blue, Air Pistol Shoot-White, Air Rifle Shoot Hunter-Blue-**Champion Award**

- **Katrina Meinholz:** Flowers and Houseplants Any Other Perennial-White, Phlox-Blue, Calla Lily-Red, Tiger Lily-Blue, Hydrangea Stem-Blue, Any Other Plant-Blue, Any Flowering Previous Year-Red, Tuberous Begonia-Red, Impatiens-Red, Patio Planter 3-6 Plants-Red, Hanging Basket Bloom-Red, Single Succulent-Blue,Trailing Plant-Red, Any Other Annual-Blue, Zinnias Medium-Blue, Zinnias Dwarf-Blue, Snapdragon Spike-Blue-**Grand Champion**, Marigolds Small-Blue; Cultural Arts Acrylic Painting-Blue; Foods and Nutrition Heart Healthy Snack-Blue, Decorated Cupcakes-Red, Decorated Cookies-Blue; Home Environment Creative Centerpiece-Blue; Shooting sports Senior Indoor Archery 20yds-Red, 3D Archery 20yds-White, Senior Wildlife Ecology-Red; Photography 3 Photos Nature Color-White, 3 Best Photos B&W-Red, 3 Photos Scenery Color-Blue, 3 Photos Animal Color-Blue, 8x10 Animal Color-Blue, 8x10 Scenery Color-Blue; Swine Hampshire Barrow-Blue-**Grand Champion**, Senior Showmanship Swine-Red; Sheep Market Lamb-Red, Senior Showmanship Sheep-Blue-**Reserve Champion**

Leah Meinholz: Cultural Arts Colored Pencil Drawing-Blue, Watercolor Painting-Blue, Acrylics Painting-Blue; Flowers and Houseplants Snapdragon Spike-Blue, Purchased Cut Flowers, Circular Arrange-

ment-Red, Purchased Cut Flowers,Triangular Arrangement-Blue, Purchased Cut Flowers, Bouquet of Mixed Flowers-Blue, SIngle Succulent-Blue, Geranium-Blue, Impatiens-Blue, Tuberous Begonia-Blue, Any Other Begonia-Blue, Any Other Plant-Blue, Hydrangea Stem-Blue, Day Lily-Blue, Calla Lily-Blue; Foods and Nutrition Banana Bread-Red, Appetizer-Blue; Photography 8x10 Animal Color-Pink, 8x10 Scenery Color-Blue-**Merrit**, 3 Best Photos Color-Blue, 3 Photos Animal Color-Blue, 3 Relationship Animal & People Color-Blue, 3 Photos People Color-White, 3 Photos Animal B&W-Blue; Shooting Sports: Indoor Archery 15yds-Red, 3D Archery 15yds-Red, Intermediate Wildlife Ecology-White; Rabbits Pet Class Grade 7-8-Blue-**Reserve Champion**, Showmanship-Red; Sheep Market Lamb-Blue, Showmanship-Blue

Mackenzie Meinholz: Rabbits Pet Class grade 9+-Blue-**Reserve Champion**; Swine: Poland China Barrow-Blue-**Grand Champion**, X-Bred Gilt-Red, Showmanship Swine-Blue; Sheep Market Lamb-Blue (3rd in Class), Market Lamb-Blue (2nd in Class) Sheep Showmanship-Blue; Cultural Arts Ceramics-Blue, Wire Sculpture-Blue, Graphite Pencil Drawing-Blue, Wax Crayons Drawing-Red, Colored Pencil Drawing-Blue, Oil Crayons Drawing-Red, Any Other Medium Drawing-Blue, Watercolor Painting-Blue, Acrylic Painting-Blue; Leathercraft Multiple Surfaces-Blue-**Reserve Champion**; Flowers and Houseplants Marigolds Small-Red, Snapdragon Spike-Blue, Zinnias Medium-Blue, Any Other Annual Salvia-Blue, Hydrangea Stem-Blue, Daylily-Blue, Trumpet Lily-Red, Calla Lily-Blue, Phlox-Blue, Any Other Perennial Yarrow-White, Geranium-Blue, Impatiens-Blue, Begonia-Blue-**Grand Champion**, Any Flowering Previous Year Crown of Thorns-Blue-**Reserve Champion**, Coleus-Blue-**Grand Champion**, Single Succulent-Red, Patio Planter 3-6 plants-Blue, Purchased Cut Flowers Circular Arrangement-Blue, Purchased Cut Flowers Triangular Arrangement-Red, Purchased Cut Flowers Miniature Arrangement-White, Purchased Cut Flowers Bouquet of Mixed Flowers-Red, Any Other Plant Pothos-Blue-**Reserve Champion**; Foods and Nutrition Decorated Cookies-Blue, Deco-

rated Cupcakes-Blue; Home Environment Decorated Wastebasket-Blue, Room Accessory-Blue, Creative Room Accessory-Blue, Wall Accessory-Blue, Creative Wall Accessory-Blue, Creative Centerpiece-Blue, New Furniture Cat Tree-Blue-**Grand Champion**; Shooting Sports Indoor Archery 20yds-Blue, Archery 3D 20yds-Red, Senior Wildlife Ecology-Red; Natural Sciences Bird House-Red; Photography 3 Photos Relationship Animal & People Color-White, 3 Photos Animal Color-Red, 3 Photos People Color-Red, 3 Photos Animal B&W-Blue, 3 Photos Buildings Color-Blue, 8 x 10 Scenery or Landscape-White, 8 x 10 B&W Animal-Blue-**State Fair Selection Ribbon**

Ashlynn Ringgenberg: Participation Ribbon-Cloverbud Item made from kit Clay earrings, Photo display 4 photos, Art exhibit mini clay figurines, item made from wood Burnt shelf

Emma Ringgenberg: Dairy Registered Spring calf-White, Registered spring yearling-Red, Senior Showmanship-White; Woodworking something for the house wooden sign that says Home-Blue; Crops Corn-Red, Soybeans-White,1st crop hay-Red, Second crop hay-White; **Graduation from the Dane County 4-H & Springdale 4-H club** with history of a very active member.

Finn Rothenberg: Poultry Chickens Large Bird Continental Barnevelder pullet-Blue, Cross breed hen Red Earlobed-Blue, Asiatic Light Brahma Hen-Red, Intermediate Poultry Showmanship Grade 6-8-Blue-**Champion Award**; Photography Grades 6-8 Black and White animal enlargement 8 x10 Alligator-Blue, 8x 10 Animal Color-White; Woodworking Grades 7-8 Article for kitchen Cutting Board-Blue, Set of articles made in school Coasters-Blue

Alivia Shaffer: Cats Short Hair Female 12-84 months-White; Cultural Arts Fiber Art Tie dying, Hand-dipped-Blue, Any other fiber technique or combination,incl kit-Blue, Painting Acrylics-Blue, Painting Any other painting incl kit-Blue; Flowers & House Plants Foliage House Plant Any foliage same year grade 9+-Red; Foods & Nutrition Cake Decorated cupcakes Grade 7+-Blue, Cake Decorating Birthday cake Grade 7+-Blue-**Merit Award**; Home Environment



Levi Baldwin-Hart is pictured with the judge at the Archery Intermediate 3-D Bowhunter Competition **Grand Champion Award**, shooting sports events are held before the Dane County Fair week.



Harper Baldwin-Hart is pictured with the judge at his Junior 3rd grade 3-D Archery Bowhunter competition winning **Grand Champion Award**.



Eirinn Carr Shooting Sports Archery Age 15-19 3-D Bowhunter.



Preston Corrigan Cloverbud member My favorite Hobby Legos made from a kit.



Jackson Corrigan proudly showing off his Shooting sports target Junior Division.



Dalton Corrigan showing his Shooting Sports target in division 8-11 years old.



Liam Crolla exhibited Home Environment Grade 6-8 Wooden Charcuterie board which was the **Judge's Favorite** & an entry to the **Wisconsin State Fair**.



Kynan Darley 1st of showing is with the Judge with his Chicken project winning Blue.



Marc Stoddard Self-Determined Badger Boys State poster, GATERS Search and Rescue Team Display.



Henry Healy in Shooting Sports Archery Indoor Sports Senior Division 20 yards Barebow **Reserve Champion Award**.



Serenity Humphrey her first year of showing at the fair is displaying her many projects & awards.



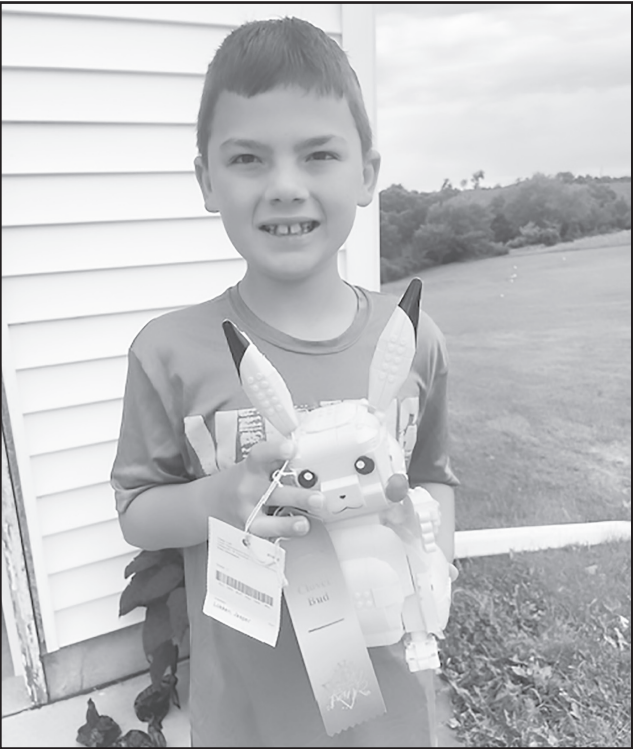
Finn Judd displayed woodworking game checker board received **Grand Champion**.



Delaney Chronister Stoughton Fair award for her last year of showing in the Dairy class was awarded the **Congeniality Award** to an exhibitor who is kind, helpful, & displays a positive attitude towards the other exhibitors.



Delaney Chronister entered this Quilt under Non-Wearable quilted articles was awarded **Grand Champion** at Dane County Fair & received **Award of Merit** Stoughton Fair.



Cloverbud member Jasper Locken is proudly showing off his Item from a kit Pikachu Lego Set.



Kate Stevens showed at the Stoughton Fair in Cloverbud class her art projects.



Delaney Chronister is pictured with the woodworking article Bookcase awarded **Judge's Favorite** & a **Wisconsin State Fair Entry** at Dane County Fair & received **Champion** at Stoughton Fair.



Springdale Dairy Group Emma Ringgenberg, Finn Judd, & Delaney Chronister.



Mathew Mahoney is pictured with his awards in shooting sports Shot Gun-Senior trap shooting a perfect score of 50 out to 50 receiving **Merit-Grand-Champion Award**.



Calvin Stevens showed at the Stoughton Fair in Cloverbud class is displaying his paper article & model rocket.



Parents Andrew & Katie Judd will remember this year as this is the only year their 2 child Finn & Delaney will be showing together & this was the only class of Registered Holstein Winter Calf where both were in the ring at the same time.



Alivia Shaffer decorated a Birthday Cake Gr 7+ received **Merit Award**.



Gwen Mahoney, former member of the Springdale 4-H club, was selected as the official **Ambassador of the Dane County Fair 2025**. The Dane County Fairest of the Fair represents & promotes the Fair at events throughout Dane County & beyond, including area parades, festivals, community events, & the Wisconsin State Fair. Gwen will represent Dane County at the Wisconsin Association of Fairs Convention & participates in the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs competition. To add to her achievements Gwen applied & was awarded the highest 4-H award, the **Key Award**. Gwen is now continuing her 4-H connection as an Adult leader for the Springdale 4-H Club.



Friday of the Dane County Fair is Kids Day with many hands-on projects for kids who visit the Fair. One of the events is the Petal Tractor Pull Serenity Humphrey competed in the event (pictured on the tractor).



Jasper Locken (blue shirt) pictured with Fairest of the Fair also competed in the Petal Tractor pull event the event was for Ages 4-12 participants tried their strength. Trophies were awarded in age categories.



4-H members can work at another shift of the 4-H Potato stand washing the potatoes before they are baked. Kynan Darley (9) is working the shift showing his sister Perrin (6) how the potatoes are washed.



First time rabbit exhibitor Serenity Humphrey was helped with a practice showing with Springdale 4-H rabbit members Mackenzie, Leah & Becky Meinholz.

FAIR

continued from page 3

Grades 9+Tied Fleece Blanket-Blue; Flower Arrangement artificial flowers-Red, Any other project-Blue; Photography Grades 9+ Multiple Photos 3 best color photos-Red, Multiple Photos 3 sports color-Red

Elliot Steinich: Cloverbud Display My Grandpa's Tractors, Painting-Sunset Ocean & Mountains, Display Rock Tumbling, Care of Animals My Dog, My Favorite Hobby Lego House

Kate Stevens: Stoughton Fair-Cloverbud drawing or painting-white, Art project-Red

Calvin Stevens: Stoughton Fair-Cloverbud paper article-Red, Model Rocket-Red

Marc Stoddard: Youth Leadership Project & Self Determined Projects-Educational poster Youth Leadership Badger Boys State poster-Blue, GATERS Search and Rescue Team Display-Blue

Springdale 4-H Club entries: Booths Club Collage-Blue, Copy of club newsletters-Blue, Report National 4-H Week-Red, Booth 4-H Endowment Grant-Red, Dane County Fair Clean Barn Dairy 1-2 members-Blue, Swine Clean Barn-White, Clean barn Sheep-Blue, **Stoughton Fair** Dairy Group Clean Barn-Blue



2025 Dane County Fair Rabbit & Cavy departments held a rabbit/cavy drawing to increase exhibitor numbers for the future fairs. If you received an animal during the raffle you have to show the rabbit at the 2026 fair. Mackenzie & Leah Meinholz entered the drawing & are pictured with rabbits received. A wide variety of different breeds were donated, a form (signed by parents & exhibitors) committing themselves & the animal to showing at the 2026 Dane County Fair. Many exhibitors have been showing in the Pet class & now can show in the breed class with this event offered to exhibitors.



At the awards program on Sunday at the Dane County Fair Finn Judd (1st yr) & Delaney Chronister (last showing year) received trophies for their Woodworking projects pictured with Fairest of the Fair Gwen Mahoney.



Elliot Steinich is pictured with the Cloverbud project of Painting Sunset Ocean & Mountains.



Leah, Mackenzie & Katrina Meinholtz group is showing off the awards & some of the many projects they exhibited at the Dane County Fair. Mackenzie had a Photo 8 x10 B&W Animal-Blue-**State Fair Selection Ribbon**.



Dane County 4-H this year had a new Bake Potato stand, members & adults are required to work a shift, the profit goes to financing 4-H Scholarships, 4-H Camp & events to support enrolled 4-H members. Pictured back (L to R) Brad Meinholz, Mathew Mahoney, Mackenzie Meinholz, Alivia Shaffer, (front) Jasper & Lori Locken.



Friday at 1 PM the Little Shepherds show was held for youth (4 yrs-2nd grade). Little Shepherd (Perrin Darley) are escorted by Youth Exhibitor (Leah Meinholz & her lamb NITRO). The little Shepherds are encouraged to wear a wool item (her outfit was made of wool by her grandmother & a scarf for the sheep) Sheep are haltered during the event. The event lets the young kids get the feeling of being in the show ring & they were asked questions by the Fairest of the Fair Gwen Mahoney.



Springdale Poultry Group from (L to R) Ruah Fransmann-Simmer, Finn Rothenberg, Kynan Darley, & Liam Crolla.



Sam McGinnity is showing his Photography project of 3 best color photos vintage car grilles where he received **Reserved Champion Award**.

Gleanings

By **BARB JOHNSON**
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- Sept. 16, 1885

The work lately finished on Rev. Syftestad’s parsonage received inspection last Saturday by the building committee who agreed to accept the job.

The once famous “Hopeful Gypsy,” owned by Mrs. Sjuggen, died last Thursday, after having gained for himself and his owner immense honors and a worldwide reputation.

G. R. Fryer presented at this office a mammoth apple of good variety, which weighs 12 ounces and measures 13 inches in circumference. Never has an editor set tooth into a sweeter apple.

Mazo is talking about an electric light. Wonder if another ghost has been seen.--Observer.

130 Years Ago- Sept. 19, 1895

The laying of the corner stone and dedication of the Springdale Lutheran Church last Sunday was, as anticipated, largely attended despite the rainy weather and muddy roads.

J.P Moe has been in church more than any man in Mt. Horeb this year; possibly this accounts for the fact that he gives such good bargains on organs. Should any one of our readers contemplate the purchasing of an instrument, we think it would be well to get Mr. Moe’s prices before placing an order elsewhere.

The corpse of a woman arrived here last Monday on the west-bound passenger, the wife of Geo. Gyles of Madison. The corpse was taken to Moscow, her former home, for burial. Her maiden name was Hulda Matilda Paulson. There is said to be some mystery connected with her death.

120 Years Ago- Sept. 14, 1905

The high school opened here with 62 members, about half the number are from outside the district.

Plasterers are at work on H. Haakenes’ new house. Matson Bros. are doing the work.

The school board is having a new ventilating system placed in the building.

N.K. Sorenson, Springdale, left Saturday to attend the Farmers National congress, which meets this year in Richmond, Va.

Mrs. H. H. Holte returned home Saturday, well as could be expected after the severe ordeal she has passed through on her outing. She was able to attend church on Sunday and her many friends are pleased to know she is regaining her usual good health.

The party who took the road scraper from the Erby schoolhouse will kindly return same soon as possible, as I am responsible for the return of same. P.E. Mael.

The members of the Minerva Literary society, after their usual summer vacation, met again last week at the home of their successful president (Mrs. Sholts) to take up their literary work for the coming year.

120 Years Ago- Sept. 17, 1915

Main Street was opened to traffic Saturday and it was a great relief especially to the tourists as our by-ways were not easy roads to travel and often led the travelers in the wrong direction.

Miss Edna Lewis is preparing to qualify for a position at the switchboard at telephone central and will undoubtedly become an efficient operator.

It sounds city-like to hear the pattering of horses’ hoofs on the pavement.

Read over the speed ordinance as republished in another column

of the paper and govern yourself accordingly.

Brattrud Sisters Millinery display day was Wednesday of this week and we are told that the styles shown were many and beautiful.

A community club will most likely be organized next week, plan to be at the meeting next Thursday evening at the village hall, not only business men, but farmers also.

Several of the older citizens called to remind the flood of 1882, called the Giteau flood, which was the high water mark for this territory. The water last night was between two and three feet higher than the record of 1882. Isaac Shammann, then of Montrose and now of Evansville, lost 250 sheep.

A 14-hour rain fell over the vicinity Sunday causing much damage and destruction. Rainfall of about six-inches caused flooding of valleys, taking fences, bridges, stock and building. The Lake Park dam gave way, as did the mill dam at Mt. Vernon and Stoughton, and the railroad tracks near Klevenville were washed out.

100 Years Ago- Sept. 15, 1925

Many people are wondering if the collection of the gasoline tax is giving the treasury department any great deal of trouble. State Treasurer Levitan say not. Quite a nice little sum of money and thousands of it coming from tourists and other non-tax payers.

Martin Field has the championship this year for the tallest corn as he had a stalk on display at Dahle’s corner that measured 14 feet and 4 inches. The stalk is so high that Tom Syvrud could hardly reach the top without a step ladder.

Isaac Komplin of the Mt. Horeb Mill Works, has taken the agency for the Crescentyne Radio receiving set and is ready to demonstrate their good qualities to anyone at the Mill Works or in your own home. This is certainly a dandy

set, beauty as well as having excellent tonal qualities, selectivity, distance, volume and ease of operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Haag are the proud parents of boy number five, born Saturdy, Sept. 12.

G. M. Ranum of the Daffodil Beef Farm, won second prize on honey at the State Oil. This award was in the quality class and this together with other prizes on several other entries made Mr. Ranum the winner of \$35.00 in premiums.

Earl Jewell, lightweight champion still holds his total after meeting Dan Brown here last Tuesday evening.

Strayed into my yard: known as the Brattrud farm, 6 yearling calves. Owner my have same by paying for their feed and this ad. Harry Tashon, Mount Horeb. Phone 78 R 9.

80 Years Ago- Sept. 13, 1945

The Mount Horeb Public Schools opened on Monday, Sept. 4, with a total enrollment of 490. Of this number 265 are enrolled in the high school; and 225 in the grades.

Mrs. C.A. Sorenson is teaching home economics in the Black Earth High School until a permanent teacher is available.

J.L. Weltzin has sold the Alma Hustad farm adjoining Mount Horeb, to Stacy Collins, Blue Mounds; and the Frank Goebel farm, town of Perry, to Sanford Gilbertson.

60 Years Ago- Sept. 16, 1965

A four-yard pass from Jeff Heible to Denny Rundle with 1:07 remaining placed Mount Horeb High School’s football team on the short end of 12-7 margin in their battle with arch rival Dodgeville here Friday night. They meet Platteville here Friday night.

The Tvedt reunion with Mr. and

Mrs. E.J. Morhoff as hosts, was held Sunday at the Morhoff farm. This was the first time all the 13 brothers and sisters had been together since 1930.

New teachers in the Mount Horeb school include: Bill Marty, Mrs. Anita Jabs, Richard Zimmer, Mrs. Ruth Baumeister and Donald Julson.

50 Years Ago- Sept. 11, 1975

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society will hold its first annual meeting tonight at the Masonic Club room.

Nicole’s Restaurant will be preparing the meals for the Meals-On-Wheels program beginning Monday.

Nancy Jean Zweifel and David Paul Bergey were united in marriage Saturday, Aug. 16 in Madison.

A daughter, Adriene Carol, was born to Lt. and Mrs. Keith Bakken of Hopkinsville, Ky., on Friday, Sept. 5.

The barn on the Russell Magnuson farm was destroyed by fire Monday evening. The 32 head of cattle were let out before the blaze went out of control.

20 Years Ago- Sept. 22, 2005

Forest Adolph Johnson, 91, of Mount Horeb, died on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2005 at U.W. Hospital in Madison, as a result of an automobile accident.

Beckham John Retzlaff is the name chosen by Coleman and Shelby Retzlaff of Mount Horeb for their son born Saturday, Aug. 27, 2005 at Meriter Hospital. George D. Board, 94, of Mount Horeb died Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2005 at Ingleside Nursing Home. He was the first World War II veteran to be commander of Frank E. Malone Post #113 of the American Legion.

Mount Horeb Utilities Offers Grants for Local Organizations

Mount Horeb Utilities is again offering grants to local non-profit organizations. Five \$500 grants are available in 2025 for any non-profit organization located in Mount Horeb that serves the Mount Horeb community at large. Applications are due Friday, October 31 and will be considered by the Mount Horeb Utilities Commission at their November 11, 2025 meeting. Application forms are available at the utility office in the Municipal Building, 138 E Main St, or on the Mount Horeb Utilities website, mounthorebutilities.com.

‘Exercises for gardeners’

On Tuesday, October 7, Ian Connors will be presenting on *Exercises for Gardeners*. Ian is a Physical Therapist at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Madison.

This physical therapist-led program will teach techniques to prevent injuries, ease pain, and boost mobility for gardeners. Participants will explore customized exercises and ergonomic approaches to strengthen, stretch, and move with ease during gardening tasks. Please wear clothes that will allow you to participate in some stretching exercises that may give you long-term benefits.

The club meets monthly, every first Tuesday,



Connors

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 2nd 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 of charge. The program will be followed by a business meeting of the Mound Vue Garden Club. If you are interested in gardening and local community service and outreach, contact Gloria Davies at jrdgrdquilt@mhtc.net about club membership.



Cub Scout Pack to host free carnival at Grundahl

Mount Horeb Pack 62 Cub Scouts invites all kids in grades K - 5 to their free Cub Carnival at Grundahl Park on Sunday, September 21st, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. They will have a climbing wall, a bounce house and games hosted and run by Mt. Horeb Scouts BSA Troop 62.

Hands All Around Quilters give to local groups



Amy Foster from Hands All Around (HAA) presented a check to Janna Hansen and volunteer, Matthew, with Neighbors Helping Neighbors.



Foster also presented a check to the PFLAG Committee: Sue Huntenberg, Pastor Becky Rokitowsky and Brooke Running.



Sue Retzlaff from HAA presented a check to Lt Josh Jarvis and Officer Sam Koeller. They so appreciated the donation towards having a service dog in 2026.



Retzlaff also presented a check to The Giving Tree Committee (now a division of Neighbors Helping Neighbors), Jessica Killingbeck, Traci Jones, Lori Werbeckes and Leonor Munoz.



Hands All Around Quilting Group drew one of Mt. Horeb's own, Sandy Stensby, for the raffle quilt winner at the summer Art Fair. Photos contributed.



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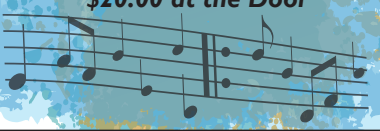
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Vets come together for monthly meal



Local veterans gather on the first of the month for a free meal at the Red Mouse, located at 3738 County Road P. People make donations at the Red Mouse to support the events. Photos by John Berryman.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 Mt. Horeb Seniors lunch outing to Imperial Gardens, Middleton, leave 10:30am. Call 608-437-6902 for Reservations Presentation by Premier World Discovery Tours, for upcoming travel ideas and tours, 1:30pm, Senior Center Farmers Market, ELC lawn - 300 block East Main Street, 3:00-6:30pm	History of Cheesemaking in Dane County, 6:00pm, Driftless Historium hosted by Paul Vassalotti. Free - all are welcome. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 Mt. Horeb Food Pantry and Clothes Closet open 9:00-10:30am and 3:00-4:30pm. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 Mt. Horeb Food Pantry and Clothes Closet open 10:00-11:30am.	Mt. Horeb Seniors Brat & Bake sale, Miller and Sons Lot., 10:00am-2:00pm. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 Mt. Horeb Pack 62 Cub Scouts invites all kids in grades K-5 to free Cub Carnival at Grundahl Park from 1:00-4:00pm to enjoy climbing wall, bounce house, and games and learn about the Pack and the adventure of scouting. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22	Table Tennis, all levels, casual and friendly atmosphere for playing. 10:00 am Senior Center TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 Bald Eagles & other raptors, explore past and present issues in conservation. For ages 18 plus., No registration needed. Mt. Horeb Public Library. 1:00pm. Info: 608-437-9021 Tai Chi, 1:00pm, Senior Center Ageless Grace Chair Exercises, 2:00pm, Senior Center	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 Blood Pressure Check, 10:00-11:00am- Senior Center Euchre, Senior Center, 12:30pm 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 hours a day. "Take what you need, share what you can."
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Saturday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m.
Join bestselling authors Annelise Ryan (A Death in Door County) and Christine DeSmet (First-Degree Fudge)
Free tickets available at KismetBooks.com/Events


GardenWallBookshop.com
101 N Main St
Verona, WI 53593

MOUNDS

continued from page 1

Trustee Jeff Lange claimed cars often bottom out coming from Church Street and turning onto Division Street because of the slope.

Engineer Nick Bubolz said he could look into it.

Bubolz told the village board the project is completed, the village just needs to make the payment. He said the project is costing about \$20,000 more than originally estimated.

Former village president Audra Anderson, who stepped down from the board last year, criticized the board for the added cost and asked if they had a sound process for evaluating costs.

Village president Paul Baum said \$20,000 is a small fraction of a project worth over a million, so he was “pretty impressed” the

contractor stayed within estimated costs especially with variables these projects often run into.

Anderson also spoke during public comment and claimed Village Clerk Mary Jo Michek violated open records laws because she didn’t send Anderson a video of the July 9 meeting.

Michek explained that she spoke with the security company and learned the data was overridden because the camera recorders loop recordings every few days, which is why she denied Anderson’s request.

“I’m happy to get a statement from him anytime saying it is overriding,” Anderson said.

In the president’s report, Baum said there had been more crashes recently and the Department of Transportation is going to conduct a new study.

Resident Sue Kiry inter-

rupted Baum and asked if the information could go on the website, suggesting a “coming soon” note because of the alleged dangerous crashes that have happened.

Baum responded the village will provide updates once he hears more from DOT. He said he has “zero information other than they [DOT] are going to tell us.”

Kiry protested again and said “we need to get it out there now.”

The board also approved a request for a zoning change from Matthew Nortman, who wanted to redefine lots behind the properties on Highway F.

Nortman said the properties extend back into unbuildable areas and he wanted to zone three acres as residential and another 4.4 acres as agricultural.

SEPTEMBER

At the Blue Mounds

Village Board’s September meeting, resident Matt Heindl complained about the Church and Division Street intersection, while the board again approved a payment decision for a project in that area.

Jim Goldsmith noted the issue of cars bottoming out at that intersection.

“It’s pretty apparent that something needs to be done there,” Goldsmith said.

The village approved the final payment for the project on Division and South Street. Village board member Jeff Lange said the Church and Division intersection is “not ok.”

“Anyone who wants to turn that and not get rocked in their vehicle needs to drive at literally two miles an hour,” Lange said.

The board voted to approve the final payment with the assumption there would be remediation for that inter-

section.

The board also approved the budget for Fire and EMS.

Chief Jenny Minter said calls have been up 16 percent in the last year, and 80 percent in the last five years.

Minter said the fire and EMS budget would increase to add some daytime support staff when volunteers aren’t around. She added the department has seen continued enthusiasm from volunteers.

The village board considered other options for the upcoming budget.

First, the board approved a change in insurance for village staff. The cost of insurance was expected to go up 11 percent in the coming year, so board members voted to knock down the level of insurance to make it only a four percent increase.

Village President Paul Baum said the board should consider ways to cut budget-

ing. Baum said the village was looking at a little over \$100,000 added cost with plans to hire a potential second police officer.

Baum said the village could bring in some revenue from cutting staff office hours and potential added revenue from tickets from an additional police officer. But, to break even, Baum said they may need to consider small cuts in the capital budget or general budget.

Board members also heard from Gary and Laurie Rowley with a request to re-zone an empty area on South Street from commercial to multi-family.

The board favored the idea to increase potential for housing in an undeveloped area. The land is currently just grass and trees according to the board. Gary Rowley said they plan to put in duplexes and other multi-family units.

DOGS

continued from page 1

Farms is located, spoke in support of the postponement, as well. Downing, who represents much of rural Mount Horeb, also provided some of his thoughts on the issue.

“This Resolution is based on a ‘probable cause’ determination made after a court hearing at which Ridglan Farms was not allowed to participate,” said Downing. “Ridglan asserts that they exceed the Animal Welfare Act standards of the United States Department of Agriculture.”

“Our District Attorney Ismael Ozanne did not prosecute Ridglan for animal mistreatment,” Downing continued. “He did file a complaint against the 2017 Ridglan Farm intruders. He later dismissed that upon Ridglan’s request, its reason being concern for the welfare of their employees and business. Meanwhile, Ridglan has now filed suit against several activists alleging they’ve caused financial damage to its business.”

“A Special Prosecutor, Tim Gruenke, District Attorney of LaCrosse County, has been appointed and is working on the mistreatment case,” Downing continued. “While this legal process is proceeding, I believe we should allow it to function. If there is a valid reason to restrict Ridglan operations, it will happen.”

“Here’s what the local

folks have had to say,” Downing concluded. “In the November 6, 2018 General Election Mount Horeb included, as a binding referendum, a question to declare by ordinance that an operation such as Ridglan is a public nuisance, offending public morals and decency. After vigorous campaigning by all sides of the issue, 59 percent of the Village electorate rejected it. It appears to me that when people are fully informed about the situation, they support animal medical research.”

Despite the board’s postponement on September 4, the County Board Chair Patrick Miles indicated that those who still wished to give testimony on the agenda item that night instead of waiting until the October 23 meeting of the Executive Committee – when it will next appear – were welcome to do so.

Those who spoke in support of the resolution included Amy van Aartsen, Scarlet Strakova, Steffen Seitz, Lawrence Cuneaz, Ryan Blum, Jennifer Jones, and Dawn Eberhardt.

Those who spoke in opposition to the resolution included Becky Rokitowski and Eric McLeod (representing Ridglan Farms).

The resolution asks that the dogs living at Ridglan Farms be confiscated and placed “in custodial care during [the] ongoing investigation.”

But the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

(DATCP) has released a statement saying it “is committed to enforcing laws under its jurisdiction and will take appropriate action to address noncompliance in accordance with our statutory authority.”

“In response to Dane County Board Resolution 119, which urges DATCP to take custody of dogs housed at Ridglan Farms, it’s important to clarify that DATCP does not have the legal authority to seize animals,” said DATCP. “Decisions related to animal welfare violations fall under local jurisdiction. If Dane County officials believe conditions at the facility violate Chapter 951 of Wisconsin law, which governs crimes against animals, they have the authority necessary to act.”

2025 RES-119 states: “[B]ased on the findings of probable cause of criminal animal cruelty by the Dane County Circuit Court, the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls on DATCP to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the animals at Ridglan Farms by immediately revoking Ridglan Farms’ commercial dog breeder license and placing the dogs currently located at the facility in the custodial care of the State of Wisconsin while the ongoing investigations of animal cruelty allegations are conducted and completed.”

The resolution also states: “Ridglan Farms, a Wisconsin-based company founded in 1966 and located in Dane

County, breeds beagles primarily for scientific research. The facility houses roughly 3,000 dogs and has been subject to scrutiny regarding animal welfare and compliance with state laws governing the treatment of animals.”

“Two animal advocate groups, Dane4Dogs and Alliance for Animals, petitioned the Dane County Circuit Court to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate allegations that Ridglan Farms, Inc. violated Wisconsin’s animal cruelty laws,” the resolution continued. “On January 9, 2025, the Dane County Circuit Court found probable cause that Ridglan Farms committed criminal acts, including the mutilation of dogs’ vocal cords and cherry eye surgeries without anesthesia or veterinary supervision, in violation of Wisconsin Statutes § 951.02 and 19 § 951.14. Dane County Circuit Court Judge Rhonda Lanford ordered the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate allegations of criminal animal cruelty offenses and inhumane treatment in violation of Wisconsin’s animal cruelty laws.”

The draft resolution continues: “Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) also has been investigating charges of animal cruelty in violation of Wis. Stats. §951 at Ridglan Farms. Per Wis. Stats.

§173.41(5), DATCP may, ‘by written notice, without prior notice or hearing, suspend a license issued under §173.41(5) if, upon inspection of the licensed premises, the department finds any condition that imminently threatens the health, safety, or welfare of any animal on the licensed premises or there is evidence that an act of animal cruelty in violation of Ch. 951 has been committed by the licensee or has occurred on the licensed premises.”

“To date, DATCP has not taken action to revoke Ridglan Farms’ facility breeding license,” the resolution continues. “However, their inspection reports as late as September 2024 found deficiencies in the care of the animals’ welfare. On March 5, 2025, the DATCP Disciplinary Counsel for Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board petitioned the board to suspend Ridglan Farms’ staff veterinarian’s license. Concerned residents and animal advocates are now calling on the Dane County Board of Supervisors to act to safeguard the welfare of

voiceless animals and the approximately 3,000 dogs at Ridglan Farms that are the subject of criminal animal cruelty allegations currently under investigation by both a special prosecutor and the State of Wisconsin.”

The resolution is just the latest chapter in a saga that has unfolded over the course of many years, from a failed voter referendum that animal rights activists put on the ballot in the Village of Mount Horeb, which is not where Ridglan Farms is located, back in 2018, to a recent courtroom drama that is still far from over.

On January 9 of this year, Circuit Judge Rhonda Landford issued an order to launch an investigation after listening to testimony from animal rights activists and attorneys at an all-day hearing on Oct. 23 of 2024. The October hearing was held without Ridglan or the District Attorney’s office being allowed to cross examine the six witnesses who testified, and Ridglan’s defense team was not permitted to give its side of the story during the proceedings on that day.

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TAXES

continued from page 1

dollars while the tax rate (the gross taxes collected for every \$1,000 of equalized value on a local home) falls. In other words, the total taxes collected and the

tax rate do not always run in tandem.

For example, back in 1984, Mount Horeb collected \$20 for every \$1,000 of equalized value on a local home. In 1992 the rate rose to its highest point ever, more than \$32. In 2024,

Mount Horeb’s tax rate was \$16 for every \$1,000 of equalized value.

Thanks for reading the paper!

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Obituary

Elizabeth Marie
(Greve) Julson
July 6, 1956-
September 2, 2025



Florida/Wisconsin. Elizabeth was born on July 6, 1956 and passed away on September 2, 2025, age 69, at the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital in Vero Beach, Florida. She grew up in rural Mt. Horeb, WI and loved being outdoors, riding

her horses and mowing the expansive lawn. During her teenage years she did some skiing at nearby Tyrol Basin. She graduated from Mt. Horeb High School in 1974 and spent a year attending UW Oshkosh. As an adult Elizabeth enjoyed reading, gardening, and even being outdoors in the snow, whether shoveling/blowing snow, making snow angels, or jumping into show drifts! Elizabeth married Brian Lee Julson, Sr. on July 19, 1980. They had one son, Brian Lee Julson, Jr. on September 19, 1981. For several years she worked at the popular rural Mt. Horeb restaurant, The Homestead, that her parents opened in the farmhouse where she grew up. Subsequently she was employed

for 18 years at American Family Insurance in Madison, first at the call center and then in the Glass Department as a Claims Technician. She retired in 2016. Growing up, Elizabeth attended Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mt. Horeb and later was a member of the Bristol Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie, WI. She loved the Lord and believed in Him with her whole heart. Her faith was a large part of her life. She taught Sunday School and Confirmation while at Bristol. Her favorite song was Beautiful Savior. Survivors include her brother, Steven Greve, Vero Beach, FL, sister, Susan Speth (Fred Brown), Cambridge, WI, nephew Robert Speth (Kristen) and their

children Jacqueline and Russell, Denver, CO, and nephew Andrew Greve, Austin TX, nieces Tammy (Tim) Pirkel of Watertown and their children Jena, Cassy, Trey and Karissa, and Jan Julson of Watertown. She was preceded in death by her parents, Russell and Frances (Gent) Greve, her husband, Brian in 2012 from cancer, her son Brian, Jr. in 2021 from complications of M.S., and her sister-in-law Marcia Greve from cancer. At Elizabeth's request, there will be no service or celebration of life. The family was served by the Lowther Funeral Home, Vero Beach, FL. Elizabeth's ashes will be buried with her husband and son at the German Valley Cemetery, Blue Mounds, WI at a future date.

Exec. Agard Recognizes September as Suicide Prevention Month

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard last week joined communities across the nation in observing September as Suicide Prevention Month, emphasizing the power of accessible mental health supports. This September, the County reaffirms its commitment to preventing suicide through strengthened programs and partnerships, and urges residents to remember: 988 is here to help 24 hours a day, every day. "In Dane County, we're committed to meeting people with open hearts, trusted services, and genuine care," said County Executive Agard. "This Suicide Prevention Month, we want every resident to know that help is real, hope is possible,

and reaching out is the first step." Behavioral Health Resource Center (BHRC) The BHRC continues to serve as a compassionate, inclusive, and free resource hub for mental health and substance use support. Staffed by a Resource Navigation Team, BHRC offers person- and family-centered assistance. Whether by phone, email, or in-person drop in, residents can receive help navigating services, peer support, and ongoing outreach. BHRC speaks multiple languages and offers peer-delivered short-term support to guide people toward healing and stability. 24-Hour Crisis & Suicide Prevention Hotline

Dane County, through the Department of Human Services, maintains a 24/7 crisis and suicide prevention hotline at (608) 280-2600, operated by Journey Mental Health Center's Emergency Services Unit. Assistance is available any time of day or night. This line serves people of all ages in crisis. Suicide Prevention & Harm Reduction through Safe Communities Dane County supports community collaboration through the Suicide Prevention & Harm Reduction Coalition, a network of providers, advocates, first responders, and community members. 988: Compassionate Help Anytime, Anywhere

County Executive Agard urges everyone to remember the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. This is a free, confidential 24/7 resource for emotional health and safety. Trained counselors are available to help.

CHURCH NOTES

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Immanuel Lutheran - ELCA
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www.newhopeefc.org
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Perry Lutheran Church ELCA
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608-437-5294
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www.perrylutheranchurchelca.org
Springdale Lutheran Church
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Rev. Robert Butz- Parish Administrator
St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
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Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am
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1693 Washington St. Verona
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MOUNT HOREB-BARNEVELD 45, WATERTOWN 13

Hendrickson, Vikings rout Goslings

MH-B's quarterback accounts for five TDs

by DAN LARSON
Sports Reporter

Now you see him, now you don't.

Brooks Hendrickson didn't pull a rabbit out of his helmet, or otherwise wave a wand to wow the crowd in last Friday night's Badger Conference cross-over game against Watertown.

But the left-handed senior quarterback did put on a magic act as far as the Goslings were concerned, using sleight of hand — the read option — to rush for 126 yards and three touchdowns on just six carries, leading his Mount Horeb-Barneveld Vikings to a convincing 45-13, non-conference win over the Goslings at Mount Horeb High School.

"You could tell with their eyes — if I see their eyes looking at the running back at all, I'm like, 'I'm taking this,'" Hendrickson said of his decision to pull the ball and keep it himself on those six occasions. "I think it's pretty funny to watch back

on film on the sideline. They have four guys on (running back) Jack (Wilson) and I'm untouched up the sideline."

Hendrickson was a very efficient 6-of-8 passing for 128 yards and three more TD's, accounting for all six of the Vikings' scores on the night.

"He came out of the gate and said, 'I'm a D1 quarterback and I'm going to act like it.' That's exactly what we need from him," MH-B coach Bret St. Arnaud said of the 6-foot-3, 200-pound Hendrickson, who has committed to the University of North Dakota. "We need him to take control like that and be that guy."

"If he can be that guy week in and week out, we'll have a shot in every game we play."

Because Hendrickson was that guy in Week 4, Watertown had no shot in this contest.

MH-B won its third straight game and improved to 3-1, while the Goslings fell to 1-3.

After MHB's opening

drive went three-and-out, the Vikings proceeded to score on every remaining possession they had in the first half.

It started with a 38-yard TD run by Hendrickson up the right sideline to make it 6-0 with 4 minutes, 52 seconds left in the first quarter. Eli Maier ran it straight up the middle for the 2-point conversion, giving MH-B an 8-0 lead.

Watertown did threaten on its ensuing drive when quarterback Davis Cashin beat MH-B's blitz on third-and-8 from the Goslings' 22-yard-line and found a wide open Brady Cane up the right sideline for a long gain into the red zone.

But that play was negated by an ineligible player downfield penalty, backing the Goslings up to their 6-yard-line. Watertown was eventually forced to punt, giving the Vikings great field position at Watertown's 33-yard-line.

On the very first play of the drive, Hendrickson dumped it off to tight

continued on page 16



Mount Horeb-Barneveld quarterback Brooks Hendrickson ran for three touchdowns and threw for two more against Watertown last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo spikers split a pair

Vikings top Portage, fall to Sauk Prairie

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's girls volleyball team split a pair of matches last week.

The Vikings dropped a five-set thriller to Sauk Prairie on Sept. 9. Mount Horeb then rebounded and defeated Portage, 3-0, on Sept. 11.

Here's a recap of the Vikings' week:

• **Sauk Prairie 3, Mount Horeb 2** — The host Eagles rallied for a 23-25, 25-23, 16-25, 25-22, 16-14 win.

The Vikings entered the match ranked No. 7 in Division 2 by the Wisconsin

Volleyball Coaches Association, while the Eagles were ranked No. 5.

"The match completely lived up to the billing," Vikings coach Josh Smelzer said. "As coaches, we were greeted by Sauk fans on several occasions on our way out saying things like, 'I've been coming to games for 25 years and this was one of the best matches I've ever seen!' I think the girls won the respect of many people that night, even though they didn't win."

Ella Kahl had 14 kills and six digs to lead the Vikings, while Lalia Rasmus

continued on page 15



Aliyah Thompson and Mount Horeb's girls volleyball team split a pair of matches last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



Desmond Kelley (left), Nate Sherven and Mount Horeb’s cross country team competed at the Spring Green Invite last Saturday. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo runners fare well at River Valley Invite

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls cross country team finished in ninth place at the River Valley Invitational on Sept. 13.

Madison West won the meet with 70 points, while Monroe (82), McFarland (119), Waunakee (124) and Middleton (130) rounded out the top five.

The Vikings finished with 260 points.

“Our girls had a solid day,” Mount Horeb coach Dave Chancellor said. “We held out five of our top seven girls for this meet, so this was a fun opportunity to see how we’d run going a little further into the lineup.”

Senior Lily Wahl finished in 29th place, completing the 5,000-meter course in 21 minutes, 12.3 seconds.

Junior Maeve True was 36th (21:32.3), sophomore Emily Wittenwyler was 54th (22:19.9), sophomore Kira Buttner was 70th (22:57.7) and senior Molly

McCue was 71st (23:01.3).

“Lily has been a really consistent performer so far this year and it was good to see her get another good race in,” Chancellor said. “Maeve True put together a strong race and she was over a full minute ahead of where she finished at this meet last year, so that’s encouraging.”

“Emily Wittenwyler was back running again this week after taking last week off and had a solid finish as our third runner. Kira Buttner had a great day in her first varsity meet of the season, running a career best. I think Kira is poised for a breakout and could be a bigger part of where we’re at later in the season.”

“Molly McCue put a strong performance together in just her third ever cross country race. Molly has really become a student of the sport since she started running track in the spring, so it’s a lot of fun to watch her improve.”

The Vikings’ boys were 15th out of 20 teams.

DeForest won the meet

with 42 points, while Middleton was second with 64. Madison West (97), Richland Center (147) and Madison La Follette (151) rounded out the top five.

Mount Horeb finished with 396 points.

Junior Samuel Wyse led the Vikings with a 34th place finish, completing the 5,000-meter race in 17:55.1.

Junior Nathaniel Sherven was 81st (19:08.1), senior Timothy Kruse was 90th (19:37.4), sophomore Blake Losenegger was 94th (19:44.7) and senior Desmond Kelley was 97th (19:51.9).

“Our boys team had their best race of the season so far,” Chancellor said. “Sam Wyse was again our top

runner. It was a good race for him and his third personal best in three weeks, but he’s looking for more. We’re hoping that with some adjustments over the next couple of weeks that we can get him a little further up in the pack.”

“Nate Sherven finished second for us and .. in just three races this year, Nate has taken over 3 minutes off his best 5k time from last year. I think he has a lot more to go before he’s done this season.”

“Tim Kruse was back in the lineup for us after taking last week off and I was really pleased with the way he ran. He’s a consistent leader for us and has been looking strong in his workouts, so it’s good to see that

paying off in races. Blake Losenegger had a great day and is running close to where he finished up last season. Blake is becoming someone we can count on to perform consistently. Desmond Kelley finished as our fifth, and it was noteworthy because before this meet, we hadn’t yet put more than two boys under 20 minutes in one meet and Desmond was under 20 as our fifth.”

Overall, Chancellor was awfully pleased how his team performed.

“We had a good day at River Valley,” he said. “Most of our runners take at least one meet off over the course of the season and for some who are likely to be running at sec-

tionals and state, it sometimes makes sense for them to take two or three of our regular season meets off.

“In part we do this to reduce the risk of injury, but it’s also nice to just give these kids a breather once in a while. They just have a lot going on, so for us building in some breaks helps them perform at their best and increases the odds that they’ll be ready to roll when it matters.”



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MoHo golfers have another solid week

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

It was another solid week for Mount Horeb’s girls golf team. The Vikings finished second at a Badger Small Conference mini-meet on Sept. 9. Mount Horeb then tied for third at the Portage Invitational on Sept. 10. Here’s a recap of the two events:

Badger Small Conference Mini-Meet

The Vikings finished with a team score of 198 at Reedsburg Country Club to take second in the seven-team field. Madison Edgewood was first with a 175, followed by Mount Horeb, McFarland (199) and Fort Atkinson (200).

“Only two strokes separated our three teams, which goes to show that every stroke counts regardless of how you are playing and it is important to make the most of every round,” Vikings coach Nolan Krentz said.

Senior Delaina Nicewander led Mount Horeb with a 44, tying for third individually in the 35-player field. Nicewander made pars at No. 2, 6, 7 and 8 during her round.

Sophomore Ella Baber finished with a 48 and tied for 10th place. Baber’s round was highlighted by a birdie on the par-three, third hole and she made pars on holes No. 6 and 7.

Senior Sonja Schreiber had a 51, tying for 14th

place after making pars at No. 2 and 5. Senior Carmen Oglesby added a 55, while junior Jadyn Schellpfeffer had a 58.

“It was a bit of an uneven performance for our team,” Krentz said. “Reedsburg has tree-lined fairways with water coming into play on a few holes and we struggled to keep the ball in play, which resulted in several penalty strokes collectively as a team.

“After being right there with Edgewood in our previous mini-meet, we had hoped to be right there with them again, but that would not be the case. We were very fortunate to come away with second just ahead of McFarland and Fort Atkinson.”

PORTAGE INVITATIONAL

The Vikings shot a 398 and tied for third place in Division 2 at the Portage Invite held at Portage Golf Club.

Madison Edgewood took first in Division 2 with a 356, followed by Wisconsin Dells with a 365. Mount Horeb and Fort Atkinson tied for third.

Monona Grove claimed the Division 1 title and was third overall with a 371.

Nicewander led Mount Horeb once again with a 96, tying for 20th individually in the 72-player field. Nicewander birdied the par-five, 13th hole and recorded pars on No. 5, 11 and 18.

Baber posted a 98, tying for 29th after making a



Sonja Schreiber and Mount Horeb’s girls golf team continue to have a terrific season. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

birdie at No. 13 and pars at No. 4, 9 and 12.

Schellpfeffer and Schreiber added matching rounds of 102. Schellpfeffer parred No. 6 and 18, while Schreiber made pars at No. 11 and 13.

“It was another up and down day for our team,” Krentz said. “We got off to a slow start, played

much better throughout the middle our round, and then unfortunately, struggled to close down the stretch. We had several uncharacteristic scores of eight, or higher, on a few holes and that led to our team score being higher than we would have liked as a result.

“We had been playing

quite well heading into this week, so hopefully this was just a blip on the radar and we can clean a few things up with both our conference tournament and regionals on the hori-

zon. This is the time of the year you want to be playing your best golf and I am confident we can do just that.”

**VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
NOTICE
TO ALL MOUNT HOREB WATER UTILITY CUSTOMERS**

The Mount Horeb Water Utility will begin its fall Hydrant Flushing beginning October 1st through October 31st. Should your water become discolored, let your tap run for approximately 5 to 10 minutes and it should clear up. Try to do your laundry in the evening hours if possible. Please be sure to keep your garbage and recycling carts on the terrace area or the apron of your driveway, off the gutter/street. Rushing water could wash your carts away or damage them, and the water utility is not responsible for collecting the carts. The water utility thanks you for your cooperation in this matter.

Brian Schult, Water Superintendent
Publish: 9/18/25, 9/25/25, 10/2/25 **WNAXLP**

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**TOWN OF PERRY
NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW**
Perry Town Hall, 10084 CTH A
Teleconference - 425-585-6272 access - 394-722-206 #
Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review of the Town of Perry, Dane County, will reconvene on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Perry Town Hall, 10084 CTH A. Please be advised of the following requirements to appear before the Board of Review and procedural requirements if appearing before the Board.

No person shall be allowed to appear before the Board of Review, to testify to the Board by telephone or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the Assessor to enter onto property to conduct an exterior view of the real or personal property being assessed.

After the first meeting of the Board of Review and before the Board’s final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the Board of Review may contact, or provide to, a member of the Board of Review information about the person’s objection except at a session of the Board.

No person may appear before the Board of Review, testify to the Board by telephone or contest the amount of assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the objection is heard and if the objection is allowed under Sec. 70.47(3)(a), Wis. Stats., that person provides to the Clerk of the Board of Review notice as to whether the person will ask for removal of a member of the Board of Review under Sec. 70.47(6m) Wis. Stats., and if so, which member will be removed and the person’s reasonable estimate of length of time that the hearing will require.

When appearing before the Board, a person shall specify in writing the person’s estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are subject of the person’s objection and specify the information that the person used to arrive at the estimate.

No person may appear before the Board of Review, testify to the Board by telephone or object to a valuation if that valuation was made by the Assessor or the Objector using the income method, unless the person supplies the Assessor all the information about income and expenses, as specified in the manual under Sec. 73.03(2a), that the Assessor requests. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determined that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under Section 19.35(1) of Wis. Statutes.

By: Mary L. Price, Town Clerk

Posted: Town Hall, Daleyville Sign Post; Town Garage, Town website.

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Edgewood topples soccer Vikings enjoy stellar week

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

There were positives and moments of encouragement.

Overall, though, Mount Horeb’s boys soccer team didn’t have enough of those.

The Vikings played well in spurts, but fell to Badger Small Conference foe Madison Edgewood, 2-0, on Sept. 9.

The loss stung on two levels, as Edgewood is a conference foe and will also be in Mount Horeb’s sectional, meaning the game was important for postseason seeding purposes.

“Edgewood is a very good team,” Mount Horeb coach Rick Gage said. “They will be one of the teams to beat to win the conference and they will probably be a top-2 or 3 seed in our sectional. We knew that this would be a very challenging game for us.”

The Vikings who fell to 3-3 overall and 1-1 in the league, met that challenge for much of the night. But Edgewood, which plays possession based soccer and tries moving teams around the field to open up gaps, took advantage of a couple Mount Horeb breakdowns.

“They will use the full width of the field and get you chasing if you are not

careful,” Gage said of the Crusaders. “We made a few changes in how we played — mostly sitting our defense in a mid-block — with hopes that we could keep the ball in front of us and force Edgewood to have to get through more players to get to the goal.”

Mount Horeb started the game well, forcing the Crusaders to play the ball out wide and making them send crosses into the box. The Vikings also pushed Edgewood’s attackers away, while creating some chances for themselves.

In the 13th minute, though, Edgewood snuck a player past on the far post and finished off a cross to grab a 1-0 lead.

“We gathered ourselves, but were a little shaky,” Gage said.

That showed, as Edgewood struck again in the 20th minute. A Crusaders player pounced on a ball after a scrum in the box and grabbed a 2-0 lead

“We were a little frantic for the next 10 minutes, but we settled down and came into half (trailing) 2-0,” Gage said. “We re-emphasized our original game plan with the kids and came out at half ready to see if we could get back in the game.”

They didn’t.

While the Vikings had some chances, they couldn’t finish and the Crusaders prevailed.

“Edgewood does such a good job of getting up on teams and then holding onto the ball,” Gage said. “They move the ball around and make you chase them around, tiring you out. This is exactly what they did to us in the second half. They showed that they were the better team that night and gave us a standard to work harder and improve towards.”

“Overall, while we would have liked to get a different result, the team fought hard for the whole game and did not give up. We know the areas that we need to improve on and the players are showing up at practice working hard at getting better every day.”

• **On deck:** The Vikings hosted Fort Atkinson Tuesday, then are at Dodgeville Saturday at noon.

“This next week will be a big week with two sectional opponents,” Gage said. “I feel we learned a lot from the Edgewood game and will be ready for the challenges of next week.”

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VB

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sen had 19 assists, 24 digs, nine kills and two aces.

Aliyah Thompson had eight kills, while Finley Moore had six kills and two aces. Lizzy Mesenberg had five kills, 11 digs and two aces, while Courtney Monroe had 10 digs and two aces.

Trinity Alexander had 11 assists and five digs, and Maya Newman added six assists and 23 digs.

Sauk Prairie’s Mallory Hartwig had a huge match with 26 kills and a .346 hitting percentage. Hartwig also had 20 digs and two blocks.

• **Mount Horeb 3, Portage 0** — The Vikings rebounded with a 25-18, 25-20, 25-20 win over the Warriors.

“We believed that if we played our game we would come out on top, and we were right,” Smelzer said. “I want to give Portage credit though, because they fought hard to keep it close throughout.”

Mount Horeb’s Lalia Rasmussen had a brilliant all-around match with 14 kills, 15 assists, four aces and six digs, while Ella Kahl added eight kills.

Trinity Alexander had 14 assists and two digs, and Maya Newman added five assists, two aces and 19 digs. Elaina Imbus had five kills and two digs, while

Aliyah Thompson had two kills and three digs.

Finley Moore had four kills, two blocks and three digs, while Lizzy Mesenberg had two kills, two aces and seven digs. Courtney Monroe finished with six digs and Claire Casey added two digs.

“This was our 13th match in 14 days and the girls were feeling it,” Smelzer said. “We did a great job of gutting out a win in three sets.”

“We continue to work through some timing things offensively and some serving consistency. We believe that when we get these things ironed out we will be very tough to beat! I will say it was great to close out a conference opponent in 3 sets and stay in the upper echelon of the conference. We’re very excited to see what is to come.”

• **On deck:** The Vikings were at Madison Edgewood Tuesday, then they host the eight-team Mount Horeb Invitational Saturday beginning at 9 a.m.

In addition to Mount Horeb, the tournament will include Barneveld, Jefferson, Madison East, Madison La Follette, Monona Grove, New Glarus and Sun Prairie West.

“We can be very dangerous at times,” Smelzer said.



Lalia Rasmussen and Mount Horeb’s girls volleyball team defeated Portage, but fell to Sauk Prairie last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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FOOTBALL

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end Henry DeRosier for a touchdown pass that was aided by two terrific blocks by wide receivers downfield. Again, Maier ran in the 2-point conversion, and with 2:51 to go in the quarter MHB led 16-0.

“We came into this game and we were like, ‘We’re going to chuck it around the yard,’ ” Hendrickson said. “It didn’t turn out to be that way, but we did what we needed to do with the attempts that we had.”

Watertown went three-and-out after DeRosier’s touchdown, and three plays later the big-play Vikings struck again.

This time, it was sophomore wide receiver Kelson Baumgart on a seam route straight down the left hash marks for a 25-yard TD catch to give MH-B a 22-0 lead with 23 seconds remaining in the quarter. The 2-point attempt failed this time.

That three-play, 62-yard scoring drive was aided by Wilson’s 16-yard run on first-and-10.

But it was Baumgart who cashed it in, atoning for a big drop on third down of MHB’s opening possession.

“Sometimes you can get in your head (about a drop), but he flushed that,” St. Arnauld said. “He got off the press guy, because the guy was up in his face, and he was able to go down field and catch it. When he’s got speed like that, we want to try and use it.”

That fruitless opening drive was now a distant memory.

“We learned that we can’t play flat. We learned that against Grafton,” Hendrickson said, referencing the Vikings’ season-opening 24-7 loss to the Black Hawks. “So I came to the sideline and was like, ‘Hey, we’ve got to go right now.’ ”

St. Arnauld agreed. “We needed to get our feet wet and get off the ball. You’ve got to get that line going downhill,” St. Arnauld said of the Vikings’ opening possession. “We missed a couple blocks on the first drive and that put us a little behind the sticks, and then on that third down they covered it well. (After that) we came out and responded. They realized, ‘Hey, we’re just going to mash and start moving people.’ After the first drive, everything was clicking.”

The Goslings’ only truly promising drive came after they were down 22-0. But after moving the ball to MH-B’s 40-yard-line, Watertown failed on fourth-and-4 and turned it over on

downs. A 14-yard catch by Hayden Anderson, a 17-yard run by Hendrickson and a 13-yard catch by Connor McCue gave the Vikings a first-and-10 at Watertown’s 16-yard-line.

And Wilson took care of it from there, bursting off the right side for a 16-yard TD and a 28-0 MH-B lead with 6:35 to go in the half. Maier ran in the 2-point conversion to make it 30-0.

Watertown went three-and-out, and five plays later it was Hendrickson’s legs that carried the Vikings to paydirt again as he ran for a 9-yard TD to make it 36-0. This time, Django Christian ran in the 2-point conversion to make it 38-0 with 3:52 remaining.

Then came a surprise onside kick by MH-B, one that was recovered by none other than the kicker himself, junior Cullen Olson.

Asked if the decision to try an onside kick was an attempt to get some game experience with something the Vikings have worked on in practice, St. Arnauld said quite the opposite.

“That was a player decision, not a coach decision,” St. Arnauld said. “We were not happy. It was not supposed to happen. We were supposed to squib it down the middle. He has learned from his mistake and realized why he was wrong.”

“You want to talk about a coach feeling about this small? That’s not who we are, that’s not what we do. I apologized to the Watertown coach. That was not the intention. Sometimes things like that happen, so all we can do is say sorry and move on from it.”

The damage — an onside kick when the game was for all intents and purposes already decided — was done, but MH-B took advantage nonetheless.

On the first play after recovering the onside kick, the Vikings scored on Hendrickson’s 48-yard TD run along the left sideline. Olson’s extra point made it 45-0 with 2:50 to go.

“They were oversetting the whole game. We had numbers on the outside, so I was like, ‘I’ll take it if I

can,’ ” Hendrickson said of his effectiveness running the read option all night long. “Props to the receivers for staying downfield and blocking.”

For St. Arnauld, Hendrickson’s best rushing game of the year was just what he’s been waiting for.

“He’s got speed. I said, ‘What’s all that training for if you’re not going to use it?’ ” St. Arnauld said. “I was proud of him for doing that (against Watertown). It was a nice step in the right direction for him.”

“We’ve been wanting him to pull the ball. We’ve been begging him, ‘Please pull the ball.’ And he finally did it. If he does that, that gives the added threat of his legs and they have to respect it. I’m hoping that continues.”

Watertown did score twice in the second half to break up the shutout, although both scores came with MH-B’s starters on the sidelines.

A week earlier, MHB raced out to a 22-0 lead in the first quarter at Beaver Dam, only to need a fourth-quarter TD to take a 28-19 lead and ice the victory.

The Vikings didn’t let things get interesting against a second straight East Central Conference opponent in Watertown.

And Hendrickson and St. Arnauld agreed that the Vikings’ killer instinct was the biggest step MH-B took from Week 3 to Week 4.

“Honestly, just finishing drives,” Hendrickson said. “Just finishing drives, being more urgent to the ball, bringing energy on the sidelines. I think that’s what we got better at today.”

The Vikings travel to face

fellow Badger Small Conference contender Stoughton in Week 5, and they’ll do so with plenty of momentum from the way this contest unfolded.

“We took care of business,” St. Arnauld said. “We did what we were supposed to. Last week we jumped out to a 22-0 lead and then kind of took our foot off the gas, made some mistakes and let them in the game. This week we said, ‘We can’t have that same thing happen two weeks in a row.’ And it didn’t. We had our foot on the gas the whole game. I was happy with how we flew to the ball on defense, I was happy with how we blocked extremely well on offense. Everything just seemed to be clicking.”

St. Arnauld knew it might take a while for things to click for his team in 2025 as they were breaking in several new starters.

“We’ve got dudes, but we’ve got a lot of young guys,” St. Arnauld said. “The first game of the year, we had 15 guys play or start at a different position than the year prior. We’ve been able to slowly, but surely get to where we want to be.”

“We’re not perfect. We’re still climbing the mountain. But what I like to see is all these small little things that we did very poorly in Week 1 and Week 2 are now getting corrected in Week 3 and Week 4. Now it’s just minor adjustments and keep climbing that hill until we finally reach exactly where we should be. We’re not anywhere near that, but when we do get there, we’re going to be a dangerous football team.”



Colton Bell and Mount Horeb-Barneveld’s football team improved to 3-1 last week with a win over Watertown. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Sept. 12
Mount Horeb/Barneveld 45,
Watertown 13
Watertown 0 0 7 6 — 13
MH-B 22 23 0 0 — 45
MHB: Brooks Hendrickson 38 run (Eli Maier run.).
MHB: Henry DeRosier 33 pass from Hendrickson (Maier run).
MHB: Kelson Baumgart 25 pass from Hendrickson (run failed).
MHB: Jack Wilson 16 run (Maier run).
MHB: Hendrickson 9 run (Django Christian run).
MHB: Hendrickson 48 run (Cullen Olson kick).
WAT: Elijah Janz 5 run (Colton Stai kick).
WAT: Connelly Chasin 6 pass from Davis Cashin (kick failed).

TEAM STATISTICS
First downs -- Wat 8, MHB 18.
Rushing (Att.-Yds.) -- Wat 15-18, MHB 28-244. Passing yards -- Wat 59, MHB 131. Passing (Comp.-Att. Int.) -- Wat 9-24-0, MHB 10-13-1. Fumbles-lost: Wat 1-0, MHB 0-0. Penalties-Yds. -- Wat 6-57, MHB 6-58.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing (Att.-Yds.) -- Wat: Elijah Janz 3-14. MHB: Brooks Hendrickson 6-126. Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds) -- Wat: Davis Cashin 9-24-0-59. MHB: Brooks Hendrickson 6-8-0-103. Receiving (Rec.-Yds) -- Wat: Kaedyn Holden 3-32. MHB: Kelson Baumgart 2-33, Henry DeRosier 1-33.

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