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A closer look at the local groups fighting to preserve the wild places that make Wisconsin special

By Abigail Karbusicky
Mount Horeb Mail

Since Knowles-Nelson funding expired this summer, Mount Horeb resident Amy Mertz said it'll be more challenging to preserve land in Wisconsin.

Mertz is the director of development and communications for Groundswell Conservancy, a conservation and land protection nonprofit based in Madison. Mertz oversees much of the fundraising for Groundswell, and has done this since early 2025.

Mertz started in journalism after going to school at UW–Madison, and gradually moved to public relations and consulting. And she moved to Mount Horeb with her husband not long after college. When she saw the job opportunity at Groundswell, she said she was "excited" about its mission.

"For me, the environment is the most pressing issue," Mertz said. "If we don't have green spaces and clean water, we can't do anything."

Mertz works with landowners to get land trusts to essentially promise that the land will be protected from development. She said they get multiple inquiries every week about landowners interested in preservation. Groundswell Conservancy holds over 80 easements and manages two preserves that are all protected from future use.

With land easements, Groundswell doesn't need to purchase the land. It stays under the landowners, but Groundswell takes the development rights, permanently protecting the land.

While it's based in Madison, Groundswell Conservancy does conservation work around the state. For

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Mount Horeb resident Amy Mertz (left) is director of development and communications for Groundswell Conservancy, a conservation and land protection nonprofit. Photo contributed.

Children's Community School celebrates a half century

Montessori school opened in 1976

For 50 years, Children's Community School (CCS) has helped Mount Horeb-area children learn, grow and discover the world around them.

Founded in 1976, Children's Community School is an independent Montessori school serving children

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With Measles in Wisconsin, DHS Stresses Importance of Vaccinating Schoolchildren

Encourages families to check vaccination records

As the new school year gets underway, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging parents and caregivers to check their children's vaccination records and make sure they are protected from serious vaccine-preventable diseases.

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Village of Mount Horeb gets utility updates from department heads

By Erin Herndon
Mount Horeb Mail

The Electric Department reported to the Utility Commission on its July activities. The Commission met August 11 for its monthly meeting, where it heard a presentation from WPPI, approved July's meeting minutes, reviewed its finances and received updates and capital budget requests from the Electric Department as well as the Water Department and Wastewater Department.

Electric Superintendent Jordan Schmitz began the July utility updates portion of the meeting. In July 2026, Schmitz said the electric department responded to four outages, two of which were animal-caused, one was from recent inclement weather and another was the result of damage caused by a mower. He said the department also completed two underground services and continued to remove old wires throughout the Village.

"We have been going ahead and letting everybody know what areas we are doing. We found out homeowners are getting an EV, so we decided to change the transformer out to a bigger transformer so we don't overload that," Superintendent Schmitz said. "The

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Wednesday Night Live gives $660 to Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Wednesday Night Live (WNL) summer concert series helps Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) carry out its mission of providing food, clothing, housing, and other essentials to those in need. WNL collects a vendor fee from each food truck at every show, and every dollar goes straight to NHN. This year, NHN President Mike McNall accepted a $660 donation from Mandy Potter and Charlie Jefko. "A heartfelt thank you to everyone who visited and supported the food trucks at WNL this summer," said Potter.

Rotary Club is looking for students to take part in Youth Exchange

Rotary International's official mission is to serve others, foster integrity, and advance global understanding and peace through a network of community and professional leaders.

Do you know of a local sophomore or junior high school student who fits this mission with a spark for adventure, a curiosity about different cultures, and a desire to make lifelong friends across the globe?

The Rotary Club is looking for motivated, open-minded young leaders to represent our community as a Rotary Youth Exchange Outbound Student for the upcoming 2027/28 school year. Rotary Youth Exchange Outbound students live with 3-4 host families, attend a local high school, and immerse themselves in the culture, language, and everyday life of another country for 11 months.

Why Choose Rotary Youth Exchange?

Affordability: Rotary is one of the most cost-effective study abroad programs available at $7,000. Room, board, tuition, and a monthly stipend are sponsored by local Rotary clubs.

Global Support Network: The exchange student is backed every step of the way by local Rotarians both at home and in the host country.

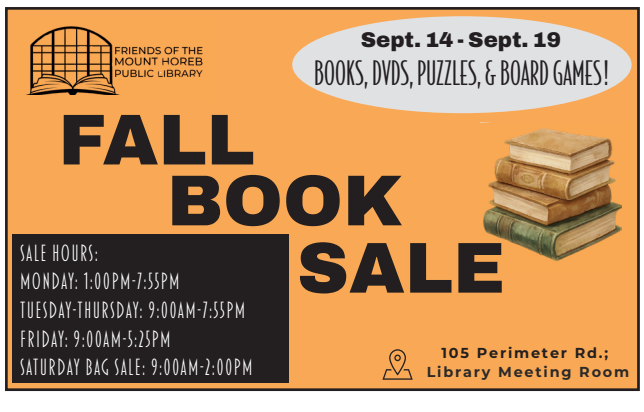
Leadership & Growth: Build self-confidence, master a foreign language, gain independence, and gain an invaluable global perspective that stands out on college applications and future resumes.

Who Should Apply: They are looking for students ages 15.5 to 18.5 (at the start of their exchange) who demonstrate strong academic performance, leadership potential, and a willingness to adapt to new environments. This program is open to all qualified students in our community.

How to Get Started: To learn more about application deadlines, eligible countries, and program details, reach out to the local club's Rotary Youth Exchange Officer, Sarah Straka at sarahestraka@gmail.com. The deadline is October 16, 2026.

Whether they dream of practicing French in Europe, exploring vibrant cities in Asia, or discovering life in South America, Rotary Youth Exchange provides a safe and structured pathway to make this possible.





The Bonelatta Gang: Special Event Will Explore Monroe's Mob Connections



Andrea Nolen

The Driftless Historium's popular Half-Hour History lecture series returns from its summer hiatus on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 1 p.m. with a riveting presentation by Andrea Nolen. Nolen is the author of *Lincoln's Counterfeiters: The Wisconsin Gang that Funded the Civil War and Started the Chicago Mob*. She will share the fascinating and little-known origins of the Chicago mob via an obscure rural Wisconsin gang that also had connections to the Ziegfeld Follies and the New Age movement! No registration is necessary for this event.

Attendees, pay attention! Nolen's cast of historic characters includes, but is not limited to, Abraham Lincoln (who turned to Monroe, WI-based counterfeiters to help finance the Civil War), Chicago's Al Capone (nurtured on his path to criminal fame by the well-connected, if outside-the-law, Bonelatta Gang), and President Grant's Secret Service (who eventually stepped in to stimy the too-big-for-their-britches gang).

Author and historian Andrea Nolen is from Monroe, Wisconsin. Prior to her plunge into counterfeiting research, she was a China analyst at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City and a financial intelligence analyst for a London hedge fund.

Half-Hour History is a once-a-month midday speaker series featuring engaging presentations on local and regional history. Generously supported by a grant from the Mount Horeb Community Foundation, these FREE programs are open to all on the third Wednesday of each month. Up next: next, "The History of Halloween: Folklore & Customs," presented by author Chad Lewis on Wednesday, October 21, 2026. For more information call 608-437-6486, visit *mthorebhistory.org/events* or email moverland@mthorebhistory.org.

Founded in 1975, the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society operates the Driftless Historium and works to collect, preserve, and share the stories of southwestern Dane County.

Doug Orwig will be speaker at next PFLAG meeting



Doug Orwig

The PFLAG Mount Horeb chapter meeting is scheduled for September 14 from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Mt. Horeb United Methodist Church.

The speaker will be Doug Orwig, the father of a transgender daughter. He is adjunct faculty at Illinois Central College in Peoria, IL where he has taught everything from computer hardware to digital forensics, to advanced Excel. He has recently retired as a corporate trainer. When not teaching, Doug enjoys hiking, photography, and a really good story. Doug is the author of two books and is currently working on his third.

Doug will join via Zoom from 6-7 PM. The remaining time is reserved for sharing and support. There's no need to RSVP if you'd like to join us in person at the United Methodist Church. If you prefer to attend via zoom, RSVP at pflagmoho.org and a link will be sent.

NOTE: CHANGE IN VENUE FOR THIS MONTH ONLY.

In October chapter meetings will return to the Mount Horeb Public Library

Police Report

JUNE MONTHLY SUMMARY 2026

911 Disconnect – 17
911 Open Line Count – 7
Accidents – 7
Accident – 3
Private Property - 2
Property Damage – 1
MV / Deer - 1
Adult Arrest – 1

While on routine patrol, an officer noted a vehicle with a cracked windshield. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle. After conducting a DOT check, it was found that the driver had a body only warrant. The driver was arrested for the warrant and warned for the cracked windshield and operating without insurance.

Alarm – 4
Animal Complaint Disturbance - 2
Animal Complaint Stray – 7
Assist Citizen – 18
Assist Citizen – Vehicle Unlock - 3
Assist DCSO – 13
Assist Fire – 17
Assist Other Agency – 2
Battery – 1

A possible battery outside of a convenience store was reported to the police department. This case is still active.

Check Person - 16
Check Property – 59
Civil Dispute – 1

Officers responded to an incident reported during a child custody exchange. It was determined there was no disturbance that occurred. All parties were advised to follow the child custody arrangements set by the courts.

Damage Property Complaint – 6

The report of graffiti on an electrical box near the library was reported. There are no cameras facing that area that would have captured the vandalism. This incident was reported to the supervisor of the Mount Horeb Electrical Department.

A resident came into the police department to report damage to a down spout on her residence. There is no video footage of the damage being done.

Officers were dispatched to a residence for the report of what sounded like rocks being thrown against their house and pounding on their windows. The siding on the home was damaged and rocks were found scattered about. Contact was made with area residences who have home video cameras looking for footage. At the time of this report, this case is still active.

Another resident called to report what sounded like hail hitting their home in the middle of the night, and hearing voices outside of the home. After checking the home, the homeowner noted that their patio door had spider cracks in it, and a rock was found by the door. This case is currently active.

Another report of damage to property was called in to the police department. In this incident a window was broken by rocks that were thrown at the home. This case is still active.

A landlord called to report a shattered window on the front of his building. This was reported due to the ongoing issue of rocks being thrown at residence. After reviewing footage, there is no evidence of someone damaging the window.

Disabled Vehicle - 5
Disturbance Call – 2

Officers were dispatched to a residence for a disturbance call over a cat. Contact was made and it was determined that the disturbance was a verbal argument and nothing more. No action was taken.

Officers were dispatched to a residential care facility for the report of a disturbance between a resident and staff. It was reported that the resident struck the staff member. Interviews were conducted. It was determined that the staff member did not want to press charges and only wanted the incident documented. A care plan was put into place for the resident.

Domestic/Family Trouble – 3

Officers were dispatched to a residence for the report of domestic disturbance between a son and his parents. The son, who was the primary aggressor, was arrested for Disorderly Conduct and transported to the Dane County Jail.

Officers were dispatched to a residence for the report of a disturbance. Contact was made with both parties who had similar stories. It was determined that the disturbance was verbal only. Both were advised to separate for the evening.

Police were dispatched to a residence for the report of a domestic disturbance. Contact was made with the male party, who stated that he and his girlfriend got into an argument about his drinking. The girlfriend stated that her boyfriend damaged items within the home during the argument. The male party was deemed the predominate aggressor and was arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Criminal Damage to Property.

Drug Incident – 3

An anonymous report of drug activity was reported. This case is currently active.

A local hotel called to report finding drug paraphernalia that was left in a room. Multiple items were found and taken for destruction.

While on patrol, an officer noted a rear lift gate of a SUV to be open. Upon closer investigation, the officer noted a glass smoking device in the vehicle. Due to the rest of the vehicle being locked, legal justification for forced entry was not met. The back lift gate was secured.

EMS Assist – 59
Fingerprints – 1
Follow Up - 3
Foot Patrol/Check Property -58
Found Property – 7
Fraud – 1

A resident came into the police department to report being defrauded by a work from home job. The reporting party sent money via Cash App, Apple Gift Cards, and Walmart Wire Transfers. The reporting party has been in contact with their bank. This case is considered active.

Graffiti Complaint – 1

While on patrol, an officer noted graffiti on the back of a retail building. Contact was made with management who stated documentation would be all they wanted at this time.

Information – 18
Juvenile Complaint – 5

A resident called to report that her son took her vehicle without permission and that his girlfriend was stealing from her. Contact was made with the son, who was told that he needed to turn the keys over to his mother and is not allowed to use the vehicle without permission. The girlfriend denied stealing. Both were warned about their behaviors and what could happen if this continued.

A report of an incident at Grundahl Park involving multiple juveniles was reported to the police department. Interviews were conducted with all parties involved, where stories all differed. At this time, it is unknown who actually started the incident. There is no legal action against any person involved.

Officers took a complaint of juveniles playing 'ding dong ditch' it multiple times on the same evening. Contact was made with the juveniles and their parents. The juveniles admitted to doing this to random homes.

An officer was flagged down by an adult, who wanted to report an incident involving juveniles playing football. The adult reported that a group of teenagers possibly battered his son and some of his friends, and then followed them home in their vehicle driving recklessly. Contact was made with the driver who had a different story. At this time, the parent just wanted this documented and for the driver of the vehicle to more careful while driving.

MHPD received the report of a dark colored SUV swerving towards a group of kids at Sunrise Park. The reporting party, who was wearing Meta glasses, sent the video to the police department. The video did show the vehicle swerving at the group of kids, but the vehicle was unidentifiable.

Juvenile Information -1
Local Ordinance Violation - 2
Lost Property- 3
Monitoring /Extra Patrol – 1
Noise Complaint – 2
OMVWI Arrest / Intoxicated Driver – 2

A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed through town. Upon contact with the driver, the officer noted the light odor of intoxicants emitting from his person, along with bloodshot and glossy eyes. Field Sobriety Test were conducted. The driver was arrested for OWI (2nd) and Operating with a PAC (2nd).

While on routine patrol, and officer noted a vehicle driving at a slow rate of speed and crossing the fog line. A traffic stop was conducted, and when in contact with the driver, the officer notes possible signs of impairment. Field Sobriety tests were conducted. The driver was ultimately arrested for OWI (1st). Charges were referred for Resisting / Obstructing and Unauthorized Use of Personal ID, as the driver had multiple social security cards in his possession. The driver was also cited for Operating While Suspended and warned for various traffic violations.

On Street Parking Complaint – 3
Parking Tickets – 31
Phone Call – 7
Preserve the Peace –2

Officers stood by for a preserve the peace while personal property was collected from a home. No issues were observed.

Police stood by for a preserve the peace while items were collected from the home. No issues were observed.

Repossession - 1
Safety Hazard – 8
School Related Incidents - 11
Juvenile Complaint – 2
Special Events -2
Truancy – 7
Special Events/Community Relations – 5

Officers attended a Search and Rescue Training.

An officer stopped and played basketball with a young male.

Multiple officers attended the annual Cops and Bobbers event.

Officers monitored traffic during the Norsk Run/Walk

Multiple officers monitored traffic during the Frolic Parade.

Suspicious Person - 2
Suspicious Vehicle – 3
Theft – 3

A manager of a residential facility reported that a resident made a statement that she was missing money from her room. The resident only wanted the incident documented, as there is no proof that anyone stole money from her room. The resident was told that if she changed her mind, the incident could be pursued.

Officers were dispatched to the report of a theft at a convenience store. Upon arrival, the suspect was already gone. Video footage was watched, which showed the suspect stealing a bottle of alcohol and placing it in her shirt. The suspect was identified through past police contacts. Contact was made, where she was issued a citation for retail theft.

A theft of fuel was reported to the police department. Video footage showed a former employee putting fuel into his personal vehicles. The suspect had been fired from the business and kept a company gas card. The business reporting the theft wanted the suspect cited and restitution for the fuel that was stolen. Contact was made with the suspect who was issued a citation and explained that restitution was also being requested.

Traffic Arrests – 17
Traffic Complaint - 13
Traffic Incident –17
Traffic Warning – 81
Trespassing Complaint – 2

A property manager called to report that an evicted tenant was now back at the apartment and breaking in. Contact was made with the tenant who stated he was there to pick up personal items. It was explained to the subject that once evicted, he was no longer allowed on the premise without permission from management. The subject was cited for Trespassing and also warned to not come back without permission.

Officers were dispatched to an apartment building for the report of hearing footsteps in an apartment where an eviction had taken place. Consent to enter the apartment was given to law enforcement. Due to prior damage done to the door, officers were not able to enter. Officers stood by and did not hear anything from inside of the apartment nor did they observe any lights on.

Unwanted Person - 1

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COMMUNITY SUPPER
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Serving 5:15 - 6:15 PM
Mt. Horeb Community Center
107 N. Grove St.
Reserve your In-person or Takeout Meals
By Saturday, September 12
CALL: Dee 608-437-4576
or Susan 608-437-5765
This meal is sponsored by Two Steeples Parish
Thank you Neighbors Helping Neighbors for your partnership and support.

Department of Justice joins lawsuit over mail-in ballots

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) has joined a coalition of 25 states in filing a lawsuit against the United States Postal Service (USPS) challenging its new rule that purports to grant USPS the authority to regulate mail voting in elections.

Tens of millions of voters across the country rely on mail-in ballots. The coalition argues that USPS's rule will prevent states from effectively administering their mail voting programs, putting voters at risk of being disenfranchised.

"If implemented, this unnecessary rule would bring chaos to the administration of this fall's election," said AG Kaul. "We must not allow the Trump administration or anyone else to unlawfully interfere with our elections."

On March 31, President Trump issued an Executive Order attempting to, among other things, establish a national list of eligible voters and directing the USPS to transmit mail ballots only to voters on the list. On August 21, USPS announced a new rule implementing the President's demands. The rule requires states to register every voter who is eligible to vote by mail into a new USPS database. The rule also establishes new design requirements for the mail-in ballot envelopes created by states, which must be approved by USPS before states may enter their mail-in voters into the USPS database. Under the rule, USPS will not deliver ballot mail to voters who do not appear on the USPS-generated lists and will not deliver ballots in envelopes that fail to comply with the rule's new standards.

The coalition argues the rule inflicts significant, irreparable harm on states by imposing burdensome mail voting requirements that may be impossible to implement before the general election and risks disenfranchising eligible voters. With the general election less than 10 weeks away, states must bear the cost of redesigning their mail ballot envelopes with special barcodes for each individual voter and securing USPS review and approval before they can even begin to register mail voters with USPS. Within a matter of weeks and without any additional resources, state election officials must also develop new systems to communicate mail voter lists to USPS to ensure that every eligible voter who is entitled to a mail ballot receives one. In Wisconsin, clerks have already begun preparations to send absentee ballots to voters who have requests on file, making the timing of USPS's rule especially disruptive.

Even if states were to meet these enormous administrative and financial burdens, the rule could still result in eligible voters not receiving their ballots due to, for instance, administrative errors or flaws in the rushed and untested new procedures.

Over the past several decades, voting by mail has become more popular across the country. In the 2024 general election, more than 1.5 million Wisconsin voters cast their ballots by mail. Since the inception of vote-by-mail, Congress has never exercised its authority to limit it, and in fact, has only taken action to expand and protect mail voting for military and overseas voters. Congress has also never authorized USPS to monitor or control the transmission of mail ballots.

The coalition argues that USPS's rule violates the Constitution, which makes clear that states have the primary authority to administer elections, and that it upends successful, longstanding vote-by-mail procedures. The lawsuit argues the rule is inconsistent with USPS's governing statutes, ignores USPS's procedural requirements, violates the Privacy Act, and is inconsistent with the federal voting rights law. The coalition asks the court to strike down the unlawful rule and issue a temporary restraining order preventing the rule from taking effect while the litigation proceeds.

This USPS rule is the latest attempt by President Trump to exert federal control over elections and seize states' constitutional authority to administer elections. In April, Wisconsin DOJ joined a coalition of 24 states in suing the Trump Administration to block its Executive Order that prompted the creation of USPS's rule.

Joining Wisconsin in this lawsuit are the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

UTILITY

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crew's been pulling in wire on North Road, and I figure we're probably about three-quarters done there. It's been hot, and they've been working hard, so I know they'll be happy to be done with that."

Considering the electric department's budget requests for 2027, Schmitz said WPPI informed the department that the Well 3 meter base station was starting to fail and would soon need to be replaced.

"They suggested that we get it changed out," Schmitz said. "It's not cheap, but it's going to be really pricey if it does go bad because we'll need to have guys reading meters for a month. It's definitely worth the cost to get a new one and avoid it going bad and wasting a bunch of time."

According to the department's budget request, the 2027 replacement of the meter base station costs an estimated $43,000, with the expense split between the electric department, water department and wastewater department at 50%, 25% and 25%, respectively. The electric department is also requesting $74,000 in 2027 for the replacement of its 2017 60-foot bucket truck, with an additional $220,000 requested for 2028.

"We've got a replacement of our 60-foot bucket truck, which has become quite the process, and we've got to pay 25% down," Schmitz said. "It's roughly a year out, but I have a contract signed that we're going to put 25% down in '27, and when we actually get it in '28, we'll pay the final amount."

Wastewater Department

The Wastewater Department reported to the Utility Commission on its July activities. The Commission met August 11 for its monthly meeting, where it heard a presentation from WPPI, approved July's meeting minutes, reviewed its finances and received updates and capital budget requests from the Wastewater Department as well as the Water Department and Electric Department.

Wastewater Superintendent Mike Brace said the wastewater treatment facility ran well and operated below all permitted levels during July 2026. According to his July report, the summer heat affected the department's phosphorus removal, so they dosed a small amount of ferric acid to aid in the process. They also cleaned 3,680 feet of sanitary mains and televised another 4,849 feet, where the team identified multiple areas of root intrusions, which are not impacting flow but are still scheduled for removal. Additionally, Brace said the department responded to four call-outs in July, including a since-repaired lift station pump seal failure, a failed gas detector at the main facility, a homeowner in the vicinity of one of the department's main interceptors with an odor complaint and a homeowner with a slow drain.

"We got an odor complaint in a neighborhood in the direct vicinity of where a main confluence of gravity mains and force mains all meet in one specific spot. The sheer volume during peak flows could have contributed to some of that odor," Superintendent Brace said. "Another homeowner called in with a slow drain. A plumber came out and found there was a low spot in the line directly near recent road work, and the contractor was able to make that repair for that homeowner."

In his report, Brace shared that the wastewater department also replaced seals at one pump at its Lillehammer lift station, sold its 2016 pick-up truck for over $16,000 at auction, assisted the water department with multiple projects and completed its sanitary main project as well as the rehabbing of eight manholes.

"We had the final eight manholes rehabbed in the Village," Brace said. "This addressed some of our most corroded areas where one of our primary force mains drops into known areas of hydrogen sulfide, decay and corrosion. I think this will improve the lifespan of the manhole both through structural integrity and corrosion resistance moving forward."

Turning to the Wastewater Department's budget requests for 2027, the department requested $10,750 for its share of the replacement meter station, which costs an estimated $43,000. It is also requesting $500,000 for the replacement of 1,500 feet of sanitary main at South 8th Street and Highway 92 and $500,000 for its SPE Force Main Project

"The Stewart Park force main is ready to go, but we're going to have to push it back to next year," Brace said. "We're going to bid early in the year, and we're hopeful that will invite a few more contractors to bid."

Additionally, Schult explained a $10,000 request for the replacement of four lift station automatic transfer switches

"At our lift stations, we have automatic transfer switches that facilitate the shift of power when there's an outage. We're fortunate all of them have worked when needed so far, but they are showing their age, and we're having some operational difficulties during our testing, and parts are harder to find," Brace said. "I got quotes to get them all replaced, and I think we would like to do a couple each year over the next couple of years. I think $10,000 for each year over the next three years should cover those."

Water Department

The Water Department reported to the Utility Commission on its July activities. The Commission met August 11 for its monthly meeting, where it heard a presentation from WPPI, approved July's meeting minutes, reviewed its finances and received updates and capital budget requests from the Water Department as well as the Wastewater Department and Electric Department.

In his overview of the Water Department's July activities, Water Superintendent Brian Schult said the department continued to change radio-read boxes to FlexNet and completed its regular nine bacteriological (Bac-T) and one fluoride split sample. In his report, Schult wrote that Parisi Construction Co., Inc. continued the water main installation project, having completed Henry Street and now on First Street. He also wrote that Well 5 is ready to be put back into service and is currently being flushed.

"Well 5 is back in the ground. Last week we flushed it a lot and actually got two good samples, which we were shooting for," Superintendent Schult said. "We've got one safe sample out of the reservoir this week so far, and hopefully by the end of the week we are putting water back in the tower, so it came along good once everything went back together."

Schult additionally wrote that the department began sharing weekly updates via the "Village of Mount Horeb, WI" Facebook page to inform residents of any ongoing water issues, including summer high water usage.

"There've been a couple of hiccups, which is understandable as far as emergency water shutdowns, but we've tried to get a hold of people and let them know," Schult said. "We had a lot of high water usage from WPPI to follow up on last month, and with the heat and whatnot, we went through a lot of water. Shane and I both went out, because I was pretty confident we had a busted main, but we couldn't find anything, and it was just from all the usage here. We did have a broken water main on Meadowview Road and fixed it."

Regarding the water department's budget 2027 requests, Schult provided an itemized list for 2027. Such items included $5,000 annually from 2027 through 2031, as part of the department's five-year contract with Westrum Leak Detection, as well as an annual fee through 2031 for water meter and MXU replacement of $100,000 per year. The department also requests $60,000 for the required cleaning of Towers 3 and 6. Schult said Tower 3 only needs an external cleaning, while Tower 6 requires more in-depth work.

"On the water tower cleaning, it's roughly about $9,000 to clean Tower 3, which is due for its ten-year drainout. There's an expansion joint in the bottom of the tower that we're going to replace, and we're going to fix the mud valve in the tower itself too for the contractors to use when they clean the inside of the tower out," Schult said. "That project is roughly $50,000. The base station in Tower 3 is also showing signs of failure. It's $10,000 for our department's percentage on that one."

Additionally, Schult said the water department requests $1.2 million to install a new water main on South 8th Street, $150,000 for the DNR-required pull and inspection of Well 6 every 10 years, $20,000 for upgraded phosphate pumps and scales in all four wells and $50,000 annually through 2029 for unknown services hydro excavation.

"On the unknown services for hydro excavation, I was looking for $50,000 per year for '27, '28 and '29, and this is something we need to have done by 2037. We have roughly 460 services that are unknown, where we have no proof of what is in the ground, so we need to go down and hydro-excavate at the curb stop and determine if copper is coming in from the water main and going to the house from the curb stop."

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"Lost Dogs of Wisconsin"
www.facebook.com/findfido

Recreation Notes

Boost your child's creativity this fall with the Mount Horeb Recreation Departments' awesome art programs!

Try **Little Folk Art**! In this program little artists, ages 1.5 to 6, will explore the Elements of Art - Line, Shape, Pattern, and Texture! These classes are art play and process art focused. Play and sensory-based creativity stations will be featured at each class. Process art is an approach to art that focuses on the creative experience rather than the final product! The program takes place on Saturdays, October 3 to 24. Toddler Play is for ages 1.5 to 3 and takes place from 9:30 to 10:15 am. Kiddie play is for ages 3 to 6 and runs from 10:45 to 11:30 am. The program fee is $120 for residents and $130 for non-residents. Enroll by 9/28!

If your child LOVES art, sign them up for this 4-week **Art is Fun** camp! During each class artists, ages 5 to 12, will experiment with different mediums including watercolor, oil pastels, chalk, and air-dry clay, to create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind masterpiece! Art is Fun runs Mondays, October 5 to November 2, with no class on October 19. Classes will be in the Rec Department Multipurpose Room from 3:45 to 4:45 PM. The camp fee is $92 for residents and $102 for nonresidents. Register by 9/28!

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:

9/10: Grandmasters of Chess Sess. 1

9/10: Total Body Fitness Sess. 2

9/28: Little Folk Art Studio

9/28: Art is Fun!

10/5: Babysitter Training

10/19: Body Wise Yoga Sess. 2

Libary Corner

LinkCat Reading History prior to 1/1/2020 to be deleted

Heads up, readers! We're upgrading our checkout system to make things faster for everyone. As part of that, we're removing checkout history older than **1/1/2020** starting **9/1/2026**.

Want to keep your reading history? Here's how to save it before SEPTEMBER 1:

Option 1: Save as PDF or print it

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Option 2: Copy it into a spreadsheet

Visit your checkout history and copy/paste into Excel or Google Sheets. Sort by date and grab anything before 1/1/2020. Need help? Stop by the library and we will walk you through it! You can also call us at 608-437-5021.

Court Report

June 4, 2026

Clay, Devion L, 24, Fitchburg, WI, OPERATING AFTER SUSPENSION $134

Dawson Jr, James S, 53, Mount Horeb, WI, OPERATE W/O VALID LICENSE $48

June 18, 2026

Brown, Jackie J, 51, Madison, WI, NON-REGISTRATION OF AUTO, ETC $108.8

Collins, Benjamin E, 33, Madison, WI, OPERATE AFTER REV/SUSP OF REGISTRATION $108.8

Fleming, Destiney M, 24, Madison, WI, OPERATING WITHOUT INSURANCE $134

Gempeler, Patricia D, 68, Mount Horeb, WI, IMPEDING TRAFFIC BY SLOW SPEED $96.2

Gempeler, Patricia D, 68, Mount Horeb, WI, OPERATING WHILE UNDER INFLUENCE (1ST) $870

Gonzalez Tolentino, Germanio , 31, Highland, WI, OPERATING WITHOUT INSURANCE $134

Gonzalez Tolentino, Germanio , 31, Highland, WI, OPERATING WHILE REVOKED (FORFEITURE) $134

Jimenez Xelhuia, Bernardino , 36, Madison, WI, EXCEEDING SPEED ZONES, ETC. (25-29 MPH) $184.4

Jimenez Xelhuia, Bernardino , 36, Fitchburg, WI, OPERATING WHILE REVOKED (FORFEITURE) $134

Olsen, Bailey C, 29, Mount Horeb, WI, OPERATING AFTER SUSPENSION $134

Paulino Segundo, Juan G, 46, Madison, WI, OPERATING WITHOUT INSURANCE $134

Schiffman, Korie T, 56, New Glarus, WI, OPERATING AFTER SUSPENSION $134

Schiffman, Korie T, 56, New Glarus, WI, OPERATING WITHOUT INSURANCE $134

Varela, Jonathon M, 24, Beloit, WI, FYR PEDESTRIANS, BICYCLIST, OR EPAMD $108.8

Varela, Jonathon M, 24, Beloit, WI, OPERATING AFTER SUSPENSION $134

Varela, Jonathon M, 24, Beloit, WI, OPERATING W/O PROOF OF INSURANCE $10

Xochiquiquisqui Tetl, Mariano , 24, Fennimore, WI, OPERATE W/O VALID LICENSE $134.

MEASLES

continued from page 1

"Back-to-school vaccinations are always important, and especially now with a measles outbreak in our state. Now is the best time for families to make sure their children have the protection they need to support their own health, and the health of their classrooms," said State Health Officer Paula Tran. "Checking your child's vaccination record now gives you time to talk with a health care provider, ask questions, and schedule any vaccines they may need."

Wisconsinites can use the Wisconsin Immunization Registry or contact their health care provider to check vaccine status for their children, as well as themselves.

This reminder also comes as the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) released its annual school vaccination rates for the 2025-2026 school year. The latest data show Wisconsin measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) kindergarten vaccination rates have increased slightly from 84.8% during the 2024-2025 school year to 85.1% in 2025-2026. While this is a positive step, that rate remains well below the 95% level that is generally needed to prevent measles from spreading in a community.

At the same time, the percentage of kindergarteners in Wisconsin with non-medical vaccine exemptions increased from 6.3% in 2024-2025, to 7.3% in 2025-2026. When vaccination rates fall, the risk of an outbreak or widespread illness increases.

"Children spend a lot of time together in the classroom which means diseases can spread quickly in schools. Higher vaccination coverage can help prevent a single case in a school from turning into a community-wide outbreak," said Stephanie Schauer, PhD, director of the Wisconsin Immunization Program. "This increasing trend in the number of parents and guardians choosing to waive school vaccinations is concerning and provides more opportunities for vaccine-preventable diseases to spread."

Vaccines routinely recommended for children are studied for their safety and effectiveness, and vaccine safety continues to be monitored after vaccines are in use. However, parents and caregivers may still have questions about vaccines and how to get them. Families are navigating a growing amount of vaccine information online and on social media, including claims that may be misleading or not supported by scientific evidence. Wisconsinites are encouraged to bring their questions to a trusted healthcare professional and use reliable sources when making decisions about their child's health. Parents can also access reliable information and get answers to common questions on the DHS Get the Facts About Vaccines webpage.

"Parents want to make informed decisions about their children's health, and asking questions is part of that process," said Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist Dr. Ryan Westergaard. "As a clinician, I encourage my patients to talk with me about what they are hearing or reading about health-related topics. Healthcare professionals can help families understand the evidence, discuss the benefits and potential risks of vaccinations, and help make the best decision for their families."

Families have options when it comes to finding vaccines in our state. Wisconsinites who have a current healthcare provider should contact them now to make an appointment. Programs like Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults (VFA) can help families access free or low-cost vaccines. Find a provider and learn more about who is eligible on the VFC and VFA webpages. Those who do not have a healthcare provider can call or visit 211 where trained community resource specialists are available 24/7 to help find vaccine providers.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Legion holds annual picnic





The Mount Horeb American Legion held its annual picnic Thursday, 13 August. Members honored our Past Post Commander Jeff Anderson, heard from several Badger Boys and Girls State Delegates.

They had great food and enjoyed getting together. Big thanks to the Mount Horeb VFW for letting us move indoor as the weather didn't look promising.

They also had an opportunity to recognize a 2014 Badger Boys State Delegate, Blaine Bestul. Blaine mentioned how important Badger Boys State was for him and then talked about being able to give back to individuals and our community through WISCO Radio.



4-H members take trip to Ingleside Nursing Home

On Tuesday, August 4, members of Springdale 4-H Club met with residents of Ingleside Communities Nursing Home for their annual club "fair." Over a dozen Springdale members walked around and talked to residents about their Dane County Fair projects, including woodworking, animal showmanship, arts and crafts, shooting sports, and photography. Afterwards, everybody gathered around for some fresh ice cream! Overall, the meeting was a huge success, and numerous people mentioned what a great time they had.





COMMUNITY



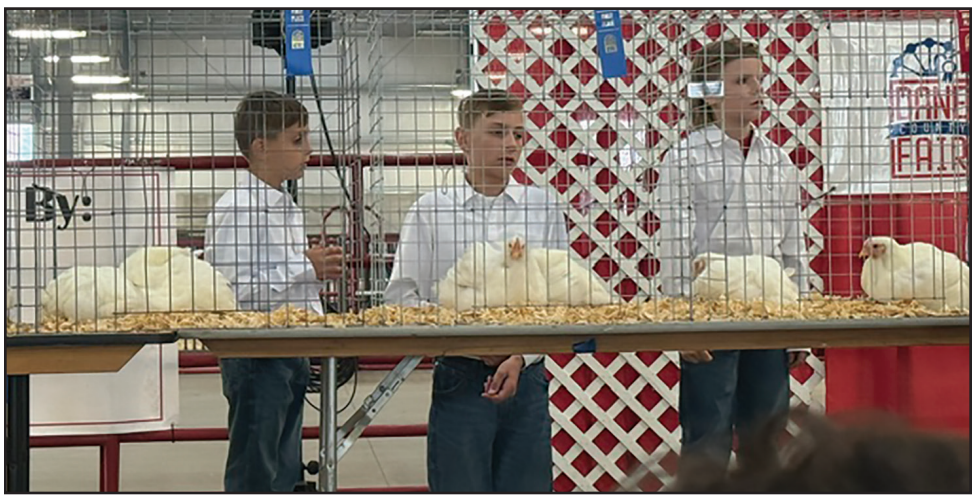
Class of 1961 enjoys 65th reunion

The Driftless Historium recently hosted the 65th reunion for the Class of 1961, the last class of seniors to complete their studies at the K-12 school located on Academy Street. Many grew up on dairy farms and attended one-room school houses, the last generation to do so. Of the original 73 graduates 50 are still living. Last row: Jerry Frederickson, Donald Schwoerer, Larry Kruckman, John Ranum, Hal Aavang, Alois Herger, Paul Thronson; Front row: Rita Christianson Ammon, Diane Johnston Bartz, Peg Henze Chollet, Shirley Zweifel Peterson, Elaine Norland Hankel, Doris Knudtson Frame, Lyle Hollfelder.

A report from the 2026 Dane County Small Animal Sale



Pictured Alice in Dairyland Anastasia Poull, Ellie Makos, Dane County's Fairest of the Fair Erin Ranum and Luke Sutter of Sutter's Hidden Hills Dairy Farm. Ellie Makos daughter of Jody & the late Eric sold her Reserve Grand Champion Roaster Market Rabbit meat pen consisting of three rabbits weighing 4.79 lbs., 4.99 lbs., and 5.00 lbs. sold to Sutter's Hidden Hills Dairy Farm for $450.00, Ellie a sold a single fryer rabbit 5.5 lbs. to Makos Woodworking for $325.00, sold a Roaster Rabbit 6.98 lbs. to Big Ten Acres for $275.00.



Gina & Brenden Corrigan sons (L-R) Preston, Dalton & Jackson are pictured with their Poultry project pair of broilers (2.5-5 lbs each), Preston pair of broilers purchased by Martinson Farm for $375, Jackson Broiler Pair purchased for $275 by Hensen Brothers Dairy, & Dalton sold his pair for $650 by Ace in the Hole Transport.

The Annual Dane County Fair Small Animal Market Sale was held on July 18th, 2026. Seventeen youth exhibitors offered the sale's 33 lots which included 7 turkeys, 20 pairs of chickens, 2 ducks, and 4 lots of rabbits. The sale generated a total of $14,025. The largest supporters of the sale this year were Mike O'Connor State Farm of Belleville, who bought three lots for a total of $1,450. Blue Star Dairy Middleton LLC. successfully bid on three lots for $1,400; and Wayne Ace Bus and Limo was the winning bidder of three lots for $1,325. Sale Chairman, Mitchell Schleicher of Brooklyn, was appreciative of the support shown to the youth exhibitors of Dane County. A pair of Roaster chickens claimed the Champion Market Poultry Award, purchased by Blue Star Dairy Middleton LLC for $400. Champion Market Rabbit sold for $400 to Wayne Ace Bus and Limo. Reserve Champion Market Poultry entry, a young duck was purchased by Wayne Ace Bus and Limo for $375. Reserve Champion Market Rabbit was a Meat Pen Ellie Makos, Blue Mounds, and sold to Sutter Hidden Hill Dairy for $400. The champion entries were auctioned first during the event. Successful bidders at the auction also included: Ace in the Hole Transport, Anchor Club II, BMACC Concrete Removal and Excavating, Big 10 Acres, Country View Equine Center, Edward Jones, Farmers and Merchant Union Bank of Columbus, Hensen Brother's Dairy, Hoffman Farms at Windsor LLC., Janisch Creative, Liberty Towing, Makos Woodworking, Martinson Farm, Moss Oak Farms, Story Creek Acres, and Wolff's Bellefontaine Farms. Special thanks to the many contending bidders who helped to support the sale. The Small Animal Market Sale Committee also awarded a $500 scholarship. Auctioneering services were donated by Ryan George of Evansville, Wisconsin.

To be a seller at the sale

1. Each exhibitor must submit a minimum of three (3) names & addresses of potential buyers with their entry. (*Free admission tickets will be provided to potential buyers*).
2. Exhibitors & parents are required to sign a form stating if any drug was used.
3. Exhibitors in the Market class of rabbits & poultry must participate in the showmanship class.

Objectives of the sale are as follows:

1. Provide animal exhibitors an opportunity to raise & sell top quality poultry & rabbits
2. Provide incentive & encourage a stronger development of white meat animal projects.
3. Recognize members who do quality work in breeding, selecting, feeding & showing

What Will Be Offered:

Poultry & Rabbits auctioned are qualifying entries in Market Classes

Who Can Buy

1. Anyone interested in encouraging youth.
2. Anyone who enjoys and appreciates good quality white meat.
3. Anyone who would gain beneficial advertising value.
4. Anyone interested in buying market breeding stock.

Sale Provisions

1. Potential bidders register at the sale ring (no obligation).
2. Animal weights are provided for bidders in each lot (or noted if sold as a lot) & buyers settle purchases after the sale.
3. Exhibitors sell by the number they draw when checking in for sale, & must be present when the animal is sold.
4. Sale price is not guaranteed.
5. Animals sold at sale are to be dressed & delivered to the buyer within 30 days if the buyer requests a dressed animal.
6. (10%) of the selling price will be deducted from the exhibitor's price to pay for advertising, buyers awards & conducting the sale (includes 3% charge paid to the Dane County Fair Association).

Businesses Support Youth Exhibitors at the Dane County Meat Animal Sale

The 55th Annual Meat Animal Sale at the 2026 Dane County Fair grossed $370,972.75 according to Dane County Meat Animal Sale Officials.

The sale attracted wide community support with a total of 122 animals sold in the sale: 33 sheep, 39 hogs, 7 goats, and 43 steers. Sheep averaged $14.20 per lb, hogs averaged $6.94 per lb, goats averaged $15.25 per lb, and steers averaged $3.85 per lb.

Grand Champion Market Barrow shown by Avery Sime of Stoughton & sold to Stoughton FFA Alumni for $11.00 per lb. Conant Automotive purchased the Reserve Grand Champion Market Barrow, shown by Kaden Moyer of Stoughton, for $8.25 per lb.

Grand Champion Market Lamb, shown by Aubreyanna Sims of Beloit, sold to Woodman's for $14.00 per lb. Reserve Champion Market Lamb, shown by Liza Wipperfurth of Lodi, purchased by Willow Poore for $13.50 per lb.

Grand Champion Market Goat, shown by Payton Sonne of Dane, sold to Johnson's Sausage for $25.00 per lb. Reserve Champion Market Goat, shown by Paige Sonne of Dane, purchased by Hennessey for $16.00 per lb.

Grand Champion Steer, shown by Eliana Casique of Beloit, purchased by Renk Seed for $9.00 per lb. Reserve Grand Champion Steer exhibited by Macy Gray of Edgerton was purchased by Woodman's for $6.00 per lb.

Top Ten Buyers at the 2026 large animal sale

Woodman's: $40,864.75
Badge State Ethanol: $32,217.45
Tierney Farms: $32,006.25
Blue Star Dairy Middleton: $18,636.50
FarmNBarmans: $14,687.75
Hennessey Implement: $12,621.00
Renk Seed: $12,501.00
Blue Star Dairy: $10,839.75
Lake Ridge Bank: $10,269.50
Statz Brothers: $9,623.25

*Sale participants must be enrolled as a livestock project member with the Dane County Extension Office, a Dane County FFA Chapter, or other approved Youth Organization before January 1st of the current year.

Objectives of the sale are the following:

1. To provide incentive for and to encourage participation in Beef, Swine and Sheep projects.
2. To provide livestock project members with a marketing opportunity.
3. To teach a greater understanding of feeding, marketing and meat animal science

***Weight requirements to qualify for the sale:**

a) Steers: Straight/Crossbred Beef Breeds: minimum 950 lbs.

b) Steers: Dairy/Dairy Cross Breeds: minimum 1,200 lbs.

c) any animals exceeding 1,500 lbs., exhibitors will only be paid to 1,500 lbs.,

d) Market Lambs: 105 - 150 lbs.

e) Hogs: 230 - 300 lbs.

f)Market Goats: Minimum 60 lbs. any animals exceeding 120 lbs., buyers only pay for 120 lbs.)

Exhibitors may sell two animals of different species in the Meat Animal Sale. Sales commission of up to 4.5% will be deducted from each sale going to Dane County Meat Animal Sale Association (used for sales promotion, buyer recognition, scholarships, exhibitor education).

An additional sales commission fee of 3% is deducted going directly to the Dane County Fair Association. Consignors are responsible for contacting, soliciting & providing buyers for their animals. There is no guarantee as to sale prices. Sellers have requirements to complete to qualify to sell.

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Please Join Us

Community Invited to Shape Mental Health Support on September 28

Mount Horeb residents have a vital opportunity to directly influence local mental health at an upcoming community meeting on Monday, Sep 28, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Mount Horeb Public Library. This planning session serves as a direct follow-up to the recent "Come to the Table" event, where over forty neighbors gathered at the High School to address how stress, anxiety, depression, and isolation impact local families, schools, and workplaces. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this next step, regardless of whether they participated in the initial dinner conversation.

The upcoming meeting marks a crucial transition from dialogue to collective action, handing the reins over to community members to spearhead the strategies voiced during the summer forum. "The number of people who enthusiastically showed up to be part of this work was encouraging. This evening was proof that people can come together, share ideas, and learn from each other. I got teary-eyed a few times listening to relative strangers talking openly, respectfully, and working together towards solutions, especially with such a meaningful topic. I am excited to see what the community does from here," said Melissa Roelli, Adult Programming Librarian. The primary goal for September 28 is to transform community ideas into sustained, coordinated efforts.

Participants in the initial dialogue established a clear set of priorities, emphasizing the need to make existing resources easier to find. Top action items also include strengthening collaboration within our community; expanding family interventions; and ensuring support is accessible to those most vulnerable.



Approximately 40 Mount Horeb residents came together at Mount Horeb High School on July 21, 2026, for an honest and thoughtful conversation about mental health in our community. Participants gathered in small groups of about ten people, guided by trained facilitators and notetakers from the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS) and UW-Madison Extension. These conversations created space for residents to talk openly about their experiences, consider the challenges facing our community, and explore possible ways forward. Photos contributed.

Moving these ideas forward requires addressing real local challenges, such as limited provider capacity, funding constraints, and the difficulty of reaching isolated individuals. Because impactful solutions must come from within the community itself, organizers hope attendees will find a variety of ways to pitch in—whether by coordinating small activities, connecting with local organizations, or serving on a leadership committee. Even small contributions will help build the infrastructure needed to support neighbors in need.

Organizers say they look forward to seeing you on Mon, Sep 28, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. to help build a healthier, more connected Mount Horeb. For those who wish to review the community findings ahead of the session, the full summary report is available on the library's website: https://www.mhpl.org/disagree-better.

The Lewis and Clark Trail: Learn about animals now versus then

From 1804-1806, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark took part in an expedition that reshaped our collective understanding of the North American continent. The resulting maps, sketches and journals shaped early scientific understanding of North American wildlife and biodiversity. Now, more than 200 years later, Smithsonian ecologists are returning to Lewis and Clark's historic route, installing camera traps to document wildlife across those same landscapes. Get a sneak peek of this project Wednesday, September 16 at 1pm at the Mount Horeb Public Library. Biologists Brigit Rooney and Bill McShae, from the Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute, share preliminary data and more information about this incredible resurvey. The project will unite scientists and the public by providing detailed information about the abundance, distribution, and behavior of wildlife. The resulting data will support land managers, researchers, and community scientists in understanding long-term changes in American biodiversity and informing conservation efforts along this nationally significant corridor. The presenters join virtually, attendees meet at the library. This program is part of the library's Big Read, which focuses on the Lewis and Clark expedition. For more information about the series visit www.mhpl.org/big-read-2026.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For information about the library, visit www.mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021.

Village Public Services Department Fall Update

BULK TRASH EVENT

The Bulk Item Trash Event is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 from 8:00am to noon at the Village Garage, 301 Blue Mounds Street. This event is for Village residents only and is for large trash items that do not fit in the residential garbage carts. This includes household furniture, mattresses, carpeting, etc. Items **not** allowed include auto parts, tires, hazardous items, liquid waste, pesticides, appliances, electronics, yard waste or large amounts of construction materials. No businesses, contractors or commercial vehicles will be allowed and proof of residency is required. The cash only fees are as follows:

Car or SUV: $10
Pickup truck/van: $20
Single-axle trailer: $20
Double-axle trailer: $40

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

The electronics recycling event will also take place from 8:00am to noon, September 12. The event will be held at the Mount Horeb Intermediate Center bus parking lot along E. Garfield Street. The electronics recycling event is open to all residents of Mount Horeb and surrounding townships. Please see the Village web site for more specific information on the recycling event.

MAILBOXES

Fall is a great time to check the condition of your mailboxes and mailbox posts. Posts should be sound and the mailbox securely attached. Mailboxes that have weak or rotted posts, rusted components, or are improperly installed are especially at risk for damage during winter plowing operations.

Village of Mount Horeb policies state that the Village will NOT be responsible for replacing mailboxes that are damaged due to the force of the snow or slush that is cast from the snowplows. Mailbox repairs or replacements will only be made if the plow comes in direct contact with the mailbox and the mailbox was installed properly. Please see the US Postal Service's installation instructions to ensure the front of the mailbox is six to eight inches behind the face of the curb.

BRUSH AND YARD WASTE

Brush and yard waste pickup will continue every OTHER week through the week of November 16. You can view the schedule on the Village's web site. Please have your brush and yard waste at the curb by 7:00am on Mondays, the week of pick-up.

LEAF PICKUP

Curbside leaf pickup will begin in October and run through the end of November, weather permitting. Village crews will be out every week but it often takes a couple weeks to get through the entire Village. Please be patient. We will get to your leaves as soon as we can. Do not put your leaves in bags. Leaves should be placed loose on the terrace away from objects such as trees, poles and fire hydrants. Do not mix leaves with brush. The Village compost site at 2466 Docken Road is open daily if you prefer to drop off your leaves there.

IRONMAN

Please be aware that the Ironman event will take place Sunday, September 13 and the bike route travels through Mount Horeb on Highway 92/Eighth Street. You can expect delays or detours if you plan to cross Eighth Street on that day.

The Mount Horeb Public Services Department would like to thank you for your cooperation.

Enjoy the fall.

Board Chair: Tight 2027 Budget Makes Public Input More Important Than Ever

The Dane County Board of Supervisors kicks off the final two months of the 2027 budget process with the first of three departmental budget request public hearings on September 9. Following the departmental budget request hearings, the process includes sixteen standing committee budget meetings, two additional public hearings, and final adoption in early November.

County Board Chair Patrick Miles is urging public participation throughout the process.

"The county budget is not simply dollars and cents on a page. They are the human services programs that support children, families, and older adults through some of their most difficult moments. They are the parks, trails, and conservation work that protect our lakes and land for generations to come. And they are the emergency response and law enforcement that residents depend on around the clock. The budget also funds the assets that drive our local economy, from the Dane County Regional Airport to the Alliant Energy Center, and to the Henry Vilas Zoo.

"Maintaining that level of service in a constrained budget year requires difficult decisions. The board wants those decisions informed by the people they affect. I encourage residents across Dane County to attend a public hearing or standing committee meeting, submit testimony in person or virtually, or contact their supervisor directly. Public participation makes this process, and the budget it produces, stronger."

To learn more about the county budget and how to participate in the formation and review process, visit: https://board.danecounty.gov/budget

For the most up-to-date meeting information and access to agendas, visit the Dane County Legislative Information Center: https://dane.legistar.com/calendar. Instructions for registering to attend virtually and provide public testimony are available in posted meeting agendas.

CCS

continued from page 1

ages 18 months through six years. Its classrooms offer hands-on, multisensory learning in a multi-age environment where children develop independence, curiosity and confidence while learning alongside one another.

The Montessori philosophy was developed by Maria Montessori, an Italian physician, educator and innovator who believed education could be a pathway to peace. At CCS, that philosophy is reflected in experiences that introduce children to different cultures, encourage empathy and cooperation, and help them understand their place in a larger community.

Throughout its history, CCS has remained committed to providing a nurturing and challenging preschool environment. Through independent learning experiences and positive social interactions, children develop skills that support critical thinking, resourceful problem-solving, active citizenship and lifelong learning.

CCS was founded in Mount Horeb in 1976 by Sally Flood and Pence Revington. Its name was chosen to reflect three essential parts of the founders' vision: children as the focus, learning through the Montessori method and community support as the foundation.



School leaders cut the ribbon at the new CCS back in 2023. File photo.

The school's inaugural class included just seven students, and its first home was located at the corner of South Eighth Street and County Highway JG.

As Mount Horeb grew and the needs of local families changed, CCS steadily expanded its programs. The school has occupied four homes over its 50-year history and can now serve nearly 100 students. Despite that growth, it remains a close-knit school community rooted in the vision of its founders.

Milestones in CCS History

1976 CCS was founded; its first home is on the corner of South 8th Street and County Highway JG.

1979 CCS began American Montessori Society membership.

1980 CCS moved to a two story American Foursquare home, "The Norway House," at 406 West Main Street.

1985 CCS moved to 211 Parkway Drive.

1986 CCS begins offering toddler programs.

1991 Founder Pence Revington retires.

2014 Founder Sally Flood retires, and Martha Pfaff, a CCS teacher since 1985, is promoted to director.

2016 CCS joins the Mount Horeb Area School District 4K program and offers publicly funded 4K for 20 children in our two preschool classes.

2018 CCS begins offering full day programming for toddlers.

2020 CCS perseveres through COVID-19 pandemic, closing for 15 weeks and working with the Mount Horeb School District to provide virtual 4K instruction, and on its own to offer enrichment and connection for our younger students; restarts with reduced in-person enrollment. CCS purchases land at 1175 Cox Drive and launches a capital campaign for a new school.

2023 CCS reaches a $1M capital campaign goal and opens the doors to a new, net-zero, Montessori designed school at 1175 Cox Drive. The building allows it to serve 50 percent more children and their families and expand programming. The school is recognized as a 2023 Climate Champion by Dane County.

2025 Martha Pfaff retires as Director and Interim Directors Kimberly Sailor, then Jessica Jackson lead the school

2026 Sarah Boatman is hired as Director of CCS and CCS celebrates 50 years of quality Montessori Education

The public is invited to celebrate the legacy of Children's Community School on Saturday, September 26th from 11 am to 2 pm, at CCS, 1175 Cox Drive in Mount Horeb. There will be a short presentation at 12:30.

LAND

continued from page 1

example Groundswell was just part of protecting land in the Town of Dunn so Dane County could purchase it and donate it back to the Ho Chunk nation.

Mertz said this is the first time Dane County has given property to the Ho Chunk nation, and the goal of the Ho Chunk is to eventually make it a preserve that's open to the public.

But Groundswell also purchases land that then becomes open to public use. Mertz said they do this to protect land, but try not to hold onto too much land. For example, Groundswell Conservancy owned Patrick Marsh in Sun Prairie, but recently donated it back to the City of Sun Prairie.

Without Knowles-Nelson funding, the conservancy will have less money to do their work.

Mertz said it will "absolutely" impact their work. But, because Groundswell knew the funding would be ending, they were able to get some last minute funding.

But Groundswell Conservancy isn't the only conservation group in the area focused on protecting land that's feeling the impacts of the end of this funding.

Driftless Area Land Conservancy

Based in Dodgeville just west of Mount Horeb, the primary role of Driftless Area Land Conservancy is managing conservation easements that protect land from development.

Executive Director Jennifer Filipiak said Driftless has protected over 10,000 acres since it started in 2008. For protected land, Filipiak said Driftless either owns or manages it, and owns about 1,000 of those acres. Filipiak said they also have several preserves open to the public throughout the Driftless area.

Filipiak said currently the Driftless Area Land Conservancy is working on creating the Driftless Trail. The goal for the trail is to have a walking, hiking and biking path connecting the Lower Wisconsin Riverway up around Spring Green and going down to Governor Dodge State Park and cutting over to Blue Mounds State Park and then back to the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.

Filipiak said when they finish the trail it will likely be a total of 100 miles. Seven miles of the trail is already complete, and Filipiak said they have agreements in place to build 23 more miles. Driftless is connecting with landowners along the ideal trail route to make agreements to build on either public lands, lands Driftless owns or at the back of private lands with the consent of the landowner.

So Driftless is working on developing those agreements and then construction trail paths. And Filipiak said it feels like they are supporting the community through the trail.

"It's great," Filipiak said. "People just really rally around trails. They just love it, and people are using them."

In their general work around getting conservation easements, Filipiak said sometimes Driftless will purchase land, but often landowners will keep the land while Driftless manages it.

Without Knowles-Nelson, Filipiak said Driftless Area Land Conservancy won't be able to respond as quickly to land opportunities.

"It will slow us down," Filipiak said. "If a really important property comes up for sale, and you know sometimes land comes up for sale, and you have to act quickly, and or it'll be bought and developed, and that's that."

Filipiak also said the state will likely lose federal funding for projects, because much of that funding is based on a matching grant from the state. And there will be less state money to go towards those opportunities, Filipiak pointed out: "so it's just kind of devastating all around."

Gathering Waters

And in Madison, Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts advocates for these groups.

Chief Strategy Officer Charles Carlin said the primary role of Gathering Waters is to provide policy and legal help for land trusts.

Carlin said Gathering Waters was formed in the early 1990s, but as the Knowles-Nelson grant grew, so did the number of land trusts and therefore, the role of Gathering Waters. Carlin said Wisconsin went from 15 to 50 land trusts from 1990 to 2000.

"That growth was fueled by a national interest to support land trusts," Carlin said. He added Knowles-Nelson and general state funding also helped the amount of protected land in the state grow rapidly.

Carlin said Gathering Waters continues to connect land trusts with policy makers and connect both of those with funding. He said they get to know local government boards to help them understand the work of Gathering Waters.

Carlin said ending Knowles-Nelson funding was not a popular decision for people in Wisconsin.

"This is by no means a partisan issue for the public," Carlin said. "The only place this program is controversial is in the Capitol."

Carlin said state polling found that 90 percent of people support the idea of conserving public land in the state.

Because the program has only been expired since the end of June, Carlin said the state won't feel the impacts yet. But he said that, if the funding isn't renewed by January 2027, the state will see the negative impacts.

He noted these impacts will come not only in the form of slowing down conservation and land acquisition, but will harm outdoor recreation and infrastructure. For example, if a bike path is eroding in a local community, and there's no money to fix it, that community will be hurting in a few years with a damaged bike path.

"And that's just going to compound the already atrocious situation that we have," Carlin said.

Carlin added that the downstream impacts will last for years as projects get put on hold without the Knowles-Nelson funding.

So Carlin said Gathering Waters is focused on advocating to get this funding back online by educating candidates and legislators and providing information to voters and residents.

"We are trying to help them understand the value of these programs, like the stewardship program and why it's so important to get this back on track," Carlin said.

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BATTERED & BRUISED

MH-B falls to Edgewood in Badger Small Conference showdown

by ADAM MERTZ
Sports Reporter

Facing a first-month murderer's row of opponents would've been challenging enough for the Mount Horeb-Barneveld football team with a healthy roster.

Doing so without several starters has proven problematic.

And in particular, trying to get by without standout senior running back Eli Maier on the field for long stretches has been a revelation. Not in a good sense.

Maier was a game-changer last Friday against archrival Madison Edgewood in the Badger Small Conference opener between the two league favorites. Maier ran for 119 yards and a touchdown, and had 101 receiving yards and a score in essentially two quarters of action.

Yet the traditionally potent MH-B offense sputtered and died twice in the red zone in the first half even with Maier on the field, then struggled mightily without him through the middle quarters of a 23-18 loss to the Crusaders. That marked just the second time in six seasons the Vikings lost a regular season home game.

The outcome might not have been close were it not for a bizarre and disastrous fake-punt attempt by Edgewood that led to the Vikings' final score. MH-B then nearly recovered an onside kick attempt in the closing minutes that would've pro-

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Mount Horeb-Barneveld standout Eli Maier had 220 total yards and two touchdowns in a loss to Madison Edgewood on Sept. 4. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Soccer Vikings keep playing well

Mount Horeb goes 1-1-1 vs. tough competition

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's boys soccer team continued the strong start to their season last week.

The Vikings went 1-1-1 against difficult competition and are now 3-1-1 overall and 1-0 in the Badger Small Conference.

"Overall this was a good week for us," Mount Horeb coach Rick Gage said "We improved with each game this week and the team is coming together well."

Here's a recap of the Vikings' week.

• **Evansville 3, Mount Horeb 1 —** The Blue Devils scored a pair of second half goals to break a 1-1 tie and toppled the Vikings on Sept. 1.

Mount Horeb and Evansville are in the same sectional, making this is an important game for postseason seeding.

"We knew this would be another tight game just like our first two," Gage said. "We were playing another quality sectional opponent and felt in scouting Evansville that this game would be a pretty even contest.

"Our goal was to use the space on the wings to be able to attack their offense. We thought they gave us room to attack out wide and wanted to use that to create our attack."

Evansville struck for a goal in the 12th minute, but the Vikings controlled the final 20 minutes of the first half. With 20 seconds left in the half, Mount Horeb earned a corner kick and Veyron Ruef played a good ball into the box. When Evansville couldn't clear the ball, Marcos Gallastegui Luna gained possession and scored as the Vikings forged a 1-1 halftime tie.

"We possessed and moved the ball really well and started to create some quality chances," Gage said. "We talked at halftime about cleaning up our passes and being patient to create our attack. When we slowed the game down, we did a good job of finding the open player and created good chances."

The Vikings had a number of near misses to open the second half, then Evansville struck for a goal in the 63rd minute to take a 2-1 lead. Mount Horeb had several more opportunities in the final 15 minutes of the game, but couldn't finish. Then with the Vikings pushing forward, the Blue Devils countered and scored with 5 minutes left to end things.

"We were disappointed in the results of the game," Gage said. "We felt for large stretches we were the better team, but we were unable to score the goal to give us the momentum we needed.

"Evansville did a good job of finishing their chances and earned the result, but we felt we left a lot of chances on the field."

• **Mount Horeb 10, Portage 0 —** The Vikings rebounded and rolled past the Warriors on Sept. 3.

Mount Horeb's Marcos Gallastegui Luna and Gavin Schultz both had

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Mount Horeb boys soccer coach Rick Gage has been extremely pleased how his team has played so far this season. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb spikers go 2-2 at Middleton Invitational

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's girls volleyball team went 2-2 at the Middleton Invitational on Sept. 5.

The Vikings defeated West Allis Central, 2-0, then lost to both Middleton and Milton by 2-0 scores. Mount Horeb then defeated Madison East, 2-0.

Here's a recap of the Vikings' day.

• **Mount Horeb 2, West Allis Central 0 —** The Vikings rolled to a 25-11, 25-16 win at the Middleton Invite.

Mount Horeb had a remarkable 18 aces, including 10 from Claire Casey. Harper Hendrickson, Vera Pernot and Courtney Monroe each had two aces, as well.

Lily Paquette had seven kills for Mount Horeb, while Casey added nine assists. Elise Ellestad and Elaina Imbus both added five kills, Monroe had seven digs and Pippa Barsness had four assists.

• **Middleton 2, Mount Horeb 0 —** The host Cardinals toppled the Vikings, 25-22, 25-21.

Imbus had 11 kills, while Casey had 10 assists. Monroe had 10 digs, Quinn Johnston had nine assists, Imbus had seven digs and Ellestad had four kills.

• **Milton 2, Mount Horeb 0 —** The Red Hawks downed the Vikings, 25-20, 25-21.

Imbus had nine kills and seven digs in a losing effort, while Johnston had 10 assists. Casey had seven assists, Monroe added nine digs and Pernot had two aces.

• **Mount Horeb 2, Madison East 0 —** The Vikings cruised past the Purgolders, 25-16, 25-19.

Imbus led Mount Horeb with 12 kills and a tremendous .444 kill percentage. Casey had 13 assists and Barsness added 11 assists, while Monroe had eight digs and Imbus added eight digs.

Alayna Alexander chipped in with six kills and Paquette had five kills. Overall, Mount Horeb finished with a .471 kill percentage.

• **McFarland 3, Mount Horeb 0 —** The Spartans defeated the Vikings, 25-16, 25-18, 25-14 in a Badger Small Conference match on Sept. 3.

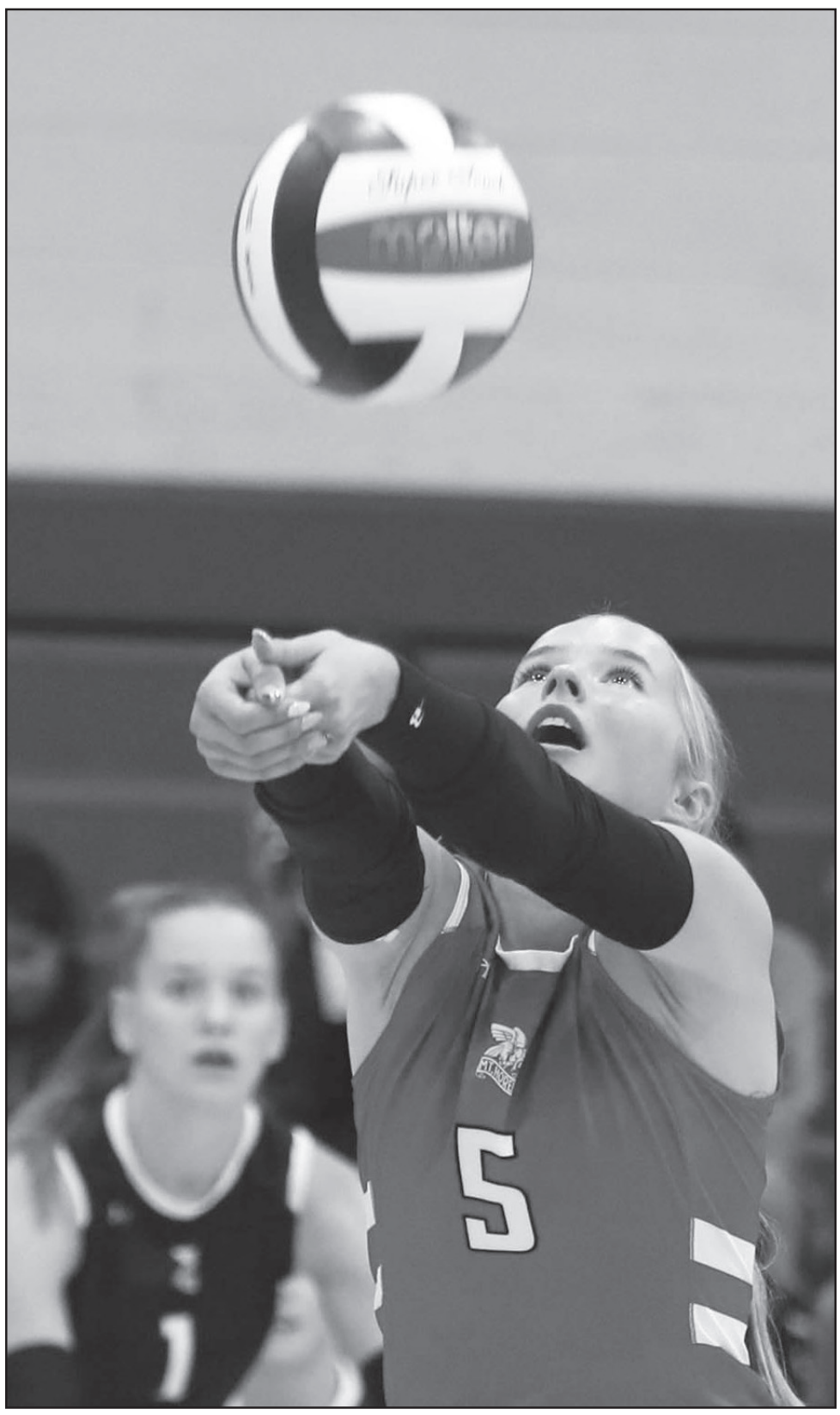
Imbus had nine kills for the Vikings, while Johnston had 10 assists. Casey added eight assists, Monroe had seven digs and Aliyah Chovanec had six kills.

• **Mount Horeb 3, Dodgeville 0 —** The Vikings rolled to a 25-16, 25-15, 25-8 win over the Dodgers in a non-conference match on Sept. 1.

Imbus had eight kills, Chovanec had seven kills and Mount Horeb finished with a .453 kill percentage. Both Imbus and Claire Wagner-Leek had four aces, Imbus and Casey both had eight digs, while Casey had 13 assists and Johnston added 11 assists.

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb hosts Sauk Prairie Thursday at 7 p.m., then is at Portage on Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.





Elise Ellestad (top), Courtney Monroe (above) and Mount Horeb's girls volleyball team split their four matches at the Middleton Invitational last Saturday. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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MoHo golfers have up and down week

Vikings start slow, rebound with strong performance

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor





Jadyn Schellpfeffer (left), Harper Birkeland (above) and Mount Horeb's girls golf team competed in a pair of Badger Small Conference mini-meets last week. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Some good.

Some bad.

That's certainly golf, and it was the story for Mount Horeb's girls golf team last week.

The Vikings finished in fifth place at a Badger Conference mini-meet held at Yahara Hills Golf Course on Aug. 31. Mount Horeb rebounded and tied for second at a Badger Small mini-meet

Here's a recap of the Vikings' two meets.

BADGER SMALL MINI MEET #2

Madison Edgewood won the conference mini-meet with a 162, while the Vikings finished fifth in the seven-team field with a 207.

"It was a bit of a disappointing performance for our team," Mount Horeb coach Nola Krentz said. "We had strung together some really good results the week prior, but could not keep that going at Yahara Hills."

Senior Jadyn Schellpfeffer led Mount Horeb with a 46, finishing ninth individually in the 35-player field. Schellpfeffer parred No. 6 and recorded back-to-back pars on No. 8 and 9.

"It was great to see Jadyn be able to keep things going from the previous week with another strong showing, especially how she finished — parring three of her final four holes," Krentz said.

Junior Ella Baber posted a 52, parring the ninth hole, while senior MacKenzie Meinholz had a 54, highlighted by a par at No. 8. Junior Harper Birkeland added a 55 and sophomore Maddie Mechler finished with a 62 to round out the scoring for the Vikings.

"We struggled with the length of the golf course as it was the longest we had played all year and the large greens led to several three and four putts for our team throughout the round," Krentz said. "In the conference standings, we dug ourselves a slightly bigger hole than we would have wanted, but we still have a lot of conference events coming up to bounce back."

BADGER SMALL MINI MEET #3

The Vikings rebounded with a season-low 186 and finished tied for second place at Norsk.

Madison Edgewood again won the meet with a 169, while Mount Horeb and McFarland tied for second.

"It was a great bounce-back performance by our team," Krentz said. "We looked much more comfortable playing our home course and used that familiarity to post our best nine-hole team score of the season so far."

Baber led Mount Horeb with a 41, tying for second place individually. Baber parred No. 2 and 4, then closed with three straight pars on No. 7-9.

Schellpfeffer kept her strong play going with a 43, finishing in sixth place overall after starting her day with a birdie on the par-four, first hole and adding a par at No. 4.

Junior Jenna Jones posted a career-best 48, parring both No. 1 and 6. Meinholz and Birkeland, both added 54s.

"Ella and Jadyn continued to lead us as both earned top-six finishes with their play and Jenna really came through with a clutch performance for us," Krentz said. "She played steady golf throughout her round, recording only one score higher than a six on any hole, resulting in her best-ever round as a varsity player.

"In conference play, Edgewood has proved to be the clear leader, but the race for second is wide-open and we have shown we are capable of being in that mix. That means every conference meet will be even more important moving forward and we have to be ready to play each day."

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MoHo's girls XC team third at Verona

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's girls cross country team was shorthanded at the Verona Invitational on Sept. 5.

The Vikings still had a terrific performance, though.

Mount Horeb finished in third place among 11 teams in the Division 2 field. Monroe won the team title with 79 points, while McFarland (84) and Mount Horeb (93) rounded out the top three.

The Vikings competed without standouts Mia Caygill and Willa Vigliotta, but still had a strong showing.

Mount Horeb sophomore Isla Odgers won the race, completing the 5,000-meter course in 19 minutes, 12.5 seconds. Odgers led from start to finish, running the first mile in 6:02.2 and maintaining terrific splits throughout.

Odgers defeated runner-up Ada Geiger of McFarland (19:49.8) by more than 37 seconds.

Mount Horeb senior Julia Straka finished fifth overall in 20:26.2. Straka was fourth after the first mile, sixth through two miles and climbed back to fifth.

Senior Maeve True captured 11th place (21:10.9), junior Kira Buttmer was 30th (22:45.8) and junior Mia Barcheski finished in 46th (24:06.9).

Monroe won the boys team title with 71 points, while Fort Atkinson and Baraboo tied for second (77) and McFarland was fourth (78). The Vikings finished in seventh place with 179 points.

Senior Samuel Wyse led Mount Horeb with a 23rd place finish in 18:32.7. Wyse was in 37th place after Mile 1, then worked his way back up to an impressive 23rd place showing.

Sophomore Liam Crolla was 27th overall in 18:49.2. Crolla was in 39th place after the first mile and climbed his way back up throughout the race.

Senior Jaxon Hughes was 41st (19:36.2), sophomore Jackson Ballew was 42nd (19:37.3) and senior Nathaniel Sherven was 43rd (19:40.3).

• **On deck:** Both Mount Horeb's boys and girls are at the Spring Green Invitational on Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m.



Mount Horeb's Isla Odgers finished in first place at the Verona Invitational on Sept. 5. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

SOCCER

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two goals. The Vikings also got goals from Veyron Ruef, Donovan Rahman, Yovani Luna, Henry Healy, Parker Smith and Grant Mlsna.

In addition, the Vikings got two assists from Max Seibel and Luna, and single assists from Cole Nejedlo, Rahman, Mlsna and Smith.

Mount Horeb led, 8-0, at halftime and cruised home.

"This was a game that we figured we would be able to control from start to finish," Gage said. "Portage is a young inexperienced team and this was a game where we would be able to dictate the tempo and have time to move the ball around.

"We talked about playing with a high tempo and intensity from the beginning and to the end of the game. We were able to get a lot of guys playing time and experience that will pay off later in the season. We also had many players get their first goal or assist in their varsity career, so it was a good game to build team morale."

• **Mount Horeb 2, Edgerton 2 —** The Crusaders began the year ranked No. 7 in Division 3, but the Vikings earned a hard fought tie.

"Coming into the week we thought this would be the toughest game," Gage said of facing Edgerton. "Edgerton is a good team with many high caliber players. We talked about the importance of using our width with our wingers to create our attack and to be patient in our passing game to not give the ball away too easily.

"Edgerton does a good job of building their offense through their wing play, as well, so we talked about making sure our wingers were getting up into our attack, but also not losing sight of their defensive responsibilities. Even though Edgerton is a very good team we felt that this was a game we could battle in to get a result."

And the Vikings did just that. In the third minute, Gavin Van Gorden won a ball on the left side of the field and found Ruef open in the middle. Ruef played a terrific through ball to Connor Heiting running onto goal.

Heiting got on the ball quickly, then fired a shot that deflected off an Edgerton player and gave the Vikings a 1-0 early lead.

Edgerton answered with a goal in the 14th minute, though, and forged a 1-1 tie at halftime.

"At halftime we talked about playing a bit more patiently," Gage said. "I thought there was a stretch toward the end of the second half where Edgerton started to control play because we were too quick to try to move the ball into the attack instead of being patient and building our attack by finding the open player.

"I thought defensively we did a good job against a team that had a very potent offense and had a lot of good 1v1 players."

The Vikings had a handful of good scoring chances to open the second half, but it was Edgerton that earned a penalty kick and struck in the 56th minute.

"It was unfortunate to go down 2-1 as I thought we had been playing great and creating some good chances," Gage said. "But the team did not put their head down. I liked how we responded as we continued to press Edgerton for the remainder of the game."

With roughly 10 minutes left, the Vikings changed formations to a 3-4-3 to try and create more chances. That move paid off handsomely in the 78th minute when Luna gathered a ball around the center circle and found a streaking Ruef.

Ruef played the ball back to Luna, who then played a ball through to Ro Gilles near the top of the goal box. Gilles struck a hard left footed shot in the upper right corner of the goal to tie the game, 2-2, with two minutes remaining and the score held.

"This was a fun game to play," Gage said. "We played a quality opponent and had to fight through adversity to get back into the game. Our defense played a great game and our offense is really starting to take shape. This is a game that will help us get better and become a better team."

• **On deck:** The Vikings hosted Platteville/Lancaster on Tuesday, then host Madison Edgewood Thursday at 7 p.m. Mount Horeb then heads to Janesville Parker Sept. 14 at 7 p.m.

"We have another tough week with sectional opponent Platteville and conference rival Edgewood this week," Gage said. "These are both good teams that will give us another chance to get better."



Ro Gilles and Mount Horeb's boys soccer team are off to a 3-1-1 start. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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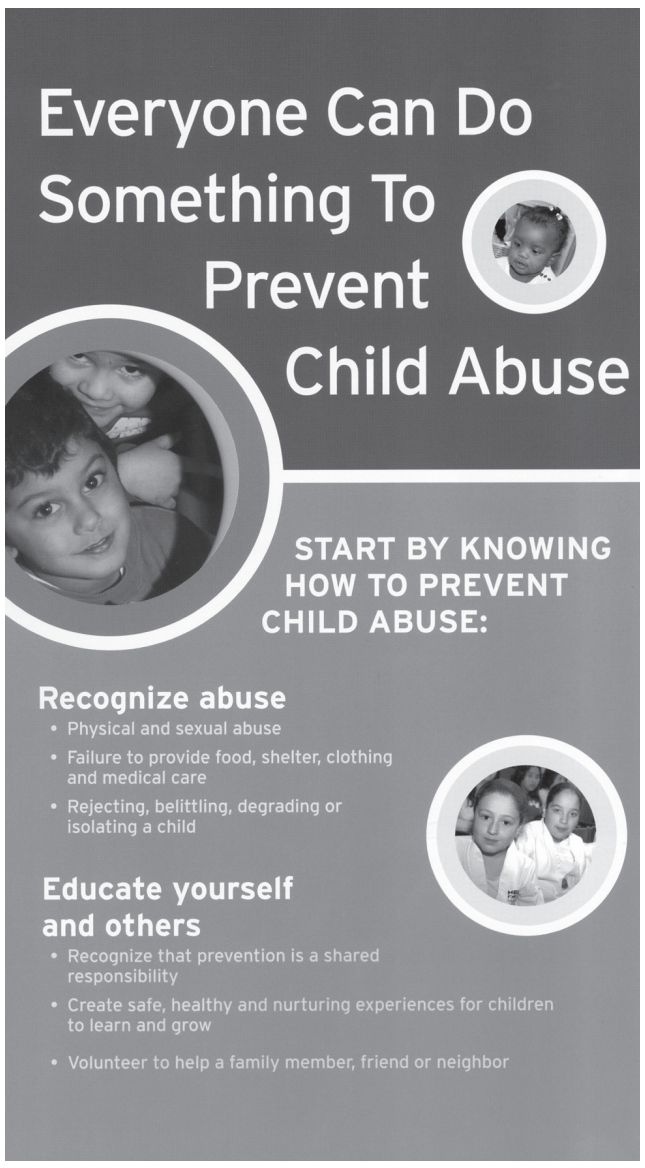
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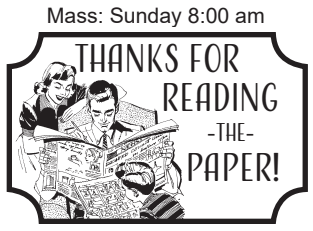
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Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Weds-Friday, 7:30 am;
Sat. 5:00 pm
~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am



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ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS
49th Annual Fall Jefferson Swap Meet & Car Show- September 25-26, 2026 Jefferson Co Fair Park, Jefferson WI. 2-Day Swap Meet/Car Corral! 2 day Car Show. Adm:$15 Fri /Sat - No Pets. Fri-8AM-4pm Sat-6am-4pm..Info: 608-244-8416 madisonclassics.com

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TOWN OF PRIMROSE NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Board of Supervisors meeting for September 2026 will be held on Monday, September 14th, 2026, at 8468 County Road A, Verona, WI beginning at 7:30pm. The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, and on the Town website. A summary of the agenda will be available on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

Publish: 9/10/26 **WNAXLP**

PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT DANE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
THOMAS M. La FLEUR
D.O.D. 8/25/2026
Notice to Creditors
Case No. 26PR558

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1.An application for informal administration was filed.

2.The decedent, with date of birth 11/15/1951 and date of death 8/25/2026 was domiciled in Dane County, State of Wisconsin, mailing address of 700 Reid, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572.

The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 12/28/2026

3.A claim may be filed at the Dane County Courthouse, 215 S. Hamilton Street, Madison, WI 53703, Wisconsin, Room 1005.

FILED
08-26-2026
CIRCUIT COURT DANE COUNTY, WI

Attorney Terese M. Hansen
Hansen Law Office
111 East Verona Avenue
Verona, WI 53593
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Bar Number 1000988

Publish: 9/10/26, 9/17/26, 9/24/26
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FOOTBALL

continued from page 11

vided a clear path to a miracle victory.

But Vikings coach Bret St. Arnauld isn't looking for miracles. He's looking for more playmakers.

"We have to be able to do something without 5 on the field," St. Arnauld said, referring to Maier's jersey number. "We can't be defined as just one dude, and I think that's the biggest thing for me right now."

The difficulty for the Vikings (1-2, 0-1 Badger Small) is that it's not just "one dude" on the sidelines in street clothes. The injuries have been mounting ever since an impressive season-opening home win against reigning WIAA Division 3 state champion Grafton, continuing through a Week 2 defeat at Port Washington and again against Edgewood.

Even as MH-B returned playmaking receiver Django Christian from injury in a limited role, the Vikings were again not able to play Maier on defense, and were without starting center NAME and starting defensive end Henry Loger. The Vikings then lost starting receiver Owen Schultz to injury early against Edgewood, among others.

That's led to a host of inexperienced players seeing game action against top-flight competition – and a flurry of mental mistakes like false starts and offsides penalties on both sides of the ball due to a lack of cohesion.

"I wish we were healthy. We're not. This is just one of those years where it's injury, injury, injury, injury," St. Arnauld said. "You can't blame it all on that, but it's difficult because we're putting guys into tough situations. We don't have the depth where we can afford to lose kids.

"The good that comes out of this is we're getting a lot of dudes a lot of experience at different positions, and hopefully that pays off for us down the line."

Just three games into the season, the Vikings stand at a crossroads.

They've lost consecutive games in a non-Covid year for the first time since 2019. They've also lost two straight at home to Edgewood (2-1, 1-0) after winning 21 regular-season games in a row prior to last year's setback.

Next up is another big challenge when the Vikings head to Beaver Dam Friday at 7 p.m. The Beavers (2-1, 1-0), who defeated Watertown, 35-13, in Week 3, are another power-running conference foe that poses all sorts of issues.

It's not a stretch to say the Vikings' streak of five straight seasons of winning at least a share of the Badger Small title could very well be on the line.

"If we as coaches take the reins, then it's the coaches' team — and coaches' teams cannot be great teams, only player-led teams," St. Arnauld said. "We'll talk this week with our seniors, our captains … they're going to have to step up and take control of the team and I'll be here to support them."

Maier and fellow senior Evan Leibfried — an offensive lineman and Northern Illinois recruit — will gladly accept that accountability.

"I pin it on me as a captain," said Maier, also a sensational wrestler who was the WIAA Division 2 state runner-up last year at 175 pounds. "Practices need to be more intense. We were up for Grafton — we were focused. We've been slipping. Good teams will be able to figure it out and get back on the horse. That's what we need to do."

Added Leibfried: "Being intentional in everything we do — practice, lift, film. We just have to bring it next Friday."

The big question now is who will they be bringing it with at quarterback?

Junior Harvey Hellen earned the first three starts and guided the Vikings through the better part of three quarters against Edgewood. He connected with do-everything senior Cullen Olson on a 16-yard touchdown reception with 9:41 left in the second quarter to draw MH-B within 13-6, and led two other drives that advanced to the Crusaders' 20- and 15-yard lines, respectively, before ending on incompletions.

But with MH-B entering its eighth drive still facing a one-score deficit and Maier off the field, St. Arnauld brought in sophomore Preston Myers with 2:39 left in the third quarter to try to spark the moribund offense.

Myers provided a steadier passing attack, completing 10 of 13 passes for 143 yards with a touchdown, but also had a costly interception and was 0-for-2 on 2-point conversions.

"Preston looked great. And for a sophomore, he looked really great," St. Arnauld said. "Obviously he had some sophomore mistakes, but he played through that.



Cullen Olson (7) has been a jack-of-all-trades for Mount Horeb-Barneveld's football team this season. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

"What do we do? Where do we go? Who do we want to be? That's something the coaches will discuss this week."

On his second possession, Myers led the Vikings to the Edgewood 42-yard line. But his third-and-13 attempt was intercepted by linebacker Miles Rist, whose return to the MH-B 32 set up a 37-yard line drive field goal by August Sager for a 16-6 Edgewood lead with 8:07 left.

MH-B moved the ball well on its next series, but Maier – back in action – was stopped on fourth-and-1 at midfield. Three plays later, Crusaders running back Hunter Milota burst through for his second score, this one covering 45 of his 199 total rushing yards, for a 23-6 lead with 5:07 remaining.

Maier answered with a 41-yard touchdown reception on a short throw from Myers to pull MH-B within 23-12, and after a failed onside kick the Vikings' defense held firm.

That's when things got interesting.

First, Edgewood curiously threw downfield on third-and-7 from the MH-B 41, stopping the clock and not forcing the Vikings to blow a timeout. Then, Crusaders coach Jesse Norris called for a fake punt. The dubious decision ended disastrously, with Leibfried hauling in a deflected pass and rumbling to the Edgewood 42.

"I got in for a good rush and saw him step in and throw the ball," Leibfried said. "I got my hands up and one of my teammates tipped it, and luckily I just looked up and caught it."

Myers completed consecutive passes to Sam Grundahl and Connor McCue to give the Vikings first-and-goal at the 3, and Maier plowed in two plays later to make it 23-18. MH-B nearly recovered its second onside kick attempt, but Edgewood was able to gain possession in a scrum and ran out the clock.

Not to be lost in the defeat was the spectacular all-around effort from Olson, who in addition to his TD reception reset field position consistently — booming five punts an average of 48.2 yards. He also deflected a second-quarter pass in the end zone toward senior Nolan Beadle, who hauled in his first career interception.

"He's been an absolutely game-changer," St. Arnauld said of Olson. "His punting has been phenomenal. Can't say enough about him. And he wasn't even starting the year at corner — thought we'd have Django for Week 1. His number got called early and he answered. He's been phenomenal, and he plays very naturally."

Edgewood ….. 13 0 0 10 — 23
MHB …… 0 6 0 12 — 18

Team stats

Passing (comp-att-yds-td-int): 22-29-238-2-1. Rushing (carries-yds-td): 25-113-1).

Individual stats

Passing: Harvey Hellen 12-26-95-1-0, Preston Myers 10-13-143-1-1.

Rushing: Eli Maier 16-119-1, Haiden Jeglum 5-1-0, Hellen 3-(-6)-0, Lucas High 1-(-1)-0.

Receiving: Eli Maier 4-101-1, Connor McCue 6-47-0, Django Christian 4-30-0, Cullen Olson 2-20-1, Barrett Slaney 1-15-0, Sam Grundahl 1-11-0, Henry DeRosier 1-10-0, Jeglum 3-4-0.

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