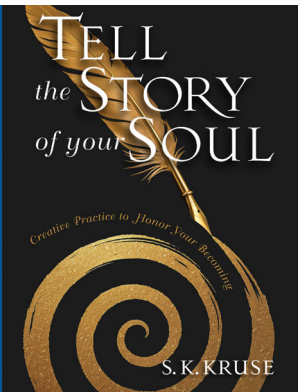
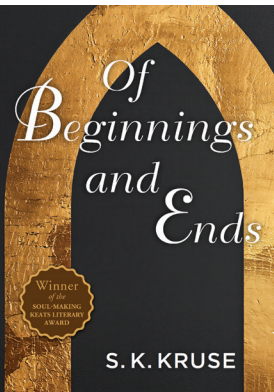




THE SOUL'S JOURNEY
Author SK Kruse is back
with two new books
-PAGE 11-



MOUNT HOREB MAIL

VOL. 126, NO. 38 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 MOUNTHOREBMAIL.COM \$1.75

New group meets to hash out fire budget shares

By CATHY SCOTT
Mount Horeb Mail

At the August 19 Mount Horeb Area Joint Fire District (MHAJFD) meeting, the board formed a committee to discuss the Fire Protection and Rescue Service Agreement that was adopted in January of 2011.

Kelly Altschul, elected to the Town of Springdale board in April of 2025, first proposed a review of the Agreement to the MHAJFD in August of 2025 and multiple times since to specifically address the calculation method used to determine what each of the eight municipalities pay the District once its budget is approved



Peace, love and art

Mount Horeb area artists Heidi Clayton, Jessica Curning-Kuenzi, Brenda Kraemer, Julie Raasch and Emily Reuter all took part in the fifth annual Paoli Art in the Park, presented by Southern Wisconsin Art Guild, Inc. The fair took place over Labor Day weekend, on Saturday, September 5 and Sunday, September 6 in the Paoli Town Park, 6901 Paoli Rd. The Southern Wisconsin Art Guild organizes this annual event as an opportunity to support local artists, while providing a way for the general public to view quality art. Photo by Casey McCoy.

Village board continues mulling proposed recreation complex; eyes new fees on residents to cover looming budget gap

By CATHY SCOTT
Mount Horeb Mail

The September 2 Village Board meeting was called to order by President Ryan Czyzewski. In addition to all board members attending, Gabe Altenbernd, Village Administrator, Bryan Kleinmaier, Village attorney, and Rob Wright, Village Engineer, were present. The boardroom was filled to the brim not only by residents but also with news reporting personnel from Channel 15. The primary draw were two items for consideration for the outdoor Mount Horeb Recreational Complex: 1) its cost and phasing plan and, 2) contracting with a professional fundraiser to lead and direct fundraising for the Rec Complex.

First, What About Sewer Line Capacity?

continued on page 13

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Honoring music volunteer and Distinguished Alumni Brian Bigler

By **PATTY SCHLAER**
Special to the Mail

When the name Brian Bigler is mentioned in Mount Horeb, most people connect his name to the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society's Driftless Historium or as an antique vendor at Isaac's. A 1973 graduate of Mount Horeb High School, Brian founded the Historical Society in March of 1975 and has served the Society and Mount Horeb's Driftless Historium in many capacities. Brian describes this volunteer work he has done on behalf of the Historical Society for almost fifty years by saying, "Saving history is a full time job." In recognition of his decades of service to Mount Horeb, Brian has been named the 2026 recipient of the MHASD Distinguished Alumni Award.

In this article however, I present Brian in a new light, a Mt. Horeb High School Music Department volunteer partner and mentor. I had the pleasure to sit with Brian for a couple of hours in early October last year to talk about this new volunteer work he has embraced. Taking advantage of Brian's interest and expertise in history, specifically material collections, the music department has been graced with his encyclopedic knowledge of theater sets and prop pieces. To the students, he "tongue in cheek" refers to himself as the "lowly propmaster." To the production staff, he

is an invaluable artist and asset. His quest to support the high school musical production with historically accurate and period appropriate props for each show has helped student artists to learn about history, invest in their character, and gain a sense of theatrical professionalism.

Brian, an admittedly uninspired high school student, worked at the high school library his senior year to avoid having down time at school. He ran across the 1961 Mount Horeb Centennial book confirming his love of history. He was encouraged by an English teacher to try out for a play and eventually found his place singing in the choir, performing in the chorus for the 1972 musical production of Oklahoma, and assisting with stage props. Like many others in the arts, "I finally found the people I could relate to."

Inspired at a young age by his 4th grade teacher Coletta Ryan's "History Day," he also created his first museum exhibit on the family farm for 4-H. Brian describes his life as being lived in reverse. He didn't pursue a college degree in history until more than 20 years after graduating from high school.

Life after graduation included, although was certainly not limited to, a job at Hoff Mall Antique Center, family farming, working for Wally Keller, running a floral shop in Verona, and start-



In recognition of his service to the community, Brian has been named the 2026 recipient of the MHASD Distinguished Alumni Award. Driftless Historium photo.

ing his lifelong profession of antique collection and sales. Between jobs, Brian always returned to the family farm and continues to live in town today with his life partner Ken Scott.

Brian and Ken have been paying back locally for years by purchasing and donating props for Mount Horeb High School's annual musical, beginning in 2019 helping then high school music director Diane Dangerfield for the production of Crazy For You. The current music staff, Kellen Dörner, John Mesoloras and Mat Anderson invited Brian to become an official part of the production team to assist with stage sets and props and to mentor the students on the

history and proper handling of the props.

When I asked Brian if he felt his presence made a difference, he confirmed that he always feels appreciated for his contributions and in turn, he enjoys interacting with the students. Examples include watching a shy freshman grow into a confident stage manager as an upperclassman, teaching actors how to use candlestick and dial phones, schooling a student on what a rolodex was used for, or even a quiet note to one of the actors on how to walk like an old person! He enjoys watching students learn how to contribute through design and set construction, particularly those with skills in the trades.

Being a self-described perfectionist, he admits that he can be initially skeptical of some student input but delighted when they step up and surprise him with exemplary work.

I discovered that Brian's process is lengthy. The summer is spent scouring estate sales and thrift shops for historically accurate props. He sets the bar high for creating period accurate props and stage dressing by watching Broadway, student and drama club productions of the show as many as fifty times during the search season. Once the school year starts, he can be found three nights a week assisting John Mesoloras and the crew in their set design and construction work. A scene-by-scene prop list is created to help the students and crew organize and understand each piece. As the production nears, Brian (along with scores of kids and music teachers) can be found at the high school anywhere from 3:30 - 11:00 p.m. rehearsing runs of the show.

If you ask Brian about his favorite musicals he doesn't skip a beat, "My favorite two musicals are Hairspray and The Music Man. I realize that Hairspray would be a stretch at this time but I certainly hope to work on Music Man in the coming years. Phantom of the Opera would also be fun."

I wanted to know what Brian takes away from his work with the high school musical. He quickly confirmed that he enjoys using his creativity to create an environment of the historical period. Students say he coaches them with kindness and humor, even if they don't understand half of his jokes. However, he quickly shifts the conversation away from himself to the students. Knowing this musical production is all about the stu-

dents, he knows their needs come first. His most joyful observation is when the pit orchestra is ready and students finally costume up, enter the set and transform into their characters. Simply put, Brian enjoys being a part of an experience where creative people can find their place in the world.

When we spoke about how in the past few years the music department has worked to improve the production quality, Brian said, "It seems that every year the productions just keep getting better and better as the students, staff and involved community members implement new ways of doing things. Everyone strives to put on the best show that can be expected out of a village the size of Mount Horeb and I think they do this very well."

Brian has vast experience in consulting and staging historical exhibits. When asked what makes working in theater different, "History exhibitions are static and nailed down. with theater; you have the variable of actors and active props. It's very exciting and I love it." Nothing makes Brian happier than finding the perfect prop for the perfect moment. A coveted feather duster from his collection turned out to be the perfect prop for Lurch in last year's production of The Addams Family.

Brian confesses, "In special cases, I have gifted a prop as a souvenir to a student actor after the run."

Once a theater kid, always a theater kid. If you see Brian behaving differently these days, it may be a result of these generous contributions to the Mount Horeb High School Musical. He freely admits, "I am reliving my past, feeling like a teenager, and it is keeping me young." True to form, he jokingly suggested for last year's production, "if the student playing Uncle Fester of The Addams Family were to become ill, I would have happily filled in."

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PERSPECTIVE

GEIGER Counter



by Matt Geiger, Editor



Buried Weapons

A group of children used to have adventures in a junkyard outside a mental hospital in Iowa. Their fellowship traversed the piles of trash, wielding staffs made of broom handles and num-chuks formed from two handlebars and a piece of chain. They explored the world, weapons in hand, ready to take on all this world’s inevitable and varied monsters.

At the end of each adventure, they carefully buried their weapons, like a pirate’s stash of rubies and doubloons, so they could retrieve them again the next time. Over and over they returned to dig them up and play. Until they didn’t.

“I realized there was a last time,” one of those kids, now a 47-year-old adult, recently told me. “We always went back and dug them up, and then one time

we buried them and forgot. Forever. We just never went back.”

“It makes me wonder if they’re still buried there today,” he added.

In John Steinbeck’s “East of Eden,” a man named Adam Trask says people put “too much stock in the affairs of children.”

His friend, Lee, responds: “Mr. Trask, do you think the thoughts of people suddenly become important at a given age? Do you have sharper feelings or clearer thoughts now than when you were ten? Do you see as well, hear as well, taste as vitally?”

“It’s one of the great fallacies, it seems to me,” Lee adds, “that time gives much of anything but years and sadness to a man.”

And memory, of course. “Yes, memory,” says Lee. “Without that, time would be unarmed against us.”

Our society thinks of children as helpless fools. But most of the fools I meet are fully-grown adults. The vast majority of them are eligible for social security

and currently hold some kind of elected office.

I suspect Lee was correct. The experiences, emotions and wisdom of young people are no less lucid than those of any other people. And kids are tougher than they are given credit for. Certainly tougher than us.

“Sometimes the baby’s arm breaks,” said the doctor. We were sitting in his office, going over some last-minute details before my pregnant wife gave birth, 13 years ago.

“Oh, no!” I replied. “So, you have to put it in a tiny cast or something?”

“No,” said the doctor with a nonchalant shrug. “We don’t do anything. It just heals on its own. The young heal incredibly quickly.”

While our daughter didn’t seem to break any bones during her birth, the ensuing months and years really drove home the point that the very young are very, very tough. They can recover from nearly anything. Unlike me.

In my 40s, I learned that injuries are no longer reserved for sports, manual labor and bull riding. These days, I can tear an ACL merely by watching sports, or damage my neck by sleeping poorly. I can even hurt my neck – and this one

really took me by surprise - by sleeping *too well*. I once thought I needed Tommy John surgery because I sliced bread too zealously. Another time, and by that I mean yesterday, I read a few pages of “East of Eden” while sitting in a weird position, and I seriously contemplated calling a priest to administer my last rites.

Babies, on the other hand, are practically immortal. Give them a reassuring look and a bit of their mother’s milk, and they will get back to their playing just moments after tumbling from the highest summit.

When I was little, there was a common saying: “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” What this failed to point out was that, until you are about 20, even breaking a bone isn’t a big deal.

Perhaps the greatest strength of children is that they lack memory, so time is unarmed against them. Perhaps we learn to love, and to have our hearts broken, when we are in middle and high school, because, as that doctor once told me, the young possess an incredible ability to heal. Maybe their little hearts, so full of love and so ungalvanized by pessimist and cynicism, can shatter and come back

together with relative ease. Maybe, like an infant with a broken arm, all we can do is watch, and marvel at their resilience.

We learn to love when we are young because that is when we are strong enough to have our hearts broken, and to fight monsters with our hand-crafted weapons, those sticks and broom handles salvaged from the wreckage of the grown-up world.

In time, I guess we all have to stop loving quite so ardently, because our aged hearts cannot be put back together so easily if they break. We have too many memories, and eventually, time is well armed against us. In time, we all, without even realizing it, lay down our weapons and turn out attention to the profound banality of grown-up life. We quietly fret over our insurance, the mysterious sounds our car makes, the dust in the corner of the living room.

If we aren’t careful, we eventually quit having adventures altogether, too worried about the exorbi-

tant co-pay if we break an arm or a heart in the process.

Hemingway famously wrote that the old do not grow wise. Instead, they grow careful. Perhaps their fear is because they have forgotten where their weapons are buried.

But they are probably still there, lying in wait, just beneath the earth. Waiting for us, just in case we need them. Just in case we ever feel like having one more adventure, turning our aging eyes back to love, and monsters, and all the truly important things that hover in the air and prowl the Earth. Maybe we won’t ever go back to the “X” where our treasure is buried. But we might. And whether we know it or not, the memory of those buried weapons makes us strong despite the relentless and sly accumulation of years, rising up like the ever-growing piles of detritus in some landfill in Iowa. Like some mountain just waiting to be climbed.

Letter to the Editor

Vote No in November Election

Dear editor,

VOTE NO November 3rd

This November, every Wisconsin voter will see an anti-equity constitutional amendment on their ballot. Your vote matters, and here’s why you should vote

no.

Let’s be clear: Discrimination is already illegal. So what does this amendment actually do? It locks permanent change into our state constitution, making it horribly limiting to our government’s ability to address

longstanding disparities created by institutional racism.

Some of our legislators would rather see Wisconsin divided. They use disinformation and anger to fuel their partisan games, while Wisconsinites across the state and party lines are working hard to make ends meet. Rather than actually passing policies that improve our lives, legislators

tell us that our neighbors are the problem.

We’re not falling for that. We’re rising above the division. Let’s send our legislators a message and VOTE NO before or on November 3.

Myra Enloe
Dodgeville

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Senior Center News

September Events:
Mondays and Thursdays, Table Tennis, 10:00am. It is open to all levels, providing a casual and friendly atmosphere for playing. Fridays, Coffee & Chat, 9:00am. Coffee will be provided, or you can bring your own. Enjoy your morning coffee with some conversation. Free and open to all.
Writing Class, Your Life as Story, with Julie Tallard Johnson, a local author, will be held on 9/25 from 4:30-6:00pm.

This class is for any writer wanting to write from life—whether as a memoir, a collection of stories, or fiction rooted in lived experience. Call the Senior Center at 608-437-6902 for more information and to sign up.
Tuesdays, Tai Chi at 1:00pm and Ageless Grace Chair Exercises at 1:55pm. The current session runs August 18th-September 22nd. The next session runs from September 29th-November 3rd. Each session cost is \$30.00 per person.

Thursday, September 17th, lunch outing to Jimmy’s Diner. The bus will leave at the Senior Center at 10:30am. Please call the Senior Center to make reservations at 608-437-6902.
Friday, September 25th, Bingo at 12:30, \$1 a card to play. Lunch is provided. Sponsored by The Lions Club.
Saturday, September 26th, Oakwood Fruit Farm in Richland Center visit. The bus will leave the Senior Center at 10:00am.

Lunch location TBD. Please call the Senior Center at 608-437-6902 to reserve your spot.
Tuesday, September 29th, Movie Matinée at 1:00pm. We will be showing National Treasure. Refreshments, popcorn, and snacks will be provided! “Historian and code-breaker Ben Gates (Nicolas Cage) has been searching his whole life for a rumored treasure dating back to the creation of the United States. Joining an expedition led by fellow trea-

sure hunter Ian Howe (Sean Bean), Gates finds an ice-locked Colonial ship in the Arctic Circle that contains a clue linking the treasure to the Declaration of Independence. But when Howe betrays him, Gates has to race to get to the document ahead of his so-called colleague.” There is no cost for this activity.
MONSTER MASH: As we head into Fall, we are excited to be going back to Legacy Theater in the Dells for the Monster Mash performance. Please call the

Senior Center to reserve your space as availability is limited! Your ticket includes the bus ride, show, and lunch. Thursday, October 8th: Monster Mash: “A wannabe Ghost Hunter and his skeptical girlfriend stumble into a mysterious theater and discover there’s only one way out...” Big laughs, no nightmares! We will leave the Senior Center at 12:45pm. Lunch consists of roasted chicken, a bread roll, corn, green beans, roasted potatoes, and dessert.

Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago-Sept. 22, 1886

A horse buyer from the western country left Tuesday with a few choice horses and had paid fair prices.
We will take it all back, it’s a boy, not a girl, at the Commercial House, but we had only reports to go by.

Mrs. George Leitch is the party for whom the credit of furnishing us with flowers was intended, and not as printed in our last.

The C. M. & St. P. R.’y announces a reduction in fares to three cents per mile, therefore four cents has been the charge for other than round trips.

The question which suggests itself to the minds of the people at the present writing is “why did not the Mt. Horeb Cornet Band receive an invitation to attend the picnic upon the summit of the Mounds recently(?)”

The aged mother of Hon. Michael Johnson passed quietly to the beyond Monday morning at 3 o’clock, Sept. 20, 1886, at her good old age of 87 years. The funeral will be held Wednesday from the residence of Mr. Johnson.

130 Years Ago-Sept. 24, 1896

Miss Annie Swiggum has been engaged to take charge of the boarding club at the Academy.

O. Hanson has fallen back on the native corn-cob pipe, having discarded the dutiable imported meerscham.

Norwegian day at Madison last week was a grand occasion, judging from the space that was devoted by the city dailies in writing up the affair.

T. Gordon has surveyed part of his farm into town lots and has received the plat. Some very fine residence lots are now in the market in Gordon’s addition.

Halsten Knudson of Sandrock Valley, has been laid up for sometime with a sore hand, having received a dose of poison ivy. There we see what danger a thistle commissioner is subjected to who performs his duty faithfully.

Beggs’ Blood Purifier and Blood Maker cures all blood disorders. All eruptions of the

skin can be removed by the use of this wonderful medicine. It has no equal and is purely vegetable. N.C. Evans, of Mt. Horeb keeps it as well as other first-class goods.

If the Ranum Bros., has as much cane on the other roads as the one past Hageseth’s church, they will have to work ‘till Christmas turning it into molasses.

120 Years Ago-Sept. 20, 1906

Joint School District No. 6, Perry and York, boasts the best country schoolhouse in the state. The schoolhouse has been just complete at a cost of over \$1700, is built of brick and has furnace heat. It was moved to a point more near the center of the district.

Cloaks that have sold from \$6 to \$18, on sale at Dahle Bros. at \$1 to \$5.

Mr. Casper Bergen and Miss Julia Moen were married at Monroe Wednesday of last week, Sept. 12. This came in the form of a surprise to many of their friends. All however join in wishing the a prosperous united life.

Rev. J. W. Irish, was the M.E. Minister at this place, called on friends here Monday. Mr. Irish is the same genial individual as when we first learned to know him, and has not changed much in appearance.

Dahle & Berg have a brand new ad this week. Read it over and profit thereby.

Boys who are playing pranks about neighbors’ houses after dark had better cut this out of their daily program. They are now keenly watched and if caught it may go hard with them. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sloten are new residents of Mount Horeb, having rented the Henry Peterson house in Martin’s Addition on “Lookout Heights.”
Fred Kessler traded his house to Ole Barsness, near Mt. Vernon, then sold the 80 acres to Alex Schaller.

110 Years Ago-Sept. 22, 1916

A fine Victrola is now placed in the west side Graded School for the amusement of the scholars and teachers.

A public drinking fountain has been erected on the corner of Main and 1st street and looks quite city-fied

The Mt. Horeb Hrdw. Co. has taken over the agency for the Ford car and the new 1917 model is shown at their store room.

Hans Hanson is one of the Swedish comedy bills that sprung into vogue shortly after Gus Hege, now dead, gave to the American stage his sparkling character of Ole Olson. Hege was the first stage Swede and after him came a flock of yellow headed character actors who appeared in Yon Yonson, Ole Olson, Knute Knutson and others of the like.

Thos. Lingard has been appointed administrator in the estate of H.L. Dahle, which is being probated. The estate is valued at \$130,000.

100 Years Ago-Sept. 21, 1926

While Stephen, twelve year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Sever Skalet of Vermont, was shocking corn Saturday, he felt something strike his hand but did not pay any attention to it. In a few minutes the hand began to swell rapidly and upon investigation a large rattlesnake was found near the shock. Dr. A. S. Thompson was called who told

the boy’s parents to tie the arm tightly and bring him to Mount Horeb. By the time they arrived here the hand was very badly swollen but the doctor had everything in readiness and it was soon taken care of.

The Good Roads Club of Riley will hold an old time dance at the Riley Hall, Tuesday night, Sept. 28th. Eikelkraut’s orchestra will furnish the music.

Frank Sabanske and Bob Haldiman won the water fight for Mt. Horeb at New Glarus Thursday when they battled Monticello. Mr. Haldiman had the misfortune to injure an eye.

90 Years Ago-Sept. 17, 1936

Wallace Peterson scalded both his hands Saturday night while washing dishes at Olson’s Restaurant.

A chicken supper will be served by the aid of Perry in the Perry Lutheran Church parlors on Thursday, Sept. 17. All the chicken you want or meatballs for 40 cents for adults and 20 cents for children.

Only 313 ballots were cast in Tuesday’s Primary Election here.

Brown & Weltzin sold the fine farm of Mrs. Sophia Johnson, in the Town of Brigham, to Ed Christopher, who will take possession on March 1, 1937.

80 Years Ago-Sept. 17, 1946

The automobile belonging to Gust Anderson was stolen Friday evening from its parking place near the National Hotel. The theft was reported at the sheriff’s office and the car was found at Mineral Point where it was left by a Mineral Point youth.

Ed Bjelde sold his 100-acre farm to Glenn Thompson,

Mount Horeb, who will take possession March 1, next year.

Ethel Ann Thomas, Jean Ann Kahl and Carol Skogen sponsored a party Saturday evening from which \$5 was collected. The money will go to the Kid-die Camp at Madison.

Mrs. F.W. Dyer is slowly recovering at her home from burns she received while canning.

60 Years Ago-Sept. 22, 1966

Mr. and Mrs. William Thousand attended a Frigidaire meeting at Milwaukee Monday and Tuesday of this week.

Mrs. Ole Swingen was taken by ambulance to the Methodist Hospital, Madison Friday evening after she fell at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ella Christianson.

Under “Services Offered:” The Mt. Horeb Rest Home has a pleasant room on first floor for one lady also a room on second floor for a gentleman. Owned and operated by Irene Swacina, Inspected by the State Board of Health. Tel. 437-3552.

50 Years Ago-Sept. 16, 1976

Vicki James, head cook at the Karakahl Inn for the past seven years, resigned September 5 and will be moving back to her home state of Colorado, where she intends to buy a ranch.

Paul Munz of Lodi is the new manager of the Mount Horeb

Auto Parts and Supply company at Highways 92 south and JG in Mount Horeb.

Gottlieb Gammeter, age 83, died at the Ingleside Nursing Home in Mount Horeb on Sunday, Sept. 12 after a long illness.

40 Years Ago-Sept. 18, 1986

A “Wall Breaking” ceremony has been scheduled for the Hoff Mall Building on Friday, Sept. 19. The wall to be broken is the wall on the First Street side of the building which, at one time had large windows, similar to those in front. They will be put back as part of the renovations.

Donovan and Karen Gordon will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 28, at their home on Sandy Rock Road from noon until all are served.

20 years Ago-Sept. 21, 2006

Barneveld marks 100 years from the day it was incorporated with a celebration September 23.

Jarod Daniel Okeson, age 3-1/2, is proud to announce the birth of his little sister Autumn Rose. Her parents are Ralph and Jan Okeson of Mount Horeb.

Jimmy VandenBrook, 54, of Mount Horeb completed his second Ironman Triathlon on Sept. 10.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Board Recognizes National Hispanic Heritage

On Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026, the Dane County Board of Supervisors officially recognized Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, 2026, as National Hispanic Heritage Month in Dane County. The board passed 2026 RES-124 to honor and celebrate the histories, cultures, traditions, and enduring contributions of Hispanic and Latine residents across the county.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15, a date marking the independence anniversaries of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The observance also encompasses the independence days of Mexico on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18. The 2026 theme, “Unidos, Somos Más,” celebrates strength in unity and honors the diverse histories and legacies of Hispanic and Latine communities.

“Hispanic and Latine residents are woven into every part of life in Dane County, from our schools and small businesses to our neighborhoods and nonprofit organizations,” said County Board Chair Patrick Miles. “Recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month is a chance to celebrate those contributions and to make clear that Dane County stands with our Hispanic and Latine neighbors, especially at a time when many feel apprehensive.”

Hispanic and Latine residents make up approximately 8.5 percent of Dane County’s population and represent the county’s fastest-growing community. With Spanish as the second most spoken language in the county, Hispanic and Latine residents continue to strengthen Dane County’s economy, neighborhoods, schools, and civic life through leadership, entrepreneurship, service, innovation, education, art, and cultural traditions.

“As the child of a Peruvian immigrant, my heritage has always been an important part of my identity,” said Supervisor Aria Trucios (District 9). “By recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month, my hope is that we can make our Hispanic friends and neighbors feel more welcome in Dane County.”

The resolution also commends Voces de la Frontera and numerous other long-

standing and emerging community organizations for their commitment to protecting, empowering, and uplifting immigrant communities across Wisconsin through advocacy, bilingual legal and navigation assistance, leadership development, and youth civic engagement.

Board wants more review of the latest power line proposal

On Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026, the Dane County Board of Supervisors approved 2026 RES-130, urging Midcontinent Grid Solutions (MGS) and the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin to provide additional review and expanded opportunities for public input on the proposed Bell Center–Columbia–Sugar Creek–IL/WI State Line 765 kV Transmission Project, known as BECI.

BECI is a proposed approximately 190-mile, 765-kilovolt transmission project extending across portions of Wisconsin from Crawford County to Walworth County, passing through Dane County. Portions of the study area and potential route may affect communities and properties in and around the Towns of Bristol, Deansville, Sun Prairie, Medina, and York, and the Villages of DeForest, Deerfield, Windsor, Marshall, Cottage Grove, and Cambridge.

The resolution raises concerns that the public feedback timeline—which included only a single joint open house for Dane and Dodge counties and a now-expired Sept. 7, 2026 deadline—failed to give landowners, municipalities, and residents sufficient time to evaluate potential routes and property-specific impacts. This underscores the need for greater transparency regarding the project’s necessity, benefits, and local impacts across all nine affected counties.

“A project of this scale deserves a level of scrutiny and public input that the current timeline simply does not allow,” said County Board Chair Patrick Miles. “Dane County is far from alone in this concern. Counties all along the proposed route share these questions, and residents, landowners, and local governments across the region need real time information to understand what this project would mean for their property, their farmland, and their communities before any decision is

made.”

Through the resolution, the board requests that the MGS and the PSC delay consideration of the BECI proposal until additional research, analysis, and public review have been completed. The board is also calling for an independent analysis demonstrating the project’s necessity for Wisconsin, a detailed accounting of costs and benefits to ratepayers, a comprehensive environmental assessment comparing potential routes, an evaluation of alternatives, and a farmland-preservation analysis identifying the acres of prime farmland that would be affected by each potential route.

“Supervisor Marren and I drafted this resolution because it is an extremely important issue not just for our districts, but all of Wisconsin,” said Supervisor Paula Brandmeier (District 20). “MGS shouldn’t be able to run roughshod over our communities with very little notice and insufficient information about the project’s necessity, planned routes, cost, or environmental impact.”

The Dane County Board of Supervisors requests that the PSC provide sufficient time for the county, affected municipalities, property owners, state agencies, and members of the public to review the requested information and provide meaningful input before making any decision on the approval or routing of the BECI project.

Director Welch leaves waste dept.

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard announced today that Department of Waste & Renewables Director John Welch will leave Dane County government later this month after more than 20 years of service. Welch has accepted a position in the private sector with engineering firm HDR. His final day with Dane County will be September 19, 2026.

Agard also announced that Tim Pelton, currently Deputy Highway Commissioner with the Dane County Highway and Transportation Department, will serve as interim director of Waste & Renewables following Welch’s departure.

Welch began his career with Dane County in 2006 and went on to play a leading role in transforming the County’s approach to waste management, recycling, and renewable energy. During his tenure, Dane County

Waste & Renewables has become nationally recognized for innovative projects that turn waste into resources while advancing the County’s environmental and sustainability goals.

“John has dedicated more than two decades to serving Dane County, and his leadership and vision have helped make our Waste & Renewables Department a national leader,” said Dane County Executive Melissa Agard. “From renewable natural gas and solar energy to recycling and the development of our Sustainability Campus, John has helped move forward projects that will benefit our community for generations. I am incredibly grateful for his service to Dane County and wish him all the best in this next chapter.”

During Welch’s career with Dane County, he contributed to the development and implementation of numerous major initiatives, including the County’s Renewable Natural Gas Plant, manure digesters, solar energy projects, construction and demolition recycling operations, Scrap Stop, and the Dane County Sustainability Campus.

“It has been an absolute honor to serve Dane County for more than 20 years,” Welch said. “I am incredibly proud of what our team has accomplished together and grateful for the opportunities the County has given me throughout my career. Dane County Waste & Renewables is a nationally recognized leader because of the dedicated and passionate people who work here, and I know that spirit of innovation will continue well into the future.”

DOJ files lawsuit over voting rule

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.

Staring with soil

On Tuesday, October 6th, Dr Annalisa Stevenson will present on Gardening Success Starts with Soils. Healthy gardens start with healthy soils. In this presentation, soil scientist and UW Extension Master Gardener Annalisa Stevenson will explore how soils support plant growth, water regulation, nutrient cycling, and other essential ecosystem services, while highlighting gardening practices that build long-term soil health. Participants will learn how to collect soil samples, interpret soil test results, and make informed decisions about fertilizers and soil amendments to create productive, resilient gardens.

The club meets monthly, every first Tuesday, 6:45PM, at Wisconsin Surplus, Mt Horeb, 2600 Rte 78 South, in the Violet Room. The building is located on the west side of the village of Mt Horeb (at the 2nd exit heading west off 18/151).

Refreshments at 6:45, presentation starts at 7:00, and the club business meeting begins at 8:00. Members of the general public are welcome to attend the program free of charge. The program will be followed by a business meeting of the Mound Vue Garden Club. If you are interested in gardening and local community service and outreach, contact Gloria Davies at jrdgrdquilt@mhtc.net about club membership.

COMMUNITY

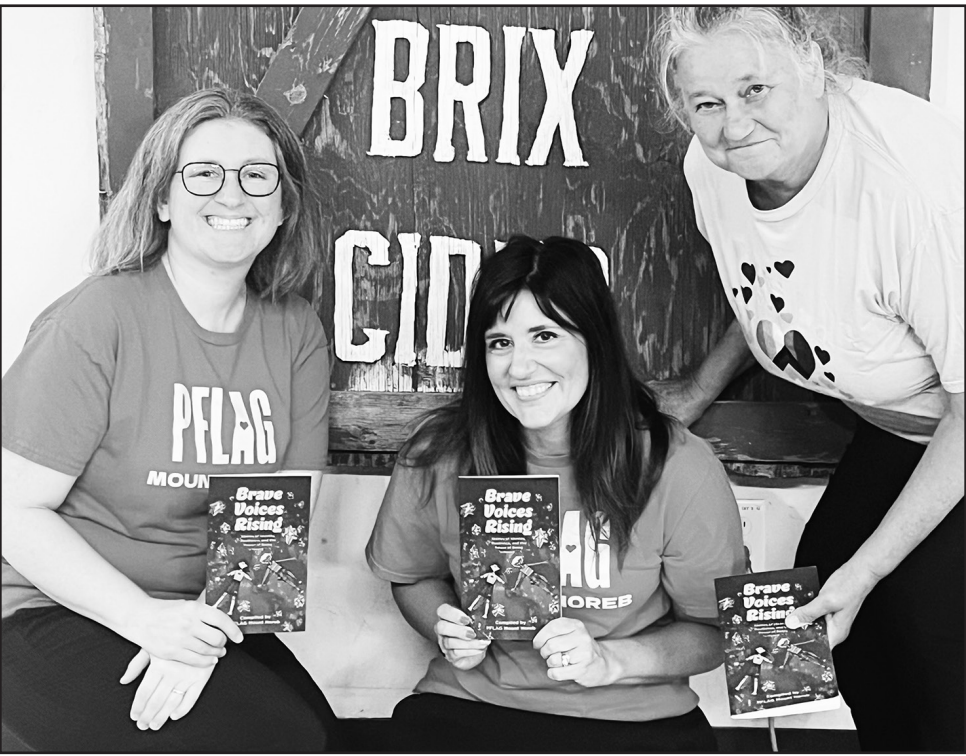
Mount Horeb American Legion members attend national convention in Kentucky



Mount Horeb American Legion members Jerry Hook and Scott Klassy (above right) attended the American Legion National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The American Legion raised more than a million dollars over the last year to support veterans, service members, youth, families and communities across the country. New leaders were elected, changes and resolutions were submitted and voted on, and the keynote speaker, John “Waldo” Waldman, spoke of the importance of pushing through adversity, and reaching for the stars. At the end of the convention, John W. “Jay” Bowen was elected as the new National Commander.

Good News Lutheran Welcomes Lutheran Ceili Orchestra for Fall Festival

On Sunday, September 20, Good News Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb will be holding its annual fall festival. That morning’s service (9:00 a.m.) will feature special musical guests, The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra. After the service (10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.) there will be an outdoor festival with a menu of food options for purchase, a free mobile coffee truck, a petting zoo, tractor rides, inflatables, a flower bouquet booth, and other outdoor games. The event is free and open to the public.



‘Brave Voices’ book launch

In the summer of 2025, Brave Voices from local LGBTQIA+ families rose up at a community event at the Brix Cider Restaurant in Mount Horeb to share stories of identity and resilience, challenges and triumphs. On August 30 of 2026, those voices gathered there again. This time, they went to celebrate the power of sharing of their stories in the newly-published Little Creek Press book, *Brave Voices Rising: Stories of Identity, Resilience, and the Power of Being Heard*. Stories told were compiled for the book by PFLAG Mount Horeb with the hope that publishing them in a book would reach a wider audience, raise awareness, and offer a resource of learning and comfort. The Aug. 30 book launch celebrated not just the publication of that book but also the connections and understandings that its stories bring to LGBTQIA+ members, their families, and the communities they all live in.

Endowment to Celebrate School Staff Who Go Above & Beyond

The Mount Horeb Area School District (MHASD) is proud to announce the establishment of the *Above & Beyond Excellence Endowment*, a new initiative created in partnership with a generous anonymous family to recognize and reward exceptional educators across the District. The endowment will honor two outstanding individuals each year. Recipients will receive designated funding to invest directly back into classrooms and educational spaces, supporting innovative projects and enhancements that directly benefit Viking students. “We are incredibly grateful to the donating family for their vision and gener-



osity,” said Superintendent Dr. Steve Salerno. “We have buildings full of amazing employees. This endowment provides a lasting way to celebrate the educators and staff who consistently go above and beyond for our students, while directly funding creative tools and environments that will inspire learning for years to come.” The annual award process

relies on equal parts student growth, leadership, innovative teaching, and positive contributions to school culture. Nominations can be made by community members, peers, families, and students—every October, starting this year. A selection committee will evaluate the submissions using a blind, standardized rubric. The inaugural award recipients will be selected in November and surprised in their classrooms this December. To learn more about the endowment, view eligibility rules, or prepare a nomination for this October, scan the QR code below or visit www.mounthorebschools.org/community/above-beyond.

Helwig celebrates 25 years

Helwig Auto Clinic is proud to celebrate 25 years of serving Mount Horeb and the surrounding communities. To thank the community, Helwig Auto Clinic will host a 25-Year Community Celebration on September 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the clinic. The celebration will include: Food and refreshments, Shop tours, Giveaways, Opportunities to meet the team. The event is free and open to the public. Community members are encouraged to register in advance to help with planning. Register at luma.com/ppf1nxy3

Never Forget

Private Melvin Arthur Larson Killed in Action in Tunisia in March 1943

By JERRY HOOK
Special to the Mail

With this series, we honor Service Members who served our great Nation. As I mentioned in the last article, we need your help to recognize these fine Americans. If you know someone you would like us to include please help us research, and develop articles. Melvin A. Larson from Mount Horeb is a hero whose story needs to be told. We should continue to remember the sacrifices of our community members in the defense of our great Nation. Thank you to Kathy Hannah, the Driftless Historium, and Mount Horeb Historical Society, Pauline Hittesdorf, from Perry Historical Center, Ed Goplin, my editor; Patricia McMahon, and so many more, your assistance made this article possible. Our email address is mhamlegionpost113@gmail.com

Upbringing – farm life, hard work and the importance of faith and family

Melvin was born May 2nd, 1919 to Peter and Hilda Larson; they married in 1911 and farmed in the Mount Horeb area all their lives. They had seven children: Harold, Robert, LaVerne, Melvin, and sisters, Mae, Grace, and Eunice. The family farmed outside of Mount Horeb near German Valley. Melvin attended grammar school, and as he continued to grow and learn, he farmed with his family. The family attended Perry Lutheran Church, where Melvin was baptized, confirmed and the family held his funeral.

Entrance and initial training in military service

Melvin worked as a farmhand until he joined the United States Army in April, 1942. He enlisted in the US Army April 22,

1942. Private Melvin Larson attended Basic Training and then went to Camp Robinson, Arkansas. He received medical training in battlefield first aid, stretcher bearing, and tank casualty evacuations.

Shipment overseas

When Private Larson completed medical training he was transferred to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. The 1st Infantry Division had trained together here before being sent overseas. He went through Indiantown Gap as a replacement. He went on to England then to Africa as a replacement and was assigned to the 18th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division.

The fight against Axis Forces

The 1st Infantry Division arrived in Africa November, 1942 as a key part of the Allied Forces, “Operation Torch”. Operation Torch was the first major action against the German and Italian forces in North Africa. Melvin’s 18th Infantry Regiment fought alongside the 16th and 26th Infantry Regiment. Melvin provided medical support to the 18th Infantry Regiment with the other approximately 20 people in the Regimental Aid Station.

Events leading to Private Melvin Larson’s death

The 18th Infantry fought valiantly across Tunisia forcing the Germans to retreat. German forces mounted several counterattacks Kasserine Pass and El Guettar, these counterattacks were led by German Generals Erwin Rommel and Hans Jurgen von Arnim. On March 24th the Germans counterattacked again. The 18th Infantry Regiment was taking heavy shelling and



Melvin A. Larson

direct fire. As the Germans continued to counterattack the 1st ID took heavy losses but held the line and turned the tide, eventually leading to the Axis defeat in Africa.

The Ultimate Sacrifice

During the fighting Melvin decided that he would not abandon injured and dying Service Members, he stayed on the battlefield during heavy artillery fire providing aid and comfort until he was killed by enemy fire.

Private Larson received the Silver Star for his actions that day. Read the Silver Star citation:

“The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Private Melvin A. Larson (ASN: 36222953), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with the Medical Detachment, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st

New York 19, N. Y.
March 17, 1944.
Dear Mrs. Larson:
Thank you for your nice letter. I am enjoying three weeks here in New York with my Mother who has just told me to tell you that her heart aches for you.
Melvin was killed March 25th on a hill we were holding in El Guitane near Tunis. He is burried along with our other losses on the hill.
At the time he was hit he was taking care of one of the wounded and a direct hit by a mortar shell killed him. I got to him just as the end came and he recognized me and smiled. I can assure you that he was in no pain. He lived about ten minutes after being hit. I think they had services at a later date but I was not there.
I live here in New York and expect to work in some hospital near here, but if I ever do get out you way, I shall certainly look you u
We had been in action about 5½ months and had really been through hell but Mel never complained and was always cheerful. I feel honored to call him my friend.
The medics took a bad beating as only a few of us were armed. I carried a revolver and got two Germans and one Frenchman.
Mel and I had even planned what we would do after the campaign.
That is all, Mrs. Larson, and I hope I have in a small way answered your questions.
Most Sincerely yours,
James M. Kent
Cpl. Med. Corp
U. S. Army

Infantry Division, in action against the enemy in North Africa, during the period from January to May 1943. Although subjected to direct enemy artillery, machine gun and mortar fire during an attack upon the enemy. Private Larson administered medical treatment and assisted in the evacuation of the wounded. Private Larson’s sacrifice of his life in this engagement exemplified the highest traditions of the military service and reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Army.”

Honors for Private Larson

The Executive Officer for the Milwaukee Headquarters District and the Commander of the Madison Headquarters District presented the Silver Star and the Purple Heart to Private Melvin Larson’s parents, Hilda and Peter, in the garden at the Larson Farm. In terms of military awards / medals, the Silver Star is only below the Medal of Honor, and the Distinguished Service Cross. As proof of the faith and values of the family, I. A. Lavik, the Pastor of Perry Lutheran Church who confirmed Melvin; concluded the ceremony with a prayer.

Melvin A. Larson is buried in Carthage, Tunisia, which is in North Africa. More specifically, he is buried in the North African American Cemetery and Memorial.

Honoring Our Heroes

We have our Freedoms today because of heroes like Private Melvin A. Larson. Melvin’s family was devastated by his loss. We should all remember Melvin Larson continuing to give aid in the middle of enemy direct, mortar, and artillery fire. Melvin never had an opportunity to return home and start a life of his own; his family never had an opportunity to say one last goodbye to him

Melvin A. Larson was a farm boy from the Mount Horeb area who became a combat medic, remained with wounded soldiers under enemy fire, and gave his life doing so.

I have included a letter (above) to Melvin’s mother, Hilda, from a Melvin’s battle buddy, James Kent written after Melvin passed. The letter from Corporal James Kent doesn’t diminish or decrease the grief and loss, but it would have been a true blessing to the family. (The Driftless Historium and Mount Horeb Historical Society have the letter on hand and shared it with me for this story.)

SPRINGER AUCTION & REALTY LLC
Auction for Andy P. Hino Estate
Saturday, September 26, 2026, 9:30 AM
Auction Site: 4948 Cty Rd YZ, Dodgeville,
The Lower Warehouse of Mueller Implement.
2012, F250 4x4 Ford Truck, odometer reads
108,504 miles. Vast amounts of Tools & Supplies for
construction trades. Hand-power tools; corded, battery,
and air operated. Woodturning: Hurricane, Robert Sorby,
Pinnacle. Work benches, storage, shelving, air filtration,
vises, anvil, table saw, chainsaw, propane-ice auger, XXL
Carhartt clothes. Too much to list—must see to appreciate!
Auctioneer: Larry F. Springer, 608-623-2245, Reg WI
Auction Company #1027-53.
Terms, Listing & Photos: www.LarryFSpringer.com
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UNPASTEURIZED INGA: RECIPES AND REFLECTIONS ON FOOD, FARMING, AND FINDING YOUR WAY BACK

Join author and farmer Inga Witscher-Orth for a cooking demonstration and conversation featuring a recipe from her new cookbook at the Mount Horeb Public Library Saturday, September 19 at 2pm. (NOTE TIME CHANGE from original marketing.) Inga will prepare creamy polenta made with Wisconsin-grown corn and her own farmstead cheddar while sharing the story behind the recipe, the ingredients, and her approach to cooking with local food. Along the way, she'll talk about her new cookbook, *Unpasteurized Inga*, life on the farm, and the people and places that inspire her cooking. No registration necessary. For more details about the library, its events and services, visit www.mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021. Photo by Mark Aumann.



Darling Daughters kicked off a new farm concert series

Darling Daughters (above) kicked off a new music series at Squashington Farm's Beet Barn on August 15. It continues September 19 with Lou Shields and Thorn + Bone. Photo by Matt Geiger.

National Library Card Sign-up Month Proclamation

WHEREAS: The first National Library Card Sign-up Month started in 1987 in response to then Secretary of Education, William Bennett, who stated: "Let's have a campaign.... Every child should obtain a library card and use it."; and

WHEREAS: A library card is one of the most valuable resources available to all individuals and families, providing access to books, digital materials, museum passes, technology, research, Wisconsin's online

library - BadgerLink, and a wide range of services; and

WHEREAS: Public, school, academic, tribal, and special libraries strengthen communities by supporting literacy, encouraging curiosity, fostering connection, and helping people of all ages achieve their educational and personal goals; and

WHEREAS: National Library Card Sign-up Month celebrates the many ways libraries enrich their communities and encourages

residents who do not yet have a library card to visit their local library and discover all that it has to offer; and

WHEREAS: Having a library card empowers individuals to become lifelong learners, allow them to follow their curiosity, seek reliable information, discover new perspectives, and access resources that can help them imagine and build a brighter future.

THEREFORE: I, Jill K. Underly, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, declare September National Library Card Sign-up Month and encourage all Wisconsin residents to sign up and use your library card to explore everything your local library has to experience.

dent of Public Instruction, declare September National Library Card Sign-up Month and encourage all Wisconsin residents to sign up and use your library card to explore everything your local library has to experience.

Business group praises court ruling against fire fees

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) last applauded a Waukesha County Circuit Court decision to strike down "fire protection fees" imposed by the Villages of Pewaukee and

Dousman.

The WMC Litigation Center filed the lawsuit in 2024 on behalf of WMC, two businesses, and a taxpayer, arguing the charges were unlawful because they were imposed as annual, village-wide assessments rather than per-call fees required under state law.

The lawsuit maintained that the villages were using these so-called "fire protection fees" as an illegal tax on Wisconsin taxpayers.

Last week, the court agreed with the WMC Litigation Center and struck down the fees, ruling that

the charges were unlawful property taxes.

"While Wisconsin families and employers suffer from the eighth-highest property taxes in the nation, this ruling delivers a much-needed win for taxpayers across the state," said WMC Executive Vice President of Government Relations Scott Manley.

"This case was about protecting taxpayers from unlawful taxation schemes, and the ruling sends a clear message that the government must follow the law when seeking additional revenue."



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THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 24

Dirndl Day
Authentic German Style
Oktoberfest - wear your
dirndls and lederhosen!

6 pm - 10 pm
Beer Tent Open
Polka music by Steve
Meisner Legacy Band

8:30 pm
King & Queen Contest

You could be Oktoberfest
royalty for the weekend!
Wear your best Oktoberfest
attire and enter to win
cash prizes and free beer!



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FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 25

5 pm
Beer Tent, Food Stands,
and Craft Vendors Open

5 pm - 6:30 pm
Music by
Family Business

7 pm
Tap The Wooden
Keg Annual
Oktoberfest Event!
New Glarus Brewing Co.
taps a wooden keg of
Staghorn Oktoberfest

7:30 pm - 11 pm
Music by
Madison County

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26

9 am
Planks and Pints!
Registration required,
and opens at 8:30am
Do you have what it takes?

9:30 am
Craft & Cookies
with New Glarus Public Library
under the festival tent

11:00 am
Beer Tent, Food Stands,
and Craft Vendors Open

11 am - 3 pm
Horse Drawn Wagon Rides
Free! (5th Ave & 2nd St)

11:15 am - 2:30 pm
Oktoberfest music by The
Biergarten Specials & Friends

2:34 pm - 5:32 pm
Puempels Polka Poppers
at Puempels Olde Tavern

3 pm - 4 pm
Try an Alphorn for \$10!
Proceeds help our high
school music program

3:30 pm - 6 pm
Music by
Shinyribs

4:30 pm - 7 pm
Swiss Church Kilby Supper,
Tickets Required (18 5th Ave)

7 pm
Tap The Wooden Keg
By New Glarus Brewing Co.

7:30 pm - 11 pm
Music By
Pink Houses

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 27

10:30 am Until Gone
Free cheese
tasting by local
cheese vendors

10:30 am
Beer Tent, Food Stands,
and Craft Vendors Open

11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Music by
Rare Element

12 pm - 3 pm
Free Petting Zoo
Chamber Depot, 418 Railroad St

11 am - 3 pm
Horse Drawn Wagon Rides
Free! (5th Ave & Railroad St)

3 pm - 6 pm
Music by
The Jimmys



Author S.K. Kruse returns to the liminal with two new books

By Matt Geiger
Mount Horeb Mail

Author S. K. Kruse is back with not one, but two new books that delve into the very essence of what it means to be human. In *Of Beginnings and Ends*, Kruse explores liminal ideas, spaces and states of being. In the story, a woman named Evy returns again and again to the vast and luminous Hall of Beginnings and Ends. Evy must pass through a mist-shrouded arch to her best path forward or through a side door offering her a detour. Either way, pain awaits. She returns to the hall again and again without warning, always forced to choose her path. It is not merely the journey of a woman; it is the journey of a soul. It is, as Kruse says, a tale in which “the universal shines through the particulars.”

Of Beginnings and Ends arrives with a companion book, *Tell the Story of Your Soul*, an interactive project that allows anyone to tell the story of their soul.

Kruse recently took the time to talk to us about her new books, and the fact that “the potential for growth and change is always there.”

For those who don’t already know, tell our readers a bit about yourself.

Kruse: I’m a Wisconsin native and write from the rolling hills of the Driftless, where we raised our eleven children just outside Mount Horeb, our youngest graduating this past May. My debut story collection, *Tales From the Liminal*, was published by Deuxmers in 2021. I’m the co-curator of The Liminality Project, sponsor of the Liminal Essay Contest, and have a Substack newsletter, *Libations From the Liminal*. As you can see, there’s a theme.

Your obvious literary talent kind of slumbered — or perhaps fermented and ripened — before you broke out with *Tales From the Liminal*. Did your creative process change as you continued writing after *Liminal*?

Kruse: I have this presentation called *The Art of the Liminal* that discusses the necessity of submerging yourself in the borderlands between your conscious and unconscious mind, to create art. I always try to write from this place, but I’ve been

working on novels the past few years and have found staying there to be more of a challenge than when writing short stories. A writer is an architect whatever they’re creating, but a novel is like constructing a cathedral, and a short story more like a small, simple chapel. There is much more problem-solving involved with a novel, so it’s much easier to slip back into straight analytical brain.

Let’s talk about *Of Beginnings and Ends* (Deuxmers, 2026). This story is unique because in a lot of fiction, ordinary characters end up going somewhere magical, or magical things somehow end up somewhere ordinary. But this story seems to take place where the two meet. It’s, well, in a liminal kind of reality. Can you talk a bit about the ongoing theme of transition in your work?

Kruse: The transformative potential of a liminal state is a major interest (obsession!) of mine. These transitional states occur when we become suspended at an existential or psychological threshold between identities, roles, or ways of understanding the world. Sometimes we choose liminal states, but usually we’re thrust into one. Disorienting and disruptive by nature, they are often the most difficult times in our lives. But they’re also where the magic can happen inside us. Not guaranteed though. We can get stuck. But the potential for growth and change is always there.

I don’t want to give too much away, but can you talk about Evy and Bertha?

Kruse: Bertha as a character emerged from a ridiculous sketch I drew about twenty years ago when I was young and ignorant and completely frustrated that my ego persisted despite my concerted effort to thwart it, having no concep-



S.K. Kruse is releasing a pair of new books. She is also a regular reader at Primrose Retreat’s Re-meander events. File photo.

tion at the time that my very effort to thwart it was just another project of my ego. As Evy goes along her soul journey she must confront this shocking reality, but in the ridiculous image of Bertha—whose many eyes weave about on Medusa-like tendrils.

This book seems to have so many literary, theological and philosophical influences. It touches on Buddhism, Catholicism, Islam, meditation, Dickens, Dostoyevsky, Kafka and more. It seems to take place in a setting where every sort of idea converges. (As Flannery O’Connor said, “Everything that Rises Must Converge,” right?) So, what happens when all these things come together?

Kruse: That Flannery O’Connor title/quote is perfect. I feel that happening in my worldview. A wide and ever-expanding “Yes and Amen” in my spirit to all that is good and true and beautiful. At the same time, the liminal has given me a sort of existential roadmap connecting disparate

spiritual and philosophical worldviews, because whatever our beliefs, we all grow and change, get stuck and lose our way, hopefully finding the thread again, moving forward through lessons hard learned, stumbling onward toward our telos.

You allude to a really interesting ontology in the preface. The idea that things have purpose simply by existing in the way they exist. But whereas Joseph Campbell writes about the Hero’s Journey, you write about this journey in which people and things exist, and they journey closer and closer to their souls, to their purposes, to their meanings. How does the rest of the book explore this idea? It’s the soul’s journey to become more fully itself, right?

Kruse: I think the soul’s journey *is* the Hero’s Journey. Each of us is on

this interior journey of becoming, which makes it universal—the stuff of myths—while also being profoundly individual. In *Of Beginnings and Ends*, I endeavored to write a story in which the universal shines through the particulars. I don’t know how well I did it, but that was the goal.

What’s telography?

Kruse: “Telography” is a word I made up for a genre that had no name. It’s a mashup of the Greek words *telos* (end or fulfillment) and *graphia* (writing), and it means “the story of a soul; an account of one’s becoming.” These “soul stories” run deep in human history. Augustine’s *Confessions*. Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*. Gilbert’s *Eat, Pray, Love*. Across centuries and cultures, people have felt this pull to look inward, gather what they find, and give their soul’s journey some kind of shape. Its second definition of “telography,” I suppose, is the act itself—the practice of creating a soul story.”

You also wrote a companion book, *Tell the Story of Your Soul* (Limen & Lumen, 2026). Tell us about that, and how these works are both universal and personal.

Evy’s journey through the Hall of Beginnings and Ends isn’t mine, event for event, but every *inner* turn in her journey came out of a turn in my own. The process I went through to create this telography is the same one I invite others to go through in *Tell the Story of Your Soul*. I’ve expanded the

idea, however, so that you can “tell” your story using any kind of creative expression, such as music, dance, painting, quilting, gardening—even flowcharts! However your soul wants to express itself.

As to the universal and personal, what I love about the idea of a telos — your deepest purpose, or that for which you exist — is that it asks nothing of your beliefs. You don’t need a particular philosophy or theology to see that everything has its own inherent purpose simply by existing in the particular way it exists. Simply put, your telography is the story of your becoming. And you’re the only one who can tell it.

Anything else?

Kruse: *Tell the Story of Your Soul* is a thirteen-session online or print course designed for individual use, but I developed supplemental facilitator materials so it could be used in small group or retreat settings as well. Because it doesn’t require any particular belief system, it can be used by people from any spiritual tradition—or none. We have a few local trained facilitators available to lead groups through the materials if you’re interested.

*As part of the launch for *Tell the Story of Your Soul*, the print version of the course is available at cost and the online version is free (with lifetime access) through October 20. To find out more about the course, liminality and telography, or S. K. Kruse’s other books and projects, visit skkruse.com.*

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Upland Hills Health Opens New Emergency Department and Expanded Lab Spaces



The Upland Hills Health mission is “to be a community-minded healthcare system providing innovative, individualized and compassionate care for every stage of life. This is achieved through a vision to exemplify the highest standard of community healthcare and inspire patients to take an active role in their health through wellness-oriented care.”

Upland Hills Health held a ribbon cutting and grand opening for the community on August 25, 2026. The following day, the new Emergency Department officially opened to patients. While Upland Hills Health’s commitment to care and patient outcomes has not changed, the entrance to the Emergency Department has. Patients and visitors should follow the directional

signage on the Dodgeville Hospital Campus to access the new Emergency Department. Signs will direct drivers around the south side of the campus to the new Emergency Department entrance on the east side of the building. As construction moves into the next phase, vehicles will no longer be able to access the north side of the building as they did when

the former Emergency Department was located there. Patients and visitors are encouraged to review the new entrance and parking areas before arriving. Upland Hills Health has created a parking map, which is being shared and posted in several locations, to help patients and visitors navigate the campus. The new Emergency Department allows Upland

Hills Health to better serve patients now and in years to come. Over the past 20 years, Emergency Department patient volume has more than doubled, from approximately 7,000 to 15,000 patients annually. The completion of this project now provides patients with a larger, state-of-the-art Emergency Department designed to enhance comfort and care, as well as expanded imaging

services, including ultrasound and mammography, and upgraded laboratory spaces. The former Emergency Department and laboratory area encompassed approximately 13,500 square feet, while the new space encompasses approximately 21,500 square feet—an increase of nearly 60 percent. Upland Hills Health extends a thank you to patients,

staff and visitors for their patience and understanding throughout this construction project. They are grateful to the community for its support as they continue to invest in the future of healthcare in the region. For more information, visit www.uplandhillshealth.org.

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VILLAGE

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Wright gave an overview of the pumping station at S. Brookwood which includes one force main and one sewer line to the sanitary treatment facility. An additional three force main lines feed into the Brookwood one, explaining that the current setup cannot serve the needed capacity for the Lukken property or other nearby land in the Urban Service Area slated for development in the Future Land Use Map. The Brookwood pumping station was built about twenty years ago and has remaining capacity to serve only 428 residential units, which is insufficient for the Urban Service Area. To adequately serve the 430 acres of undeveloped land in that area, he said a new pumping station and force main, paralleling the existing one to the treatment facility, is required. As expected, Wright said this will be a significant cost to the Village, developer(s), or a cost share approach. To move forward with the Lukken farm (residential and Rec Complex), the board members asked Wright to return with an estimated cost of his proposal. Trustee Tim White also asked Wright to make a presentation to the Utility Commission to keep it apprised of the situation. Altenbernd said the Parks and Rec Committee discussed the outdoor Rec Complex and is recommending to the Village Board that it consider using a phased approach to its development, breaking it into five phases. The Committee also suggested for consideration the Village pay for 50% of the construction costs with the balance coming from fundraising.

“I know Rome Wasn’t Built in a Day”

Nicole Kidd, an eight-year resident, loves living in Mount Horeb yet discovered when her children started playing sports, the Village did not compare with other small-town community facilities, such as Columbus, Dodgeville, and Pardeeville for tournament play, she said. Each has parking lots, fields, and infrastructure to support all the people who attend the tournaments and spend money. Kidd supports the Rec Complex as well as the fundraising campaign, realizing this all will take time. She hopes her children will have a chance to play at least on one field before they graduate.

Adam Mertz, a twenty-seven-year resident, said, “I think the one thing that has been consistent about this town is when we bet on ourselves, we win; if we do not, we lose.” Continuing, “and a lot of times that is felt in opportunity cost, a lack of vi-

sion, a quality-of-life factor that is hard to beat. This isn’t about getting ahead; this is about catching up.”

Although Mertz is a member of the school board, he spoke as a resident, saying he is not representing the school. With that in mind, he mentioned he had the privilege of speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Primary Center addition. The Center was built in 1918, and at that time, building it was an incredibly huge investment, and it has served the community for over a hundred years. The outdoor Rec Complex also is a huge investment and can serve community members for decades, he said.

“Whether it is a Fee or a Tax, it Comes out of our Wallets”

Will Janssen, said, “I am not here to speak for or against a topic. I am here to speak on behalf of our wallets, particularly those of our family and many of the families I talk to. Every time we need to spend money at our house, it comes out either of my wife’s wallet or mine as it is the same pot of money. We take care of the things we need to and if there is any left, we spend it on what we want. Every time you decide to spend village taxpayer money, it comes out of our wallet. When you decide to become land developers and purchase a farm with the hope of turning a profit when it is developed, that money began by coming out of our wallets with a much larger tax bill last December. When you decide to spend millions more beyond the fundraising to develop the park, that money will come out of our wallets. “

Lastly, Janssen opined the next time the Village leadership decide to spend millions of dollars to do something like buy land, the first thing it should do is to come to the taxpayers (via referenda) to get permission first, just like the school has done in the past. Getting approval will ensure widespread support. Continuing, “You won’t have to by law perhaps, but I believe you should by conscience”.

“I Pay a Heck of a Lot of Tax to this Community”

Terry Kurth feels with Mount Horeb being last (compared to some other communities) in building a sports complex, it gives the Village an opportunity to review what others did correctly and things that can be done differently. Kurth said, “This community has been way in arrears in getting a commercial (business) park done. We all know that. We’ve got to get it done. Because that is what helps offset the taxes for the village and schools. That is what makes families move here.

“We are awesome here,

we’ve got the historical society, we’ve got great arts, we’ve got more than other communities but we’re missing two of the main ingredients, a business park and sports.”

Continuing, Kurth opined the Viking Valhalla fund (a not-for-profit foundation to support youth sports) has raised two million dollars that is sitting there but it can’t be used until something is done. He assured the board there is help here for the sports complex, telling them it is not going to be easy, but it can be done. Kurth said, “We have to share a vision and we cannot pay back all of the good things this community has done and their efforts are what makes us living here; you can only pay forward and this is one of those nights, if not now, when?”

Board Discussion

Altenbernd advised the board if the estimated cost of the outdoor sports complex is \$14.5 million and they decide to have the village pay 50 percent, based on Parks and Rec recommendation, the village’s debt limit would rise from 40 percent to 53 percent, which is within the 65 percent limit he feels comfortable with.

Trustee Michelle Kelley asked, “Since we spent \$5.5 million on the Lukken property and our property taxes went up 20 percent, would our taxes go up 20 percent again?”

Altenbernd said yes, taxes would go up but the amount depends on the funding sources as well as if the expenses were paid all at once or in phases. Czyzewski reminded the board the tax increase last year was not all due to the Lukken property as it also included a large road project, recalling it was about a 60/40 or 70/30 split.

Discussion followed addressing the phasing options, the timeline, noting the feedback from audience members ranging from wanting the park construction to start as soon as possible to worries about the additional costs followed by last year’s tax increase.

Trustee Sarah Best is concerned with the uncertainty of the big picture, the timing, the expense, yet expressing she is in total support and recognition of the need for additional sports fields. She also expressed interest in continuing to look at the big picture before committing to a village financial outlay at this time.

Trustee Ben Jones said he cannot support the Village spending 50 percent for its share of the complex. He realizes the longer the phasing is put off, the more expensive the project will become.

Trustee Marc Schellpfeffer understands their concerns but is in favor of

deciding now how to proceed rather than “kicking the can down the road.”

Altenbernd asked the trustees what they needed from him to figure out the next step. Did they want to put all the fields in one area or parse them out throughout the village, including the residential development portion of the Lukken property. They all thought for efficiency reasons, the fields should be together, within the forty-six acres the community meeting attendees felt was important to give them what was needed for a full outdoor sports complex.

Kelley said, “Gabe, I will tell you what I need. I need to understand how much revenue we are going to get from the residential land, and how much of it will be going towards this (the complex), reducing the debt (from the purchase) and other Village needs. Where will those dollars go?” Continuing, Kelley opined she felt once the village were to get further along with the residential process, we would have more concrete numbers to work with. She also questioned the additional impact fees that would be available from the residential development.

Altenbernd said if things go as planned, we are looking for the sale of the property between March and May of 2027.

Czyzewski said based on the RFP, the purchase price was based on market rates of the seventy-six acres of developable land, probably around \$2.5 million. He also said If Making a Difference (the developer) were to go in, the park impact fees would be about \$1 million. There are also potential grants that can help with reducing the General Obligation debt, as well as the Army Corp of Engineers who offered to assist with grading, which probably could save the Village about \$200,000.

Attorney Viewpoint

Attorney Kleinmaier asked, “How much is the developer contributing to the utility infrastructure to be brought out there?”

Altenbernd explained we won’t know that until we get the Purchase Agreement along with the Development Agreement.

Kleinmaier asked, “Didn’t they say how much they were going to pay as part of the RFP? If you don’t know how much you are going to get paid, how do you know someone else may not pay you more?”

“I think you are talking the housing portion of this and that is out of the scope of this agenda item”, said Czyzewski, adding unless you see it directly about the legal aspect of this.

Kleinmaier responded, “Well, if you are talking

about funding something and it is directly related to something you bought, the amount of money you are going to get from the developer is directly related to the amount of money you are going to have to spend, so I think it is within the bounds. It is legitimate for you to talk now about how much you are going to pay for this Complex. In my experience, in an RFP, they tell you how much they are going to pay for it as well as the amount they will pay for the required utilities.”

Continuing, Kleinmaier said, “It is up to you, but you definitely have the ability to go through the process again to get a more concrete number that is going to help you pay for this park. You do not have to, but they are directly tied together in my opinion”.

Kelley opined that she remembers the RFP from Making a Difference was vaguer than she would expect to see, saying they (the developer) would do anything the Village wanted, give us what we needed, etc. but there were no solid numbers given.

Czyzewski asked if the board wanted to proceed or let it sit. His fear is if the village lets it sit, then the fundraising agenda item will go away. He is for the phasing approach, and the board could consider not to begin digging until there is a set amount raised from the fundraising.

Trustee Nate Gauger says he has mixed feelings about this and believes the village should monetize this as go along and the board should consider a phased approach, realizing the debt impact.

Schellpfeffer said, “I feel we are trying to make a decision with a big chunk of information that is not there. I think we all need to be in agreement and that we are comfortable that this is the plan we want to move forward with, and we use the phase approach.

Aaron Fendrick, a senior and our Youth in Government student representative, said he would like to give his opinion on this before the board moves forward with voting on the motion. He said, “Currently I think I am the only youth in here and hearing from the youth, I think would be important.” Fendrick opined when he was growing up and playing a lot of youth sports, his team would have to drive to Blue Mounds to play, wearing a Mount Horeb uniform. He said that was confusing. He believes parents of today say his generation does not like to go outside and Fendrick feels part of the reason is because there are no parks like this.

Hearing Trustee Kelley discuss village growth earlier in the meeting, he said it is inevitable that even a small town like Mount

Horeb will have growth.

“Not to be rude or anything, but I think the people that are on the board are not the future of Mount Horeb that should be talking about growth. I think we should be listening to my generation, we are the future of this Village and, personally, I would like to see the Village grow a lot more. I cannot speak for every person in the High School or youth in town, but I think this is something we should keep in mind as we vote on this.”

Motions

1.) Schellpfeffer motioned, Best seconded, that when this project moves forward, the phase approach presented is the one that is used.

The board unanimously approved the motion as presented.

2.) Altenbernd suggested the next discussion and motion staff needs is to allow staff to include funding for it in the 2028-2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), saying this will give both the board, current and future, and staff time to determine if the project goes through, all the unknowns, such as the annexation, utility infrastructure costs, residential property purchase price, etc. during 2027. Gauger made the motion to direct staff to include the project in the 2028-2032 CIP, Trustee Ben Jones seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.

Czyzewski wanted to make clear this motion does not mean the project will be completed by 2032, it simply gives staff the ability to financially plan for it during that period.

Fundraising Agreement

Dennis Cooley, President of LaCoona Consulting, LLC, introduced himself, saying he is very excited to lead a team for the Sports Complex funding. In the past, he successfully completed forty-three similar projects, some larger and some smaller. He said 95% of fundraising is contributed by 5% of donors. He reminded the board that he is paid only when funds are collected. His 5% fee is half that of a typical professional fundraiser. From the 5% fee, he will be donating back 1% of that collected to the Sports Complex project. He said this is going to take a lot of work getting started and organizing and training the team he has in place as well as recruiting new members who do not yet know they will be on the team. Cooley used to live in Mount Horeb and loves the Village. He played an important role in the fundraising efforts to bring the Veteran’s Memorial Park to fruition.

Earlier in the Fundraising Agreement discussions at committee meetings, Kurth

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VILLAGE

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asked if the effective date of the Agreement could be extended to give some probable contributors the option to have all their contribution (whether cash or a letter of commitment) exempt from the fee, to which Cooley agreed. Kurth has provided a list of those contributors to Cooley.

The Agreement as written had a January 1, 2027, effective date with a December 31, 2026, date for exempt from fee contributions to be made. Kleinmaier asked Cooley if he wanted those dates to remain the same considering the urgency of people wanting this to get started. Cooley said he is ready to have October 1, 2026, as the effective date and October 31, 2026, as the date for exempt from fee funds collected. The Agreement also had the project costing \$12.5 million and board members were not comfortable having that since there are too many unknowns as this point.

Best made the motion, Trustee Tim White seconded, to have the Fundraising Agreement effective October 1, 2026, the cut off date for exempt funds October 31, 2026, with no

dollar amount listed as the project cost or fundraising limit listed. Motion carried unanimously.

2027 Mount Horeb Area Fire District Budget Presentation

Chief Jenny Minter and Kimberly Sailor, the business manager, presented a thorough review of the District budget, listing various areas where expenses from 2026 would be reduced as well as those that will be increased. The total budget increase for 2027 is \$84,500, or a 5.1% increase total, with 2.96% applicable to Mount Horeb, the largest community served by the District. The eight communities served by the District will vote on the budget at the September 23 annual meeting, held at 7pm in the conference room at the Public Safety building. Seven of the eight communities need to vote aye for it to be approved, otherwise it goes to a caucus until it gets the required minimum approving it.

Jones and Schellpfeffer motioned to approve the 2027 Mount Horeb Area Fire District budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Charges Ord. 2026-10

As previously reported in a recent Finance & Personnel Committee article, the Ordinance allows the Village to enact special fees added to the property tax bill. If approved, it allows the special charges to be a funding tool in the 2027 Village budget. There is a \$700,000 shortfall in the General Fund which must be settled before any budget increase can be considered. The special charges can be enacted for any or all for: Urban Forestry, Fire Protection, and Snow and Ice Removal. The actual charge for each can be from nothing to 100 percent of the cost to provide the service and will be reviewed annually for consideration of a change to the percentage.

Before discussing the Ordinance, resident Tamiko Clary told the board “This is the board that actually made a lot of these decisions, so you really need to hear this out. Taxpayers are being asked to cover \$700,000. I understand what the current situation is, but the General Fund has been running near zero for the last couple of years. Why?I don’t want to hear about Covid; it didn’t stop the tax on our homes. I want the specific reasons why the General Fund went so low and why it

was not addressed sooner as that is a bad thing..... Secondly, you’re asking to add fees to our tax bills..... I do not get a say in it, which is really unfortunate. Thirdly, how are you going to gain trust with the village taxpayers with all of this and all the questions about the Lukken property? It just came out tonight....there are all these questions, and you are just ready to charge ahead....that is not a good thing. You have to gain the trust of the taxpayers. The people that are for the Lukken property..... are living in some fantasy world. I do not run my home life that. Yes, it is chastising..... but you have some big boots that you have to fill and answer to.”

Schellpfeffer and Jones motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-10. Motion carried unanimously.

Urban Forestry

Two options – the first is based on property acreage and the second is a flat charge to all properties. Those in favor of Option 1 feel that is a more favorable way whereas those in favor of Option 2 feel all people enjoy all village trees and forestry. All agree the charge should be for all properties, including not-for-profit

ones.

A motion was made by White for Option 2, seconded by Kelley, to include all properties. Those who voted aye were Gauger, Kelley, Schellpfeffer, White. Best, Czyzewski and Jones voted no. Motion carried for Option 2.

Fire Protection

Two options – the first option is to base the special charge on the square footage of the property, and the second option is a flat charge to all properties. With little discussion, Jones motioned, White seconded to approve Option 1 for all properties, based on its square footage. Motion carried unanimously.

Snow and Ice Removal

The special charge only has one option there is no linear information readily available. The option is a flat charge. White said this is a fair way regardless of the lack on linear information since residents have the benefit of using all the roads. White and Best motioned/seconded to approve the Snow and Ice Removal special charge to all properties. Motion carried unanimously.

Lastly, yet Important

Two properties are now listed on the Municipal Historic Registry, the first two properties in the Village. A plaque recognizing the historical importance was presented to Mark and Barb Johnson for the restored 1885 commercial building at 108-110 E. Main, now housing Telsaan Tea and Sift & Winnow. Ryan Stowe and Megan Varnum, 312 S. 4th Street received a plaque for the restoration of their 1916 Prairie School House home. The Driftless Historium hopes additional property owners with historical properties will come forward to discuss and apply for the Registry.

Altenbernd has a mission to get all Village documents, such as letterheads, email format, agendas and any other public communication to use the same template for such. The Board meeting agenda for this meeting included a new agenda format with slight changes in the order in which typical agenda items are presented. Altenbernd asked board members if they liked the new agenda template. Jones and Schellpfeffer motioned to approve it. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:21pm.

FIRE BUDGET

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by each municipality. To pass the District budget, a minimum of seven municipalities must vote in favor, with one dissenting vote allowed. Although Mount Horeb has two District board members due to it being the largest served by the District, only one member may vote for the budget.

The first Committee meeting was held September 10 with three agenda items: 1) Propose funding structures for full MHAJFD board approval 2) Discuss other concerns and 3) Recommend a timeline for implementation of a potential new Agreement.

Mike Lamberty, Town of Springdale representative, was elected Chair of the Committee. Other municipality representative board members serving on the Committee were James Brager and Ben Jones, Village of Mount Horeb, Greg Haack, Town of Cross Plains, Dennis Jelle, Town of Blue Mounds. Altschul, Gabe Altenbernd, Mount Horeb Administrator, and Jenny Minter, Fire Chief, also are Committee members. John Rosenbaum, Town of Springdale Chair, attended the open meeting.

Under the current Agreement, each municipality pays a percentage of the FD annual budget based on the equalized valuation of all properties within the area

served by the District. Four of the eight municipalities rely solely on the MHAJFD for Fire and EMS services: Villages of Mount Horeb and Blue Mounds and the Townships of Blue Mounds and Springdale. Their respective percentages due to the 2026 operating budget obligations are: 47.7 percent, 4.9 percent, 9.3 percent, and 22.1 percent. The other four partially using MHAJFD Fire and EMS services are: Townships of Cross Plains, Perry, Primrose and Vermont. Their respective percentages due to the 2026 operating budget obligations are: 4.9 percent. 3.7 percent, 2.9 percent and 4.6 percent.

Altschul proposed changing Section E of the Agreement from using solely the equalized valuation to a three-prong approach for budget determinations for the eight municipalities. In addition to the equalized valuation, she proposes adding in the annual fire calls as well as the population of each municipality to determine the percentages of each in relation to the entire territory served by the MHAJFD for fire services. The percentage calculation is determined by using a rolling three-year average. Her suggestion is not a novel idea as is used by numerous area-wide fire districts, such as Belleville, New Glarus, Town of New Glarus, Deerfield, Town of Deerfield, Cottage Grove, etc.

Jones opined the Village

of Mount Horeb board met in closed session in August to discuss its approach to reviewing the Agreement prior to this Committee’s meeting and the board suggested that the entire Agreement be discussed versus merely focusing on the funding section of it. In reviewing the Agreement, Jones noted that it does not include procedures for handling a situation if the budget is not approved by more than one participating municipality, a member withdrawing from the Agreement, voting powers, etc. Although the Village board did not send Jones with any specific “marching orders”, it did collectively agree no changes to the Agreement would be made for the 2027 fiscal year budget calculation.

Bachman said, “I am not a member of your committee, but this is very important to Springdale. I do not think it is too late for 2027, maybe there is a phase in over three years starting in 2027, as this is a significant dollar amount for everybody and for the Village to just say this is a big number for us and we cannot do it in 2027..... I am going to challenge you and suggest we just phase into this as a fairer arrangement starting in 2027.”

Altenbernd reiterated that the Mount Horeb board is not willing to implement any changes to the funding agreement for 2027 fiscal year using the 2026 tax levy

yet is open to considering changes for the 2028 budget year going forward. Mount Horeb, along with every WI municipality, is in the throws of budget planning for 2027. There is not time to review the entire Agreement now and, with that in mind, asked what the timeline is agreeable to the group.

Jones said, “I am certainly not expecting people to think it is fair to not have any changes for 2027”, ...we have had this long relationship which I think has been good for everybody and “we have this Agreement which requires unanimous consent” and consensus takes time and the Village’s leverage is to not agree to make any changes for the 2027 budget year.

Altschul said Springdale is going to vote no for the 2027 MHAJFD budget saying, “this is the only time of the year we have any leverage when we say we are not going to approve the budget. That is why we are doing it.”

Altenbernd, based on his previous experiences with fire district agreements, said if there was no consensus for budget approval among the district members, the staff would not be punished. They would be given their raises as budgeted and the rest of the budget rolled over with no increases until a full consensus for budget approval was reached with all the district members.

Altschul asked Mount

Horeb members what is needed for them to come to the table with a proposal for Amendment change considerations?

Jelle said “it must be something that is reasonable and not some hatchet job. We need a reasonable number coming from the Village Board, so we know where we are going with this.”

Altenbernd said, “I totally agree. I need some time for this.” He opined in his two months as Administrator he has been attending many meetings with many things going on and has little time to do things like this. Continuing, “My goal is not to slow it down but do it right, talk to the attorneys, talk to mentors and see what they’ve done in the past.”

Minter asked if each municipality is going to have its own attorney, are we going to fund it, having a pot of money, an amount that we can agree on for attorney review? She mentioned in the past, everyone from the MHAJFD agreed the Mount Horeb attorney would review the Agreement. She opined if everyone wanted to have their attorney review it or have the District attorney review it, that is going to take some time.

Rosenbaum again questioned why Mount Horeb cannot show a good faith effort by agreeing to make some small change, even ten percent, to the 2027 budget as that could go a long way

with Springdale.

Haack, said to do that would require a change to the funding in the Agreement and the Agreement cannot be changed without unanimous consent and, that is going to take time.

Everyone agreed the Agreement is unfair (in funding). The holdup is that the Village wants to review the entire Agreement before committing to any changes.

Altschul said, “if you [the other municipalities] want to agree and vote yes for the 2027 budget” do so as then the budget will pass as there will only be one no vote, meeting the Agreement requirement.

Jones said he has reviewed many other district agreements, and he has thoughts on potential changes to the MHAJFD Agreement that he will bring up with the Village Board when it meets in November. Altschul asked Jones to send her copies of them. He agreed.

After more discussion, Altenbernd said the Village Board will bring this forward for discussion in a closed session at the October meeting with discussion at the November 4 meeting. He will provide a draft of considered changes the Village Board will agree to in early December and email it to the Committee to review and discuss it at its next meeting on December 10, at 2pm, at the Public Safety building.

Sports Editor
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SPORTS

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MoHo golfers win Portage Invite

Vikings trending up as the postseason nears

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Growth.
Improvement.
Progress.

Mount Horeb's girls golf team continued to show all three qualities by winning the Portage Invitational on Sept. 9.

The Vikings fired a season-low 381 and took first in the Division 2 field. McFarland was second in Division 2 with a 389.

Mount Horeb was also third overall at the 14-team field. Milton took the overall title with a 353, just ahead of conference rival Monona Grove (374).

"Great job by our entire team at Portage," Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz said. "We have proven to be a better 18-hole team than a nine-hole team this year and that was the case once again. It was probably our most complete performance as a team this season."

Junior Ella Baber paced Mount Horeb with an 89, finishing in fourth place individually in Division 2 and in a tie for 10th overall in the 71-player field. Baber made three pars in a row on holes No. 2-4 and added pars at No. 7, 9 and 10.

Junior Harper Birkeland had a career day, posting a 96 and finishing with the ninth best Division 2 score after starting her day with a birdie on the par-four, 18th hole.

Senior Jadyn Schellpfeffer and junior Jenna Jones tied for 10th in Division 2, each finishing with rounds of 98 and posting their best 18 hole scores ever. Schellpfeffer parred holes No. 3, 7, 10, and 15, while Jones parred No. 2 and No. 9.

"The challenge for us will be to translate this performance into our two remaining nine-hole conference mini-meets,"

continued on page 19



Mount Horeb's girls golf team won the Portage Invitational on Sept. 9. From left are Jadyn Schellpfeffer, Ella Baber, MacKenzie Meinholz, Jenna Jones, and Harper Birkeland. Photo submitted



Preston Myers made his first varsity start when Mount Horeb-Barneveld fell to Beaver Dam, 41-13, on Sept. 11. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Vikings are behind the 8-ball

Mount Horeb-Barneveld drops third straight game, falls to 1-3

by DAN LARSON
Sports Reporter

BEAVER DAM — Sometimes you're the wind-shield, sometimes you're the bug.

The Mount Horeb/Barneveld football team was the latter on Sept. 11.

Nothing seemed to go right.

The Vikings turned the ball over on their first four possessions — twice on fumbles in the red zone, once on a fumbled kick-off return and another time on downs — resulting in a three touchdown deficit.

That hole was too deep for the Vikings to dig out of, although they did come close before ultimately suffering a 41-13, Badger

Small Conference loss to the Golden Beavers.

MH-B fell to 1-3 overall and 0-2 in the Badger Small Conference. And unfortunately for the Vikings, the way the game began was all too familiar.

"In the last three weeks we went to Port (Washington) and went down 22, went down 13 last week (to Edgewood) and down 20 this week. We're coming out slow," MH-B coach Bret St. Arnould said. "Why are we coming out slow? I have no idea.

"We're putting ourselves in such a terrible position. It's very difficult to come back from three scores or two scores right out of the gate. You're backing your-

continued on page 20



Something to shout about
Aliyah Chovanec (left) and Mount Horeb’s girls volleyball team defeated defending WIAA Division 2 state champion Sauk Prairie on Sept. 10, which left all of the Vikings (above) extremely happy. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo spikers down Sauk Prairie

Vikings sweep defending D2 state champs

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Sauk Prairie’s girls volleyball team won the WIAA Division 2 state championship last season. The Eagles brought back several key cogs from that team and have great expectations again.

So the fact Mount Horeb rolled past the Eagles, 25-15, 25-19, 25-21, on Sept. 10 was a giant feather in Mount Horeb’s cap.

The Vikings improved to 9-3 overall and 1-1 in the Badger Small Conference, while the Eagles fell to 2-2, 1-1.

“There are always things to clean up and continue improving,” Mount Horeb coach Josh Smelzer said. “But it was great to see the team play with confidence, compete through some tough moments, and earn a conference win in front of our home crowd.”

The first two sets were

competitive early, then the Vikings pulled away. In the third set, Sauk Prairie built an 18-14 lead, but Mount Horeb finished the set on an 11-3 run to end things in straight sets.

“One of the biggest positives was our offensive consistency,” Smelzer said. “We attacked well throughout all three sets.”

Mount Horeb finished with 36 kills and 14 errors. The Vikings also recorded

eight aces, 35 assists, eight blocks, 38 digs, and a 1.68 serve-receive rating.

Elaina Imbus had 14 kills, 10 digs, five aces and three blocks, while Claire Wagner-Leek had seven kills and two aces. Claire Casey had 17 assists, six digs and an ace for Mount Horeb, while Quinn Johnston had 14 assists.

Courtney Monroe had 11 digs and four assists, while Olivia Turk had six blocks.

Alayna Alexander had four kills and two blocks, while Lily Paquette had four kills.

“As great as it is to win a conference match, the most important takeaway for us was how we played,” Smelzer said. “Our goal was to play at a high level from start to finish and continue making that our normal. We have been practicing extremely well, and we are starting to

see more and more of the things we do in practice translate into our matches.”

• **On deck:** The Vikings were at Portage Tuesday, then host Madison Edge-

wood Thursday at 7 p.m. Mount Horeb then hosts its own invitational Saturday beginning at 9 a.m.

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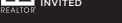
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And 3 single-family homes at 456 South Street, 607 Mill Street, and N6138 N. Lawson Drive, all in Green Lake, Wisconsin previously valued up to \$825,000, suggested opening bids as low as \$250,000.



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Tough week for soccer Vikings

Mount Horeb falls to Edgewood, ties Platteville

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's boys soccer team had one of its tougher weeks of the season last week.

And while things were far from perfect, there were some positive signs, as well.

Mount Horeb and Platteville/Lancaster played to a 1-1 tie on Sept. 8. The Vikings then fell to Madison Edgewood, 7-1, on Sept. 10.

“Overall, we played two tough games during the week,” Mount Horeb coach Rick Gage said. “The results were not quite what we hoped, but also showed us progress and growth. We will continue to work and get better.”

Here's a recap of the Vikings' week.

- **Mount Horeb 1, Plattville/Lancaster 1** — Romain Gilles scored in the 67th minute to help the Vikings earn a tie with the Hillmen.

Platteville/Lancaster had taken a 1-0 lead in the 59th minute, before Gilles struck.

“While we were disappointed to not earn a win we were happy with our ability to fight back to gain a result against a good side,” Gage said. “Over the course of the season all teams have ups and downs and it is hard to be on top of your game every night.

"I was pleased with how we responded to going down for the second game in a row. These close and challenging games will pay off as the season goes on."

Mount Horeb didn't play its best early, picked things up as the first half unfolded and the teams were scoreless at halftime.

“We talked about cleaning up our passing and pressing harder,” Gage said of his halftime message. “I felt we were giving them too much time and space to play the ball over the top or through our defense onto the fast forwards. As the second half opened we played a little better, but still not quite what I had seen in earlier games.”

The Hillmen struck in the 59th minute and took a 1-0 lead before Gilles helped the Vikings earn a draw.

In the 67th minute Vey-

ron Ruef received the ball in the middle on the right side, dribbled past a few defenders and cut into the middle of the field. Ruef then found Gilles alone on the left side of the box.

Gilles controlled the ball, beat a defender and slotted the shot home to tie up the game 1-1. Mount Horeb created a few more chances down the stretch, but was unable to score again.

“Platteville returned a lot of key players from a good team last year,” Gage said. “We knew this would be a close game.”

• **Madison Edgewood 7, Mount Horeb 1** — Gavin Schultz had a goal for the Vikings, but it wasn't nearly enough against the mighty Crusaders.

“We came into the Edgewood game a tired and beat up team,” Gage said. “We had a lot of guys play major minutes (against Platteville) and a few players not playing due to some injuries.

"Edgewood is a challenge no matter when you play them. They are a talented, well coached team.

We felt that we could play

with them and felt we were up for the challenge.”

Unfortunately for the Vikings, that didn't happen.

Edgewood had goals in the fifth and 35th minutes off of free kicks and took a 2-0 halftime lead.

"We talked at halftime about staying mentally into the game and using the game to get better," Gage said. "However the second half did not turn out how we hoped. Edgewood did a superb job of finishing a few good shots and scored a couple early in the half, then added a few more as the half went on."

Despite the lopsided final, Gage is still optimistic about his team.

"I really like the positive attitude and work ethic of the team," he said. "They are resilient and I am confident that we will grow from the games this week."

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb was at Janesville Parker Monday, then travels to Fort Atkinson Thursday at 7 p.m.

Mount Horeb is then off until Sept. 22 when it hosts Dodgeville-Mineral Point at 7 p.m.



Parker Smith and Mount Horeb's boys soccer team tied Platteville/Lancaster and lost to Madison Edgewood last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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Mount Horeb swimmers enjoy big week

Vikings down Fort, finish 2nd at Lodi Invite

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

It was another big week for Mount Horeb’s girls swimming team. The Vikings defeated Fort Atkinson, 107-63, on Sept. 8. Mount Horeb also finished in second place at the seven-team Lodi Invite on Sept. 12. Here’s a recap of those events.

MOUNT HOREB 107, FORT ATKINSON 63

Lucy Peterson had a huge night, winning both of her individual events — the 200 IM in 2 minutes, 23.04 seconds and the 100 butterfly in 1:02.96. Peterson was also part of the Vikings’ winning 200 medley relay team.

Madeline Evans put together an outstanding 500 freestyle, winning in 6:05.94, and helped Mount Horeb finish 1-2-3 in the 500. Heidi Sheahan took second in 6:29.61 and Ellie McKillips was third in 6:29.94. The Vikings also had two more sweeps. Haylie Becker, Maddie Becker and Delilah Gasch swept the 100 backstroke, while Ava Beglinger, Emma Erickson and CeCe Watson swept 100 breaststroke. “Those back-to-back sweeps were a pretty great way to close out the individual events,” Mount Horeb coach Kaitlin O’Rourke said. “Overall, it



Ellie McKillips and Mount Horeb’s girls swimming team had a terrific week, defeating Fort Atkinson and finishing second at the Lodi Invite. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

was a really exciting team win and a great showing of our depth. We had girls contributing points throughout the lineup, and it was fun to see the work they’ve been putting in start showing up on race night.” Here’s a list of Mount Horeb’s top three finishes.

- The Vikings quartet of Delilah Gasch, Ellie McKillips, Lucy Peterson and Madeline Evans won the 200-yard medley relay, while the foursome of Emma Erickson, Ava Beglinger, CeCe Watson and Heidi Sheahan was second.
- Evans won the 500-yard

freestyle, while Sheahan was second and McKillips was third.

- Haylie Becker won the 100-yard backstroke, while Maddie Becker was second and Gasch was third.
- Beglinger won the 100-yard breaststroke, while Erickson was second and Watson was third.
- Peterson won the 200-yard IM, while McKillips was second and Beglinger was third.
- Peterson also won the 100-yard butterfly, while Maddie Becker was third.
- Evans was second in the 200-yard freestyle and

Haylie Becker was third.

- Gasch was second in the 50-yard freestyle and Evy Vedo was third.
- The Vikings foursome of Evy Vedo, Beglinger, Gasch and Haylie Becker was second, while the quartet of Erickson, Nora Carroll, Maddie Becker and Watson was third.
- Mount Horeb’s 400-yard freestyle relay team of Haylie Becker, Peterson, Evans and Vedo was second, while the group of Charlotte Johnson, McKillips, Maddie Becker and Sheahan was third.
- Vedo was third in the

100-yard freestyle.

LODI INVITE

Lodi won the team title with 584 points, while the Vikings were second with 380. Monroe/New Glarus (306), Platteville/Lancaster (284) and Portage (206) rounded out the top five. “Second place at Lodi is a big result for this group, and a huge confidence booster,” O’Rourke said. “I’m incredibly proud of how they competed. We’re continuing to learn a lot about this team every time we race, and I’m really ex-

cited about where we can go from here.” Among the highlights:

- Lucy Peterson won both of her individual events — the 100 butterfly in 1:01.11 and the 500 freestyle in 5:25.50.
- “Perhaps even more exciting, those swims are already within about one second in the fly and five seconds in the 500 of what she swam at state last November — and we’re only in September,” O’Rourke said. “Her 500 was especially impressive, with incredibly consistent splits throughout the race.
- The Vikings’ 400 freestyle relay of Lucy Peterson, Madeline Evans, Haylie Becker and CeCe Watson finished second in 4:20.75.
- Haylie Becker was fourth in the 200 freestyle (2:19.43) and fourth in the 500 freestyle with a lifetime best (6:17.53).
- Maggie Coe finished sixth in the 100 breaststroke (1:22.27), while Ellie McKillips and Ava Beglinger gave us three Mount Horeb swimmers in the top nine of that event.

“We had a few injuries and illness so this result is even more impressive,” O’Rourke said. “Our depth really showed. We continued picking up points throughout the meet, including both A and B relays. “What I loved most was that this wasn’t just one or two swimmers carrying the day. We had girls scoring throughout the lineup, racing in some different events, and stepping up in a true invitational format.”

Mount Horeb’s girls win River Valley Invite

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls cross country team won the Large School Division at the 20-team River Valley Invite on Sept. 12. The Vikings finished with 85 points, while Waunakee was second with 98. Madison West (111), Monroe (127) and Platteville (162) rounded out the top five. Mount Horeb sophomore Isla Odgers won the individual title, finishing the 5,000-meter course in 18:46.1 seconds. Vikings’ senior Willa Vigliotta was third in 19:37.8, senior Julia Straka was seventh (20:06.2), se-

nior Maeve True was 21st (21:08.0) and junior Kira Buttner was 53rd (22:30.6). DeForest won the boys’ title with 75 points, while Madison La Follette (80) and Monroe (115) rounded out the top three at the 18-team tournament. Mount Horeb’s boys were 10th with 263 points. Sam Wyse led the Vikings with a 32nd place finish in 17:51.90. Liam Crolla was 37th (18:01.4), Jaxon Hughes was 55th (18:38.1), senior Nathaniel Sherven was 68th (19:05.6) and Blake Losenegger was 72nd (19:14.4).



Mount Horeb’s Willa Vigliotta (9082) and Isla Odgers (9079) helped the Vikings win the River Valley Invite on Sept. 12. Photo courtesy of Aaron Jacobus

GOLF

continued from page 15

Krentz said. “There is less margin for error playing nine holes, so will need to be ready to go from the first hole in those meets. This is the time of the year when you want to be playing your best golf and hopefully, we can continue do just that moving forward.”

BADGER SMALL MINI MEET

Mount Horeb tied for fourth place at a conference mini-meet held at Koshkonong Mounds Country Club on Sept. 8.

Madison Edgewood won the team title with a 166, followed by McFarland (188) and host Fort Atkinson (198). Mount Horeb and Portage both shot 201.

“It was a bit of an uneven performance for our team,” Krentz said. “Heading into the day, I had hoped we would be able to break 200 at Koshkonong Mounds, and while we were close to doing so, scoring was

relatively low across the board and we could not keep pace.”

Schellpfeffer led the Vikings with a 47, tying for 10th place individually in the 35-player field. Playing the back nine, Schellpfeffer parred both par three’s — No. 10 and 13 — and added another par on the 18th hole.

Baber finished with a 48 and tied for 13th, recording pars at No. 14 and 18. Senior MacKenzie Meinholz had a career-low round of 50 to tie for 15th.

And both Birkeland and Jones shot 56s to complete the scoring for Mount Horeb.

“I thought we hit the ball well off the tee and did a decent job putting, but left a number of shots out there inside of 100 yards, especially in the 40-to-70-yard range,” Krentz said. “That was the difference in our team being able to shoot in the low to mid 190’s and finishing in the top three on the day.”



Ella Baber and Mount Horeb’s girls golf team are playing extremely well with the postseason just around the corner. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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CHURCH NOTES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Thanks for reading the paper!

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TOWN OF PRIMROSE NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Planning Commission meeting for September 2026 will take place at 8468 County Road A, Verona WI, on Monday, September 21st, 2026, 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: 9/17/26 **WNAXLP**

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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
(608) 772-3939
Bar Number 1000988

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FOOTBALL

continued from page 15
self into the corner.”

Vikings senior running back Eli Maier, who rushed for 210 yards and a touchdown, but was responsible for both of the red zone fumbles, has an idea why his team has started so slow the last three weeks following an impressive Week 1 victory over defending WIAA Division 3 state champion Grafton.

“It’s probably because we’re soft. We’re not a physical team,” Maier said. “We know what we need to do to change it, but we don’t. I guess next week we’re going to find out if we do.”

MH-B hopes to get rolling this Friday when it hosts Fort Atkinson (1-3, 0-2) at 7 p.m.

St. Arnauld knew the first four games of the season would be a challenge — facing Grafton and Port Washington (combined 7-1 on the season so far) followed by conference games against league title contenders Edgewood and Beaver Dam (combined 6-2 overall, and both 2-0 in the league).

He also didn’t think his team would regress along the way.

“It’s hard to believe that the team that we had against Grafton is the team that we’re looking at right now,” St. Arnauld said. “And I think that we’re just feeling sorry for ourselves is what it is.”

“Ultimately, the buck stops with us as the coaching staff. We’re the ones who have to fix the problem. Sometimes it requires a band-aid and sometimes it requires precise surgery. And we’re at the precise surgery part in the process.”

The Vikings were behind the 8-ball from the get-go Friday night against Beaver Dam (3-1, 2-0).

Senior running back Brock Hiley’s 35-yard catch was the big play on a 9-play, 80-yard game-opening drive for the Golden Beavers that Hiley capped off with a 6-yard TD run to make it 7-0 just 4 minutes, 11 seconds into the game.

But the Vikings answered — sort of.

Starting from their own 5-yard-line, they marched 85 yards to Beaver Dam’s 10 before Maier fumbled, squandering the scoring chance.

Two plays later, Beaver Dam senior Ashtyn Seifert burst up the middle untouched and raced 90 yards to paydirt to make it 13-0 prior to the extra point being blocked.

The Vikings fumbled the ensuing kickoff, and after two intermediate runs and a pair of false starts, Beavers’ senior tight end Finn Herman caught a 15-yard TD

pass from senior quarterback Jaxon Ladron to make it 20-0 with 51 seconds gone in the second quarter.

The Vikings went for it on fourth-and-4 from their own 40 on the next drive, but came up short, turning the ball over to Beaver Dam in favorable field position.

MH-B blocked Cole Hemling’s 31-yard field goal try, though, avoiding further disaster. However, two plays later Maier fumbled at the end of a 40-yard run to Beaver Dam’s 20 and the Golden Beavers took over on offense again.

“We thought we could move the ball, which we did. We just shot ourselves in the foot,” St. Arnauld said of scoring just 13 points despite 302 yards of offense. “There were multiple mistakes that were made where you could go back and say (if they didn’t happen), maybe things are different. But that’s football. You can’t make mistakes.”

“There’s so many things that lead to losses and wins in this game, and turnovers are one of them. You can’t turn the ball over and expect to win the ball game. You just can’t.”

The Vikings got their only takeaway of the game two plays after Maier’s fumble, an interception by senior Cullen Olson near midfield.

That set up their first touchdown of the night, a perfect strike from sophomore quarterback Preston Myers to junior wide receiver Django Christian racing down the left hash marks for a 40-yard score.

Myers hit Christian in stride at the 10-yard-line and Christian did the rest, making it 20-6 with 1:20 to go in the half before the two-point conversion attempt failed.

Myers was making the first start of his career and completed 12-of-20 passes for 86 yards, the touchdown to Christian and didn’t throw an interception.

“We felt that Preston played really well in the second half against Edgewood and we wanted to give him the nod tonight,” St. Arnauld said of Myers, who helped MH-B rally from behind in a 23-18 loss to the Crusaders, finishing 10-of-13 for 143 yards and a TD in that contest.

“We wanted to air it out, and Preston has a great arm — not that (junior) Harvey (Hellen) doesn’t. But we thought that Preston really showed us some promise last week.”

St. Arnauld added: “The QB (competition) is far from over. We’ve got to find a chemistry that works.”

As far as going for it on fourth down, St. Arnauld said the decision was easy.

“I really felt like it was a ‘break glass in case of emergency’ scenario,” he said. “If it was a one score



Henry DeRosier (34) and Mount Horeb-Barneveld’s football team hope to get back on track this week when they host Fort Atkinson. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

game we would have punted there. But I was like, ‘We’ve got to go down and score. We’ve got to do something.’

“We were struggling on defense, the offense needed to get going. We needed points on the board.”

The Vikings put more points on the board immediately after halftime, too.

Maier’s 2-yard TD run capped a nine-play, 80-yard drive — one in which he rushed for 72 yards — that pulled MH-B within 20-13 just 2:25 into the third quarter. But Beaver Dam punched right back, answering with a 67-yard scoring drive that Hiley finished with a 4-yard TD run.

That gave the Beavers a 27-13 lead with 5:49 left in the third, putting the Vikings right back on their heels. And they couldn’t shift momentum back in their favor, turning it over on downs on fourth-and-6 at midfield.

On the next play, Hiley raced for a 51-yard TD, cutting his run back at the 20-yard line to avoid defenders. That gave Beaver Dam a 34-13 lead with 1:57 remaining in the third and all but sealed MHB’s fate.

The Vikings never threatened again, punting on each of their next two possessions.

So now the Vikings’ backs are against the wall.

Now, they’re forced to do some soul searching in the hopes of keeping their season from coming completely unglued.

Asked what it will take to turn their fortunes, Maier paused for a long time before answering.

“I think it just takes everybody buying into the program and believing,” Maier said. “We know what we can be — and I’ve said this two weeks in a row — but we know what we can be, everyone just needs to buy in. That’s what will change the narrative.”

St. Arnauld agreed.

He knows the season is far from over, but he also knows his team’s margin for error has decreased dramatically over the course of the last three weeks.

“You can sit here and hit the panic button all you want to. I’m not hitting any panic, but we ultimately have to figure out who we want to be,” St. Arnauld

said. “It comes down to the coaching staff and the seniors and on down, what decision we want to make — who we want to be remembered as — because we have a lot of season left. There’s five games left in the season.”

“Our mentality is we’re never out of it, but our mindset needs to shift. We need to get tougher mentally. And if the kids are on board with that, then we can turn it around these last five games.”

A week ago, the Vikings felt the same pressure. Now, it’s amplified.

Now the Vikings know this has to be the week they get things sorted out.

“After last week, we got the call but we didn’t answer,” Maier said. “So yes, this will be our turning point.”

“And if it’s not ...”

Sept. 11
Beaver Dam 41, Mount Horeb/Barneveld 13
MHB 0 6 7 0 — 13
Beaver Dam 13 7 14 7 — 41
BD — Brock Hiley 6 run (Cole Hemling kick).

BD — Ashtyn Seifert 90 run (kick blocked).

BD — Finn Herman 15 pass from Jaxon Ladron (Hemling kick).

MHB — Django Christian 40 pass from Preston Myers (run failed).

MHB — Eli Maier 2 run (Cullen Olson kick).

BD — Hiley 4 run (Hemling kick).

BD — Hiley 51 run (Hemling kick).

BD — Hiley 39 run (Hemling kick).

TEAM STATISTICS
First downs — MHB 14, BD 19. Total yards — MHB 302, BD 440. Rushing (Att.-Yds.) -- MHB 33-216, BD 44-378. Passing yards — MHB 86, BD 62. Passing (Comp.-Att.-Int.) — MHB 12-20-0, BD 5-8-1. Fumbles-lost — MHB 3-3, BD 0-0. Penalties-yds. — MHB 6-40, BD 5-45.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
Rushing (Att.-Yds.) — MHB: Eli Maier 31-210. BD Brock Hiley 23-208, Ashtyn Seifert 8-120. Passing (Att.-Comp.-Int.-Yds.) — MHB: Preston Myers 12-20-0-86). BD: Jaxon Ladron 4-7-1-0), Ashtyn Seifer 1-1-35. Receiving (Rec.-Yds.) — MHB: Django Christian 4-42. BD: Brock Hiley 2-43.

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