MOUNT HOREB MAIL

TRUTH THROUGH JOURNALISM

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State Senate candidates Howard Marklein and Jenna Jacobson lay out their visions -PAGE 12-



Scary fun

Mount Horeb Recreation Department already busy planning this year's Creepy Crawl on Military Ridge

Save the date! Join the Mount Horeb Recreation Department for the 22nd annual Creepy Crawl haunted hike on October 29. Take a haunted hike through part of the Military Ridge Trail lit by carved pumpkins and lined with spooks and scares of all kinds. After the hike, there will be fun for all ages including hay wagon rides, Haven's Petting Zoo, and more.

The Less Scary Experience is from 6:00 - 7:00 PM and the Scarier Experience is from 7:15 - 8:15 PM.



Former student and FFA Officer Tom Schlimgen embraces Mount Horeb High School teacher Pam Allen during a surprise ceremony last week at which Allen was awarded $75,000 for the school's ag and tech programs. Photo by Aubree Hanks.

Local teacher wins $75,000

Pam Allen earns Tools For Schools Prize For Teaching Excellence

By Matt Geiger
Mount Horeb Mail

Pam Allen, an agricultural services instructor and FFA leader at Mount Horeb High School, has been named a winner of the 2026 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence, earning $75,000 for her school's program. She was honored in a surprise ceremony at the high school last Tuesday at which many community members gathered to share their support for Allen and the impact she has had on generations of students.

Allen was one of 25 public high school skilled trades teachers across the United States who were surprised with the news that they had won. A total of $2 million in cash prizes were awarded last week.

"Learning in my classroom is inherently hands-on. Students are not passive recipients of information—they are active problem-solvers, designers, and fabricators. I structure lessons to minimize lecture time and maximize meaningful engagement with tools, materials, and processes," Allen wrote in her prize application. "Students learn how to safely operate welding equipment, interpret prints, measure and cut materials accurately, and evaluate weld integrity. Just as importantly, they learn persistence, communication, and accountability."

Peter Docken, of Sloan

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PERSPECTIVE

When it comes to transmission lines, trust Marklein's actions over campaign promises

Dear editor,

Since many people in the Mount Horeb area worked to oppose the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line that now is a reality, you might be interested in a Letter to the Editor State Senator Howard Marklein recently published in The Dodgeville Chronicle and the Cap Times.

Astonishment was my reaction to both letters in which he states he is "strongly opposed" to the MariBell and BECI transmission lines currently proposed for the 17th Senate District. He writes they will "cut through pristine land" and cause many negative impacts. To oppose them he calls for "strong public participation" and offers advice.

Furthermore, he promises: "As your state senator, I will strongly express my opposition and magnify the voices of those I represent."

Has he forgotten the Cardinal-Hickory Creek (CHC) transmission line proposed in 2016 to run through the Driftless Area? Was that land not pristine then but suddenly has become so?

Has he forgotten the "strong public participation" against CHC? For eight years hundreds and hundreds of concerned citizens and several organizations joined together and tirelessly opposed CHC. They stayed engaged, kept fighting, and did not give up -- precisely the things he now recommends.

Despite his constituents' repeated requests for help Senator Marklein never "magnified their voices'" or "expressed strong opposition." In 2024 the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line was up and running, defacing the Driftless Area and causing the very same negative impacts that, for some reason, seem to concern him now.

Senator Marklein is running for re-election. Should we voters trust HIS WORDS during this campaign or HIS ACTIONS for the eight years when he neither supported his constituents nor strongly opposed the CHC transmission line?

Betsy Curtis D'Angelo
Town of Dodgeville

Gleanings

By Barb Johnson
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- Oct. 13, 1886

Whils't in Stoughton last Monday we had the pleasure of meeting Bro. Rollis, of the "Hub."

It may be of interest to fishermen to know that parties using Nets will be looked after.

A few dollars paid out in our sidewalks would help matters a good amount just at present and perhaps forestall a suit for damages.

Tom Carlson has been exerting some of his political influence in Mt. Horeb past week to the detriment of the candidate he thinks he is favoring.

Satchel with contents remains at the office unclaimed. Parties claiming ownership will please call, prove property and remove same before the mice gets it.

Fred Ribban has been quite dangerously ill for some days back with an affection of the bowels. Dr. Rowell, of Middleton, is in attendance and reports an improvement in his condition.

130 Years Ago- Oct. 15, 1896

The unmarried wheelmen remain silent.

Ole Myrland, of Primrose, entertained some of our sound money men last Monday.

H.L. Dahle and J.K. Vilberg, the inseparables, took a drive to Perry Monday.

A fine sorrel team hitched to a nice carriage was seen on Paradise Alley last Sunday.

S.O. Huset has now the time regulator by which the sun, moon and stars are scheduled. It is a costly piece of mechanism and it is said will not vary a quarter of a second in a century when placed on a solid wall and properly regulated. Boys, set your watches.

The Academy's out-door gymnasium is well utilized these fine days.

The railroad company is building sidewalks on the crossing on Second Street, which pleases the Academy students as well as others.

120 Years Ago- Oct. 11, 1906

Some rain would be acceptable now.

Mary Luder, who has been domesticating at the editor's home the past six weeks, left for her home in the town of Vermont yesterday.

Stonemasons started on the foundation wall for Thos. Ayen's large coalhouse near the railroad track last Monday. A few more such enterprising men as Mr. Ayen would make Mt. Horeb expand rapidly.

W.F. Scott and family left Monday for Madison, moving their effects by teams overland. Several loads started at an early hour and the family took the noon passenger. We wish them a pleasant stay in the capital city.

John Kahl had the 'phone moved into his new and neat dwelling house last Saturday and has everything neat and handy now.

Good cordwood is fetching $5.00 per cord in our village, and considerable of the article is being brought in, as the roads are in very fine condition.

110 Years Ago- Oct 13, 1916

May Thompson is now attending St. Olaf College and it did not take long for the instructors at the school to discover that she was qualified to become a member of the college choir.

Peter Heuser's new house in the western part of town is up and will be a pretentious residence a brick veneer of good size and modern architecture; we learned that Mr. Heuser will go into business here in the spring.

Henry Gerke Sr. is very sick at this writing, suffering from dropsy, his pastor Rev. Nithardy was called to see him yesterday.

We have provided for extra copies of this week's paper. They are 5¢ each and many of our readers will surely want to send a few extras to some friend that will be interested in the Thompson poem "Our Alphabet."

Mr. Seeligen was a Mt. Horeb caller Tuesday. He was suffering to see a physician who informed him that blood poison was about to set in and came in high time.

100 Years Ago- Oct. 7, 1926

Tom Kittleson of Perry had the misfortune to fall into an open cellar last Sunday evening and was quite badly bruised. He is under the care of Dr. Sporleder.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Anton Arneson, Barneveld, a son on Tuesday, Oct. 5, at the Buchner Hospital here.

Matt Eggum proved his marksmanship last Saturday when he shot three partridges and they were all going some when shot.

Mr. and Mrs. T.L. Thorson were reminded of their 45th wedding anniversary last Sunday when their children and grandchildren came to help them celebrate.

Brown & Weltzin sold the T.G. Lingard farm, formerly the Riphahn farm, in Springdale, to Halvor Johnson, who took possession Oct. 1. He will leave his good renter just where he is as Mr. Johnson takes Lingard's stock and feed. This is one of the best farms in Springdale and Mr. Johnson knows good farms.

A new furnace was installed the forepart of last week in the Hauge Church by the Mount Horeb Hardware company.

Lucy Riley had a horse killed by lightning last week. The North American Insurance Company, represented by Brown & Weltzin, took care of the loss at once as they carried the insurance on same.

90 Years Ago- Oct. 8, 1936

Henry E. Hanson and son James of Yellowstone, died following a car accident last Saturday evening. The accident occurred two miles south of Blanchardville. Mr. Hanson was a brother of Mrs. Julia Anderson of Daleyville.

Dr. and Mrs. H.M. Buckner and Mr. and Mrs. Irven Hoff motored to Chicago last Thursday to attend the Cities Series.

Atty. and Mrs. M.A. Tollund announce the birth of a son on Oct. 4.

J.N. Dahlen was honored at a family gathering at his home Sunday in observance of his 80th birthday.

Arthur Skindrud, 19, son of M.E. Skindrud, Barneveld, died Monday Sept. 28, at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, after an illness of a couple of days.

60 Years Ago- Oct. 13, 1966

The Blue Mounds Post Office moved to its new quarters Sept. 29 and is now located in the Joseph Nelson building, which has been remodeled.

Funeral directors participated in a convention at the Karakahl Inn, Tuesday, Oct. 11. John Ellestad served as local host.

At the annual convention of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation held at the Dellview Hotel, Lake Delton, Mound Vue Garden Club received, for the third time, an award in the civic beautification contest cosponsored by the Sears, Roebuck & Company.

A daughter, Stephanie Sue, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Swingen, Mt. Horeb, Tuesday, Oct. 4, at Madison General Hospital.

50 Years Ago- Oct. 7, 1976

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society has been given permanent space on the third floor of the Municipal Building. The space will be used to store items donated to the society. Also, in time, a partial museum may be developed.

The new owners of Virgil's Valley Inn in Mt. Vernon are Rick Duest, Jack Kelly and Dick Miller.

A farm open house will be held at the Elmer Baker farm east of Mount Horeb Sunday, Oct. 17. The purpose of the open house is to improve urban-rural communications.

40 Years Ago- Oct. 9, 1986

Completing the second phase of a million dollar expansion, the Mount Horeb Farmers Co-op opened the doors of it's new Retail Center last week, thus replacing a 900 square foot downtown Farmers Store with a facility of 12,500 square feet of retail space with 11 employees.

Curt and Claire Gullick, Mount Horeb, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary with their family at Arthur's in Spring Green, on Friday, Oct. 17.

20 Years Ago- Oct. 12, 2006

Over 200 people attended open book reviews of the 2006 property revaluations held at the municipal building. The overall assessment roll in the village rose by 35 percent since the last revaluations were performed in 2000. According to officials, home sales were the driving force behind the increase.

Jay and Debby Schneider will host an open house on Saturday, Oct. 21 at Puempel's Olde Tavern in New Glarus to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Phillip L. Knudtson, 56, of Mount Horeb, died on Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2006 at Don and Marilyn Anderson HospiceCare Center in Fitchburg.

Sugar River Euchre

By Stan Hook

The start of the Sugar River Euchre League's 95th season is in the books. Five teams who had hopes of a perfect start went home disappointed. The two Red Mouse teams prevailed in the matches held against the two Kurniki's teams. Team Uff-da took all the pressure out of the Pipe Benders hard work with a 44 point win. While the Shufflers slowed the Express to 32 mph under the required winning speed. The Shufflers' win was led by Dave and Loretta Herfel who grabbed 111 points for the team.

It was an 11 point match between the J&M Bar River Rats and the Norsk Cowboys. River Rats Scott Keys and Gary Bartells scored 113 points as did Cowboys Ferdie Schmitz and Dean Disch. However, it was the 111 points scored by Cowboys Randy Schmid and Roger Olstad that drove the Cowboy's cattle into the winner's circle.

Pepé Le Pew went through the entire season last year without getting an invite to anyone's party. He was very hurt. The Hay Shakers didn't want to see Pepé Le Pew hurt again this year, so they asked Pepé to visit New Glarus. Unfortunately for Jeff Judd and Jeff Goebler, Viking Trolls Kurt Wedig and Roger Fager turned the assault towards the Hay Shakers couple and thereby handed them the first skunk of the season. But, even with the skunk on their scoresheet, Jeff Goebler and Jeff Judd ended

continued on page 4

Geiger Counter



by Matt Geiger, Editor

Things to wear when climbing a mountain

Several years ago, I went to the store to buy new pants. My old favorites were tattered and worn, stained with grease from the frying pan and grass and mud from the yard. Puppies had chewed on the ankles, and my habit of accidentally washing and drying them with pens in the pockets hadn't helped their aesthetic presentation, either.

I detest shopping. It's usually a quick trip. I don't like trying things on, and I'm not precious about my clothing. Find the cheapest item that fits, buy it, and leave. That's the goal.

On this particular day, however, I stopped in my tracks as I walked down the aisle. From the shelf, I saw an alluring tag: "Mountaineering pants."

"I've never mountaineered before, but…" I thought. *"Was it merely because I didn't have the right pants? Is that what was holding me back?"*

I looked at the pockets and tugged on the drawstring. They were brown, the hue of adventure. I bought the pants, assuming I would be climbing mountains in no time.

This is how the brain functions.

"Have I not gone whaling merely because I don't own a harpoon?"

"Is my lack of a halberd the only reason I'm not currently guarding a medieval castle?"

"I'll bet if I owned a better pen I could write King Lear."

"Pants are the reason I haven't scaled any mountains."

In literature, there is something called "nominative determinism." The idea is that good characters have good names and bad characters have bad names. They are people whose names determine their lot in life and fate. Charles Dickens did it constantly. If he wrote about someone named Grace Goodheart, you could bet she would be kind and beautiful. If Snivel Fartbreath or Uriah Heap (that one is real) show up, they are always morally and physically horrendous.

I sometimes believe in a related phenomenon I like to call "aesthetic determinism."

This is why I once bought a pair of boxing gloves ("Maybe I haven't become Heavyweight Champion because I lacked the gloves!" I thought as I spent money that could have gone to food or medical bills.)

It's also why I own running shoes. ("Maybe if I own these, I will start running marathons!")

Optimistic purchases extend far beyond clothing. Every year I buy a calendar on which I think maybe I will spontaneously start planning out my life in advance (instead it hangs on the wall, unadorned as an oak tree in mid-winter).

If I am being completely honest, this is essentially why I have a savings account at the bank, too. I've never used it before, but I always suspect that maybe if it's there, someday I will magically develop the ability to put something in it.

I went home from the store with my mountaineering pants and briefly considered scaling Mount Kilimanjaro. First, though, I needed to do some dishes. Then make dinner. Those activities made me thirsty, so I had a beer, played with one of my dogs, and then fell asleep 13 seconds into a movie that I had started with the same degree of naïve optimism as everything else in my life.

It was a Tuesday. I would need to start mountaineering on Wednesday, instead. Wednesday came and went. Then Thursday. Then thousands of other days.

No mountains were climbed.

Here is a list of things I did in those pants: read many books, watched many Red Sox games, cooked hundreds of meals, wrote hundreds of stories, went fishing for bluegills, lugged scraps to the chickens, laughed, swore, worried about my (lack of) money, my daughter's future, and my rapidly impending death. I wore those pants on my birthday one year, when my giant, burly old dog died in the backyard, and I wore them on another birthday when my favorite author, Cormac McCarthy, died of old age in New Mexico. I wore them while I butchered deer and wild turkeys for the freezer. I wore them when I dreamed in both my sleeping and waking states. I wore them when I tried to fix the broken washing machine, and when I lit a roaring fire in my hearth and admired the way the wind moaned against the window during a February blizzard. I wore them while I drove my daughter to dance classes and dentist appointments and playdates. I wore them while I tied her shoelaces and put band aides on her scrapes (those pockets came in handy) and read ancient Russian fairy tales to her when she was sick in the middle of the night. I wore them when I woke up one day and it seemed, quite suddenly, like she barely needed my help with anything anymore.

I was wearing them when my wife asked me suspiciously why I was throwing away our living room rug, and she tolerated me when I complained that my pants seemed to be getting smaller as the years went by.

Today, I inspected my pants and came to the conclusion that they might be pretty near the end of their natural life. New puppies have chewed on the ankles, and my habit of accidentally washing and drying them with pens in the pockets continues to leave its mark as if they are Cain and I am the Old Testament God, looking down at what I have wrought.

I might need to go shopping soon, I think with resignation. And I am forced to accept that I will likely never climb any mountains in this clothing.

As much as we like to think we will scale great peaks, in truth, adult life is a relentless series of less spectacular journeys. Of vast bills and daily pots of tomato sauce and grape jam that boil over and splatter onto us. And the eternal clock of the universe clicks on, like the ticking of a pen tumbling in the dryer, like the gradual, inevitable erosion of every mountain on Earth, fated to rise, and to fall, regardless of their impressive names.

In the garage, a pair of dusty boxing gloves rest in a corner. They were never worn under the bright lights of a championship bout. Next to them sit running shoes that are mostly used for running errands and doing chores. And those mountaineering pants are crumbling, like my old dog, like Cormac McCarthy, like the mountains that tower in the distance.

Perhaps wisdom is knowing that these pants have actually made more important journeys than expected. Getting to the top of Mount Everest is only 2.5 miles, actually. And these pants have gone much further and seen far more than that. Maybe I was even wearing them when I thought about deep time and realized that eventually, if we free our minds from the confines of today, all mountains will eventually bow, all winds will cease. All blizzards will quietly relent. And the ground we trod as we walked our children to their first days of school, the gravel on which they fell from their bikes after we removed the training wheels and wiped our greasy hands on our pants, is not some lowly place at all. This seemingly flat ground on which we live our daily lives is made of crumbled mountains that have traveled to us over billions and billions of years. Each day we walk the beds of dried-up oceans and traverse the peaks of ancient summits. Even on level ground, every day we climb.

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

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

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

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

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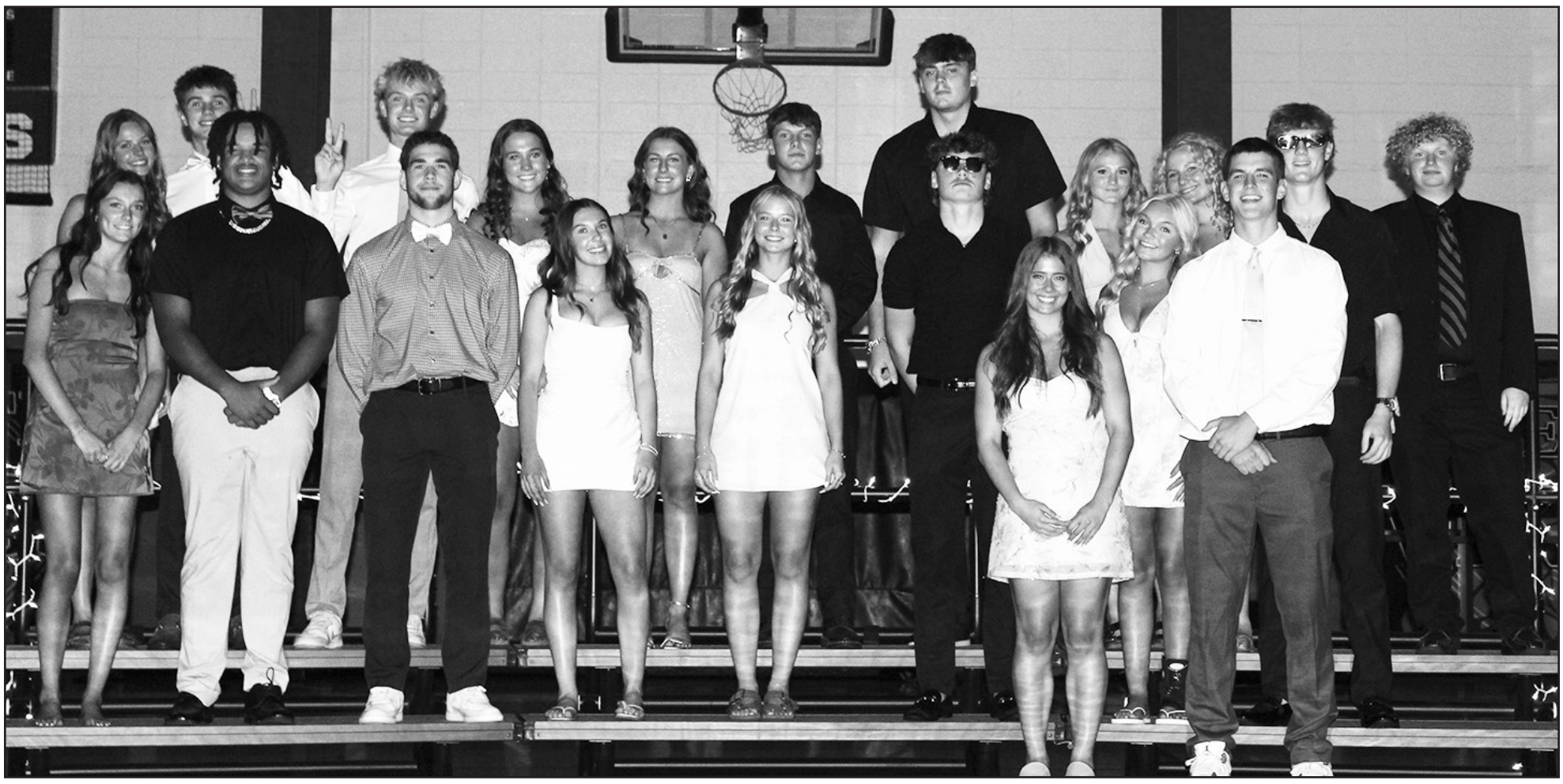
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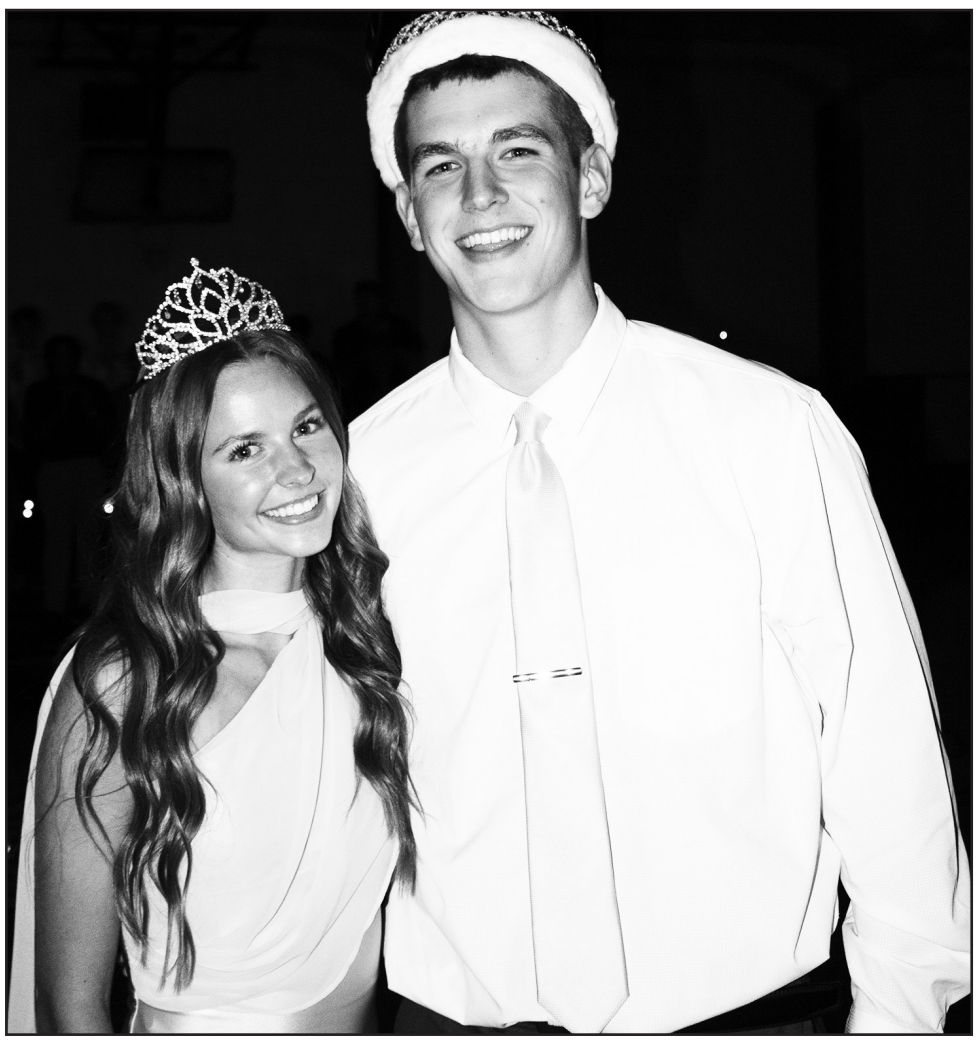
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Homecoming royalty crowned







This year's Mount Horeb High School Homecoming Court (top) includes Julia Straka & Mason Williams; Magali Forlines & Cullen Olson; Jozie Clifton & Connor McCue; Vera Pernot & Evan Leibfried; Elise Ellestad & Austin Druid; Alyssa Garrity & Dilyn Randle; Veda Kalscheur & Eli Maier; Courtney Monroe & Aiden Aeschlimann; Addi Motl & Nolan Beadle; Avery Monroe & Alex Chapman. The King is Alex Chapman and the Queen is Julia Straka. Photos contributed.

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Please register by Monday, October 12 with Nicole Alexander at nicole.alexander@thrivent.com or call 608-935-9317.

Sponsored by Cathy Bramlett, Financial Professional with Thrivent Financial.

EUCHRE

continued from page 2

the night with a 97. Kurt and Roger weren't near that good, with an 81 they recorded this week's low, but I think they still went home with a huge smile of satisfaction on their faces.

The couple with the high score for the week were Cheese Eaters Jeff Buesser and Brett Hoesly packing 116 lbs. into the cheesecloth. They were the only Cheese Eater couple to exceed 100 points. Rodney Latham and Dean Forseth countered Jeff and Brett's attack by racking up 112 points to lead the Pranksters on to a 40 point win.

Standings:
Dog House Pranksters 1-0
J&M Bar River Rats 0-1
Kleeman's Hay Shakers 1-0
Kurniki's Express 0-1
Kurniki's Pipe Benders 0-1
Norsk Cowboys 1-0
Red Mouse Shufflers 1-0
Red Mouse Uff-Da 1-0
Sportsman's Cheese Eaters 0-1
Viking Trolls 0-1

October 8 Schedule (all matches start at 7)
Uff-da at Trolls
Hay Shakers at Shufflers
Pranksters at Pipe Benders
Express at Cowboys
River Rats at Cheese Eaters

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Local Government

Village of Mount Horeb Utility Commission gets updates on electric, waste and water

The Commission met September 8 for its monthly meeting, where it approved August's meeting minutes, reviewed its finances, heard a presentation from Village Engineer Rob Wright regarding East Side sewer capacity and received updates from the electric department as well as the water department and wastewater department. Additionally, the commission moved to approve both a contract amendment to the WPPI Services Agreement through 2073 and to continue budget conversations regarding potential contracting with Baker Tilly US, LLP to prepare for a wastewater utility rate increase.

By Erin Herndon
Mount Horeb Mail

MHM Sept 8 Utility Commission—Electric Department

The electric department reported to the Utility Commission on its August activities.

Electric Superintendent Jordan Schmitz began the August utility updates portion of the meeting. In August 2026, the electric department completed three new underground services and responded to two outages: one caused by an animal and the other by recent inclement weather. Superintendent Schmitz said the department continued to replace old wire around the Village, with much of August spent pulling wire at North Road. The department also completed five transformer changeouts and installed new wire and a transformer for a customer.

"We're making pretty good headway. I think we have three cables to do in the area behind Pizza Hut, and we'll be done there. The guys have also been pulling wire out at North Road, and we've got about five poles left**,"** Superintendent Schmitz said. "We also had a new transformer and wire for a three-phase customer and five transformer changeouts with the old wire."

According to Schmitz' August 2026 report, the department encountered a regulator issue at the downtown substation as well as a breaker issue at the Wally Road substation. Schmitz said his team was working behind Pizza Hut and reported an abnormal noise from one of the regulators in the area. Upon his own inspection of the issue, Schmitz said the regulator sounded like "popcorn being made." He proceeded to troubleshoot the issue by contacting the regulator's manufacturer as well as a representative from A.C. Engineering Company and Village Administrator Gabe Altenbernd.

"I worked with Gabe, and we have a plan. We are actually changing out the regulators at Wally Road this fall and can probably take the regulator that's good out there and put it in the downtown sub," Schmitz said. "At the same time, we had a breaker issue at Wally Road, but that was just a burnt-up relay. It worked out when I had Jason from A.C. here to look at the regulator, because we had him bring in a new relay and put that in out there, so that's fixed now."

MHM Sept 8 Utility Commission—Wastewater Department

The wastewater department reported to the Utility Commission on its August activities.

Wastewater Superintendent Mike Brace said the wastewater treatment facility ran well and operated below all permitted levels during August 2026. According to his August report, the wastewater department continues its use of ferric chloride to keep the phosphorus discharge below the permitted limit. It also responded to one residential call-out regarding a slow basement drain but found no evidence of a backup. Additionally, the department cleaned 2,095 feet of sanitary mains, televised another 2,334 feet and completed 23 manhole inspections.

"A lot of the manholes that we got inspected and GPS'd were in overgrown green spaces," Superintendent Brace said. "There were things that we had on maps that we couldn't really confirm with location and stuff, so having all these [manholes] GPS'd will be really helpful as we move forward and start to develop our sanitary system a bit further."

According to Brace's report, the department continues to develop formalized and standardized procedures for its highest priority tasks. Brace also said that he and Water Superintendent Brian Schult attended a webinar regarding recent cybersecurity threats affecting municipalities across the United States. Brace said that he consulted with the Village's network administrator and concluded the department is not likely to be targeted due to its infrastructure architecture and other security measures.

"One thing we learned for sure was that the way our system is designed and the components of both our SCADA systems and networks aren't necessarily what the attackers, for lack of a better term, are going for or would have access to," Brace said. "The remote access to our systems is really, really limited, and some of the other components that we have provide another degree of security, so I guess just one of my big takeaways from this was that, knock on wood, we would be unlikely targets."

MHM Sept 8 Utility Commission—Water Department

The water department reported to the Utility Commission on its August activities.

In his overview of the water department's August activities, Water Superintendent Brian Schult said the department successfully brought Well 5 back online, followed up on reported high water usage from WPPI and continued to change radio-read boxes to FlexNet. Beyond collecting its regular nine bacteriological (Bac-T) and one fluoride split samples, the department also sent samples to Davy Laboratories in La Crosse, Wisconsin, to measure radioactivity, volatile organics and synthetic organics. Additionally, Schult said the department turned all the distribution water valves from Main Street to the north of the Village and continued monitoring Parisi Construction Co., Inc.'s water main installation project.

"Parisi is moving right along. Their pipe crew finished, and we have one hydrant to set on Front Street and First Street," Superintendent Schult said. "They have a binder in pavement on Henry Street up to First Street, and they'll be doing curb and gutter tomorrow and finishing up sidewalks. They're really moving along now."

In his August 2026 report, Schult noted that he received a non-compliance notice from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding a failure to perform required monitoring in the second quarter of 2026. According to the report, Schult misread his monitoring site plan from the DNR and inadvertently sampled the incorrect well.

"I read entry point four and entry point three, and when I matched them up to my bookwork on my drinking water system plan, I went to well five and well six. So I did the samples, but I sampled at the wrong wells, and I was called on it in August," Schult said. "I had to resample the proper wells, and they went to La Crosse approximately a week after being notified. Next spring I need to write on the CCR [Consumer Confidence Report] that I did miss a sample."

The Utility Commission next meets Oct. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Notes

Save the date! Join us for our 22nd annual Creepy Crawl haunted hike on October 29th, sponsored by MHTC. Take a haunted hike through part of the Military Ridge Trail lit by carved pumpkins and lined with spooks and scares of all kinds. After the hike, there will be fun for all ages including hay wagon rides, Haven's Petting Zoo, and more! The Less Scary Experience is from 6:00 - 7:00 PM and the Scarier Experience is from 7:15 - 8:15 PM. See or website for details.



Volunteers Needed for the 22nd Annual Creepy Crawl! The Mount Horeb Recreation Department is looking for volunteers to help with the Creepy Crawl on Thursday, October 29.

Volunteers are needed for different roles, including helping at the game area, clean-up crew, and as trail guides. We are also looking for groups and organizations to host Spook Stations along the trail. Spook Stations will be assigned a section of the trail and can dress in costume, create a spooky scene, and entertain, or scare, guests as they make their way down the Military Ridge Trail!

Whether you want to help behind the scenes or be part of the spooky fun, we would love to have you volunteer! For more information or to sign up, contact the Mount Horeb Recreation Department at 608-437-3400 or mhrec@mounthorebwi.info.

Join our basketball program!

3rd Grade Rec Basketball: This league runs in collaboration with Verona Recreation. Each practice and/or game will run for 1 hour. Each week there will be one weeknight practice (day & times TBD) and one Saturday morning practice (times TBD) until games begin. Games will be held on Saturday mornings (times TBD) either in Mount Horeb or Verona. Season begins the week of November 16 and runs for approx. 11 weeks. The program fee is $60 for residents and $70 for non-residents. Register before 10/28!

4th-6th Grade Big Ten Rec Basketball: The Big Ten Basketball League is a cooperative league with surrounding communities. Weeknight practice days vary by program, with times TBD. Saturday practices (times TBD) will be held in Mount Horeb until games begin. Games are expected to start the 2nd or 3rd week of January. Each week a different community will host games, so some travel is required. Season begins the week of November 30 and runs for approx. 12 weeks with a final tournament in late February/early March. The fee is $70 for residents and $80 for non-residents. Join by 11/9!

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

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

In-person at 105 N. Grove Street.

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

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

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

10/19: Body Wise Yoga Sess. 2

10/22: Fall Painting Class

10/26: Adult Indoor Pickleball

10/27: Grandmasters of Chess Sess. 2

10/28: 3rd Grade Recreation Basketball

10/28: Extreme STEM - Copters & Spy Planes

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TUNES FROM THE TRAIL

It was common to hear fiddle tunes coming from the camps on the trail of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Some of the members, including boatman Pierre Cruzatte, brought their instruments and spent evenings playing tunes for their fellow travelers. The Barely Brothers bring this music to the Mount Horeb Public Library Saturday, October 17 at 10am. This free concert featuring fiddle tunes from the late 1700s and early 1800s is great for all ages.

The Barely Brothers are made up of musicians Brian O'Donnell and Colin Bazsali. O'Donnell is a highly sought-after fiddler and multi-instrumentalist from Madison. He has mastered numerous styles, including Old Time, Bluegrass and Cajun. A founding member of the Cajun Strangers Band, Brian can be heard fiddlin' in various bands in the area. Bazsali has been playing music most of his life. Originally a jazz drummer, he set aside percussion for the folk guitar, harmonica, and banjo and began exploring traditional American musical forms, especially old-time banjo. This led circuitously to Cajun and back to the drums, which he has played with the Cajun Strangers since early 2005. He currently plays banjo, mandolin, fiddle and guitar with Brian in the Barley Brothers.

For more information about the library, its programs and services visit www.mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021.

MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE ACROSS DIFFERENCES

What does it take to have a productive conversation when we don't see eye to eye? Join the Mount Horeb Public Library on Wednesday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m. for an engaging evening focused on building skills that can help navigate difficult conversations. Tamie Klumpyan, Human Resources Program Manager for UW–Madison, shares tips during her *Meaningful Dialogue Across Differences: Practicing Curiosity, Compassion, and Connection* presentation. Participants will learn practical approaches for understanding perspectives different from their own, discover how to deal with their own triggers, and how to stay engaged when conversations become challenging. The evening moves beyond the idea of "winning" an argument or changing someone's mind. Instead, participants will gain a toolkit of ways to create opportunities for greater understanding. This event is part of the library's Disagree Better: Building Connection Across Difference initiative. Free and open to all. Learn more at www.mhpl.org/disagree-better or call 608-437-5021.

LEWIS AND CLARK BEFORE LEWIS & CLARK

Lewis and Clark historians and biographers understandably devote most of their attention to the period between 1803 and 1806, when the explorers were assembling the Corps of Discovery and journeying from St. Louis to the Pacific and back. Much of what has been written about their lives before that time is either superficial or inaccurate. Learn who these men really were Tuesday, October 13 at 1pm at the Mount Horeb Public Library. Arend Flick, member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance, shares insight into the time before Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were "Lewis & Clark". Explore their Virginia origins—their childhood and young manhood, their families, the planter elite culture into which they were born—that shed considerable light on the men they eventually became. Flick is extremely knowledgeable on most aspects of the Lewis and Clark story and encourages you to bring your questions. He joins virtually. Attendees will meet in the library.



Arend Flick

A retired English and Humanities professor, Flick was born and grew up in Ohio (not far from where Lewis and Clark first met). A longtime member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance, he co-edits its quarterly newsletter The Orderly Report and has written a number of articles for its scholarly journal, We Proceeded On. His book *Out of Albemarle: the Fathers of Lewis and Clark* is forthcoming from Washington State University Press. Another book, *School of Experience: The Court-Martial of Meriwether Lewis*, is under review by Kent State University Press.

For more information about the library, its events and services, visit www.mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021.

FFA club plans Sunday Funday at high school

By Nora Helgesen
FFA Reporter

The FFA Pancake Brunch is Sunday, October 11th in the Mt. Horeb High School Commons. FFA members will be serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit and milk or coffee. The event runs from 10 am until 2 pm and guests should use the parking lots in front of the High School.

Havens Petting Farm will be there. They are bringing cows, donkeys, sheep, pigs, goats, bunnies and more for brunch guests to enjoy. Guests will be able to pet and feed the animals.

The Funday will also include a Mt. Horeb area tractor display. Community members are invited to bring their favorite tractors - restored or in their "working clothes" for brunch guests to view. No pre-registration is required. Check in with FFA members in the back parking lot (Highway 92 entrance) by 10 am. If the tractor is trailered, the trailer can be parked in the back Middle School parking lot and the tractor driven to the High School.

Proceeds from FFA Sunday Funday will be used by members for attendance at the 99th National FFA Convention and participation in Career Development Events throughout the school year.

COMMUNITY

At special event to honor POW/MIA soldiers, Hook tells the story of John Ovadal

Community members gathered for a special POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony at the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial on the evening of September 18.

Jerry Hook, Commander of the Mount Horeb American Legion, told the story of John J. Ovadal, who was held as a Prisoner of War for 15 months during WWII.

Ovadal was born March 8, 1924 in Madison, Wisconsin to Nels and Clara (Parks) Ovadal. He graduated from Madison East High School in 1942. He enlisted in the US Army Air Corps on December 9, 1942, attended Basic Training and became a gunner on the B17.

According to Hook, Ovadal served in the 570th Bomb Squadron, 390th Bomb Group, as a part of the Eighth Army Air Force. He and the crew of the Virgin Sturgeon were stationed at RAF Framlingham (Station 153) in Suffolk, England. Ovadal flew a total of 11 combat missions as a B17 tail gunner.

"Every mission was risky, flights to Frankfurt and Bremen were extremely dangerous as the flak was so thick in these areas," said Hook.

During his last mission on January 29, 1944, Ovadal's plane collided with the aircraft nicknamed Miss Carry, another B17 from the 570th flying in the formation. The collision clipped the right wing of the Virgin Sturgeon causing it to crash into Lake Constance near Frankfurt.

The entire crew of pilot Bill Harding, Co-pilot: Valdemar Cordova, Navigator: Clint Jacobsen, Bombardier: Ed Morgan, Flight engineer/top turret gunner: Bill Craven, Radio Operator: Mario Lubue, Ball turret gunner: Ralph Ross, Waist gunner: Vince Plouff, Waist gunner: George Fritz, Tail gunner: John Ovadal were all taken Prisoner of War.

"This was the start of hell on earth for John and his crew mates," said Hook. "Based on German operations John and his aircrew mates would have been sent to Dulag Luft for interrogation before being sent on to other POW Camps. The Germans would go through every document at the crash site to find anything that may be useful, they would review journals, documents, newspaper articles, to find anything they could to question the prisoners, telling them that they already knew everything about them. Maybe even referring to family members or crewmates. Typically, the prisoners were held in solitary confinement for days with very little food prior to the interrogation. The interrogator at the Dulag Luft tried to gain information by developing relationships with the prisoners making them believe that he was a friend who they could talk to."

"From Dulag Luft John as well as other aircrew members were moved by traincars to Stalag Luft III, which was in Nazi German captured territory near what is today Zagan, Poland," Hook continued. "Stalag Luft III was 60 acres, it held between 10,000 to 11,000 prisoners. In Stalag Luft III John endured unsanitary conditions, a lack of food and water, eating potato or rutabaga soup most days. Most of the time prisoners were given rations that were not fit for human consumption. Most prisoners lost almost half their body weight."



John J. Ovadal

Like all other prisoners, Ovadal was known only by his prisoner number. At Stalag Luft III, he was originally known as prisoner 1224. Later when he was moved to another section of Stalag III he was known as prisoner number 1606.

"From Stalag Luft III John and many others were handcuffed together and then transferred in large groups to Stalag Luft IV via train cars," said Hook. "Prisoners would be unloaded from the train cars miles from the actual camp met by guards brandishing rifles with bayonets. Prisoners were then forced to run miles to Stalag Luft IV being chased by dogs with guards clubbed anyone who fell behind. The Germans would taunt the prisoners to escape, but it was a trap, there were marksman in the woods along the road who would shoot anyone who attempted to escape."

"When the prisoners reached Stalag Luft IV John and his fellow prisoners were briefed on the rules. Stalag Luft IV was strict," he said. "The buildings were elevated so that prisoners could not build escape tunnels. Food here was similar to the food at Stalag Luft III. The guard towers were manned by guards with machine guns and search lights. Anyone getting close or crossing the warning line would be shot."

In January of 1945, Russian soldiers were closing in on Stalag Luft IV so the Germans had the prisoners collect their things and they marched through the woods and villages throughout Germany to stay ahead of the Russians.

"In January 1945 the prisoners who had lost half their body weight, marched, and marched, and marched some more," said Hook. "The prisoners never knew where their next meal would come from, they met German citizens on the roads along the way trying to stay ahead of the Russian Army's advance. Prisoners were sick with dysentery, weak from lack of food, freezing in the snow and 20 below degree days, along the way thousands of American and Allied prisoners died. The refugees were scrambling for food as well so everyone was in competition for the scarce food that was still left in the fields on some of the farms."

These prisoners from Stalag Luft IV marched approximately 500 miles.

Ovadal arrived at Stalag Luft VIII near Nuremberg shortly before the camp was liberated.

"John returned home after WWII and like many of his colleagues, he moved on with his life," said Hook. "He met his wife, Rachel and they married in July, 1945. Rachel and John Ovadal had six children who grew up here in Mount Horeb."

"After everything he had been through John reenlisted in the US Air Force in 1949 to serve as a gunnery instructor for the US Air Force. He farmed and also worked as a U.S. Letter Carrier until retiring. John then purchase and operated a self-service gas station for many years in Mt. Horeb," said Hook.

"You are not forgotten!" Hook said.

Ovadal earned the following awards: Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters American Campaign Medal Good Conduct Medal National Defense Service Medal Prisoner of War Medal World War II Victory Medal European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 1 bronze star

He died in April of 2009

Obituary

Danielle Suzanne "Dani Sue" Schroeder

September 12, 1938 - September 29, 2026



MOUNT HOREB - Danielle Suzanne "Dani Sue" Schroeder, age 88, of Mount Horeb, passed away on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at Beehive. She was born on September 12, 1938, in Madison, Wis., the daughter of Harry Flom and Alice Anderson.

In addition to raising her family, Dani Sue worked as a CNA for Badger Prairie Health Care prior to retirement. She was a member of Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA). She volunteered for seven years after retiring for the church readers program. She was also part of the care team ministry Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In her free time, Dani Sue enjoyed crypto quotes, jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles and arts and crafts, and she loved to travel! Family was everything to her. She always looked forward to the holidays when everyone got together.

Danielle is survived by her sons, Lee (Patricia) Hustad, Daniel (Kari) Hustad and Neil (Patricia Ennis) Ruef; daughters, Jill Ruef and Joy (Evan) Mercier; brother, David Flom; grandsons, Matthew (Nely) Hustad, Sean (Rachel) Mericer and Keifer Topper; granddaughter, Katie (Kevin) Mater; great grandchildren, Natalia and Max Hustad, and Hannah and Hendrix Mater; and nieces, Sandy Flom and Cindy Jackson. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth "Kenny" Schroeder; sister, Temple Flom; sister-in-law, Patricia Flom; and nephew, Randy Flom.

A graveside service was held at Union Cemetery, Mount Horeb, at 1 p.m. on Friday, October 2, 2026, with Pastor Karen Hofstad presiding.

The family would like to thank the amazing staff at the Beehive for their wonderful care and compassion that they gave to Dani Sue and her family during this difficult time.

Memorials may be made to Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA). Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

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

Senior Center News

October Events

Friday, October 9th: Coffee with a Cop, 9:30am with Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck. Instead of our regular Coffee & Chat, we will have some of our local Mount Horeb Police Officers here to socialize and connect with us over our morning coffee. Beverages will be provided by Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck from 9:30-11:00am courtesy of Oakbrook Corporation.

Tuesday, October 8th, Monster Mash at Legacy Dinner Theater in the Dells. We will gather at the senior center at 12:30pm with the bus leaving at 12:45pm. Please 608-437-6902 to reserve your spot, or be added to the waitlist. Tickets are $72 each and includes admission, lunch and a tip. The bus ride is $3. Lunch consists of roasted chicken, a bread roll, corn, green beans, roasted potatoes, and a dessert.

Friday, October 9th, Vaccine Clinic, 8:30am-2:30pm, Mount Horeb Pharmacy will be here to administer Flu, RSV, & COVID-19 vaccinations for those that are interested. Please bring your insurance card, including your Medicare Part B (red, white & blue card)

Thursday, October 15th, lunch outing to Anita's Café in Spring Green. The bus will leave the Senior Center at 10:30. Please call 608-437-6902 to reserve your spot.

Thursday, October 15th, Roots & Resilience Wellness Group, 1:00pm. This monthly group will be blending ancestral and genealogy insight with personal wellness, helping to understand our capacity to engage health, healing, and grace through ancestry. This group is free and welcome for all to attend. Relax, reflect, and reconnect together!

Monday, October 19th, Movie Matinee, 2:00pm. We will be showing Ghostbusters. "After the members of a team of scientists lose their cushy positions at a university in New York City, they decide to become "ghostbusters" to wage a high-tech battle with the supernatural for money. They stumble upon a gateway to another dimension, a doorway that will release evil upon the city. The Ghostbusters must now save New York from complete destruction." Refreshments and popcorn will be provided. There is no cost for this activity. Prior sign up is preferred, but not required.

Tuesday, October 20th Men's Group at noon: Any gentlemen are welcome to join us for lunch and to get out of the house to socialize. Please make reservations 2 days prior for lunch, which is served at 11:15am.

Tuesday, October 20th, Badger Hearing 1:00-3:00pm, Tracy will be here to check hearing aides. No appointment is needed.

Thursday, October 22nd, Internet Safety Class, 1:00pm, led by Tech Professional, Zeke. The internet is an incredible tool, but it's also a place for scammers. Come and walk through core habits you need to keep your personal information safe and secure.

Friday, October 23rd, BINGO at 12:30pm. $1 a card to play. Two card maximum. Lunch is provided. Sponsor is TBD.

Monday, October 26th, Ear Wax Removal at 12:30. Amy is here to assess and gently remove ear wax if needed. Call 608-437-6902 to schedule an appointment.

Monday, October 26th, Historical Presentation with Bob Block, 2:00pm. Bob will be here to share the Best of Unheard, Untold, & Unusual WWII Stories. "Discover fascinating and lesserknown stories of WWII including the daring Night Witches, the remarkable survival of the Ovitz family at Auschwitz, the only WWII battle fought on U.S. soil, and Calvin Graham, the youngest American to serve in the war. These extraordinary accounts reveal surprising stories of courage, sacrifice, survival, and resilience that are as captivating as they are unforgettable." There is no cost for this activity. Prior sign up is preferred, but not required.

Case Manager's Note: October 15th through December 7th is Medicare's annual Open Enrollment Period (OEP), also known as the Annual Election Period (AEP), is the time of year when you can make changes to your Medicare coverage. Any changes you make will take effect on January 1st. You can make as many changes as you want during this period, but only your last coverage choice will take effect on January 1st. The changes you can make include: joining a new Medicare Advantage Plan or Part D, switching from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage Plan, and switching from a Medicare Advantage Plan to Original Medicare. To make changes please CALL1-800-MEDICARE or visit Medicare.gov to compare options and enroll. If you would like assistance looking at your options, please contact Lou Strohl, social work case manager at 608-437-9442 to schedule an appointment. Drop-in help is not available at this time.

Nutrition:

October 13th: Chicken taco salad with tortilla chops, mild chipotle ranch

October 20th: Chef salad with egg, turkey, ham, croutons, French dressing

October 27th: Harvest salad with chicken, kale, spinach, Brussels sprouts, carrot, dried cranberries, croutons, and balsamic vinaigrette



Working to Keep Costs Down

As your locally owned, not-for-profit utility, we focus on managing costs and providing reliable service for our community.

Did you know?

Local residential customers pay about **$31 less** each month for electricity than the statewide average.*

*Source: www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia861. Figure reflects difference between 2025 (preliminary) statewide average price and utility average price applied to typical local monthly residential electricity use.

mount horeb UTILITIES

mounthorebutilities.com • (608) 437-3084

At Mount Horeb Utilities, we join forces with other local, not-for-profit utilities through WPPI Energy to share resources and lower costs.

A WPPI ENERGY COMMUNITY

Fiscal Facts

Wisconsin's Total Tax Levy Sees Largest Increase in Nearly Two Decades

Gross property tax levies across Wisconsin collectively grew by 5.8% on December 2025 tax bills, easily outpacing inflation as the largest increase in nearly two decades.

This gross figure includes all levies imposed by all local governments and school districts in Wisconsin, before any state tax credits are applied to lower net bills for homeowners. Some areas saw much larger increases: gross levies for all taxing authorities in the city of Madison increased 11.9%, the most since 1985.

Meanwhile, equalized property values as of Jan. 1, 2026, increased by 7.6% statewide over the prior year. While a robust rate of growth, this still represented the smallest increase since 2021. But it was sufficient to push Wisconsin past a major milestone, as total statewide equalized property values surpassed $1 trillion for the first time in January.

The statewide gross property tax rate fell by 2.3% on December 2025 tax bills, marking the 12th straight year of decline. This is possible due to the continued brisk growth in property values.

These are among the statewide findings from the Forum's 2026 Property Values and Taxes DataTool, which features interactive data for all of Wisconsin's 72 counties and more than 1,840 cities, villages, and towns. It is the latest in a series of Forum interactive tools meant to provide all Wisconsinites with essential data about their schools, local governments, and state and regional economy.

The increase in property tax levies primarily is due to school district tax levies. Key factors include voters in a large number of districts passing referenda to increase their tax levies, an increase to district revenue limits this year as a result of a partial veto by Gov. Tony Evers in the 2023-25 state budget, and a freeze in state general school aids by lawmakers and Evers in the 2025-27 state budget.

Other findings from the tool include that in 2026, statewide residential property values grew by 7.1%, a significant increase but the smallest since 2020. Commercial property values increased 9.1% in 2026.

The total gross tax levy for the region rose by 5.5% on December 2025 tax bills for all local governments in southeast Wisconsin. While less than the statewide average, this was the largest increase since at least 2008. Among the seven counties in the southeast Wisconsin region, Racine County (10.9%) had the largest increase in gross tax levies for all local governments, while Waukesha County (3.3%) saw the smallest.

Equalized property values in southeast Wisconsin grew 7.6%, rising slightly faster than last year and matching the statewide average.

Meanwhile in Dane County, the gross tax levy for all local governments increased by 9.9% on December 2025 tax bills, the most since 1992. Equalized property values increased in Dane County in 2026 by 5.9%, the least since 2021.

This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state's leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education. Learn more at wispolicyforum.org.

WisPolitics-State Affairs

Data center ads flood the political airwaves

Data centers have played an outsized role in the early ad wars in the 2026 cycle with Wisconsin campaigns and groups spending $6.8 million on such spots on broadcast TV over the past five months, according to an early September review by WisPolitics.com.

That trails only taxes and healthcare for the topics with the most spending so far when looking at the issues that voters in a recent Marquette University Law School Poll ranked as the most important to them.

Operatives working on fall campaigns said while issues such as inflation are more pressing to voters overall, data centers have come to symbolize a series of anxieties for voters, from rising costs to a changing way of life. What's more, voters don't believe their state representative can do much about rising costs, but they do have a say in whether a new data center will be built next door.

"Data centers have become a proxy for affordability and cost, as well as just the feeling that people are losing control," said one Dem operative.

The ad-tracking firm AdImpact recently noted that nationally data centers ranked 43rd out of 78 issues for the current political cycle, landing between foreign policy and fundraising. Still, it saw an uptick in ads over the last couple of months.

WisPolitics then took data from the ad tracking service for topics that have appeared in Wisconsin races since mid-April, after the conclusion of the state Supreme Court race. It then took the top 10 list of topics that voters considered their No. 1 issue in the latest Marquette University Law School Poll and compared the spending on each topic.

Other issues besides those voters were asked about in the Marquette poll have gotten serious play in ads. That includes President Donald Trump, who's been mentioned in $10.4 million worth of ads.

AdImpact logs up to three issues per ad in its database, meaning there's some overlap in the spending numbers.

The top 10 for spending were:

*Taxation at $16.4 million. The topic in the AdImpact database didn't break it out by property taxes, which was the most important topic to 6% of voters in the Marquette poll, tied for No. 5.

*Healthcare at $11.1 million; 10% of voters said health insurance was their No. 1 issue, ranking third in last month's poll.

*Data centers at $6.8 million; 5% of voters said it was their most important issue, good for No. 7.

*Housing at $5.7 million; 6% of votes said housing affordability was their No. 1 issue, tied for fifth highest.

*Crime at $5.2 million; it was the top issue for 1% of voters, ranking 10th highest in the Marquette poll.

*Immigration at $4.1 million; in the Marquette poll, 12% of voters said illegal immigration and border security was their No. 1 issue. The bulk of the spending on that issue was a $2.2 million ad buy from the conservative Restoration of America PAC ad that included images of Dem gubernatorial candidates Mandela Barnes, Francesca Hong and Sara Rodriguez ahead of the primary. That spot also included transgender issues.

*Education at $3.8 million; public schools was the top issue for 3% of voters, ranking No. 9.

*Inflation at more than $3.6 million; inflation and the cost of living was by far the most important issue to voters, with 43% saying it was No. 1 on their list.

*Abortion at $3.6 million; it was the top issue for 4% of voters, ranking eighth.

*Jobs and the economy at $2.9 million; it was the top issue for 7%, ranking No. 4.

In some races, both sides are using the data center issue, like in southwestern Wisconsin's 17th Senate District, one of the key races for control of the state Senate this fall.

That race pits Republican Howard Marklein, co-chair of the Joint Finance Committee, against Rep. Jenna Jacobson, an Oregon Dem who was first elected to the Assembly in 2022.

There, the Dem group New Wisconsin Majority has been running a 15-second ad on broadcast TV that charges "big tech" gave Marklein's campaign thousands and then he gave tax breaks "to their data centers." The spot concludes, "Doesn't take AI to see that Howard Marklein serves data centers, not us."

The AdImpact data focuses on broadcast ads. Separately, WisPolitics has been monitoring digital ads and tracked one from the GOP-aligned Jobs First Coalition Inc. knocking Jacobson. The narrator in that spot says she voted against legislation in the Assembly that would've prevented "data centers from driving up energy costs for Wisconsin families." The narrator also says the bill would've prevented data centers from wasting clean drinking water before closing the ad, "Tell Rep. Jenna Jacobson her vote does not compute."

Among broadcast ads in the governor's race, GOP candidate Tom Tiffany has put more than $1.1 million behind a spot that included a line labeling his Dem rival as "Data Center David Crowley," according to the AdImpact data.

Crowley's first ad of the general election includes a line promising to hold data centers accountable and "make them pay." AdImpact had tracked $774,000 on that ad as Sept. 4.

Meanwhile, Protect Our Wisconsin, which is aligned with the Democratic Governors Association, had put $643,000 behind a broadcast ad saying "Tiffany sold us out on data centers" and voted to give their operators a $68 billion tax cut.

Tiffany supporters seemed to have moved on from that issue for now, but you can be sure that data centers will remain a part of the political lexicon all the way through November.

For more, go to www.wispolitics.com

Dane County Government

County Exec. Agard introduces proposed $946.8 million budget

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard on October 1 introduced her 2027 Executive Budget, a proposal she said is focused on continuing the County's progress toward structural balance while protecting vital services and making strategic investments in Dane County's future.

The proposed 2027 budget totals $946.8 million. It includes an operating budget of $861.0 million and a capital budget of $85.8 million. The budget lowers Dane County's property tax rate for the second year in a row to $2.43 per $1,000, while the average Madison homeowner will see a levy increase of $20.67.

Agard said that when she took office in 2024, Dane County was facing a projected $31.8 million structural deficit, yet through two years of spending reductions, position management, increased revenues and other cost-saving measures, the projected budget gap was reduced to approximately $15 million heading into the 2027 budget process. While one-time resources such as additional surplus have been necessary to balance recent budgets, many of the actions taken over the past two years have reduced ongoing costs or increased ongoing revenues, helping address the underlying structural imbalance.

Agard said she looks forward to working with the Dane County Board during the budget amendment process and emphasized the importance of maintaining the fiscal progress reflected in the Executive Budget.

"When I took office, Dane County was facing a serious deficit," said County Executive Agard. "We made difficult decisions, asked for shared sacrifice and began changing the way we approach our finances. We have made significant progress reducing the budget gap and addressing its structural causes. We are turning the corner, but we have real work to do this year."

For the second consecutive year, the Executive Budget does not eliminate any filled County positions. The budget also takes a more targeted approach to departmental reductions rather than repeating the across-the-board reductions used during the 2026 budget process.

"We can be fiscally responsible while continuing to provide exceptional services people depend on every day," Agard said. "This budget reflects both sides of that responsibility. We are continuing to reduce ongoing spending pressures, strengthen recurring revenues and make the structural changes necessary for long-term stability, while continuing to invest in housing, our natural resources, public safety, human services, infrastructure and the quality of life of our residents."

Highlights of the 2027 Executive Budget include:

$10 million for the Dane County Conservation Fund to continue permanently protecting high-priority lands, wildlife habitat, water quality, agricultural land and outdoor recreation opportunities.

$20 million for the Affordable Housing Development Fund to support the creation and preservation of affordable housing across Dane County.

Restoration of the 1% reduction in County employee wages implemented as part of the 2026 budget, as well as restoration of the 1% reduction to purchase of service contracts, supporting community partners that provide essential services throughout Dane County.

$3.5 million for new voting equipment for the Dane County Clerk's Office.

No elimination of filled County positions for the second consecutive year.

$17.3 million in capital improvements to County highways, supporting road, bridge and infrastructure projects throughout Dane County.

$3 million for body-worn cameras for the Dane County Sheriff's Office, with implementation beyond the West Precinct accompanied by finalized policies governing their use, retention and release, as well as public information about the program and individuals' rights.

Continued investment in the Dane County Regional Airport, including parking expansion, terminal modernization and additional noise mitigation work as the airport experiences significant growth.

Investments in Dane County parks and trails, including accessible fishing and boating improvements at Babcock County Park and construction of Phase I of the Glacial Drumlin to Capital City Connector Trail.

Continued investment in youth and community justice initiatives, including the ATTA youth justice program, Community Court and efforts to strengthen behavioral health and diversion services.

Funding to prepare for the opening of Dane County's new landfill, Site No. 3, along with investments in renewable natural gas infrastructure.

Continued support for mental health and human services, including programs serving seniors, children and families, people experiencing housing instability, and residents seeking behavioral health and substance use services.

Investment in housing and supportive services for people impacted by the opioid epidemic, using opioid settlement resources to help connect residents with stable housing and the services needed to support recovery.

$2.1 million to support the Salvation Army's new shelter for women and families experiencing homelessness, helping replace its current shelter facility and expand access to safe, stable shelter in Dane County.

The budget is organized around the four pillars of Agard's Dane County in Action strategic plan: Community Services Delivery, Economic Development, Justice Systems Improvement and Environmental Leadership.

The 2027 proposal also comes as Dane County maintains its AAA bond rating, the highest available, while S&P Global Ratings recently revised the County's outlook from Stable to Negative.

"The progress we have made can be lost if we do not maintain the fiscal discipline that got us here," Agard said.

Read the entire budget at admin.danecounty.gov/documents/pdf/Budget/2027/County-Executive-Budget.pdf

A commentary by Secretary Randy Romanski of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

Wisconsin shines during National Dairy Month each year. As part of this, dairy farms across the state welcome people to the farm to learn about the food supply chain, sustainability, and the future of America's Dairyland. Although summer has flown by and June is long past, dairy is still at the forefront of what we do in the state.

No matter the time of year in Wisconsin, dairy never sleeps. With a $52.8 billion contribution to the state's economy each year, dairy is an economic powerhouse and is the state's calling card. We raced through county fair season and the Wisconsin State Fair. These events build toward events like World Dairy Expo, which bring people from across the globe to our doorstep. This event has it all – from the best animals and genetics to the best feed, equipment, and seminars.

It's important that Wisconsin hosts World Dairy Expo to showcase dairy right here in the state. The state recognizes this value and, each year, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) works to bring delegations from around the world to the event in Madison. As part of these trade activities, we connect foreign buyers to the best dairy products and technologies.

Through our international agribusiness team, DATCP expects to connect people from dozens of delegations to Wisconsin companies and agribusinesses. These connections help support Wis-

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Witches NIGHT OUT
MOUNT HOREB, WI
OCTOBER 15, 2026
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DOWNTOWN MOUNT HOREB, WI
5:00pm – 7:30pm
Come get witchy and enjoy an evening filled with shopping, treats, and magical memories!

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MAKER'S MARKET SQUARE
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LIVE MUSIC BY THE N'ACHO'S
FREE ENTRY
Witches NIGHT OUT
October 15th
MARTINSON HALL
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Driftless Historium Exhibit Captures An Artistic Journey "Inside the Frames"





Svetlana Neshlyaeva's exhibit, "Inside the Frames," is officially debuting on Saturday, October 10 at the Driftless Historium.

Mount Horeb's downtown Driftless Historium hosts "Inside the Frames" by Svetlana Neshlyaeva. Her exhibit, officially debuting on Saturday, October 10, features a range of mediums and techniques – showcasing Svetlana's dedicated and meticulous evolution as a later-blooming artist.

Born in Latvia and a resident of Siberia for many years, Svetlana received two higher degrees – one from the renowned Tomsk Polytechnic University and another from the Academy of National Economy of Russia. After a successful career as an electrical engineer and later as a financial director, where she managed the company as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Svetlana decided to explore her creative side. "Suddenly," she recalls, "I wanted to draw. The desire was so strong that it surprised me."

About 11 years ago, amid a high intensity daily routine of work and family care, she managed to set aside two to three hours on weekends to attend beginner painting classes. Her first experience involved working with oil paints on primed cardboard. Her work always reflected attention to detail and a desire for perfection – at least as much as possible!

As her children grew older and began living their own lives, Svetlana found more time for herself. She continued attending the studio classes and began painting independently. After exploring various techniques, she became fascinated by watercolor: "I love its inconstancy and capricious nature. You can be frustrated with it, suffer over the result, and yet it is impossible not to love it!"

This artistic interest led Svetlana to Mount Horeb-based watercolorist and instructor Peggy Zalucha. Zalucha shared her own experience and knowledge, and encouraged Svetlana to participate in local and state exhibitions, where her work was well-received and earned awards.

Svetlana often finds inspiration in her travels with her husband, Brian Durtschi, a Mount Horeb native. This emotional connection to her work means that, overall, she is "in no hurry to part with [her] paintings." "Most of them," she shares, "have found a place in our home, complementing the interior and serving as warm reminders of the places we have visited and the experiences we have shared."

Meet Svetlana Neshlyaeva at a reception in the Driftless Historium's Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Gallery on Friday, October 23 between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., with brief remarks and reflections from the artist at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and select works will be available for sale.

"Inside the Frames" is free and accessible during the museum's opening hours (Friday through Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) through Tuesday, November 17, 2026.

For more information, call the Driftless Historium at 608-437-6486 or email mthorebahs@gmail.com.

DAIRY

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consin's agriculture, food, and forestry industries and the export of these products. Notably, the last five years have been the highest five years of agriculture, food, and forestry exports on record for the state. Thanks to the Governor's investment in the Wisconsin Initiative for Agriculture Exports and the continued opportunity to strengthen relationships at trade missions abroad and at events like World Dairy Expo, the state continues to grow the export of dairy products.

We need to keep investing in agriculture and finding partners that play to our strengths, because agriculture is not just part of our past and present, but it's also part of our future. As September comes to a close, make your plan for how you will continue supporting and celebrating Wisconsin's dairy industry. Although National Dairy Month is in the rear view for this year, dairy churns on.











November 3 is Election Day

Senate candidates Jacobson and Marklein answer questions about taxes, AI, healthcare, government transparency and more

Two candidates are running for State Senator in District 17, Jenna Jacobson (D) and Howard Marklein (R).

Bios:

Jenna Jacobson: I earned a B.S. in Consumer Financial Planning from Purdue University after transferring from UW-River Falls. In my professional life, I was a Housing Program Specialist helping people secure and stay in stable housing. Before that, I was a financial analyst. In my spare time, I volunteer at the local food pantry and coach people on budgeting and credit counseling. My husband, Kyle, and I live in Oregon with our three children.

Before being elected to the Assembly, I served on the Village of Oregon board where I chaired the Finance Committee and the Personnel & Public Safety Committee. As a Village Trustee, I served as the Vice-Chair of the Oregon Housing Coalition and on the Fire/EMS Commission as well.

In the Assembly, I serve as the ranking member for the Committees on Agriculture and Sporting Heritage. I also serve on the Financial Institutions and Ways and Means Committees. Previously, I have served on the Consumer Protection and Workforce Development Committees. In the Assembly, I have focused on education, preserving our agricultural heritage, and fighting for rural communities.

Howard Marklein: Howard was born and raised on a dairy farm in Spring Green. He graduated from River Valley High School and earned his accounting degree from UW-Whitewater. Before entering politics, Howard was a partner at Virchow Krause (now Baker Tilly), where he focused on forensic accounting and white-collar crime investigations. He is a certified public accountant (CPA).

Howard has represented the 17th Senate District since 2014, after previously serving in the State Assembly. He currently serves as Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, which is responsible for writing the state budget. He also serves on the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Revenue and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

What are your top priorities if elected?

Jacobson: While speaking with folks in the district, the main challenges I've heard are public school funding, housing, and protecting the region's agricultural industry.

As the parent of a traditional learner, an advanced learner, and a special education learner, I know the importance of public education. Wisconsinites value education, yet our public schools have been repeatedly starved of much-needed revenue and support.

Public schools in the 17th Senate District, which leads the state in school referenda, have been consistently underfunded. This risks the success and futures of our children. Republican majorities have rejected independent recommendations, creating budgets that further damage our education system. We must provide children with the public education they deserve, teachers and staff with the resources they need, and deliver property tax relief to Wisconsinites.

On housing, we must increase the housing supply by providing local municipalities with resources and statewide guidelines that make residential zoning less burdensome. As a former Housing Program Specialist, I know red tape prevents people from accessing the aid they need. Modifying existing housing programs to make them more navigable for the average Wisconsinite is an important step toward making sure those programs actually reach the people they are designed to help. These are goals that provide real solutions, which I will continue to advocate for.

In my district, and across the state, Wisconsin farmers need our support. Wisconsin must help family farmers stay competitive in an ever-changing landscape. As the ranking member of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, I authored the Farming Forward bill, which would help with succession planning. This bill would provide an incentive for existing farmers to sell assets to a beginning farmer. I also offered legislation to protect a farmer's right to repair their own equipment and a third bill to provide grants to farmers growing food for food pantries. I will use my voice in the Senate to highlight the issues facing our farmers and collaborate with them to find paths forward.





The race between Jenna Jacobson (D) and Howard Marklein (R) is one people all over the state are watching. It will be up to local voters to decide.

Marklein: My top priority if elected is to continue writing fiscally responsible budgets for Wisconsin that fund our state's priorities while continuing to cut taxes. I also want to ensure that Wisconsin's hospitals and health care system remain strong and accessible to as many people as possible. Finally, I want to help my constituents manage the rising cost of living by cutting taxes, reducing red tape, and making it easier to build additional housing across my district.

What's something that makes you uniquely qualified to lead and govern?

Jacobson: As a Housing Program Specialist, I worked directly with people to find and maintain stable housing. On the Oregon Village Board, I saw the challenges local governments face when they are trying to solve problems with limited resources. And, in the Assembly, I've had the opportunity to turn those experiences into legislation.

My work as a housing specialist and my time on the village board have given me firsthand knowledge of the struggles communities face as they try to address urgent housing needs. My time coaching people on budgeting and credit management illustrated just how difficult it has become for families to keep up as prices continue to rise and wages remain stagnant.

That combination of experience gives me a practical understanding of the challenges facing both Wisconsin families and my role in trying to support them.

Marklein: My background as a CPA has made me uniquely qualified to serve as Co-Chair of Wisconsin's budget-writing committee. During my time on the Joint Committee of Finance, Wisconsin has gone from regularly running deficits to consistently enjoying large surpluses. My leadership in the private sector taught me a lot about leading people. That experience has helped make me an effective leader in the Legislature.

Prices are soaring and property taxes have doubled for many working-class Wisconsinites in recent years. What can state government do to help the middle class survive these turbulent times?

Jacobson: Wisconsin's property taxpayers are being asked to make up for years of underfunded public schools with property taxes. Our school funding formula limited what school districts can receive from the state and what they can raise locally, leaving them without the resources needed to maintain quality education.

Legislative Republicans cynically removed increased school funding from the budget, leaving schools with little choice but to turn to their communities to keep the doors open. That has contributed to the environment we see today, with hundreds of school funding referendums every year.

I plan to join Senate Democrats in voting to increase school funding, lessening the burden on taxpayers and reducing school districts' need to turn to property tax referenda to make ends meet.

Marklein: The best way to lower property taxes for homeowners who are feeling the burden of rising costs is to reverse Governor Evers' reckless 400-year veto, which has guaranteed increased property taxes for the next 40 decades. Reversing that veto will be a top priority going into the next legislative session.

Over the past two budgets, I have led efforts to cut taxes for middle-class Wisconsinites and retirees by billions of dollars. I will continue working to use Wisconsin's surplus to provide additional tax relief in the next legislative session.

Healthcare costs and health insurance are far beyond what many middle-class Wisconsinites can afford. Is there a solution?

Jacobson: Healthcare is a deeply personal issue for me, especially the challenges rural healthcare providers face in the current environment. I delivered all three of my babies at Upland Hills Health in Dodgeville, where I received amazing care. That experience informs my work in the Assembly, where I co-authored bills to provide Medicaid coverage for new moms for the first 12 months, regulate pharmacy benefit managers, and protect every woman's right to reproductive healthcare.

However, there are still options available to us to help Wisconsinites. We must cap the cost of insulin and asthma medication, remove the tax on over-the-counter medication, and take every dollar made available to us through Medicaid expansion. I also support creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board to keep prescription drug costs in check and protect Wisconsinites from unnecessarily high prices.

Here in the 17th, we must protect our rural healthcare infrastructure. We have already seen closures in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls. Investing in rural healthcare is essential to keeping our network strong so that no matter where you live, you can access the high-quality care Wisconsin should provide.

Marklein: During my time in the legislature, we have taken a number of steps aimed at making healthcare more accessible and affordable. But there is still more work to do. Shifting the cost of healthcare onto the government does not make healthcare more affordable; in fact, it can often make it more expensive. The focus needs to be on driving down underlying costs and ensuring competition. For example, the healthcare system has unnecessary costs, like repetitive prior authorizations, and defensive medicine that drive up the cost of care.

Legislatively, we can look at solutions like my Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA) bill, which would help small businesses offer health insurance options to their employees. We can also continue to invest in programs like the Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan to help people purchase health insurance and help insurers stay in the marketplace.

Can Wisconsin remain America's Dairyland? Should it?

Jacobson: Yes, it can, and it should. Dairy farming and production remain a pillar of Wisconsin's economy, bringing in $52.8 billion

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SENATE

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annually. Beyond its economic impact, dairy farming remains core to the identity of the thousands of proud dairy farmers in our state.

During my time in the Assembly, I introduced the Farming Forward bill, which provides assistance to family farms seeking to remain independently owned, rather than being absorbed by massive corporations, while providing them with the incentives that make it possible to pass their farms on to the next generation of independent farmers.

I have also co-authored bills that support the work our farmers do every day. Bills would increase grants to farmer-led watershed protection groups and create grants for rotational grazing programs.

It is a top priority of mine to ensure that the farmers who built this state are given the tools and opportunities to carry their way of life forward. If we want Wisconsin to remain America's Dairyland, which I do, we need to make sure family farmers can afford to keep farming.

Marklein: Wisconsin continues to be America's Dairyland thanks to our great farmers and dairy producers. Green County is the heart of Wisconsin's cheese economy and I will continue to work on behalf of our cheese producers in the Legislature.

What steps would you take to promote transparency in state government?

Jacobson: One area which Wisconsinites have made clear requires further transparency is the use of NDAs by big tech companies while negotiating data center construction with municipalities. I completely agree with their concerns, and I commit to voting for legislation that would ban the practice.

It is unacceptable for Wisconsin to allow large corporations to bully our villages and towns with fleets of expensive lawyers, while preventing elected bodies from discussing community-wide impacts with those who will feel them.

Marklein: Keeping state government accountable and watching the state's checkbook has been a top priority of mine during my career in government. Using my position on the Joint Committee on Finance and the Joint Audit Committee, I am able to keep a close eye on agency spending to ensure efficient, effective, and transparent government.

Explain how you would bring different ideas to the table, and even disagree, in a way that is productive, helpful, and does not detract from civil discourse:

Jacobson: I think the best way to get ideas is to work with people closest to the issue. Because of that, I spend a lot of time in my district listening to folks. I think it is such a privilege when folks are willing to share their personal stories with me. When ideas conflict, I start by seeking to understand other people's perspective on an issue. Whether that disagreement is with a constituent or a colleague, I think it is important to listen with curiosity and be as clear and direct as possible on where I am on an issue. I think it is then important to find areas of agreement that lead to the most productive outcome for my constituents and the state.

Marklein: Thankfully, the style of politics in Washington, D.C., is not the same as politics in Wisconsin. Upwards of 90% of what we do in the State Legislature is bipartisan. I represent a purple, politically diverse State Senate district filled with voters who do not just vote straight ticket red or blue, they evaluate candidates as individuals. While we will not agree on every issue, I genuinely enjoy discussing the topics that matter most to my constituents whether that comes at their doorstep or in my Capitol office.

Name a specific issue on which you are willing to work across party lines?

Jacobson: Being able to afford groceries, healthcare, or housing is not a partisan issue. And the solutions to those issues are also not partisan - at least they shouldn't be. I expect to work with my colleagues and constituents to get bills passed that will address the real issues facing Wisconsinites.

Marklein: I have a long history of working across party lines. Given the realities of divided government, I have worked extensively with Governor Evers on every state budget since becoming Co-Chair. All eighteen of my bills that became law this session had a bipartisan vote in the legislature. I also worked with the Governor on several key pieces of legislation, including historic shared revenue increases for local government and a bipartisan deal this past session that aimed to significantly increase special education funding while delivering tax rebate checks to Wisconsin families.

I have also partnered with Senate Democrats on critical priorities, such as funding to expand missing child alerts and bringing a large soybean processing plant to Evansville.

Looking forward, I think one of the biggest obstacles Wisconsin faces in attracting talent to our state is a lack of housing. Green County is a perfect example of an area that needs more housing. I would happily work with Democrats on ways to make it easier for the free market to build more housing.

What's an important issue you feel is not talked about enough? Perhaps something that is vital to the state's well-being but not glamorous enough to garner a lot of headlines or clicks?

Jacobson: The construction of the MariBell and BECI transmission lines is an issue that, until very recently, has flown under the radar of statewide publications. However, in the 17th and throughout the many districts these projects run through, families, farmers, and environmentalists are more than aware. They are concerned about the rushed planning process and the lack of a clear picture of how these projects will affect their towns, neighborhoods, and even their backyards. These are major infrastructure projects that will shape communities for decades, yet many of the people who will live with their impacts still don't have crucial information about what is coming.

In 2019, the 17th SD, still represented by Senator Marklein, raised concerns about the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line for many of these same reasons. Yet seven years later, he has not taken a step toward comprehensive regulation.

We cannot keep repeating the same mistakes. As your State Senator, I will advocate for greater oversight, transparency, and community input on projects of this magnitude.

Marklein: When you or I are in trouble, we want to be able to call 911 and know someone will answer the phone and help us. In my Senate District, our EMS departments are nearly entirely made up of volunteers. As our population ages, it becomes more and more important to have well-staffed EMS departments. That means we need more volunteers in our local communities. I have done a lot of work with our local departments to remove barriers for volunteers, secure funding for a training reimbursement program, and provide additional financial support to our local departments.

What is a misconception about you, perhaps one espoused by opponents of your campaign, that you would like to clear up?

Jacobson: My opponent, Senator Howard Marklein, has run a deeply disingenuous ad which falsely accuses me of opposing data center regulation. That is a plain lie. I am a staunch supporter of effective data center regulation, which requires tech companies to be transparent and accountable.

The truth of the matter is that the Republican bill I voted against did nothing but pay lip service to the real concerns the people of the 17th have made clear. I cosigned an alternative, the Data Center Accountability Act, which would ensure our communities' independence and natural beauty are maintained, workers receive fair wages, energy costs aren't passed on to consumers, and data center companies are required to pay for additions to our energy grid.

If the Republican version of the bill provided the same regulatory framework, I would have happily voted for it. Instead, they left massive gaps in our ability to punish wrongdoing and presented a bill that was "regulation" in name only.

Marklein: My opponent has spent millions on television ads and mail pieces, each filled with lies and misleading claims. Our campaign will not be able to match the millions being spent by my opponent. But I want to make it clear that my focus remains where it always has been: on lowering the cost of living, making Wisconsin a more attractive place to move, and working across the aisle to make government work for my constituents.

Critics worry that Artificial Intelligent poses myriad threats to humanity, the arts, critical thinking, media literacy, the job market, and more, but A.I. data centers come with their own distinct concerns. Their critics worry they will pollute the environment, gobble up land, and raise utility rates. Their supporters tout them as the future. What's your stance on data centers?

Jacobson: I share the concerns voiced by members of our community, and through the ongoing transmission line projects, we've already begun to see the impacts that data centers could bring to the 17th. I am committed to protecting the integrity of our natural resources, promoting local autonomy, and ensuring that big corporations aren't allowed to overrun the Driftless.

As State Senator, I intend to fight for the Data Center Accountability Act, which would ensure our communities' independence and natural beauty are maintained, workers receive fair wages, energy costs aren't passed on to consumers, and data center companies are required to pay for additions to our energy grid. I also plan to vote to ban the use of NDAs when tech companies engage communities in negotiations. My priority is that everyone that I represent will have a voice in an issue that only continues to grow in importance.

Marklein: I believe local control and transparency are important. Communities that determine a data center is not the right fit for their community should not have one forced upon them. I am proud that many of our communities have already stepped up and made the decision that is best for them. I believe that data centers should pay for their own electricity and have no impact on our utility rates. I also would like to see assurances that data centers will have no impact on the environment or an area's natural resources. Above all, local residents deserve complete transparency and thorough information from their local leaders before any decision is made.

What, in your opinion, should government do (and not do)? What does good government look like to you?

Jacobson: I believe government can step into the gap between someone's needs and what they are able to resolve on their own. In my work in housing, I saw many families struggle not because they weren't trying, but because programs were difficult to navigate or affordable housing was unavailable. I've also seen local governments with good ideas but limited resources. A good government should remove those barriers, while respecting people's ability to make their own choices.

Good governance means working with people who may not always agree with me while staying true to the voters who hired me. I will bring the same approach to the Senate that I have brought to the Assembly: understanding the problems we face so we can address them before they become crises. This is an element of good government that is sorely needed by Wisconsinites. We cannot act from a place of reaction. We need to anticipate challenges and put forward solutions before they become emergencies.

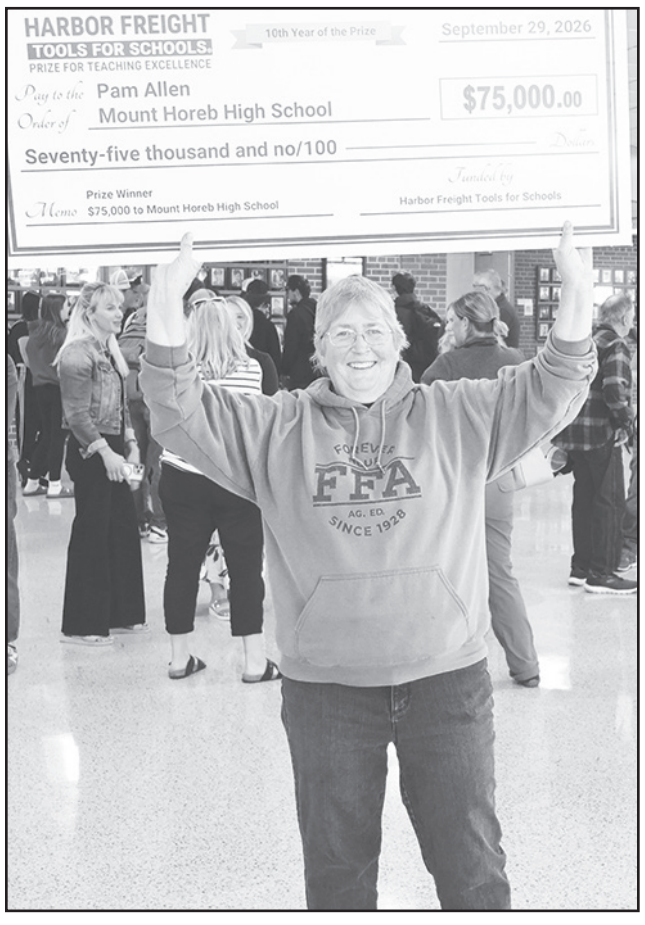
Marklein: My vision for state government is one that is efficient and minimally invasive, while fostering an environment that makes Wisconsin an attractive place to live, work, raise a family, and do business. Good government does a good job at performing essential services, respects individuals and business, and gives local communities the ability to make decisions.

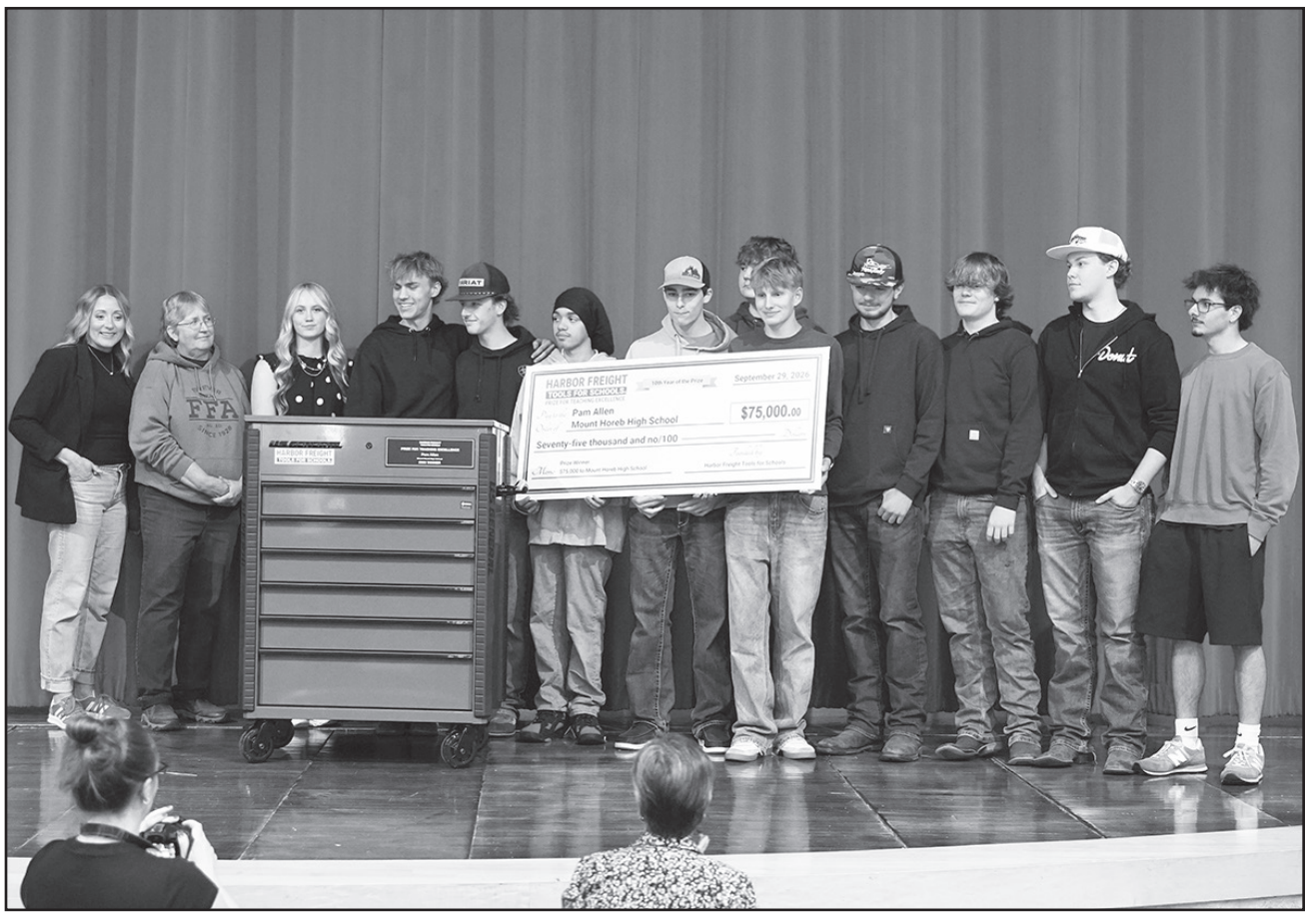
Anything else?

Jacobson: My team and I have knocked over 40,000 doors and counting. The number one thing we hear is to please just get something done. Folks are struggling, and they don't feel like anyone has their back. What I like to remind people is that there is reason for hope. Flipping this district means new leadership in the legislature and new opportunities to get things done. That's my plan. See you at the door!









ALLEN

continued from page 1

Implement Sales in Mount Horeb, said Allen has influenced countless local students.

"Pam was my Ag teacher for all four years of High School," said Docken. "I had many classes with her. Ranging from welding, Ag science, to Ag Mechanics. She was also my FFA Advisor for all four years. My senior year I was the FFA Vice President."

"She instilled a love for Agriculture in all her students, but it especially resonated with me," Docken continued. "I grew up on a dairy farm in Mount. Horeb, so Ag has always been a part of my life, but after we sold the farm and moved to town in the late 90s, I had lost a passion for Agriculture. Once I started taking Ag classes in high school my passion was reignited. Pam instilled in us that Agriculture is driving industry for not only our country but for the world."

"As the FFA Advisor she pushed us to be better versions of ourselves and that with hard work we could achieve anything," Docken said. "I never thought in a million years I would ever hold any type of office in any type of school program but with Pam's leadership and a little push when I needed it, she gave me the right tools to become the FFA Vice President my Senior year of 2003. Her leadership helped me to pursue my career in Ag Mechanics, starting w/ what was then Mount Horeb Implement in 2004, currently Sloan Implement. After being a mechanic for 10 years, I had the opportunity to move into sales. It was Pam's leadership and guidance all those years, prior that gave me the belief and confidence that I could transition to the sales role and be a leader just like the Vice President role prior."

"Pam is an instrumental part of the bring your tractor to school day," added Michelle Jones. "This was one of the many reasons why our son couldn't wait to get to high school and join FFA."

"Pam is such an inspiration to these kids and always kept them engaged," Jones continued. "The kids looked forward to all the events she led for FFA. Nothing beats this bond they all shared. Thank you, Pam, for always putting the kids first and making sure they experienced all things related to FFA!"

Allen is one of two women receiving this award nationally. She has led the welding and metals program at Mount Horeb High School for more than three decades. Emphasizing minimal lecture time, Allen believes the best way to learn welding is to pick up a torch, solve real problems, and create things that matter.

In addition, Allan Ballweg won $25,000 for himself and $50,000 for Sauk Prairie High School's program. Ballweg teaches Industrial Technology at Sauk Prairie High School. Raised on his uncle's farm and custom sawmill, Ballweg developed an early passion for hands-on craftsmanship. He brings extensive real-world experience back to his classroom by spending his summers constructing houses in Alaska. Ballweg's students utilize industry tools to tear down and rebuild engines, cut custom fire rings, and develop technical mastery.

The Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence was started in 2017 by Eric Smidt, owner and founder of Harbor Freight Tools.

"When we started the prize a decade ago, our goal was to recognize and celebrate the best skilled trades teachers and programs across America," Smidt said. "Today, we have a nation-wide shortage of skilled trades workers and the need for high school classes to prepare students for that work has never been higher. That's why we're excited to increase the prize to bring attention to these inspiring teachers and invest even more in their important work."

As artificial intelligence raises new questions about the future of work, Harbor Freight Tools for Schools earlier this year released findings from a new national poll it commissioned showing overwhelming support for expanding skilled trades classes in U.S. public high schools. The poll was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago.

The application process included three rounds of judging, each by an independent panel of experts from education, industry, nonprofits, and philanthropy.

About the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence

This year there are winners from 18 states, including: California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, Washington, and Vermont.

The 25 winners teach a variety of skilled trades, including construction, carpentry, electrical, welding, automotive, agricultural mechanics, advanced manufacturing, and industrial

Technology. The total amount awarded this year increased from $1.5 million to $2 million to mark the 10th anniversary of the prize. More than 550 teachers applied from 49 states.

The prize was created to recognize excellent high school skilled trades teachers, a group of educators who are frequently overlooked and underappreciated. As of today, over $12 million has been awarded to 208 teachers and their programs through the prize. The mission of Harbor Freight Tools for Schools is to increase understanding, support and investment in skilled trades

Harbor Freight Tools for Schools is a program of The Smidt Foundation, established by Harbor Freight Tools owner and founder Eric Smidt, to advance excellent skilled trades education in U.S. public high schools. With a deep respect for the dignity of these fields and for the intelligence and creativity of people who work with their hands, Harbor Freight Tools for Schools aims to drive a greater understanding of and investment in skilled trades education, believing that access to quality skilled trades education gives high school students pathways to graduation, opportunity, good jobs, and a workforce our country needs. Harbor Freight Tools is a major supporter of the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools program.



Pam Allen, a teacher at Mount Horeb High School, was named a winner of the 2026 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence, winning $75,000 for Mount Horeb High School. She was honored during a surprise event at the school on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 29.

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MOUNT HOREB-BARNEVELD 42, MONROE 7

Vikings are heating up

MH-B routs Monroe for third straight win

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

End it early.

This was Bret St. Arnauld's message to his Mount Horeb-Barneveld football team on Oct. 2 when the Vikings headed to Monroe as heavy favorites.

MH-B listened.

The Vikings raced to a 14-0 lead, extended that to 28-7 by halftime and cruised past the host Cheesemakers, 42-7, in a Badger Small Conference game.

MH-B won its third straight game, while improving to 4-3 overall and 3-2 in the league. It also marked the first time since Week 1 the Vikings were over .500.

Monroe fell to 1-6, 1-4.

"We wanted to make sure there wasn't a glimmer of hope," St. Arnauld said. "That was the plan right out the gate to end it early. When we play teams that we should beat we want to make sure we get in and get out as soon as possible. The longer you give a team hope, the bigger the dog fight you're going to get."

The Vikings made sure not to give the Cheesemakers much hope. And they had several standouts deliver elite performances.

Senior running back Eli Maier had another huge game with 21 carries for 212 yards and three touchdowns. Maier, who also plays linebacker on defense, added five tackles.

"Eli just continues to do Eli things," St. Arnauld said. "He is the catalyst for us that gets us going."

Emerging sophomore quarterback Preston Myers completed 15-of-21 passes for 215 yards and three TDs.



Evan Leibfried and the Mount Horeb-Barneveld football team have rattled off three straight wins. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

"Preston continues to grow as a sophomore and with every week that passes he continues to improve and throw to the right spot," St. Arnauld said. "We are really excited about where his development has been going."

Senior tight end Henry DeRosier had just two catches, but they were both enormous. One was a 62-yard TD grab shortly before halftime that gave MH-B a 28-7 lead. The other was a 17-yard touchdown early in the third quarter that extended the Vikings' lead to 35-7.

In addition, DeRosier — who doubles as a linebacker — had nine tackles, 1.5 sacks and two tackles for loss on defense.

"Henry DeRosier has just been a warrior for us," St. Arnauld said. "He is such a reliable target for us on the offensive side of the ball, and his blocking has improved drastically. Defen-

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End of the road arrives for golfers

Mount Horeb fares well, but falls short at star-studded regional

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

It ended sooner than they hoped.

Still, Mount Horeb's girls golf team had a season they could certainly be proud of.

The Vikings finished in fifth place at the WIAA Division 1 Tomah Regional held at Hiawatha Golf Club on Sept. 30. The top four teams advanced to sectionals.

The top three golfers from teams not qualifying for sectionals also moved on, but Mount Horeb didn't have any of those, meaning its season came to a close.

"We had a lot of success this year, finishing in the top three in the conference standings for the fifth consecutive season after having never done so previously in program history," Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz said. "We took first at the Portage Invite, third at the Darlington Invite, and fifth at the Baraboo Invite — impressive accomplishments after losing state qualifier Delania Nicewander off last year's team."

DeForest won the regional with a 331 team score, while Tomah (338), Waunakee (342) and Middleton (349) also advanced to sectionals.

Mount Horeb finished fifth with a 398, just ahead of Baraboo with a 400 and Madison West with a 401 in the 10-team field.

Mount Horeb senior MacKenzie Meinholz led the Vikings with a career-best 94 that was good for 24th place in the 47-player field. Meinholz shot a career-low 41 on the front nine, making a birdie at the par-4, fourth hole and pars on No. 1, 3 and 5.

Meinholz then had a 53 on the back nine after recording pars at No. 10 and 16.

"Terrific performance by MacKenzie," Krentz said. "She showed true 'competitive greatness' with the ability to perform your best when your best is needed in putting together her best 18-hole round by a remarkable 11 strokes.

"MacKenzie made tremendous improvement throughout her high school career and had not even played in a varsity meet before this season. To put it all together and perform as well as she did at our regional in her final meet was remarkable and I could not be prouder of her performance."

Senior Jadyn Schellpfeffer and junior Ella Baber both carded 95s and finished in a tie for 25th place.



Jadyn Schellpfeffer and Mount Horeb's girls golf team finished in fifth place at regionals last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Schellpfeffer shot a 45 on the front nine that included pars at No. 3, 6, 7 and 9. Schellpfeffer then closed with a 50 on the back nine that included a par at No. 15.

Baber shot a 46 on the front nine that included pars at No. 1, 3 and 9. Baber then made a par at No. 14 on her way to shooting a 49 on the back nine.

"Neither Ella nor Jadyn had their best round, but that does not take away from the terrific seasons they had for us this year," Krentz said. "Both led us in scoring throughout the year, which

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Swimmers second at Jefferson Invite

Mount Horeb also fares well in loss to Madison Edgewood

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor



Haylee Becker (top), Maddie Becker (below) and Mount Horeb's girls swimming team finished second at the Jefferson Invite. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

It's been a sensational season for Mount Horeb's girls swimming team.

And the Vikings kept rolling along at the Jefferson Invite on Sept. 26.

Watertown won the seven-team invite with 502 points, while Mount Horeb was second with 439. Fort Atkinson (305), Jefferson (299) and Stoughton (258) rounded out the top five.

"The Jefferson Invite was a really exciting day for us," Mount Horeb coach Kaitlin O'Rourke said. "We nearly grabbed first place, and I thought we showed just how much our depth is beginning to develop.

Lucy Peterson won the 100-yard butterfly and the 500-yard freestyle.

Mount Horeb's 200-yard medley relay team of Delilah Gasch, Maggie Coe, Peterson and Evy Vedo finished third.

Madeline Evans was fourth in the 200-yard freestyle and Haylee Becker was fifth. Evans was also fourth in the 500-yard freestyle and Haylee Becker was fifth.

Coe was fourth in the 200-yard IM and CeCe Watson was fifth. Coe was also fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke, while Mount Horeb's 400-yard freestyle relay team of Gasch, Ava Beglinger, Haylee Becker and Peterson was fourth.

The Vikings' 200-yard freestyle relay team of Heidi Sheahan, Coe, Beglinger and Vedo were fifth.

"We had a number of season-best and breakout performances, particularly from Maggie Coe and Haylie Becker, while continuing to move girls around, try new events and learn more about what this team can become," O'Rourke said.

Mount Horeb also fell to Madison Edgewood, 121-49, on Sept. 29.

"I think it's important to be candid about that meet and where we are as a program — we are building," O'Rourke said. "There is tremendous value in racing a legacy program like Edgewood. They have established depth and experience, and competing against a team like that shows our girls both what we're working toward and what it takes to get there. We learned a lot."

At the same time, the Vikings had some excellent performances.

Peterson won both of her individual events, swimming season bests of 2:03.47 in the 200 freestyle and 1:00.66 in the 100 butterfly.

Coe continued her terrific freshman season, finishing first in the 100 breaststroke.

"Maggie is only a freshman and this is her rookie high school season, so I'm really excited to continue developing her in the breaststroke," O'Rourke said. "A 1:18 at this point in her freshman season — while we're still in heavy training — gives us a lot to be excited about for the second half of this season and, really, the next four years."

Mount Horeb had several other top-three finishes, as well.

The Vikings' 400-yard freestyle relay team of Haylie Becker, Vedo, Watson and Peterson was second, while Mount Horeb's quartet of Emma Erickson, Charlotte Johnson, Nora Carroll and Ellie McKillips was third.

The Vikings' 200-yard medley relay team of Gasch, Coe, Maddie Becker and Evans was third. Sheahan was third in the 500-yard freestyle, while Mount Horeb's 200-yard freestyle relay team of Evans, Haylie Becker, Gasch and Peterson was third.

"I was equally proud of what was happening deeper in our lineup," O'Rourke said. "We're asking girls to become more versatile and not be afraid of unfamiliar events.

"Charlotte Johnson and Natalie Sheahan both took on the 500, with Charlotte winning the JV event in 7:00.58. Those swims matter because developing a program isn't just about the top of the lineup. It's about creating swimmers who are willing to stretch themselves and discovering talent in places we may not have expected.

"And honestly, it's in moments like these that I can't wait for the talent we have coming through our middle school ranks to join us. I'm already thinking about next year and ways we can use camps and other opportunities to bring together some of the talented younger swimmers who currently compete for USAS clubs and with me through Gators and introduce them to the Viking swimming culture before they reach high school."

It's that part of the rebuilding process that has O'Rourke — and the Vikings — so excited.

"We have athletes performing now, younger swimmers beginning to emerge, and another group coming behind them," O'Rourke said. "The goal isn't simply to put together one good season — it's to build a program and a culture that kids are excited to become part of.



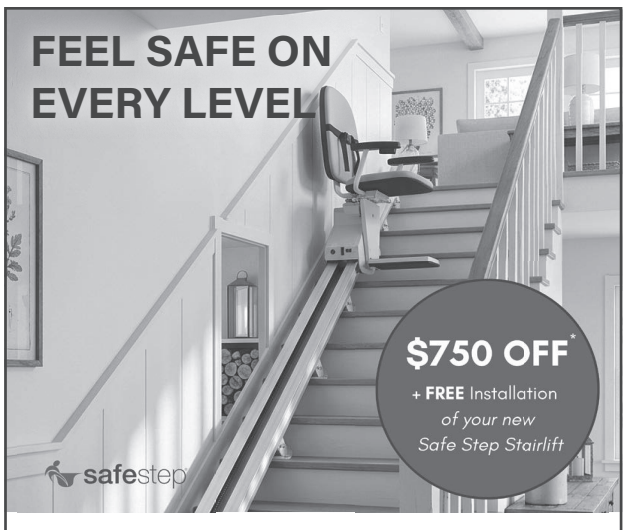
"Jefferson showed us some of the progress we've already made. Edgewood showed us where we still have room to grow. We need both.

"We're still in the heart of heavy training, so seeing season bests and breakout swims right now is really encouraging. I'm excited to see what this group can do as we move toward the championship portion of the season."

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Soccer Vikings drop a pair

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

There are times in everyone season where the schedule stiffens, and teams simply hope to tread water.

Mount Horeb's boys soccer team hit that stretch last week, and the Vikings certainly needed a life jacket.

Mount Horeb, which has enjoyed a solid season, saw just how good the best of the best are.

Sauk Prairie, which sits in second place in the Badger Small Conference, rolled past the Vikings, 6-0, on Oct. 1. Mount Horeb then dropped a 2-0 decision to Monona Grove — ranked No. 6 in Division 2 — on Oct. 3.

The Vikings are now 5-6-2 overall and 1-4 in the Badger Small.

"We knew this was going to be a tough part of our schedule," Mount Horeb coach Rick Gage said. "We were playing two very good Division 2 teams in Monona Grove and Sauk Prairie.

"I felt that results would be difficult to come by, but at the same time I felt that these were both teams that we could play with. These two teams would be a good test of where we were at and where we needed to get to.

"While we would have liked to have gotten a result in a game this week, we knew this would be a challenging week. Sauk is a tough conference game and we schedule teams like MG to help us get better. In order to get better you need to be willing to challenge yourself and I believe that we got better this week and these games will pay off for us over the remainder of the season."

Here's a recap of the Vikings' week.

• Sauk Prairie 6, Mount Horeb 0 — The Eagles raced to a 4-0 halftime lead and never looked back.

"Sauk is a team with good team speed and some very good attacking players," Gage said. "This game was also going to be on turf, our first of the season. Normally I would not be concerned with a turf game, but given the speed of Sauk and how fast the game can be on turf I knew that this game would be a challenge.

"We came out in a bit of a defensive formation with the hopes of slowing the game down early and getting used to the surface. We opened up the game playing well, but the speed of the game was a challenge. Sauk challenged us early trying to play directly through us."

The Eagles scored early, then added a second goal in the 25th minute. Sauk Prairie tacked on two more goals before halftime, and two more goals early in the second half.

"I thought we did some good things at times in the game, but we missed out on doing a lot of the little things you need to do to compete against good teams," Gage said. "We were disappointed with how we played, but were ready to focus for another test on Saturday (against Monona Grove).

• Monona Grove 2, Mount Horeb 0 — The Vikings gave a spirited effort, but fell to the Silver Eagles.

"I was proud of how we played against a good team and thought we took a big step in this game," Gage said.

The Vikings hung tough early, but Monona Grove score off a corner kick in the 23rd minute.

"The game opened up with both teams competing hard," Gage said. "I liked the way we looked early. We were playing with a spark and looked focused to improve on our results from (Sauk Prairie).

"Monona Grove controlled a lot of the play in the first half, but we were playing disciplined and focused. We were making them work hard and taking advantage of our opportunities to get chances to score ourselves."

Despite the fact Mount Horeb trailed at half, Gage felt good about his team.

"Even though we were down at half I really liked how we were playing," Gage said. "We were focused, competing for every ball and creating chances against a good team. We talked about continuing to work hard in the second half and make them work for everything they get and try to create more chances."

Mount Horeb continued to hang tough in the second half, creating multiple chances but couldn't notch the equalizer.

"We were unlucky not to level the score," Gage said.

With three minutes left, the Silver Eagles converted a penalty kick and took a 2-0 lead.

Despite the loss, Gage believes his team took a step in the right direction.

"I truly feel that we are a good team, but that we need to walk on the field for every game ready to make teams work hard for everything they earn," Gage said. "I never fault the effort level of our players. This is a hard working team that is always up for a challenge, but I feel that the area we need to work on is staying focused for the full game.

"Soccer is a game that doesn't stop. We sometimes have a habit of turning off briefly through the small transitions in the game. Good teams take advantage of this and we need to stay focused from start to finish."

• On deck: Mount Horeb hosts Reedsburg Thursday at 7 p.m. and is at Lakeside Lutheran Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

"Hopefully we will be able to take the lessons we learned this week and improve in our upcoming games," Gage said.

GOLF

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was capped by each earning all-conference honors at our conference tournament.

"Ella is still only tapping the surface of how good of a golfer she can be and will be counted on to lead us again next season. Jadyn continued her comeback from a knee injury that caused her to miss most of her sophomore season and was better than ever her senior year. She earned all-conference honors her freshman season and completed her full circle journey by doing so again this year, this time in a much stronger and competitive conference. We will definitely miss her presence in our lineup next season."

Junior Harper Birkeland shot a 114 and tied for 40th place. Senior Maddie Niemetscheck added a 125.

"Harper was an integral part of our lineup this year after splitting time between varsity and JV last season," Krentz said. "She did not have her best performance at regionals, but had a good season, and along with Ella, will be one our leaders next year.

"Maddie improved greatly from the start of the season, working her way from JV to our varsity lineup by the end of the year. Like Jadyn, Maddie was working her way back from a knee injury suffered last summer, but she proved to be an important contributor this season year despite this being her first season ever playing competitive golf."

Mount Horeb played extremely well on the front nine, matching its best nine-hole score of the season with a 186. That left the Vikings 13 shots behind fourth-place Middleton (173) at the turn.

"We got off to a terrific start," Krentz said. "We matched our best nine-hole score of the season and did so on a much more difficult course.

"MacKenzie was absolutely phenomenal on the front nine, making several putts from outside of 20 feet in breaking her previous career-best nine-hole total by eight strokes. The back nine is where the intensity picks up during postseason play and we had put ourselves in good position heading to that side."

The Vikings weren't as sharp on the back nine, but still broke 400 for just the third time all season.

"For much of this season, we have been a better 18-hole than a nine-hole team, doing as good or even a little better on our second nine holes," Krentz said. "Unfortunately, that was not the case (at regionals).

"We faced an uphill battle going into the day with the four teams ahead of us all being among the top-15 teams in Division 1, but we put together a solid performance and have nothing to hang our heads about."

Afterwards, Krentz knew replacing the senior class of Schellpfeffer, Meinholz, Niemetscheck and Giana Melka wouldn't be easy.

"This group helped lead our team this year, both on and off the course, and we wish them all the best of luck in the future," Krentz said.

Krentz believes, though, the Vikings have the pieces in place for another successful season in 2021.

"For our returning varsity and JV players, we turn our attention to an offseason of continued growth and development," he said. "We will be losing a gifted senior class, but we return a few mainstays in our lineup from this year that should help looking ahead to next season. Our conference continues to get better and we will need to put a lot of time and effort into playing this summer in order to match what other teams and their players will be doing if we want to maintain our position as one of the top teams in the Badger Small.

"Being in Division 1 come postseason play means our regional and sectional will be as competitive as ever as we continue to go up against teams two or three times our school size. It will take a lot of time and effort to continue to be competitive, but I am confident that with some hard work this offseason, we will continue to be a formidable team next year."



Mount Horeb senior MacKenzie Meinholz shot a career-low at regionals. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld





FOOTBALL

continued from page 15

sively he is all over the field and making plays left and right."

And sophomore wide receiver Brady McCue continued his ascension with eight receptions for 97 yards and a 34-yard TD grab in the fourth quarter.

"Brady got his first start (in Week 6) and he just rose to the occasion," St. Arnauld said. "We knew he was going to break out, we just didn't know when and it just so happened (Monroe) was his coming out party. We are really excited about his potential."

St. Arnauld knew that getting up early on the run-heavy Cheesemakers was key. Monroe is averaging 271.0 rushing yards per game this season, but just 47.0 passing yards and doesn't have a TD through the air.

So the Vikings knew that making Monroe play from behind — and perhaps throw the ball more than it wanted — was key.

"When you get up on a run-first team it puts the pressure on them," St. Arnauld said. "We were able to do that successfully."

The Vikings forced Monroe to punt on its opening series, then quickly drove to the Cheesemakers' 5-yard line. On second-and goal from the 5, Maier made a nifty jump cut, headed left behind tackle Evan Leibfried and DeRosier, and scored to give MH-B a 7-0 lead midway through the first quarter.

Monroe drove to the MH-B 40 on its next possession, but quarterback Ryan Roell fumbled and Vikings sophomore Barrett Slaney recovered. MH-B quickly drove to the Monroe 24, where on a third-and-4, Maier found a huge crease up the middle, shook off a pair of tacklers inside the 5 and scored again to extend the Vikings' lead to 14-0 with 1:22 left in the first quarter.

Monroe answered with a 96-yard TD run from Roell that pulled the Cheesemakers within 14-7 early in the second quarter. But the Vikings largely put things away in the closing minutes of the first half.

On a first down from Monroe's 46, the Vikings lined up three receivers wide right and Maier as the lone back. Maier ran through a Monroe defensive tackle at the line of scrimmage and encountered a safety in the hole.

When the safety went low, Maier appeared on the brink of going down at the 40. Instead, Maier did a full 360, kept his balance, darted right and won a foot race to the endzone for a 46-yard TD that gave the Vikings a 21-7 lead with 2:54 left in the half.

"He is our do it all guy and is so consistent," St. Arnauld said of Meier.

The Vikings quickly forced a Monroe punt and regained possession on their own 38 with 2:08 left in the half.

On first down, MH-B sent three wideouts left and DeRosier lined up next to the right tackle. DeRosier got a clean release, worked his way behind a linebacker and hauled in a perfectly thrown ball from Myers at midfield.

DeRosier had a step on two Monroe defenders, although it appeared a Cheesemakers safety had an angle on the Vikings' tight end. Instead, DeRosier displayed another gear and ran away from the entire Monroe secondary.

DeRosier's 62-yard TD catch and run gave MH-B a 28-7 lead at the break.

"We are starting to hit stride at the right time," St. Arnauld said.



Clockwise from top:
• Sam Grundahl (14) and the MH-B football team have had a lot to be excited about lately.
• Henry DeRosier (34) had two touchdowns in a 42-7 win over Monroe on Oct. 2.
• Eli Maier (5) had three rushing touchdowns and Preston Myers threw three TDs in the Vikings' win over the Cheesemakers. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

That was evident in the second half, as well.

On MH-B's first possession of the third quarter, it quickly drove to Monroe's 17 and had a second-and-3. DeRosier again lined up to the right, got single coverage and faked a route toward the pylon.

Instead, DeRosier headed back to the middle, got behind a linebacker, then made a sensational diving catch on a well-placed ball from Myers that gave the Vikings a 35-7 lead with 9:19 left in the third quarter.

Then early in the fourth quarter, Myers and McCue connected on a 34-yard TD strike to make it 42-7 and kickstart a running clock. McCue lined up wide left, and when Myers looked right, he drew the safety in that direction. That left the middle of the field free for McCue, and Myers again delivered a perfect ball for another MH-B touchdown.

Six weeks ago, players like Myers, McCue and many others were bit players for these Vikings. Now, as they've grown into expanded roles, MH-B has certainly found its groove.

"Overall we have made the corrections we needed to make as a team," said St. Arnauld, whose team lost three straight games between Weeks 2-4. "We have a lot of guys that have gotten great varsity experience because of having some of our guys go down and it's proven to be a silver lining for us.

"We are just going to keep taking steps every single week and keep growing. With only two weeks left in the season, I am feeling good about where we are trending."

St. Arnauld is also feeling good about the balance his team is showing.

When the season began, MH-B was largely reliant on the all-everything Maier. Now, the Vikings can hurt you by land or air, as they showed against Monroe with a 219-yard rushing night and a 215-yard passing game.

And during the Vikings' three-game winning streak, they're averaging 232.3 rushing yards per game and 172.3 passing yards per contest.

"We rely on Eli for so many things, but we wanted to make sure that it didn't become our identity," St. Arnauld said. "We wanted to be the MH-B Vikings, not the MH-B Eli's.

"That's not to take away from what Eli has done for us, but more that when Eli went out early in the season, we didn't know what to do, and that couldn't be our team identity. Since Week 4, it has been a team effort."

Which is one of many reasons the Vikings are rolling and feeling good about what's on tap.

In the latest WIAA Division 3 playoff matrix, MH-B was projected to be a No. 4 seed in the postseason. For now, St. Arnauld just wants his team to keep taking care of business, build on their recent momentum, then head to the playoffs with a full head of steam.

"I firmly believe we will finish the year 6-3 and we will be a tough out for anybody we play," St. Arnauld said. "We are really putting it all together at the right time and we can run the ball. I think having the ability to run the ball makes you a threat going into October and November.

"If we end at 6-3 I think we could get a seed ranging from (No.) 3-5. It really depends on how the season ends and how other teams do. Regardless, we will play whoever we have to play and we will be ready for it."

Oct. 1
Mount Horeb/Barneveld 42, Monroe 7
MHB ..... 14 14 7 7 — 42
Monroe ..... 0 7 0 0 — 7

MHB — Eli Maier, 5, run (Cullen Olson kick)

MHB — Maier, 24, run (Olson kick)

Monroe — Ryan Roell, 96, run (Jace Riese kick)

MHB — Maier, 46 run (kick failed)

MHB — Henry DeRosier, 62, pass from Preston Myers (Olson kick)

MHB — DeRosier, 17, pass from Myers (Olson kick)

MHB — Brady McCue, 34, pass from Myers (Olson kick)

TEAM STATISTICS

Total yards — MHB 434, Mon 285. Rushing (Att.-Yds.) — MHB 24-219, Mon 47-228. Passing yards — MHB 215, Mon 57. Passing (Comp.-Att.-Int.) — MHB 15-21-1, Mon 3-9-0. Fumbles-lost — MHB 0-0, Mon 0-0.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing (Att.Yds.) — MHB: Eli Maier 21-212, Haiden Jeglum 3-7; Mon: Ryan Roell 9-112, Dion Sweeney 8-37, Gage Jelle 11-31.

Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds) — MHB: Preston Myers 15-21-1 215; Mon: Ryan Roell 3-9-0 57.

Receiving — MHB: Brady McCue 8-97, Henry DeRosier 2-79, Cullen Olson 3-26, Eli Maier 1-8, Sam Grundahl 1-5; Mon: Lucas Bartels 1-33, Tristen Anderson 1-24, Jace Riese 1-0.

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS:
NOON WEDNESDAY
the week prior to publication.

For rates and deadline information for multiple paper insertion, please call ***608-767-3655*** *or email:* ***classifieds@fingerpub.com***

CLASSIFIED ADS

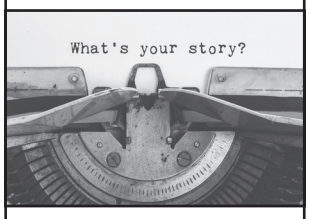
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WANTED

GARAGE/YARD SALE: 8931 County Rd ID (Corner of County Road ID/East Brigham Road) Downsizing: Lots of Household things, way too much to list but does include a collection of Brewer paraphernalia, a few antiques, some men's items and some things with tags still on them. Friday: October 16, 2026, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Saturday: October 17, 2026, 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND STOP BY !!

Be Heard.



The Mount Horeb Mail welcomes your letters to the editor.
Send them to mgeiger@fingerpub.com

We reserve the right to edit them for content and length. Please try to keep them less than 600 words.



Has it been a while since you've gone out to dinner?

Treat Yourself!

There are lots of local places that would love to serve you!

HELP WANTED:



NEWSPAPER PRESSMAN (DAY SHIFT)

FOR NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING COMPANY IN BLACK EARTH

JOIN OUR NEWSPAPER PRINTING TEAM:

4 day work week, Monday through Thursday. Full or part-time available. Experience preferred, but would train the right individuals on our Goss Community Press. No weekends or holidays. Casual atmosphere.

Contact Tom at tfinger@fingerpub.com

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Great part to full-time job opportunity!

Hours would vary. Van and box truck; no CDL required. Driver would deliver newspapers to post offices and drop off at newsstands. Must have good driving record and be willing to help in our pressroom and mailroom as needed.

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tfinger@fingerpub.com

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COME WORK WITH US!

JOIN OUR MAILROOM STAFF!

Finger Publishing, Inc. in Black Earth
(formerly News Publishing Company) is looking to add to our part-time staff to assemble newspaper inserts into our newspapers and shoppers each week, **especially Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays,** other days as needed. Must be detail-oriented and conscientious, and able to stand for extended periods of time. Need to be able to lift approximately 25 lbs.

FINGER PUBLISHING, INC.
1126 Mills Street, Black Earth
Application forms are available at our front desk.

CHURCH NOTES

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

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

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

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

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

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ
1693 Washington St., Verona
608-832-6677
Sunday Worship, in-person and on Facebook Live, 10:15 am
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation~ Contact us at pastor@mtvernonucc.org or visit our website http://mountvernonucc.org

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

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

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

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

St. Michael The Archangel Parish
~St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Weds-Friday, 7:30 am;
Sat. 5:00 pm
~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am



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- Digital Marketing Specialist
- Information Systems Specialist
- Clinic CMA / LPN / PCT
- Certified Nursing Assistant (P.M., Nights)
- Certified Pharmacy Technician
- Imaging Technologist (P.M., Nights)
- Emergency Dept Technician
- Physical Therapist
- Medical Coding Specialist
- Quality Data Analyst
- Home Health Registered Nurse
- Sterile Processing Technician
- Billing Specialist
- Registered Nurses (ED, SNF, OR, Float)
- Sleep Technologist (Nights)
- Certified Diabetes Care; Education Specialist (CDCES)

To learn more about these and other great job opportunities, go to our website at: **www.uplandhillshealth.org**

800 Compassion Way, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Wisconsin Heights School District Seeks

PART-TIME EVENING EVENT CUSTODIAN

5 PM - 10 PM/ As Needed Based on Events & Activities

The Event Custodian is responsible for maintaining clean, safe, and orderly District facilities before, during, and after school and community events.

Must be able to:

- Stand & Walk for Extended Periods
- Bend, Stoop, Kneel & Reach
- Lift & Carry Supplies & Equipment
- Push & Pull Cleaning Equipment
- Occasionally Move Tables, Chairs & Equipment
- Work Independently & Efficiently
- Previous Custodial or Cleaning Experience Preferred

Salary/Wage are Based on Experience

TO APPLY SCAN QR CODE:

TOWN OF PERRY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Perry Town Hall , 10084 County Highway A , 7:30 PM

PETITION TO VACATE AND DISCONTINUE A PART OF JOSEPHSON ROAD
PETITION TO VACATE AND DISCONTINUE A PART OF GROVE STREET AND ENTIRETY OF AN UNOPENED AND UNPAVED ALLEY IN DALEYVILLE

NOTICE is hereby given that public hearings will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Perry to discuss proposed action to commence discontinuance of a part of Josephson Road, and discontinuance of a part of the unopened and unpaved Grove Street, and the entirety of an unopened and unpaved alley, both initiated by introduction of resolutions of the Town Board of the Town of Perry, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.1003(4).

The portion of Josephson Road to be discontinued: the westerly 450 feet.

The unopened and unpaved Grove Street and alley to be discontinued are as follows:

Grove St, approx. 50 ft wide by 68.7 ft long, lying north of Clay Hill Rd.

Grove St, lying north of Sunset Ave and south of Clay Hill Rd, along the west side of Block 2 of Goli Addition.

Alley between Lot 11 and Lot 1, approx. 16.4 ft wide by 73 ft long, lying north of Sunset Ave.

The Public Hearings will be held at 7:30 PM at the Perry Town Hall.

Stephanie Zwettler, Clerk/Treasurer
clerk@tn.perry.wi.gov

Published and Posted: Mt. Horeb Mail, Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville signpost, and Town website – Oct. 1, Oct. 8, Oct. 15, 2026.

Publish: 10/1/26, 10/8/26, 10/15/26 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PERRY
TOWN BOARD MEETING AGENDA
PERRY TOWN HALL, 10084 COUNTY HIGHWAY A
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026, 7:30 PM
Teleconference - 425-585-6272 access - 394-722-206 #

Agenda

1. Call to order. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Announcements.
3. Comments by Town residents – non-agenda items.
4. Land Use: Dane Co. Ordinance Amendment OA-006 – cemeteries and private burial sites.
5. Roads, Equipment, Facilities:
   a. Town of Perry Driveway at Hauge Historic District Park – update.
   b. WISLR local roads certification.
   c. Recycling Center – DNR grant, tire collection dates and fees, updates.
6. ATV/UTV Routes & Regulations Ordinance – review amendments, possible adoption.
7. Mount Horeb Joint Fire Dept. 2027 budget update, resolution to authorize a levy limit exception for MHJFD.
8. Treasurer's Report.
9. Friends of the Parks of Perry report.
10. Dane Co. Towns Association and Wisconsin Towns Association discussions.
11. Town Hall Renovations – sound boards.
12. 2027 Budget – review preliminary budget, set budget hearing date.
13. Minutes of Previous Meetings – Sept 8, Sept 9, and Sept 21, 2026.
14. Pay Bills due.
15. Succession planning.
16. Closed Session. Dane Co. Circuit Court case 15CV0065 DSG; Hauge Historic District Park easement negotiations: convene a closed session under WI § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel concerning strategy and WI §19.85(1)(b) and (c) personnel.
17. Adjournment.

Action might be taken on any agenda item shown above. Public comment might be invited on any agenda item presented.

Stephanie Zwettler, Clerk/Treasurer
Posted and published: Oct. 8, 2026 – Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville Signpost, Town website
Publish: 10/8/26 **WNALXP**

Mount Horeb's girls capture Platteville Invite

Vikings' boys also shine, finish ninth

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Another week.

Another title.

Mount Horeb's standout girls cross country team won the star-studded, 25-team Platteville Invite on Oct. 3.

The Vikings finished with 38 points and easily outdistanced runner-up Southwestern/Benton (125). Monroe (129), Platteville (172) and Union Grove (200) rounded out the top five.

Mount Horeb's Isla Odgers continued her sensational sophomore season, finishing second overall in 17 minutes, 58.90 seconds. Ruah Franzmann-Simmert of Tri State Homeschool edged Odgers for the individual title, finishing the 5,000-meter course in 17:53.60.

Mount Horeb senior Willa Vigliotta was fifth individually in 18:44.40, junior Mia Caygill was ninth (19:08.40), senior Julia Straka was 14th (19:34.80) and senior Maeve True was 16th (19:54.30).

Mount Horeb's boys also had an extremely strong day, finishing ninth out of 28 teams.

McFarland was first with 99 points, while Richland Center/Ithaca (143) and Monroe (148) rounded out the top three. The Vikings finished with 227 points.

Mount Horeb senior Samuel Wyse was 11th in 16:48.90, while sophomore Liam Crolla was 27th (17:29.20). Senior Jaxon Hughes was 60th in 18:17.10, while junior Blake Losenegger was 67th (18:27.70) and senior Nathaniel Sherven was 70th (18:33.00).

• **On deck:** The Vikings will be at the Albany Invitational on Saturday at 9 a.m.

The Badger Conference meet will then be held Oct. 17 at Stoughton High School.

The WIAA sectionals are on Oct. 24. Mount Horeb's girls are in the Division 1 Verona Sectional, while the boys will be at the Division 2 Monroe Sectional.

The girls were moved to Division 1 this season due to the WIAA's Performance Factor, which adjusts a high school athletic program's divisional placement based on postseason success over a trailing three-year period.





Life in the fast lane

On top, Mount Horeb's Isla Odgers (4828) was second at the Platteville Invite, while teammate Mia Caygill (right of Odgers) was ninth.

At left, Mount Horeb's Liam Crolla was 27th in the boys race. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

FALL SHRED EVENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

AT THE FOLLOWING WCCU LOCATIONS:
★RICHLAND CENTER (MAIN OFFICE)★
★BARABOO★
★VIROQUA★

FREE EVENT | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | SHRED-ABLY EASY!

2026 WCCU Mobile Branch Schedule

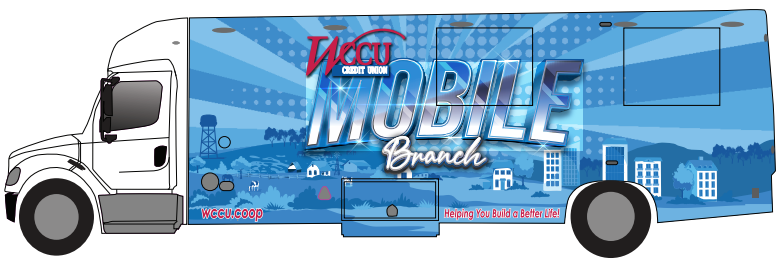
MONDAYS 10:00 am-2:30 pm
Badger Tools & Supply
S6543 WI-130
Hill Point, WI 53937

TUESDAYS 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Growers Produce Auction
S347 Dell Rd
Cashton, WI 54619

WEDNESDAYS 8:00 am-2:00 pm
Zzip Stop
217 W Main St
La Farge, WI 54639

THURSDAYS 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Dollar General
710 Elm St
Boscobel, WI 53805

FRIDAYS 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Theisen's
3000 S Black River St
Sparta, WI 54656



The Mobile Branch will operate through October 30th, weather permitting.
It will be closed on October 12th.
Any schedule changes will be communicated. Visit us at wccu.coop or reach out to any of our WCCU locations for more information.

Baraboo (608) 356-5500
Cashton (608) 654-7580
Coon Valley (608) 452-2444
Lake Delton (608) 678-4000
Prairie du Sac (608) 643-0006
Portage (608) 745-1600
Reedsburg (608) 768-9228
Richland Center (608) 647-8835
Viroqua (608) 637-6200
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