

Gruber and Novak announce bids in the 51st Assembly District

The district covers Lafayette, Iowa, and portions of Grant and Dane counties



Novak



Gruber

Incumbent State Rep. Todd Novak and challenger Ben Gruber have both announced their candidacy for the 51st seat.

Ben Gruber has announced his candidacy for Assembly District 51. Gruber's launch event took place at Arena Community Elementary School, the former elementary school that

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'Meet me at Midnight'

Themed "Meet me at Midnight," Mount Horeb's prom took place May 9. Class Officers are Julia Straka, Madison Niemetscheck, Avery Monroe and Claire Casey. The Class Advisor is Amy Arneson. The Prom Court, pictured above from left to right, included (front) Claire Casey, Maeve True, Nate Sherven, Samuel Wyse, Jacinto Lawrence, Jackson Alcorn, Lizzy Baumgartner, Viviana Helwig; (back) Norah Jungels, Kolbie Severnson, Madelyn Becker, Andie Ford, Lorelei Lawry, Adrienne Hogseth, Aria Johnson, Cora Wetzel and Avena Meyers. Royalty were Sam Wyse and Jake Lawrence. Photo contributed.



Spring Tour offered behind the scenes look at local art studios

The Mount Horeb Area Arts Association (MHAAA) held the 19th Annual Spring Art Tour May 15-17. Art lovers, collectors, and the creatively curious are invited to explore this free, self-guided tour of artist studios and exhibition spaces throughout the communities of Mount Horeb, Mount Vernon, Black Earth, Arena, Argyle, Blanchardville, Blue Mounds, Mazomanie, Belleville, Prairie du Sac, and New Glarus. Pictured above, visitors chat with Mount Horeb artist Mikel Kelley, who worked on a number of objects throughout the course of the weekend, including working on horse hair tiles, creating sculptures and more. His studio is located at 109 S. 4th Street. Photo by Matt Geiger.

Gov. Evers laments 'tanking' of a bipartisan compromise he says would have used surplus to bolster school funding and ease taxes

Democrat Governor Tony Evers and Republican leaders last week announce a bipartisan deal they said would have attained 50 percent special education reimbursement and secured more than \$600 million for K-12 schools, tens of millions of dollars in property tax relief, eliminating income tax on tips and overtime, and providing up to \$600 in "direct support payments" for working families.

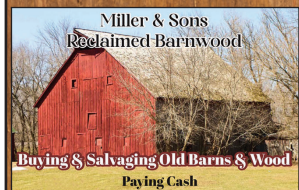
They espoused optimism early in the week and frustration by the end of it, as the compromise failed to get the support it needed in the senate.

Evers, Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester), and Wisconsin State Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) had, after months of bipartisan negotiations and work to reach consensus, announced they had "reached agreement on a blockbuster bipar-

tisan proposal to build upon the bipartisan investments and agreements approved in the 2025-27 Biennial

continued on page 6

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Recreation Notes

New Program Alert! **Learn to Line Dance!** No experience needed, a complete beginner class! Just bring a bottle of water, yourself, and friends for a fun night of country line dancing! Participants will learn the popular classics to the very latest favorites, and discover why people everywhere love line dancing! This program is designed for those 18 years and older. Each Session will teach new dances. **Sess. 1:** Tues, 6/2 - 6/23, **Sess. 2:** Tues, 7/7 - 7/28, **Sess. 3:** Tues, 8/4 - 8/25. The program takes place in the Senior Center from 6 to 7 PM; and the ses-

sion fee is \$36 for residents and \$46 for non-residents. Register for session 1 by 5/26.

Get outside this summer with **Introduction to Mountain Biking!** This program is for youth ages 9–13 interested in learning to mountain bike. Riders should have some bike experience, but no mountain biking knowledge is required. Parents are invited to ride along. Instructors will start with fundamental skills and build on them to get riders ready to hit the trails. Classes meet at Grundahl Park to practice

skills on the grass before a trail ride on the single-track mountain bike trails at Blue Mound State Park. Riders must have a modern, properly sized, multi-gear mountain bike in 100% working condition, a helmet, closed-toe shoes, and athletic clothing. Classes run from 5:30–7:00 PM. **Sess. 1:** Monday–Thursday, 6/1–6/4, **Sess. 2:** Monday–Thursday, 6/15–6/18. The class fee is \$60R/\$70NR per session. The sess. 1 registration deadline is 5/26.

Get your friends together and sign up for **4’s Grass Volleyball League!** They

are competitive 4 vs 4 volleyball leagues played on grass in a fun atmosphere! Two matches will be played by each team per night. No coaches or coach instruction will be given. Rules will be given out after registration. There are 3 leagues: High School Competitive/Alumni League (Varsity level volleyball players and alumni), High School Intermediate League (JV1 and JV2 players), and the Middle School League: (Played volleyball in 7th or 8th grade or played on a club team). One team captain will sign up as a team of 4 (or 5 with a sub). **The program runs Thurs-**

days, June 11 to July 30 (*no games on 7/2*). Games begin at 6:00 PM at Garfield Park. The resident fee is \$80 per team; non-residents pay \$90. Registration ends on 6/4.

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

Online (go to <https://secure.rec1.com/WI/mounthoreb-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 regis-

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

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

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

5/26: Introduction to Mountain Biking Sess. 1

5/26: Learn to Line Dance Sess. 1

6/4: 4’s Grass Volleyball League

6/8: Smiling Trolls Summer Camp Sess. 1 & 2

6/8: Speedball Sess. 1, 4, & 7

Village Vignette

Middle child

By **LAURENCE KRUCKMAN**
Village Vignettes

While the attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise, most young people, including my parents, ages 20 and 21, were acutely aware of the escalating global conflicts. And most everyone was informed, through newspapers and other media, of the rise of Nazism in Europe and Japanese expansionism in Asia. By Spring 1941, a majority of Americans would favor war against Germany.

The US declared war on December 8, 1941. My dad, like most young men, volunteered for service, and was soon training in Fort Benning Georgia. He ended up with the 101 Airborne Division, a newly formed group of highly skilled paratroopers. The impetus for the group came from the realization by the U.S. Army of the early success of German airborne operations in Europe. A paratrooper gap was feared by General Lee.

In any case, while no one knew about the massive invasion that would become D-Day (June 6, 1944), my parents assumed my father would eventually see battle and, perhaps the most dangerous form, at that. The cultural expectation for soldiers in the 1940s was to be brave and stoic. Admitting fear, especially fear of death, was probably not common, but I do recall my mother telling me later that when my dad departed for England, they both doubted he would return.

This might explain their rush to be married before he left for training. But it was complicated. My father, following his family tradition since their recent immigration from Unna in central Germany, was not involved in a religious denomination (although his mother did attend a protestant church in town). My mother, however, was from a fiercely Catholic family, and they

desired a Catholic wedding. My father concurred, and they approached the Priest at St. Charles, a well-established congregation of primarily Irish and French faithful. The answer was no, a surprise given my mother’s French Catholic background. While permitted, mixed marriages in 1940 were viewed by the Catholic Church as less than ideal, and required significant adherence to canonical law. The couple needed to obtain permission from their local bishop (known as the “local ordinary”) ...a dispensation! If a mixed marriage were to be approved, one key agreement was to ensure the couple’s faith and the Catholic upbringing of any children. There was a rush to get the bishop’s approval and then there was a kerfuffle about the location. The church was ruled out and the parish house was substituted. No doubt my father’s father, the town mayor, had some sway

in moving things ahead, but still the church setting was not permitted.

On the marriage day, May 10, 1941, family, friends and the betrothed met at the house and the priest took them aside and had them sign a large number of papers. I can just hear my father, cutting to the chase, asking politely, but firmly, what he was signing. It is family lore that when the “disparity of cult” was explained (the part of all children being raised Catholic), he asked for a few minutes outside with my mother. They soon returned and they dutifully signed all forms. And this is where I come into the picture. Out under the spring chestnuts on Kendall Street, my parents came to a quick, informal agreement that, yes, forms would be signed, unknown to the priest, with one stipulation. The middle child, if there was one, would not be brought up Catholic. Only fair, according to my father.

Well, my sister came along a year later. After my father completed his training, he went off to war in the

winter of 1943, leaving my mother pregnant with me. I became the middle child when my brother, Jim, was born two years later.

My father survived D-Day and the incredible 101st stratagem of jumping into battle: from Normandy (France), Market Garden (Netherlands), Battle of the Bulge (Belgium) and liberation of Nazi prisoner of war camps.

I don’t know, but perhaps my mother never questioned their informal pact given all he suffered. He stayed on in Europe as an aid to General Maxwell Taylor, adding to his stress. They traveled into Austria as Taylor negotiated the surrender of the SS forces. When he came home, he was a broken man, both psychologically and physically. How he survived, I can’t imagine.

My sister was first to head off to St. Charles Catholic School for first grade. I soon followed, but I attended Lincoln Public School. A few years later, my brother followed my sister. When I was 10, my family moved west of Madison to Mount

Horeb, Wisconsin, where there was a Catholic parish, but no Catholic schools. The priest, Father Andrew Brienes, had arranged for nuns to come out from Edgewood College (in Madison) on weekends, to educate the heathen kids. My brother and sister attended faithfully. By the time I was 12, my mother seemed nervous about my “soul” and practically begged me to attend mass. I acquiesced and, for a while, even helped clean the church Saturday evening, preparing it for mass. Eventually I agreed to be baptized.

But with no formal Catholic education, I, of course was lost to the meaning of the Latin Mass, but I fully understood my mother’s commitment to attending church together. My father never did attend with us... an agnostic till the end... always asking the big questions rather than seeking definitive answers. My own attendance was rather short-lived, despite the strong encouragement of Father Brienes. Later, as a student at UW Madison and an employee of the impressive University Bookstore, I did bump into Father Brienes and we had many interesting discussions. He was a scholar of the first degree. Never once did he mention my lapse in Catholicism. In fact, he seemed pleased to find me in the bookstore.

The question you might be asking is how did this division in upbringing, belief system and schooling affect how my siblings and I turned out. Were we different? I think so but that requires another story...

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

May is Mental Health Month

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard has proclaimed May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month in Dane County, recognizing the importance of mental health to the well-being of individuals, families, and communities across the county. A copy of the proclamation is attached.

Mental health touches every part of our lives. It affects how we care for ourselves and each other, how young people grow and learn, how families navigate challenges, and how communities stay connected and resilient. Yet too many people still struggle in silence because of stigma, isolation, or barriers to care.

“Mental health is just as important as physical health, and no one should feel alone when they are struggling,” said Dane County Executive Melissa Agard. “This month is about reminding people that support is available, that asking for help is a sign of strength, and that every person deserves compassion, dignity, and access to care.”

Throughout Mental Health Awareness Month, Dane County is encouraging residents to check in on loved ones, learn more about mental health resources, and help foster a culture where conversations about mental health are met with understanding instead of judgment.

The county continues to support efforts focused on prevention, early intervention, crisis response, treatment, recovery, and long-term community-based support. Dane County also remains committed to strengthening behavioral health services for children, families, veterans, older

adults, and residents experiencing substance use or mental health challenges.

“When people feel supported and connected, our entire community is stronger,” Agard said. “We all have a role to play in looking out for one another and making sure people know they are valued, supported, and never alone.”

County Executive Agard’s proclamation serves as both a recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month and a call for continued community action to reduce stigma and expand access to care for all residents. This May, Dane County is reaffirming its commitment to building a healthier, more compassionate community where every resident has the opportunity to thrive.

USA 250 event May 30

Local veterans invite the community to come out to the “USA 250” event at the Mount Horeb High School on May 30 at 6 p.m. near the Football Scoreboard, (as long as weather permits) alternate location will be in the Mount Horeb High School auditorium.

Veterans will be raising money for Badger Honor Flight and the VA Madison Fisher House Wisconsin. They plan to recognize Badger Honor Flight Alumni (wear your red hat or red shirt).

They encourage everyone to wear red, white, and blue.

Badger Honor Flight applications will be available for people to fill out.

Veterans fly to Washington D.C. free of charge and each flight costs approx. \$100,000.

They will show an Honor Flight Documentary on the scoreboard around dusk

The Fisher House in Mad-

ison is scheduled to break ground this summer with a possible grand opening mid to late 2027. The Veteran and Service Members and their families who will use the Fisher House can use support.

Corcoran to leave for position in Verona

Mount Horeb High School extends its heartfelt appreciation to Associate Principal Talisa Corcoran as she prepares to begin an exciting new chapter in her career. Talisa has accepted a position with the Verona Area School District, where she will serve as one of their high school associate principals starting on July 1, 2026.

Over the past seven years, Talisa has been a dedicated and impactful leader within the Mount Horeb school community. Her unwavering commitment to students, staff, and families has helped foster a more inclusive, supportive, and forward-thinking environment.

During her tenure, Mount Horeb High School experienced meaningful growth in several key areas. Under her leadership, the school achieved significant gains on the Wisconsin School Report Card, expanded career pathway opportunities for students, and strengthened its focus on social-emotional learning and cultivating a strong sense of belonging for all.

Talisa has been known for her collaborative approach, empathetic leadership style, and clear vision for student success. She has built strong relationships throughout the school community and has made a lasting difference in the lives of many students and colleagues.

While her presence will be deeply missed, the Mount Horeb community is proud to support Talisa as she takes this next step in her professional journey. Her impact will continue to be felt for years to come.

Zoo to be fossil fuel free

On Earth Day, Dane County Executive Melissa Agard celebrated a bold commitment to transition the Henry Vilas Zoo to a fossil fuel-free operation by 2040, marking a major step forward in the County’s climate leadership.

Building on a launch of this initiative last November alongside the announcement of a new solar pavilion, today’s Earth Day announcement reaffirms Dane County’s long-term commitment to eliminating fossil fuel use across zoo operations.

“Dane County is a leader when it comes to climate action, and that means setting ambitious, achievable goals,” said County Executive Agard. “By committing to make the Henry Vilas Zoo fossil fuel free, we are taking a meaningful step that reflects our values and shows what’s possible for communities across Wisconsin.”

Over the next 15 years, Dane County will work to eliminate:

Natural gas use in zoo buildings;

Gasoline and diesel use in zoo vehicles and equipment.

This transition will require “thoughtful, phased investments in electrification, energy efficiency, and clean energy infrastructure across zoo facilities and operations.”

A key early milestone in this effort is the new solar pavilion at the zoo, made possible through a partnership with local philanthropists Cal and Laurie Couillard. The pavilion will help power zoo operations with clean energy while serving as a visible example of renewable technology in action.

“Public-private partnerships like this one are critical to accelerating climate solutions,” Agard added. “We are grateful for the Couillards’ leadership and generosity, and we hope it inspires others to join us in

this work.”

Kathy Kuntz, the Director of the office of Energy and Climate Change added, “The Henry Vilas Zoo is uniquely positioned to help our community see the future of clean energy up close. By eliminating fossil fuels entirely, not just offsetting them, we are demonstrating what is possible when innovation, partnership, and public leadership come together. This work will not only reduce emissions, it will inspire action far beyond the zoo’s gates.”

Apply now for youth gov. program

The Dane County Youth Governance Program (YGP) is now accepting applications for the 2026–2027 cohort. Applications are open from Monday, May 11, 2026, through Friday, June 26, 2026.

Established in 2012, the YGP offers high school students a meaningful opportunity to engage directly in county government decision-making, bring a youth perspective to local issues, and develop the skills needed to become the next generation of community leaders. Throughout the nine-month program, participants serve alongside elected county board supervisors on standing committees, with the same opportunities for participation as supervisors, with the distinction that their vote is advisory and non-binding.

Each participant is paired with a county board supervisor who serves as their mentor, providing one-on-one guidance throughout the year. Participants also meet regularly as a cohort to develop a group project presented to the full county board at the end of the program term.

“The Youth Governance Program is one of the most meaningful ways young people can engage with their

county government,” said County Board Chair Patrick Miles. “Participants don’t just observe the process; they sit at the table with supervisors, weigh in on real policy decisions, and bring perspectives that strengthen the board’s work. I encourage students across Dane County to apply.”

Who can apply: Students currently in grades 9–11 (entering grades 10–12 in the fall) who can commit to:

Attending at least 75 percent of in-person and virtual YGP meetings;

Six to eight hours of YGP work per month from September through May.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to review the county board’s standing committees and watch a committee meeting and a board meeting online before applying to get a sense of the work involved.

How to apply: Visit the Dane County Youth Governance Program website at <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/to-apply/> for additional program details, expectations, and the application form.

State senate debate

The August 11 Primary Election is fast approaching and District 17 voters will soon have a chance to hear from the Democrats vying for a state Senate nomination. Candidates Corrine Hendrickson, Jenna Jacobson and Lisa White will share their perspectives and answer your questions at a public forum on Wednesday, June 10 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the New Glarus High School Auditorium.

The forum is hosted by the Alpine Reading Club of New Glarus and will be moderated by Sam Ridders. The forum will feature questions from the moderator and the audience. The August primary winner will attempt to unseat incumbent Republican state Senator Howard Marklein in November.

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COMMUNITY

Student Spotlight: School district honors Quintin Klassy

Quintin Klassy, an eighth-grade student, is the latest Student Spotlight recipient! Quintin exemplifies what it means to be fully engaged in the middle school experience, consistently demonstrating outstanding academic achievement, community engagement, and personal growth.

Staff widely recognize Quintin as a kind, respectful, and hardworking leader who consistently supports others. Per his teachers, he truly embodies the spirit of our Middle School community. He approaches learning with curiosity and determination, asks thoughtful questions, and strives for deep understanding.

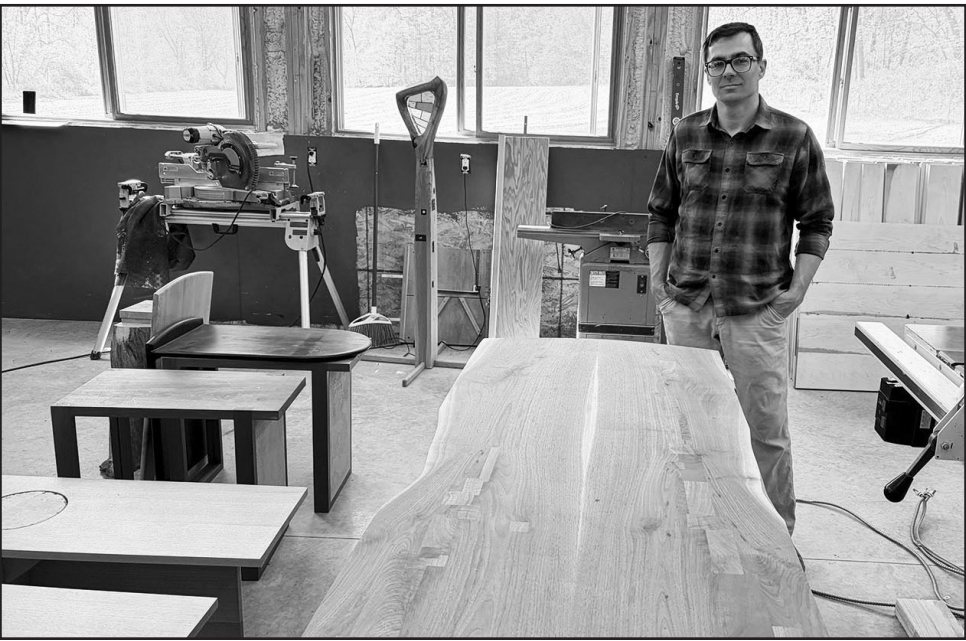
Quintin is heavily involved in a wide range of activities that showcase his leadership and passion. Within the Middle School, he participates in Forensics, Chorale, Jazz Band, Sources of Strength, and the school musical. He extends his passions outside of school through soccer, the Black Star Drumline, and outdoor activities like fishing, hunting, and camping.

In addition to his academic excellence and diverse involvement, Quintin actively contributes to a welcoming and supportive school environment. He is recognized for mentoring younger students, further strengthening the community within the Middle School. The District is so proud to recognize Quintin Klassy for his incredible contributions, truly making our school a better place!

Pictured above, Dr. Steve Salerno, Stephanie Schlimgen, Mr. Klassy, proud sister Naomi, Mrs. Klassy, Student Spotlight Quintin, Principal Paul Christiansen, and Board Liaison to the Middle School Tom Schlimgen.



Spring Art Tour celebrates 19th year



The Mount Horeb Area Arts Association (MHAAA)'s 19th Annual Spring Art Tour took place May 15-17, offering a rare opportunity to meet 31 talented regional artists in their creative spaces. Artists showcased work across a wide range of mediums including painting, print-making, photography, jewelry, metal art, pottery, fiber, wood, and more. Clockwise from top left: Randy Hanson, Patty and Ivy Klarer, Sandra Hall and Philip Ankney. Photos by Matt Geiger.

BILL

continued from page 1

Budget to use a portion of the state’s readily available state surplus to invest in Wisconsin’s kids and K-12 schools, provide property tax relief statewide, and help working families afford rising costs. The bipartisan package invests over \$600 million in Wisconsin’s K-12 schools, including providing the largest increase to the state’s special education reimbursement rate in state history to attain 50 percent as well as investing over \$300 million in general school aids; provides tens of millions of dollars in statewide property tax relief through Wisconsin Technical College System aid; makes direct payments to Wisconsin’s working families who are struggling to keep up with rising costs; and eliminates state income tax on tipped and overtime income.”

They said the announcement came “on the heels of a historic legislative session marked by bipartisan collaboration between the Democratic governor and the Republican-controlled Legislature, leading to the culmination of several major accomplishments under divided government.” In the months since the governor and Republican leaders last summer negotiated the first bipartisan state budget deal Wisconsin has had in decades, the trio’s bipartisan efforts “continued in earnest, working to pass key legislation to extend postpartum coverage for new moms, require insurance coverage for certain breast cancer screenings for Wisconsin women, and release \$125 million to fight PFAS contaminants statewide, among other key state priorities.”

In a press release from

the governor’s office, he said the deal would have been paid for using “a small portion of the state’s readily available state surplus,” the balance of which also increased since the 2025-27 state budget was enacted last summer, leaving billions of dollars remaining and available in the state’s checking and savings coffers for the next biennial state budget and to respond to any pressing state challenges in the interim. Wisconsin closed the last fiscal year with \$4.6 billion in the state’s general fund, which functions like the state’s checking account, and \$2 billion in the ‘rainy day’ fund, which is effectively the state’s savings account. Earlier this year, the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau estimated that the state would end the biennium with about \$2.37 billion, a projection that is more than \$1.5 billion above the projected net balance from the enacted 2025-27 biennial budget.

In a new memo last week, jointly released by the Wisconsin Departments of Administration and Revenue, the departments indicated that revenue collections are actually stronger than what was initially anticipated by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau in January. For the current fiscal year, the state tax collections through April are tracking approximately \$300 million to \$350 million above the Legislative Fiscal Bureau’s January estimates.

The proposed deal negotiated and agreed upon by Gov. Evers, Speaker Vos, and Majority Leader Lemahieu:

- Included the largest increase to the state’s special education reimbursement rate in state history to attain 50 percent, investing over \$600 million in Wisconsin’s K-12 schools, on top of the already historic nearly \$1.4 billion provided in the 2025-27 Biennial

Budget, including \$300 million in property tax relief through general school aids;

- Provided an additional \$50 million in property tax relief for Wisconsinites statewide in addition to the above over \$300 million in general school aids;
- Eliminated the income tax on cash tips and overtime income for Wisconsin taxpayers; and
- Would have returned over \$850 million of the surplus to Wisconsinites, providing direct support to over 3 million Wisconsinites to respond to rising costs.

“We’ve proven time and again that, here in Wisconsin, we’re capable of finding common ground and working together to get good things done for the people of our state, and the bipartisan compromise we’re announcing today is yet another example,” said Evers. “I’ve always said that what’s best for our kids is what’s best for our state—it’s why it’s been important to me throughout this process that we make sure our kids and our schools have the resources they need while also lowering property taxes and giving working families a little breathing room in their household budgets. After months of hard work, I’m proud we were able to put politics aside on a plan to use a portion of our historic state surplus to do the right thing for Wisconsinites across our state.

Governor says the agreement was ‘tanked’

When the proposal failed in the state senate, Evers was quick to voice disappointment in politicians on both sides of the aisle, saying that Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07) and Republican and Democratic members of the Wisconsin State Legislature “tanked” the bipartisan compromise.

Evers pointed out that because the bill failed, he said purportedly after phone calls with Congressman Tiffany urging them to oppose it:

- K-12 schools across Wisconsin will no longer receive a boost of over \$600 million, which would’ve helped schools across the state avoid budget cuts and

shortfalls during this current school year, despite the Wisconsin State Legislature having rejected \$7 billion for K-12 schools over the last four state budgets Gov. Evers proposed;

- Wisconsinites will see \$0 in property tax relief, and members of the Wisconsin State Legislature have now opposed repeated plans offered by Gov. Evers to respond to rising property taxes across the state, “even as Wisconsinites continue to go to referendum at record-high numbers to keep their school doors open and lights on”;
- “Working Wisconsinites” across the state will continue to pay \$400 million in state income taxes on their tipped wages and overtime income over the next two years; and
- \$850 million will not be returned to Wisconsin taxpayers, and three million Wisconsinites will no longer get help making ends meet and won’t receive a direct refund of a portion of the state’s multi-billion-dollar surplus, even as war, tariffs, and inflation are causing prices to go up on everything from gas to groceries.

“Wisconsin’s kids and schools aren’t going to get the investments they desperately need this year because Tom Tiffany and a few Republican and Democratic lawmakers chose to blow up a bipartisan plan to invest in our K-12 schools, lower property taxes, and help working families afford rising costs, all because they’d rather do what’s best for the next election than what’s right for the people of our state,” said Evers. “So many Wisconsinites feel left behind, frustrated, and disillusioned by politics these days because they think a lot of politicians in the Capitol are only here to serve themselves. And, today, they’re right.”

Republican Senator Marklein Disappointed in Result of Vote on Bipartisan Agreement

The \$1.8 billion compromise between legislative leaders and the Governor failed to pass the State Senate by a vote of 15-18. All Senate Democrats voted against the legislation. Sen-

ator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) released the following statement after the vote in the State Senate.

“I am disappointed by the result of today’s vote,” Senator Marklein said. “For months, I have heard from constituents who are struggling with rising costs and need meaningful relief now. This legislation would have delivered that relief by lowering property taxes, sending rebate checks directly to taxpayers, and exempting tips and overtime pay from income taxes. At a time when families are feeling the strain of inflation, returning more than \$1 billion to taxpayers would help ease the burdens caused the rising cost of living.”

“This bipartisan bill would have provided nearly \$8 million annually to schools in the 17th Senate District by reimbursing special education costs at the highest level in history,” Marklein continued. “Superintendents across my district have told me that special education funding would provide much needed breathing room in tight school budgets caused by declining enrollment.”

“This was a good compromise. I am disappointed to see the legislation fail. It is unfortunate that political calculations on both sides outweighed the opportunity to deliver immediate, meaningful results for the people we serve. Democrats opposed the bill because they would rather wait for the chance to recklessly expand government spending if they gain the majority. Some Republicans opposed it because they believe a Republican governor could deliver a larger tax cut in the future.”

“I believe leadership requires making decisions based on what is best for the people of Wisconsin. What is best for the people of Wisconsin was getting relief today, not asking people to hope for relief next year. I am disappointed that the people of Wisconsin will suffer because politicians on both sides were unable to see this. This is politics at its worst.”

Dem. Rep. Jacobson Voted “to Give Money Back to Wisconsinites”

On May 14, Representative Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) released the following statement after voting to deliver the state surplus back to Wisconsinites to lower

property taxes, fund our schools, and give tax rebates to millions across the state.

“Last night, the bill passed in the State Assembly but failed in the State Senate. Special Session Assembly Bill 1 would have given up to a \$600 rebate for married couples, and up to \$300 for individual tax filers,” she said. “The bill would have increased the special education reimbursement rate to 42 percent and 50 percent over the biennium. The bill provided \$50 million in property tax relief through increasing state aid to our technical colleges. Additionally, the bill would have removed taxes on tips and overtime.”

“When I was elected to serve you in the Legislature, you asked me to deliver for our communities,” Jacobson continued. “Our property taxes are too high, our schools are underfunded, and we are struggling with the costs of everything. I voted yes to put more money back in your pocket, to put more money into our classrooms, and deliver no tax on tips and overtime. This was meant to be a step in the right direction. But we can do so much more.”

“This bill was a band-aid for the years of failure by legislative Republicans to deliver for you, for our schools, and to provide real solutions to the problems facing our state. If this bill could have saved one of the 22 jobs planned to be lost in the Monroe School District, or prevented another referendum, it was worth the yes vote. While this bill was not the solution I would have chosen, it would have provided important one-time relief,” she added. “This session, I authored common sense permanent solutions to help lower your property taxes, fund our schools, and keep your money in your pocket. Unfortunately, the Republican majority failed to even give these bills a public hearing.”

Those bills authored by Jacobson included: Assembly Bill 1176 would have increased the amount of funding distributed to school districts as state aid through the equalization formula by \$445,949,400 to help ease property taxes; Assembly Bill 48, the Healthy School Meals for All bill, would have helped schools provide free meals to their students; Assembly Bill 423, a back-

continued on page 7

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With Jacobson running for Senate, others eye Assembly seat

The race for the Wisconsin State Assembly’s 50th District Seat is taking shape. Current Rep. Jenna Jacobson, a Democrat, is running for the District 17 State Senate seat currently held by Republican Howard Marklein, so multiple local residents have announced their candidacy for Jacobson’s current seat.

Bill Oemichen and Jon Aleckson have both formally announced their bids for the 50th Assembly seat.

Bill Oemichen is a longtime Town of New Glarus resident and current New Glarus School Board President.

Jon Aleckson is a retired small business leader in educational technology. He is a lifelong Wisconsin resident.

District 50 includes all of Green County and the Towns of Perry, Primrose, Montrose and Oregon, as well as the Village of Belleville and the Village of Oregon in Dane County.

Oemichen is a Professor of Practice – Law and Local Government Educator for UW-Madison Division of Extension. He is currently



Oemichen

serving his third term on the New Glarus School Board and his fifth year as Board President. He serves on the Board of Green County Leaders; chairs the Board of the \$9.4 billion Wisconsin College Savings Program (Edvest); and serves on the board of AgCountry Farm Credit Services, a cooperative owned by 25,000 Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota farmers.

Oemichen previously served as Wisconsin’s chief consumer protection official at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, as Preparedness and Emergency Medical Services Director at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, as chair of the Board of the Monroe Clinic, and as



Aleckson

former board treasurer for Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin. Oemichen also served as President & CEO of Cooperative Network, the trade association for Wisconsin cooperatives and the second largest state business trade association.

“I am running for the State Assembly in large part because the Wisconsin Legislature is failing to properly fund 4K-12 public schools while continuing to increase state financial support for private school vouchers,” Oemichen said. “Our legislature has failed to provide state funding equal to inflation since 2009 while also failing to meet special education funding targets. This causes public school districts to constantly go

to operating referendums just to tread water. The Legislature’s intentional shift to funding 4K-12 public schools through local property taxes is incredibly harmful to our state’s future and is not sustainable.”

“I will work hard to ensure we have a vibrant state agricultural economy, provide affordable housing and healthcare options, support our small businesses, and protect our state’s natural resources,” Oemichen added. “I want to hear from residents of the 50th Assembly District and look forward to meeting you on your doorstep.”

Oemichen earned a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School and a B.A. in Economics from Carleton College. Oemichen and his wife, Mary Anne, have lived in the Town of New Glarus for over 25 years and their two children, Amy and Will, were educated in the New Glarus Public Schools.

Aleckson said he is launching his campaign to “Restore Wisconsin, a movement to address key

crises facing our region: the homeownership crisis, education and workforce readiness, family farm challenges, and the upcoming AI-driven economic changes.”

“I’ve raised a family and built a successful Wisconsin business — now I want to bring that practical experience to Madison,” Aleckson said. “This isn’t about a political career. It’s about working together to solve real problems and leave our district stronger for the next generation.”

Aleckson said Restore Wisconsin priorities include: Housing and Property Taxes: Help young families afford homes with portable low-interest mortgages. Protect seniors from being taxed out of their homes by doubling homestead tax credits in the short term and pursuing a constitutional amendment for long-term relief.

Supporting Families: Expand access to quality, affordable childcare and introduce retention bonuses for care workers to keep dedicated professionals in

the field.

Stronger Schools and Workforce: Leverage educational technology experience to create “smarter” schools — direct resources to classrooms and teachers, Prepare students for AI-powered jobs of the future.

Stronger Family Farms: Boost farm income by lowering input costs, improving output prices, and opposing new state fees on milk haulers and livestock dealers that burden farmers. Make farming an attractive career for the next generation.

Economic Opportunity: Cut red tape for small businesses, invest responsibly in rural infrastructure, and deliver fiscal accountability.

“When I say ‘we’ or ‘you and I,’ it means all of us working together,” said Aleckson. “We will form working groups and networks to drive solutions. I’m asking for your vote and your active partnership in this campaign and in the legislature.”

ASSEMBLY

continued from page 1

served the Arena area. Gruber, a lifelong Wisconsinite, said he has served the 51st Assembly District as a conservation warden, an EMT, police officer, a firefighter, and as a AFSCME Local 1215 Union President. Gruber released the following statement:

“I am proud to announce my candidacy for the 51st Assembly District. For far too long, families in this community have been left behind. From rising costs, lack of funding for local services, and school closures, the 51st has been hit hard by legislative actions in Madison,” said Gruber.

“As a husband and father, I’ve seen firsthand how policy decisions have affected people across the district,” he continued. “When our local elementary school in Arena closed, my daughter faced a bus ride of over 90 minutes to kindergarten and our community lost one of its anchors. Our dream of sending our kids to the elementary school I attended was crushed. We’ve also seen how state actions can cause harm with volunteer EMS staffing collapsing and the village police department closing due to lack of resources. Time and time again, our communities have been forced to do more with less, and it’s time to change that.”

Gruber concluded: “I’m running for the Assembly to make sure working families in this district have someone who is truly looking out for us and who will truly listen to us. This district deserves better and I am looking forward to connecting with our communities in the months ahead about how true representation can help improve our everyday lives. Let’s get to work!”

Rep. Todd Novak will seek re-election in 2026. Novak’s campaign said that during his time in the Assembly, he “has proven himself a strong advocate and independent voice for the district. Voters know they can trust Todd to put partisanship aside and get

things done that put his constituents first.”

“The residents of the 51st Assembly District put their trust in me to address the problems and challenges we face,” said Novak. “Working across the aisle for common sense solutions is how I’ve always approached governing. We’ve been able to accomplish a lot to help address affordability, reduce the tax burden, support education, and reduce healthcare costs.”

The campaign pointed out that this legislative session, Novak worked with Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul to secure permanent funding for the Office of School Safety to keep our kids safe at school.

He also successfully fought to create a new program to address growing childcare shortages in rural areas by helping match families with affordable and quality childcare providers. He was also successful in his push to support student mental health adding a provision to the biennial state budget to fund mental health services to students at all University of Wisconsin System schools.

Novak worked with both Republican legislative leaders and Democratic Governor Tony Evers to provide additional funding to support Wisconsin’s dairy industry, helping both farmers and producers alike. Novak also

successfully included additional resources for Community Health Centers, and Free and Charitable health clinics throughout Wisconsin to provide high quality healthcare to those most in need, they continued.

“I look forward to continuing my work for the district this session and taking that positive record to the voters during the campaign,” added Novak. “Our focus will remain the same: address affordability, budget responsibly and reduce tax burden, improve healthcare access and costs, and continue supporting our schools.”

BILL

continued from page 6

to-school sales tax holiday, would have helped make shopping for back-to-school necessities more affordable for families.

In other legislative news:

Rep. Jacobson Sounds Alarm on Natural Resource Funding

Representative Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) recently released the following statement after the failure by Legislative Republicans to release funding for planned fish stocking, habitat management, and maintenance of public facilities:

The 2025-27 Biennial

budget set aside \$4 million for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fund core work in those areas, but requires the Joint Committee on Finance to release those funds. The DNR’s planned investments will now be cut as a result of an April 12 deadline to plan their work.

“Promises made, promises broken. It is beyond disappointing to see over \$4 million that was designated for the betterment of our fishing and hunting opportunities is now going by the wayside. Local anglers and hunters expect quality opportunities to pursue their passion.

“With the fishing season underway, it is upsetting that we will not be providing the local support to help

our anglers. Additionally, the maintenance of facilities used by Wisconsinites and visitors will be negatively impacted. This request by the DNR was not unexpected. The funding was already set aside for this very purpose last year.

“After reaching out to the budget committee co-chairs to highlight the need to release this timely funding, I received no response and the committee has continued to sit on their hands. I am again calling for action from the committee to allow the release of these funds to allow the best opportunities for all who enjoy our outdoors.”

Rep. Novak Secures Vote on Post-Partum Healthcare and Breast Cancer Screening Bills

Representative Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) recently joined seven of his Assembly Republican colleagues in announcing a vote on a postpartum Medicaid coverage extension for new mothers and requiring healthcare providers to cover supplemental breast cancer screenings for at-risk women.

The postpartum Medicaid extension bill, Senate Bill 23 (SB 23), extends Medicaid coverage for new mothers to one year after childbirth. This is a critical period for the health and well-being of both mother and baby, and similar policies are already in place in 48 states.

The second bill, AB 263, requires health insurance providers to cover additional breast cancer screenings

when a standard mammogram is deemed insufficient. The bill reduces financial burdens on patients and expands access to early detection for women at greater risk of developing breast cancer.

Both bills were being withheld from the Assembly floor due to a lack of support among members of the Assembly Republican Caucus. Rep. Novak and his colleagues announced an agreement to bring the bills to the Assembly floor after extensive private negotiations with their caucus colleagues.

“It is not fun, and it is not easy, but we were finally able to convince our colleagues and the Speaker that these bills must be passed,” said Novak. “By passing

these bills, we have shown that we can put doing what’s right over politics and that we can work for the betterment of all Wisconsinites.”

Both bills passed the State Assembly on Thursday, February 19.

The Assembly also passed several bills authored by Rep. Novak, including AB 664 requiring the service of butter in schools; AB 894, which codifies federal law relating to predatory gift card use fees and expiration dates; and Assembly Bills 973 and 1002, which create a new grant program to fund Economic Support Specialists at Aging and Disability Resource Centers.



Anna Tranel and Eleanor Guenther.

Going for Gold: How Vikings Elevated Their School Store to National Recognition

Two student officers, Eleanor Guenther and Anna Tranel, achieved their highest honor this year for the school store's operations: the DECA Gold Certification. Their rigorous project, which culminated in a 42-page document detailing every aspect of the store's retail and brand management, not only certified the chapter at the highest level but also secured them an auto-qualification for the DECA State competition and the School-Based Enterprise (SBE) Academy.

The journey to Gold Certification was inspired by a sense of belonging and a desire to contribute. When she was an underclassman officer, Eleanor felt she had found a home in the DECA chapter, noting, "I made so many new friends who taught me a lot about the school store." This extensive project, a requirement

for all returning officers, involves documenting all store operations, from event management—like selling tickets for Homecoming and creating spirit kits—to the day-to-day retail processes.

Faced with a project documenting over 42 pages, the team managed the substantial task by meeting to divide the work, which they titled "Event Management and Retail Operations." The writing and deliverables ultimately took over 30 hours across three months to complete. The process had its hurdles: Eleanor cited the difficulty with limited design programs, which led them to create their own template, and the highly technical writing required. A significant learning curve was the financial section; Eleanor dove deep into the store's accounting, gaining a hands-on understanding of cash flow. Beyond the goal of simply selling products, Anna shared that she gained insight regarding "how many different aspects go into running a business."

Earning the Gold Certification has been a major

accomplishment for the chapter and a rewarding one for the team. "It feels so rewarding because we put in so much energy into this project," Eleanor shared. It is the highest level attainable, achieved by their store out of 1,000 applicants. More importantly, this establishes a new standard for future teams: after completing this 42-page document, future officers will only need to complete a less extensive recertification document for the next five years, automatically qualifying the chapter for two competitive spots at the State competition each year.

This year, they had the opportunity to attend the State competition and the SBE Academy, showcasing their trifold. For underclassmen considering the project, Eleanor encourages them, saying, "It's still hard work, but the process will be expedited," as the focus shifts to a trifold presentation per DECA procedures. She concluded, "You learn really great real-world [skills], which can help facilitate a great career in the future."

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Auxiliary distributes poppies as Memorial Day approaches

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary were at Miller & Sons Supermarket over the weekend, giving away poppies as Poppy Day approaches. Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion Family brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day. On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn the nation’s uniform. The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, each year members of The American Legion Family distribute poppies with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with medical and financial needs.

Pictured at right are Auxiliary embers Theresa Hofstetter, Kim Treamer, Faye Johnson, Sandy Hook and Connie York.





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Obituary

Aldine Sponem

November 18, 1929 – May 17, 2026



Aldine Sponem, age 96, of Madison, Wis., passed away surrounded by the love of his family. Born on November 18, 1929, to Adolph and Nettie Sponem, Aldine

lived a life defined by hard work, devotion to family, kindness, and quiet strength.

On February 26, 1951, he married the love of his life, Avis (Wahl) Sponem, in Blanchardville, Wis. Together they built a beautiful life and shared 75 wonderful years of marriage filled with love, laughter, and unwavering commitment to one another.

Aldine graduated from Mount Horeb High School and spent much of his life doing what he loved most—farming. Beginning in 1951, he dedicated himself to dairy farming, working tirelessly to provide for his family and care for the land. After retiring from farming, he contin-

ued serving his community as a bus driver for Verona Public Schools until 1996.

Outside of work, Aldine found joy in many hobbies and talents. He was an avid bowler for many years and loved square dancing with his beautiful wife. He also had a remarkable gift for woodworking, creating pieces that reflected both his craftsmanship and patience.

More than anything, Aldine was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He fiercely loved his family, and they were the center of his world. His smile could light up a room, and his warm presence made everyone feel welcome. He leaves

behind not only cherished memories, but also a lasting example of love, humility, dedication, and generosity.

Aldine is survived by his beloved wife, Avis Sponem; his children, Vickie (Mike) Smith of Rolling Meadows, Ill., Steve (Karen) Sponem of Mount Horeb, Wis., Judy (Scott) Wheeler of Nashville, Tenn., and Alan (Christine) Sponem of Madison, Wis.

He was a proud grandfather to Tony Solberg, Mandy DiMola, Kristin (John) Markovich, Lyndsey (Ryan) Miskoski, Travis (Megan) Sponem, Michelle (Phil) Bastiani, Dustin (Nikki) Sponem, Ashley (Scott) Mansfield, Alex (Kelli)

Wheeler, Alicia (Mike) Squatrito, and Sean Sponem. He was also blessed with 19 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, all of whom brought him immense pride and joy. He was preceded in death by his parents, Adolph and Nettie Sponem; and his siblings, Gerald Sponem, Harold Sponem, Roger Sponem, and Vera (Sponem) Eidsmoe.

A celebration of Aldine's life will be held at PRIMROSE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 8770 Ridge Drive, Belleville, at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 22, 2026, with Pastor Jason Hill presiding. A burial will follow at East Primrose Cemetery.

Immediately after the burial a luncheon will follow at the church. A visitation will be held at the church from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Friday.

Aldine's family finds comfort in knowing that his legacy lives on through the family he cherished so deeply and the countless lives he touched with his gentle spirit and loving heart.

Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

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Someone You Should Know

Barret Kreul

Barret Kreul is "Someone You Should Know." Barret was chosen as the Optimist Club's high school recipient of the "Someone You Should Know" award for outstanding community service for the month of April.

Barret is a senior at Mount Horeb High School. Throughout his high school years, Barret has been involved in many co-curricular activities including Link Crew, Ecology Club, Yearbook Club, and Viking Book Club. He is also a member of the National Honors Society and has earned his Silver Cord. His interest in dance and music has given him the



Barret Kreul is "Someone You Should Know."

opportunity to be in the cast and also as the choreogra-

pher of the high school musicals. He is also a member

of Vocal Jazz and Madrigal.

Outside of school, Barret has been an active student in Forte Studios' dance program taking classes of Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Tap, Hip-hop, Pointe, and Improvisation. This year he is the Dance Captain of X-tension performing for the Madison Capitals and Milwaukee Herd. He has also performed for the Dance Masters of Wisconsin competition for three years. Barret makes it his goal to help with the education of children. Barret started off volunteering as a dance teacher's assistant at Forte, helping out with a 1st-3rd grade ballet and

tap combo class. The following year he volunteered as an assistant to a 3rd-5th grade combo class of ballet and jazz. Barret is now employed as a student dance teacher at Forte Studios. Barret has dedicated his time over the summers to helping out with Mount Horeb Summer School. He volunteered for Mrs. Sieja's 3rd grade math camp and the next summer with Mrs. Rockow's Kindergarten Kickoff. After helping the following year with Mrs. Ryan's Kindergarten Kickoff he decided that he wanted to help out with kindergarteners during the school year, also.

He is currently helping Mrs. Chamberlain's kindergarten class during their math and integrity time.

Barret was honored at the April meeting of the Optimist Club with his parents Darrick and Stacy Kreul present. He received a certificate of recognition, \$50.00, and is also in the running to receive one of the Optimist Club scholarships awarded at the Senior Awards event in May. The Optimist Club of Mount Horeb is proud to name Barret Kreul as "Someone You Should Know."

Kaylen Hastings

Kaylen was chosen as the Optimist Club's high school recipient of the "Someone You Should Know" award for outstanding community service for the month of April.

Kaylen is a senior at Mount Horeb High School. She has been a member of the Chamber Choir and the high school musical cast all four years. As a member of the choir, she attended trips to New York and to London where she was able to perform a concert for local residents at the Holy Trinity Church. She is currently a member of the Yearbook Club and People's Organization of Women's Equality and Rights (POWER) Club. The POWER Club aims to recognize the strength of women in our community and the student body. Kaylen was inducted into the National Honors Society at the end of her sophomore year. She attends monthly



Kaylen Hastings is "Someone You Should Know."

meetings, maintains a high GPA and has fulfilled the annual 20-hour volunteer requirement participating in various activities such as food drives, blood drives, etc.

Outside of school, Kaylen has been volunteering in events at Evangelical Lutheran Church all through-

out high school. She helps out with Sunday School. She enjoys going on mission trips with other youth from local churches and helping to do things like volunteer at a local clothes closet and cleaning an elderly woman's garage. Her church also has an annual "Give/Love/Serve" week each summer

during which she has participated in making blankets and baby kits for people in need and working at local clothes closets and food pantries. The past two summers she volunteered at Rennebohm Park in Madison on Thursday evenings setting up and taking down chairs, music stands, speakers and other equipment. She also helps elderly folks to their chairs to watch "Concerts in

the Park" performed by the Capitol City Band. Kaylen plans on volunteering for the next couple years at Sugar Creek Bible Camp where she has participated as a camper since she was six years old. Kaylen has met the required 140 volunteer hours for the high school's Silver Cord program.

Kaylen was honored at the April meeting of the Optimist Club with her parents

Gary and Mary Hastings present. She received a certificate of recognition, \$50.00, and is also in the running to receive one of the Optimist Club scholarships awarded at the Senior Awards event in May.

The Optimist Club of Mount Horeb is proud to name Kaylen Hastings as "Someone You Should Know."

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SPORTS

Baseball Vikings trending upward

Mount Horeb enjoys big week, wins three of four

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

The postseason is just around the corner. And Mount Horeb's baseball team appears to be rounding into form. The Vikings won three of four games last week and improved to 11-8 overall. Mount Horeb also moved into third place in the Badger Small Conference at 7-5. Mount Horeb defeated River Valley, 9-6, on May 11 and downed Portage, 19-9, on May 12. The Vikings fell to Reedsburg, 2-1, on May 13, then routed Portage, 15-0, on May 15. Here's a recap of the Vikings' week.

- **Mount Horeb 9, River Valley 6** — The host Vikings scored six runs in the sixth inning and rallied past the Blackhawks on

Senior Night on May 11. Mount Horeb trailed, 4-3, heading to the bottom of the sixth inning when it scored six runs. Senior Jaxen Finley had a big day at the plate going 2-for-4 with a double, three RBIs and two runs scored, while shortstop Terek Isely scored two runs and had an RBI. Center fielder Josh Kuntz also scored two runs. Isely, who was one of five Mount Horeb pitchers, worked two innings of relief and picked up the win. "All senior nights are special, but this was extra special with Jaxen being a senior and me being in the actual pregame program," Mount Horeb manager Ryan Finley said of his son, Jaxen. "This is a special group of boys. I've coached them along

continued on page 16



Connor Casey and Mount Horeb's baseball team won three of four games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Girls lacrosse team wins conference title



Photo submitted

Badger Conference Champs

They are the champions. Verona's girls lacrosse team — which includes players from Mount Horeb — rolled past Madison Edgewood, 15-6, on May 12 and won the Badger Conference championship. Senior captain Sam Genin led the way with five goals and an assist, while junior captain Ava Anderson had four goals. Freshman Rae Olson of Mount Horeb had three goals and an assist and junior captain Zoe Engelke had two goals. Sophomore Ellie Schultz had a goal and three assists, while senior Audrey Duffy and junior Emma Frick both had an assist. Senior captain Emma Yeager made three saves and sophomore EJ Kaufman had one save. Verona also defeated Green Bay Notre Dame, 14-8, on May 15. Sam Genin again led the way with seven goals, while Rae Olson had four goals. Ava Anderson had two goals and senior Lettie Gauthier had a goal. Junior Magali Forlines of Mount Horeb had an assist, while Emma Yeager had six saves and EJ Kaufman had one save.

- On deck: The Vikings were at Kenosha Monday, then host Kettle Moraine Friday at 7 p.m. on Youth Night.



Annika Polman (left), Delaina Nicewander and Mount Horeb’s girls softball team pushed their winning streak to six games last week. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



Softball Vikings keep rolling along

Mount Horeb pushes winning streak to six

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

One was enough.

Mount Horeb’s girls softball team managed just one run in their Badger Small Conference showdown with Stoughton on May 12. Thanks to the brilliance, though, of pitcher Ella Baber, Mount Horeb prevailed, 1-0.

The Vikings also raced past host Platteville, 13-3, on May 14 and won at Fort Atkinson, 10-2, on May 15.

Mount Horeb, which has won six straight games, improved to 21-3 overall and finished the year 12-2 in the Badger Small Conference. Stoughton (13-1, 18-3) held on, though, and won the conference title.

In Mount Horeb’s win over Stoughton, Baber allowed just four hits, struck out seven and walked two in throwing a complete game shutout. Baber also threw strikes on 70 of 110 pitches (63.6%).

“Ella pitched her best game of the year and didn’t let up the entire game,” Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman said.

Baber put two runners on in three different innings, but worked out of the jams.

Baber allowed a two-out double and an intentional

walk after two were out in the first, but got Nora Heinecke to line out to left fielder Delaina Nicewander.

Baber allowed consecutive singles to open the third, then recorded a double play and a strikeout to escape that inning.

Then in the sixth, Baber gave up a two-out single and an intentional walk. Once again, though, she got Heinecke to fly out to Nicewander.

Mount Horeb got the only run it needed in the top of the first when Jozie Clifton had a leadoff triple and scored on a wild pitch.

Mount Horeb also threatened in the sixth when Lauren Mester had a one-out triple, but she was gunned down at home after an infielder grounder by Elaina Imbus.

“The girls fought for conference all year long and didn’t give up,” Holman said. “And we came very close to capturing another title.”

• **Mount Horeb 13, Platteville 3 (6)** — The Vikings scored 10 runs in their final

Mount Horeb earns No. 1 seed

Mount Horeb’s girls softball team received the No. 1 seed in their half of the sectional.

The Vikings (21-3) had a first round bye, then host either eighth-seeded Reedsburg or ninth-seeded Wisconsin Dells in a regional quarterfinal on May 26. If Mount Horeb wins there, it would host either fourth-seeded Evansville or fifth-seeded McFarland in a regional final on May 28.

The sectional semifinals are June 2, and if seeds holds, Mount Horeb would face second-seeded Monroe. The sectional finals are June 4 at Portage High School at 5 p.m.

Beloit Turner (17-2) is the No. 1 seed on the other half of the sectional.

Mount Horeb is looking for its first-ever trip to state.

three at bats and rolled past the host Hillmen in a game stopped after six innings due to the mercy rule.

Mount Horeb led, 3-2, after three innings, then erupted offensively.

Jozie Clifton had a huge game at the plate, going 3-for-4 with two doubles,

four RBIs and scoring two runs. Eva Larson went 2-for-2 with a triple, scored a run and had an RBI.

Emily Wittenwyler went 2-for-4 with two runs scored and an RBI, while Lauren Mester was 2-for-4 with two runs scored and an RBI. Delaina Nicewander had a

hit, walked twice, had an RBI and scored a run, while Sonja Schreiber had an RBI.

Clifton also picked up the win, throwing all six innings and allowing just two earned runs (three total). Clifton struck out five, walked one, gave up seven hits and threw strikes on 59 of 79 pitches (74.7%).

“Jozie pitched a great game scattering seven hits and hit her spots all game,” Holman said. “The girls banged out 14 hits which helped set the tone.”

• **Mount Horeb 10, Fort Atkinson 2** — The Vikings pounded out 15 hits, raced to a 9-0 lead and rolled past the Blackhawks.

Mount Horeb used a seven-run second to take an 8-0 lead and cruised from there.

Lauren Mester led the offense, going 3-for-5 with two RBIs and a run scored, while Elaina Imbus was 3-for-5 with a double, two runs scored and an RBI. Claire Casey was 2-for-5 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored, and Sonja Schreiber was 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Delaina Nicewander went 2-for-4 and scored a run, while Jozie Clifton scored two runs.

Ella Baber went the distance and earned the win. Baber allowed just three hits, two runs, struck out nine and walked one.

“Ella pitched another great game only giving up three hits and we piled up 15 hits which allowed us to keep control of the game,” Holman said.

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb was at Dodgeville Tuesday, then wraps up the regular season with a road game at Waunakee Thursday at 5 p.m.



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Soccer Vikings win two of three

Mount Horeb playing well as postseason arrives

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls soccer team will head to the postseason in less than two weeks.

And after a rough start, the Vikings seem to have found a branch of consistency to hold onto.

Mount Horeb won two of three road games last week, improving to 8-6-1 on the year after beginning the season 1-3-1.

Last week, the Vikings defeated Dodgeville, 4-3, on May 11 and dropped a 4-2 decision to Fort Atkinson on May 12. Mount Horeb then downed River Valley, 3-2, on May 15, giving the Vikings five wins in their last seven games.

Here’s a recap of Mount Horeb’s week.

- **Mount Horeb 4, Dodgeville 3** — Maren Johnson

scored the game-winning goal with just 5 minutes left and the Vikings edged the host Dodgers.

Aubrey Rockow, Jadyn Schellpfeffer and Kolbie Severson also had goals for Mount Horeb, while keeper Sara Seibel had eight saves.

“It was a back-and-forth game,” Mount Horeb coach Megan Lemire said. “Our girls never gave up, despite some frustrations.”

- **Fort Atkinson 2, Mount Horeb 0** — The Blackhawks scored a goal in each half and downed the visiting Vikings.

Mount Horeb had 12 shots on goal, but couldn’t convert.

“The Badger Conference has always been strong, and this year is no exception,” Lemire said. “I’m biased, but I think we looked like the better team. We just unfortunately had

trouble putting the ball in the back of the net.”

Mount Horeb’s Sara Seibel and Avery Monroe both played a half in goal. Each made five saves and gave up one goal.

“The first goal we gave up was an unfortunate error,” Lemire said. “We had some injuries that made it a more difficult game than it should have been.”

- **Mount Horeb 3, River Valley 2** — Maddie Ryan had two goals and Bella Hoffman added a goal as the Vikings edged the host Blackhawks in a game that had been postponed from earlier in the season.

Maren Johnson and Jadyn Schellpfeffer had assists for the Vikings.

“It was a great team win where, again, we scored the winning goal with less than 10 minutes left,” Lemire said. “All because

these girls never give up.”

Mount Horeb had multiple starters out with injuries or prior commitments, so several girls stepped up to fill various roles. Freshman Molly Foster played keeper and made eight saves.

“She did a great job,” Lemire said of Foster. “Also, playing on turf made us move the ball quickly, which resulted in some great through balls to runners on the wing.”

- **On deck:** Mount Horeb was at Badger Small Conference co-leader Sauk Prairie Tuesday. The Vikings then host Big Foot/Williams Bay Thursday at 7 p.m. and host Platteville/Lancaster Saturday at noon.

Mount Horeb wraps up the regular season by hosting Monona Grove May 26 at 7 p.m. The playoffs then begin June 2.



Sara Seibel and Mount Horeb’s girls soccer team won two of three games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo golfers set for postseason

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

The postseason is here for Mount Horeb’s boys golf team.

The Vikings were at the Badger Small Conference championship on Tuesday. Mount Horeb then heads to the WIAA Division 1 DeForest Regional on May 26.

The Vikings had two final tuneups last week and here’s how they fared.

WISCONSIN DELLS INVITE

The Vikings shot a 342 and finished in 14th place out of 23 teams at Wild Rock Golf Club on May 11.

Onalaska won the team title with a 308 and Winneconne was second at 310. Middleton (312), Badger (313) and both Verona and McFarland (317) rounded out the top five.

“This event is always a great experience for us playing against some of the best teams in the state with post-season play on the horizon,” Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz. “It also serves as a practice round for us with our upcoming conference tournament here.”

Mount Horeb freshman Nolan Niemetscheck led the Vikings with an 80, tying

for 23rd place individually in the 115-player field. Niemetscheck birdied the par-five, sixth hole and recorded eight pars during his round.

“Nolan played really well for us, improving on his performance here in April by 12 strokes and earning a top-25 finish in one of the deepest fields we play in all year,” Krentz said.

Senior Nick Ibinger posted an 85, notching a birdie at the par-4, 17th hole and making seven pars on the day. Junior Finn La Fleur shot an 87, finishing his round with seven pars. Sophomore Max Boyle added a 90, while sophomore Jace Stadele recorded a 94 to round out the scoring for the Vikings.

“Hopefully, we can use the experience we have gained playing here as a team twice already this season and put on a good showing at our conference tournament next week,” Krentz said.

Badger Small Conference Mini

The Vikings shot a 344 and finished in sixth place out of eight teams at a conference mini-meet held at Lake Wisconsin Country Club on May 13.

Madison Edgewood was first with a 316, while Mc-

Farland was second at 329 and Sauk Prairie was third with a 333.

“Scores were much higher than expected for all teams at Lake Wisconsin,” Krentz said. “We finished with the same score as a team that we had here in early April and temperatures that day were 20-25 degrees lower.”

“Despite it being one of the shortest courses we play all year, the greens are always a challenge there and (this) was no different.”

Nick Ibinger and Nolan Niemetscheck led Mount Horeb with matching rounds of 85, tying for 17th place individually in the 40-player field. Ibinger birdied the par-four, sixth hole and added eight pars during his round, while Niemetscheck finished his day with eight pars.

Jace Stadele posted an 86 with six pars and tied for 20th place, while Finn La Fleur chipped in with an 88 that included five pars and tied for 22nd.

Krentz was disappointed his team hit just 18-of-90 greens in regulation (20.0%).

“That left us scrambling for much of the round,” Krentz said. “And when you do that at Lake Wisconsin, higher scores are going to be the result.”



Nick Ibinger and Mount Horeb’s boys golf team were at the Badger Small Conference championship on Tuesday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

The Vikings struggled on the more difficult front nine, shooting a season-high, nine-hole total of 186, but improved to 158 on the back nine. That tied McFar-

land and Sauk Prairie for the second-best back nine score and was just five shots back of Edgewood.

“On the back nine, we had all five scores between 38

and 41 which was great to see,” Krentz said. “If we can play like that for 18 holes, maybe we can surprise some teams at our conference tournament and regional.”



Mount Horeb’s Alexander Feltz was sixth in the 110-meter hurdles at the Tom Mueller Invitational. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Track teams 7th at Oregon

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s track and field teams both finished in seventh place at the Tom Mueller Invitational at Oregon High School on May 15.

Baraboo won the girls meet with 106 points, while Edgewood was second with 95 and Oregon was third with 73. Mount Horeb was seventh with 65.

Baraboo also won the boys meet with 128 points, while DeForest (114) and Milton (92) rounded out the top three. Mount Horeb finished with 44 points.

Here are the Vikings’ top-10 finishers.

GIRLS

- Avena Myers won the 100-meter dash in 13.37 seconds.
- Willa Vigliotta won the 800-meter run in 2 minutes, 19.42 seconds.
- Aliyah Chovanec won

the high jump with a leap of 5 feet, 2 inches.

- The Vikings’ 400-meter relay team of Julia Zimmer, Emerson Kroll, Avena Meyers and Aicha Dowling was first in 50.22 seconds.

- Aicha Dowling was second in the 200-meter dash in 26.91 seconds.

- Julia Straka was second in the 800-meter run (2:22.17).

- Kira Buttner was fifth in the 800-meter run (2:28.49).

- Abigail Marshaus was sixth in the 100-meter hurdles (18.22).

- Julia Zimmer was eighth in the 200-meter dash (27.68).

- Abigail Marshaus was ninth in the 300-meter hurdles (54.86).

- Lily Wahl was ninth in the 1,600-meter run (6:05.71).

- The Vikings’ 800-meter relay team of Ella Gaitan, Marie Hutchins, Madie Mechler and Marhi-

anna Marshall was ninth (1:55.76).

- Kajsa Peterson was 10th in the 3,200-meter run (13:59.19).

- Clementine Christian was 10th in the pole vault (7-6).

BOYS

- Desmond Kelley was second in the 800-meter run (2:04.30).

- Jack Wilson was fourth in the discus with a throw of 148-feet, 1 inch.

- Django Christian was fourth in the triple jump (42-8 ½).

- Alexander Feltz was fifth in the pole vault, clearing 11-feet.

- Samuel Wyse was fifth in the 1,600-meter run (4:44.54).

- Gavin Reynolds was fifth in the shot put (46-10 ½).

- Marc Stoddard was sixth in the 3,200-meter run (11:31.92).

- Alexander Feltz was sixth in the 110-meter hur-

dles (17.76).

- The Vikings’ 400-meter relay team of Kyle Frischmann, Devyn Uptegraw, Colin Haag and Ryan Chase was sixth (44.22).

- Mount Horeb’s 800-meter relay team of Cullen Anderson, Ryan Chase, Ben Rothamer and Colton Bell was seventh (1:40.15).

- The Vikings’ 3,200-meter relay team of Jackson Ballew, Nolan Chancellor, Blake Lossenegger and Henry Healy was seventh (9:45.49).

- Colton Bell was eighth in the 100-meter dash (11.96).

- Harrison Walker was ninth in the discus (138-11).

- Nolan Schauf was 10th in the pole vault (10-0).

Boys lacrosse team splits two

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

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

The Wildcats fell to top-ranked Waunakee, 11-2, on May 11. Verona then defeated Beaver Dam Wayland Academy, 18-2, on May 14.

Here’s a recap of the Wildcats’ week.

- **Waunakee 11, Verona 2** — Cooper Blodgett and Mason Williams had goals in a losing effort for the Wildcats.

Ryan Blodgett added an assist for Verona and Caleb Jabas had 15 saves.

- **Verona 18, Wayland**

Academy 2 — Cooper Blodgett had three goals and the Wildcats rolled to a comfortable win.

Mason Williams added two goals and three assists, while Gabe Weisensel had two goals and an assist. Riley Stagman had two goals and won 100% of his faceoffs, while Jackson Bubbers and Braxton Jagla both had two goals.

Cullen Olson and Evans Bartel each had a goal and an assist, and Olin Olson, Ayden Jagla and Caleb Jabas all had goals.

Simon Williams added an assist, while Jabas eclipsed 500 career saves.

- **On deck:** Verona hosted Madison Ultra Tuesday, then hosts DeForest Thursday.

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TOWN OF CROSS PLAINS DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
FINAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGAINST BENEFITTED PROPERTY RESOLUTION NO. 2076-01

RECITALS
The Town of Cross Plains, by its Town Board, has declared its intention to exercise its police power pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0703, to levy special assessments upon property within the areas described in the Special Assessment Final Report attached and incorporated as Exhibit A (the "Special Assessment Report"), for benefits conferred upon each property in whole or in part by the installation and replacement of culverts and other stormwater and drainage infrastructure (the "Public Improvements")

On April 16, 2026, following notice published and mailed pursuant to law, the Town Board conducted a public hearing on the levy of special assessments in accordance with the Special Assessment Report

The purpose of this Resolution is to adopt the Special Assessment Report and approve the plans and specifications contained therein, to direct that the Public Improvements be constructed, and to levy special assessments to pay for the Public Improvements against the following described properties (the "Property"): 8654, 8672, 8676, 8682, 8692 and 8706 W. Mineral Point Road, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

A map of the Property is attached and incorporated as Exhibit B

The Town Board finds that the benefits from the Public Improvements will be conferred upon the Property.

The Town Chairperson has prepared the Special Assessment Report, attached as Exhibit A

The special assessments to each home are amortized in an annual payments over 10 years at 4% and are due with January property tax payment. There will be no penalty for paying, any or all of the outstanding amounts owed when paid with annual property taxes.

The residents, specially assessed, benefit from these improvements by having improved drainage across their property and significantly lower probability of water damage to their property and improvements.

EXHIBIT C INSTALLMENT ASSESSMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a contract has been let for the installation and replacement of culverts and other stormwater and drainage infrastructure and related costs and that the amount of the special assessment for the improvements has been determined as to each parcel of real estate affected and a statement of the assessment is on file with the Town Clerk. It is proposed to collect the special assessment in ten (10) installments, as provided for by Wis. Stat. § 66.0715, with interest at four percent (4%) per year. All assessments will be collected in installments as provided in Town of Cross Plains Resolution No. 2026-01, which is on file with the Town Clerk, except assessments on property where the owner files with the Town Clerk within 30 days from date of this notice a written notice that the owner elects to pay the special assessment on the owner's property, describing the property, to the Town Treasurer on or before the following November 1, unless the election is revoked. If, after making the election, the property owner fails to make the payment to the Town Treasurer, the Town Clerk shall place the entire assessment on the following tax roll.

WEST MINERAL POINT CULVERT PROJECT
SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FINAL REPORT
MARCH 17, 2026

Residents on the north side of West Mineral Point in Pine Bluff have expressed concerns, for years, about inadequate culvert sizes and ditching that has resulted in water infiltration in several of the homes.

The Town of Cross Plains contracted with MSA Engineers to assess the issue and make recommendations. MSA's Watershed Analysis, Exhibit A, documented the water drainage patterns and existing infrastructure in the area. MSA recommended, in Exhibit B, increasing the size of culverts and increasing the depth and width of ditches at 8654, 8672, 8676, 8682, 8692 and 8706 West Mineral Point Road.

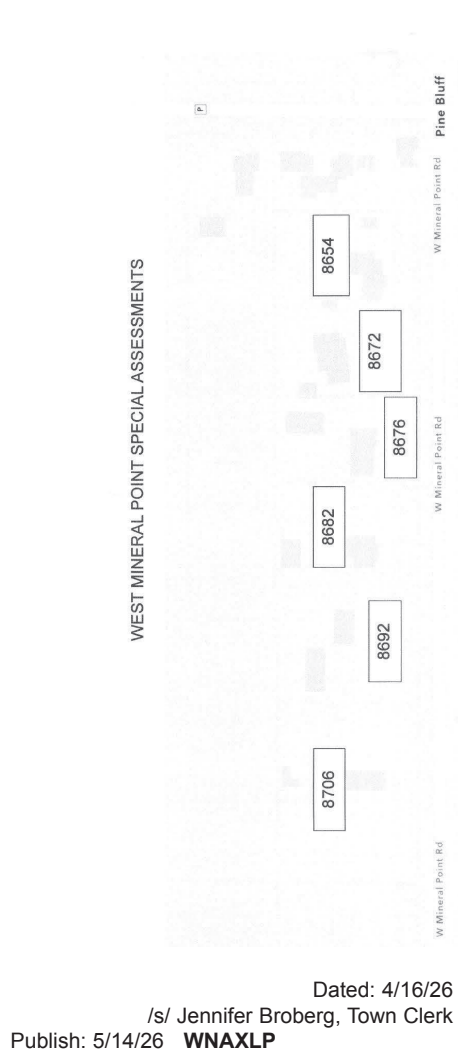
The Town of Cross Plains will pay for the engineering assessment and design costs, permitting, the cost of the recommended culvert, culvert transition (manhole) and asphalt patch across West Mineral Point Road, and all erosion control, ditching and reseeding along the north side of West Mineral Point Road. The Town construction costs are \$30,350.08 and the MSA engineering spent by the Town to date is approximately \$20,000.

Residents at the above addresses will be responsible and special assessed for the recommended costs, as determined the contractor and MSA based on the cost and amount of materials for their property, of their culvert and asphalt driveway patch.

The total project cost, based on public bidding, to homeowners for the project is \$47,002.29 The allocation to each homeowner is as follows:

8706	\$6,562.19	8692	\$5,533.55
8682	\$6,837.79	8676	\$10,859.08
8672	\$6,147.52	8654	\$11,062.15

WEST MINERAL POINT SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS



Dated: 4/16/26
/s/ Jennifer Broberg, Town Clerk
Publish: 5/14/26 **WNAXLP**



Hayden Anderson (above), Evan Preimesberger (right) and Mount Horeb’s baseball team are heating up with the playoffs just around the corner. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



BASEBALL

continued from page 11

with many of my assistants since little league and it made it more special with that big six run sixth inning to help secure the win.”

• **Mount Horeb 19, Portage 9 (6)** — The Vikings scored 10 runs in the third inning and routed the visiting Warriors on May 12 in a game stopped after six innings due to the mercy rule.

Mount Horeb finished with 19 hits and also scored three runs in the first inning and four in the sixth.

“The wind was blowing out hard to right field and right center today, so we knew there were going to be some runs scored,” Ryan Finley said.

Catcher Jackson Myers had a huge offensive day, belting a home run and two doubles, while going 3-for-5 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Pitcher Brecken Dudley went 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored, and shortstop Terek Isely went 2-for-4 with two runs scored and an RBI.

Center fielder Josh Kuntz had two RBIs and scored two runs, while infielder Carter Vesely had two hits and drove in two runs. Left fielder Connor

Casey went 2-for-3 with a double, scored two runs and had two RBIs, while first baseman Hayden Anderson scored three runs and right fielder Jaxen Finley scored two runs.

“Jackie’s been swinging it great all year and now we are starting to hit up and down the lineup,” Ryan Finley said.

Dudley picked up the win after allowing seven runs in 4 1/3 innings.

“Brecken did a great job throwing strikes and gave up some runs on balls going off the wall and even a home run that normally wouldn’t have happened,” Ryan Finley said. “So I’m proud of him for competing out there. We knew we would get our fair share of runs.”

• **Reedsburg 2, Mount Horeb 1** — The host Beavers scored two first inning runs and made that hold up on May 13.

Hayden Anderson threw extremely well for Mount Horeb, but took the loss after allowing two runs in six innings. Anderson gave up four hits, struck out four, walked one and threw strikes on 46 of 70 pitches (65.7%).

“Hayden pitched a great game after giving up the two runs in the first inning,” Ryan Finley said. “He was dominant the rest of the way. Defensively we played error free baseball behind him.”

Mount Horeb out-hit Reedsburg, 8-4, but couldn’t come up with the big hit and left 10 runners

on base. Brecken Dudley finished with two hits and Connor Casey’s fourth inning RBI single plated Dudley.

That’s all the offense the Vikings could muster, though.

“Reedsburg is obviously a really good team and we sure had our chances,” Ryan Finley said. “We just couldn’t come up with the clutch hit and they made a few plays defensively, as well. We don’t do moral victories, but we played pretty solid baseball, just couldn’t get the big hit.”

• **Mount Horeb 15, Portage 0 (5)** — The Vikings erupted for seven runs in the first inning and five in the third and routed the Warriors in a game stopped after five innings due to the

mercy rule.

“We couldn’t have started out any better after putting up seven runs in the top of the first inning and then kept putting the pressure on them the rest of the way,” Ryan Finley said.

Brecken Dudley had a huge day at the plate going 2-for-3 with a home run, four RBIs and two runs scored. Terek Isely went 2-for-3 with a double, two RBIs and three runs scored, while Jaxen Finley went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and an RBI.

Josh Kuntz and Brady McCue both scored two runs, while Hayden Anderson went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored, and Jackson Myers had a double.

Jaxen Finley was also terrific on the mound, striking out nine, allowing four hits and no walks in hurling shutout.

“Jaxen Finley was lights out on the mound,” Ryan Finley said. “It was a fun way to cap a really good week of baseball played by the boys.”

• **On deck:** The Vikings were at Wisconsin Heights Monday and were at Stoughton Tuesday. Mount Horeb hosts Stoughton Thursday at 5 p.m., then is at Evansville Friday at 4:45 p.m.



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