



✉ **adsales12@fingerpub.com**



Gymnasts continue tradition of kindness

The Mt. Horeb High School Gymnastics Team continued its tradition of making and delivering valentines for the residents at BeeHive Homes and Ingleside Communities. “Giving back is a meaningful way to reinforce the life skills we value— cooperation, teamwork, confidence and respect or self and others. It’s so rewarding to see the smiles on the residents’ faces as well as the smiles on our gymnasts’ faces,” commented head coach Martha Koller Faust. “We coaches are proud of our athletes for carrying on this tradition and for the kindness they show beyond the gym.”



Progressives hold Valentine’s Day rally

More than 60 area residents assembled on West Main Street in Mount Horeb. The theme of the gathering was Valentine’s Day. Many had signs highlighting love of democracy and love of country. The event again highlighted “the warning signs of fascism.” Organizers said that observers were “left to contemplate how the signs applied to the the times we are currently in.”

Blue Mounds will change its election process; clerk to retire

By Abigail Karbusicky
Mount Horeb Mail

The February Blue Mounds village board meeting had a packed agenda, with discussions about finding a new clerk, the election process, the new summer market and a candidate caucus.

The board decided the village wouldn’t organize the candidate debate, but would allow it to happen at village hall.

Trustee Jeff Lange said he didn’t think the village board should be responsible for organizing political events.

“It is not the job of the board to introduce potential candidates who might be on the board,” Lange said. “I completely disagree with this whole discussion process and I don’t think any of us should have anything to do with any future candidates as far as to set up a forum for them to go politicking.”

Village resident Audra Anderson said she could run it and reach out to the candidates ahead of time with questions for the forum.

The board agreed Anderson could reach out to the candidates to set a date, and the forum could be held at village hall.

The village board also agreed to change the election process for board members from a caucus to nominations.

Residents asked the village board at last month’s meeting to change the method, after expressing concerns about the caucus process. The village would then need to hold a primary to narrow down the candidates, and Village President Paul Baum said this could work more smoothly with the influx of candidates in



Michek

recent years.

Longtime Clerk/Treasurer Mary Jo Michek is retiring, and her last day will be April 30. The village board planned to post the job on multiple websites.

The board also decided to have the Dream Maker’s Market on the fourth Sunday of the month from June to September from 4 to 7 p.m. at Mounds Park.

And Baum gave an update on the website. He said the village is still looking at vendors for the new website, and is hoping to use a template that the village can customize to save costs and effort.

Finally, the village board is working on the language of an ordinance regulating inspections for fat, oils and grease in restaurants and establishments serving food.

Baum said the reason for the ordinance was making sure everything is set up properly to regulate fat, oils and grease, and to ensure the village’s right to inspect for these materials.

Lange said he had an issue with how the ordinance was drafted and the language “at all times,” which he said was too vague and could give inspectors too much power to show up at any time without notice.

Baum agreed the village should table the ordinance and take time to consider the draft and come up with any feedback.



— Winter Farmers Market —

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Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- Feb. 24, 1886

Good music of four pieces at the rink Wednesday night.

A brother of our townsman, L.H. Lewis, whose initials we are unable to learn, called upon his brother after a five-years absence.

A couple of young Madisonians arrived with their ladies to attend the masquerade and dance last Friday evening. Saturday morning the two ladies were breakfasting at the Commercial House, sad was their appearance for their escorts had left them to care for themselves as best they could. The east-bound passenger relieved them from their unforeseen situation.

130 Years Ago- Feb. 20, 1896

Carloads upon carloads of hay are being shipped in to supply the demand created by the scarcity of this article.

The public school entertainment at the Opera Hall last Saturday evening was a grand affair, well patronized and highly interesting. The little entertainers did remarkably well and showed no lack of thorough training. The lengthy program was interesting from beginning to finish. Much credit is due the teachers for their untiring work and justly merited the large attendance and hearty applause.

The masquerade ball last Friday evening at the opera hall was a swell affair, and a success financially and especially socially.

Young men, don't swear.

There is no occasion for it outside a printing office, where it is useful when the paper is behind time. It also comes in handy in proof reading and indispensable when the ink works badly and the press begins to buck. It is sometime brought into use when the foreman is mad, and it has been known to entirely remove that tired feeling of the editor, when he looks over the paper after. Isn't it printed. Outside a printing office it is a foolish habit.-Sickle.

120 Years Ago- Feb. 22, 1906

A large crowd was present Sunday at the temperance meeting, and we all got our share.

Eggs are bringing 11¢ per dozen. An overproduction is a cause of the low price.

Oscar Jylland has purchased the C.A. Ballard blacksmith shop and took possession at once. He is a first class workman.

The Highland bowling team was here Saturday and met their Waterloo at the hands of our local team, comprising of O.P. Berg, F.J. Linder, J.H. Harmon H. Gier and F. W. Kessler.

Nick Zweifel, one of Primrose's substantial farmers, made our sanctum his annual visit last Saturday while in town for a load of building material for a new cheese house at their factory that will be built in the spring.

Carrier A. O. Bakken is the inventor of a very handy contrivance in which he carries the mail. It is convenient, safe and waterproof.

The Mt. Horeb Mining Co. have leased over 1000 acres for prospecting. It is rumored there

is to be a new company started here.

Herman Esser is now on his own farm again, which he acted two years ago on account of his failing health, and now has regained and we hope permanently.

The law in regard to paying of taxes by telephone companies was changed in the last legislature so that 85 per cent is payable in the village where the exchange is saturate. Our local company pays \$48.35 into our village treasury this year.

110 Years Ago- Feb. 25, 1916

Married at high noon Wednesday, February 23, 1916, at the Lutheran parsonage in Mount Horeb, Rev. Mostrom officiating, Johnnie Thousand and Esther Fredrickson, They will settle down to housekeeping on the August Thousand farm.

Anthony Zimmerman rented the Dunn house in the west part of town and will keep bachelor quarters maybe, although this is leap year and Anton may be induced to change his mode of living.

A pleasant gathering was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. W. Anderson town of Springdale Thursday of last week when about 250 self invited guests gathered at their pleasant home to remind the worthy couple of their 25th wedding anniversary, well filled baskets were brought and a feast was enjoyed by all present, so much so that they stayed after serving of both evening and midnight supper to enjoy the festivities.

You can't expect a woman

to get much enjoyment out of the church service if there are at least three women in her row who are wearing more expensive hats than her own.

Death has called away another of our worthy citizens, a pioneer and a patriot, John L. Malone, age 79.

Miss Lizzie Kahl is working in Olson's Restaurant where she will take the place of Sophie (who?). Well this is leap year.

100 Years Ago- Feb. 19, 1926

Frank Googan won the quilt given by the Malone School Mothers' Club. It's a good start, Frank.

It's too bad that some of our good shots in Mount Horeb don't take care of that bunch of dogs that chase cars on Main Street.

Mrs. Herman Eggum went to Madison Tuesday morning where she is taking Turkish Baths twice a week for rheumatism.

Bobolink Guaranteed Silk Hosiery is on sale at Hoff's Store at \$1.17 a pair.

100 Years Ago- Feb. 16, 1926

Mt. Horeb Times

The big mask ball given by the American Legion last Wednesday evening was a huge success as the Parkway was packed to capacity with the merry makers. The success of the venture is due to the efforts of Ollie Statz, Ernest Schaller and Roy Sommers whose out to put on a real mask ball and were well rewarded for their labors.

A new price list for Ford

passenger cars, including a material reduction in the price of closed cars, was announced this afternoon by Edsel. B. Ford president of the Ford Motor Car Company. The biggest reduction is made in the price of the Ford or Sedan which is dropped from \$660 to \$565, reduction of \$95.

80 Years Ago- Feb. 21, 1946

S.R. Martin & Smesrud, local livestock dealers, report the purchase of a bull weighing over 2,625 pounds this week from the Dane County Breeders Co-op. This is the largest animal they have ever had to go over the scales in Mount Horeb and it brought the Co-op over \$300. The bull has been kept at the Fred Wittwer farm near Mount Horeb.

The Mithus building, corner of Main and North Second Streets, is now being razed. The building was erected in 1863 by Jule Mithus, deceased. John Mueller has bought the lumber, which will be used to build a home and is taking down the structure.

Dr. H.M. Buckner, Dodgeville, formerly of the Buckner hospital in Mount Horeb, has been appointed physician for the Iowa County Asylum and Home and has taken over his duties.

60 Years Ago- Feb. 17, 1966

Karl Baertschy, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Baertschy died about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday of an apparent heart attack while practicing basketball.

Henry Eckel and Bill

O'Connell of the Blue Mounds euchre team, are the first pair to put a perfect score of 120 this season, and helped their team to defeat Buechners by 27 points.

Paulette Schmidt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Schmidt, has been named recipient of the Mt. Horeb High School D.A.R. Good Citizenship award.

50 years Ago- Feb. 19, 1976

Gary W. Hankel, age 33, died unexpectedly Tuesday, Feb. 10, at his home in Madison.

Eight area residents staff the new RSVP Driver Escort Program, which recently began in Mount Horeb. They are LeRoy Rothmann, Steve Jacobson, Otto Kahl, Henry Hanneman and Herb Einsoner and coordinator Clara Holloway.

Thirty-six Mount Horeb and Barneveld area youths competed the DNR Snowmobile Safety Course with trial test Saturday.

30 Years Ago- Feb. 22, 1996

Mary Hoffmaster, age 74, died on Friday, Feb. 16, 1996 at the Ingleside Nursing Home, Mount Horeb.

Cliff and Palma Mueller, Mount Horeb will celebrate their 25th anniversary with a mass and family dinner, Feb. 24 at the New Glarus Hotel.

Mark and Roni Esser of Mount Horeb announce the birth of their daughter, Heidi Marie, born on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at Meriter Hospital, Madison.

Ruth Bakken Gerke



MOUNT HOREB - Ruth Bakken Gerke passed away at home after a long illness on February 6, 2026. She met her challenge with courage and grace.

Ruth was born the youngest child to Irvin and Esther (Nygaard) Bakken. She and her husband, Greg, were married for over 50 years. Ruth was a lifelong resident of Mount Horeb, except for a short stay in Janesville. She was a graduate of UW-Whitewater and was offered a position at the United Nations as an interpreter.

Before working for Cuna Mutual (TruStage), Ruth

worked for the Department of Revenue. She received 100% on her state exam and was told only a handful of test takers had ever received that high of a test score. Ruth worked 38 years for Cuna Mutual (TruStage) in various departments, ending in the legal area. She was the manager for Licensing and Compliance for the field sales force. During those years, she gained many friends who kept in touch with her even after retirement and some until the end.

Ruth enjoyed gardening, reading and watching the birds at their feeders. She was an avid fan of the Badgers and Packers. Ruth really enjoyed visiting the casinos throughout the Midwest. She and Greg loved to travel and visited all the Nordic countries many times and along the way, visiting relatives. They also traveled to northern Africa, Spain, Portugal, and all of Europe and Russia, sometimes making two trips in the same summer.

During Ruth's illness

at home, she was always thrilled when family and friends would stop by for a visit. She loved all of their stories and was reminded about all the mischievous activities she and her neighborhood friends and nearby cousins would get into as young children. Ruth was excited when a cousin or nephew would return from their trip so they could compare stories with the experiences that she and Greg had in the same location years earlier.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Greg Gerke; brother, Roger (Betty) Bakken; sister, Sharon Saari;

sister-in-law, Mary Ellen Bakken; brothers-in-law, Steve (Jeanette) Gerke and Jonathan Gerke; step mother-in-law, Linda Gerke; step brothers-and-sisters-in-law, Randy Swiggum, Lisa (Tom) Mulderink, Lori (Bob) Koeritzer and Lynn (Chad) Hembel; and of course her beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and many friends. Ruth said she loved having her sister visit nearly every day. She was preceded in death by her parents, Irvin and Esther; brother, Milton Bakken; father-in-law, Franklin Gerke and his first wife, Virginia; and brother-

in-law, Melvin Saari.

Ruth wished to have no service or funeral, instead a pastor came to the house more than once to help her find peace and comfort. She said, "I will miss all of you terribly, especially my fur babies." She loved her kitties.

The family would like to thank Senior Helpers for their excellent care seven days a week. The family would especially like to ex-

press their deepest appreciation to Agrace HospiceCare for their compassion and medical care during Ruth's long battle.

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

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Local Register of Historic Places has first property approved by commission

By ERIN HERNDON
Mount Horeb Mail

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) approved the first property nomination for the newly created Local Register of Historic Places. The HPC additionally approved their December 2025 meeting minutes and a motion to recommend the Village contract Urbana Preservation & Planning, LLC to complete an intensive historic prop-

erty survey of the Village. They also continued their review of the revised Certificate of Appropriate Application form.

Mark and Barb Johnson submitted an application for their property to be nominated for the Local Register of Historic Places for Structures, Sites, or Entities. In their application, the Johnsons included historic and current photos of the property, 108-110 E Main Street

and detailed its historical significance.

“We’re very proud of the building. It’s been a labor of love,” Mark Johnson said. “We had no idea when we purchased the building in 2007 of its historic significance.”

While the site has been owned by the Johnsons since 2007, it was originally constructed in 1885 by Dr. Nels Christian Evans and served as the Village’s

first pharmacy. In 1927, Dr. Evans’ youngest son, Walter Evans, added a second two-story section to the building which served as a storefront for the family’s dairy products. Johnson said they collaborated with the Driftless Historium & Mount Horeb Area Historical Society to ensure rehabilitation of 108 E Main Street honored the original design while still meeting its modern needs.

“I got input from Histo-

rium staff as we focused on the building’s importance to downtown, its history and the fact that it was a drug store for almost 100 years,” Johnson said. “We spent \$140,000 on remodeling the building. Will we get that back? Maybe, but I don’t really care, because I want it to be here 100 years from now.”

Destinee Udelhoven, HPC member and the Historium’s Executive Director,

said she worked closely with the Johnsons on the project. At the January 21 meeting, she motioned that 108-110 E Main Street be added to the local register.

“It was a great collaboration and a good product,” Udelhoven said. “I’m supportive of the application.”

The Historic Preservation Commission next meets Feb. 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Department heads provide updates

By ERIN HERNDON
Mount Horeb Mail

Mount Horeb Utilities department heads reported to the Utility Commission on their November and December 2025 activities. The Commission met for their monthly meeting Jan. 13, 2026, receiving updates from the Electric Department, Water Department and Wastewater Department. They additionally discussed the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG) and approved their Nov. 11 meeting minutes and finances.

Electric Department Report

Electric Superintendent Jordan Schmitz presented his report for November and December 2025. In his report, Schmitz said the department completed seven new underground services

in November and three in December. Additionally, he said 2025 saw 30 outages overall, with two occurring in November and zero in December.

“Knock on wood, but right now, we are at a month and a half with no outages. I think it has been 13 years since we have gone two months straight, so that is my goal right now,” Superintendent Schmitz said. “This is the one thing where I think you guys can really see the difference that we are making.”

Schmitz said the department documented 1,069-meter outages in 2025 compared to 6,904 meters impacted in 2024. He said the department efficiently responded to callouts, with the annual average response time being 12.4333 minutes. He said he hopes continued tree maintenance in 2026

will further decrease outages and callouts in the new year

“In 2025, 780 of those were from one outage, and it was a tree on North A,” Schmitz said. “The crew started tree trimming. To keep outages down, I do want to cut a little bit more than normal because we’ve been super busy. Be kind to the crew, if you don’t want a lot taken off your tree, they will listen to you.”

Water Department Report

During the Water Department’s portion of the meeting, Water Superintendent Brian Schult said in November the team worked on switching out radio read boxes to flex boxes. They also rebuilt a North 8th Street fire hydrant that was hit by a car and finished the current phase of the Nesheim project.

“The Nesheim project has been completed in November, with final pavement put down,” Superintendent Schult said. “After talking with the Smith Group, it sounds like the final walk-through will take place in April to get a punch list together on anything that was missed or needs attention.”

In his December report, Shult shared that the department completed water main testing, cross connection inspections and end-of-year water department inventory, including the tallying of water meters, flex boxes, compression fittings and repair clamps.

“We worked on doing our cross-connection inspections for commercial properties and also for public authority properties,” Schult said. “Our residential cross connection inspections are completed as we change out

water meters throughout the year in the Village.”

They additionally completed their monthly bacteria and fluoride split samples and repaired one service leak in November as well as two water main breaks.

Wastewater Department Report

The meeting wrapped up with Wastewater Superintendent Michael Brace sharing an overview of the Wastewater Department’s November and December 2025 activity.

According to his monthly reports, the department received three callouts over November and December. Additionally, the wastewater plant ran well through both months and operated below all permitted limits.

“As weather has brought us back inside, we reviewed

all of our televising reports and manhole inspection reports from the year to better identify priority areas of concern,” Superintendent Brace said. “We identified whether that is to replace linings, manhole rehabs, or what not.”

Brace said while in December the team cleaned 440 feet of sanitary main to clear the backup on Front Street, they did not get any manhole inspection or televising done due to the weather. He also said L.W. Allen Pump Systems completed the annual flow meter calibration, and both influent and effluent meters at the facility were calibrated and confirmed to be in good working order.

“This has to be completed in the year, and we got it done on December 31,” Brace said.

Police Report

JANUARY MONTHLY SUMMARY

- 911 Disconnect – 9
- Accidents – 11
 - Accident – 6
 - Accident Hit & Run – 1
 - Accident Private Property – 3
 - Accident Property Damage - 1
- Alarm – 4
- Animal Complaint Stray – 2
- Assist Citizen – 13
- Assist Citizen – Vehicle Unlock - 7
- Assist DCSO – 18
- Assist Fire – 11
- Assist Other Agency - 8
- Check Person - 12
- Check Property – 68
- Death Investigation – 1
 - Officers were dispatched to the report of a deceased hospice patient. A Do Not Resuscitate Order was in

place. Officers stayed on scene until a hospice nurse arrived and were then released from the scene.

Disabled Vehicle – 6 Disturbance Call – 1

An officer was dispatched to the report of a disturbance that occurred outside of the school. Contact was made with the reporting party who stated the suspect followed them to the parking lot, got out of her car, and yelled profanities at the reporting party. Footage review captured the disturbance and the suspect was identified. Contact was made with the suspect who stated she did yell profanities at the reporting party. The suspected was issued a municipal citation for Disorderly Conduct.

Domestic/Family Trouble – 1

Police were dispatched to a local hotel for the report of a disturbance. Contact

was made with the victim and the suspect in this case. The suspect appeared to be intoxicated and admitted to striking the victim. The suspect was arrested for Battery and Disorderly Contact, and transported to the Dane County Jail.

EMS Assist – 53 Exposure – 1

Police were dispatched to an apartment building for the report of a male subject who was in a common area of the building naked. The reporting party stated that this has happened before. Contact was made with the male subject and Adult Protective Services. This case is inactive awaiting for the subject’s case manager to call back

Follow Up – 3 Foot Patrol/Check Property – 43 Found Property – 1 Fraud – 1

A resident of the community reported being scammed out of money, and reported that she was still getting messages from the unknown suspect. The suspect claimed to be from Spectrum and requested the victim purchase gift cards and give him the pin numbers off the gift cards. It was explained to the victim that this was a scam and she was helped with blocking the phone number. Due to an activation fee being paid from her bank account, she was advised to check with her bank about closing the account and to monitor for suspicious activity.

Information – 39 Landlord/Tenant Trouble – 1

A resident of an apartment building called to report that the landlord has not shoveled the sidewalks at the apartment complex. It was

explained to the caller that those sidewalks are private property and there is not an ordinance that can be enforced for private property. It was explained that this was a civil matter between landlord and tenant.

Local Ordinance Violation – 3 Monitoring / Extra Patrol – 1

Parking Tickets – 104 Phone Call – 13 Private Property Parking Complaint – 1 Repossession – 1 Residential Burglary – 1

Police responded to a residence for the report of a residential burglary, where the suspect was believed to still be on scene. Contact was made with the property owner who stated the suspect was in the garage. Entrance was made in to the garage where a male was found. The male was

arrested for Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Trespassing, Criminal Damage to Property and Stalking. The suspect was transported to the Dane County Jail.

Safety Hazard – 4 School Related

- Assist Citizen – 1
- Bullying / Harassment – 1
- Juvenile Complaint – 1
- Juvenile Information – 2
- Traffic Incident – 2

Special Event / Community Relations – 2

Community Engagement at a boys basketball game.

Officers checked in on a youth basketball tournament.

Suspicious Person – 1 Suspicious Vehicle – 4 Traffic Arrest – 17 Traffic Complaint – 11 Traffic Incident – 4 Traffic Warning - 115

Tax Tips: New deductions, familiar deadlines

Local tax expert explains what's changed, what hasn't, and how to avoid common filing mistakes

By Alec Finger
Mount Horeb Mail

With tax season approaching, local taxpayers will see several notable changes when filing their 2025 returns, including new deductions for seniors, overtime pay and service industry workers, according to Brian Kerl, a senior accountant with Kerl Tax & Accounting Solutions.

Kerl, who has worked in accounting for 28 years, said this filing season will look noticeably different from last year due to several federal tax law changes.

“This year will be a lot different with all the different deductions we have,” Kerl said. “The big three are the no tax on tips, the overtime deduction and the new senior deduction.”

One of the most signifi-

cant updates for 2025 is a new senior deduction, which Kerl expects to impact the greatest number of taxpayers.

“For individuals over 65, there’s a \$6,000 deduction for single filers and \$12,000 for married couples filing jointly,” he said. “That’s probably the one we’ll see the most.”

Another change affects qualifying service industry workers, who will no longer pay federal taxes on tips. However, Kerl noted that this applies only to certain industries.

“You have to be in a specific line of work to qualify,” he said. “It’s not something that applies to everyone.”

The new overtime deduction may be the most complex change for taxpayers and preparers alike. Kerl explained that the IRS does not currently require employers to list qualifying overtime amounts on W-2 forms for 2025.

For time-and-a-half overtime, the gross overtime amount must be divided by three to determine the deductible portion. For double-time overtime, the amount is divided by four. Beginning in 2026, employers will be required to report overtime amounts on W-2 forms using a special code.

Kerl emphasized that having all necessary documents ready before filing is one of the most important steps taxpayers can take.

“Just making sure you have all your year-end documents and really have an understanding of what you have out there,” he said. “W-2s, 1099s, dividend statements, interest statements — everything.”

Most taxpayers will take the standard deduction, which remains high, meaning fewer people will itemize. For those who do itemize, mortgage interest and property taxes are typically the main deductions.

Kerl warned that missing documents can cause long-term problems.

“If you forget a document and don’t report it, you probably won’t hear from the IRS for about two years,” he said. “And when you do hear from them, there’s usually interest and penalties involved.”

Kerl strongly recommends electronic filing and direct deposit for refunds.

“Everything electronic just works so much easier,” he said. “Paper filing can take four to six months to process.”

For taxpayers who owe money but can’t pay in full by the April 15 deadline, Kerl said the most important thing is still to file on time.

“At a minimum, get the return filed — that avoids failure-to-file penalties,” he said. “You can set up an installment agreement with the IRS, but interest will still accrue.”

Extensions are available

until Oct. 15, but they only extend the filing deadline, not the payment deadline.

Wisconsin taxpayers will also see several state-level changes. The state enacted a new retirement income exclusion of up to \$24,000 for individuals who are 67 or older or turn 67 during the tax year.

“That’s a big one for Wisconsin,” Kerl said.

The state also increased its adoption credit from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and raised the homestead credit to \$5,130.

While many people with simple returns can file on their own using tax software, Kerl said professional help can be valuable for those with more complex situations.

“If you have multiple income streams or you’re going through a transition year — like retirement — that’s when it really makes sense to talk to someone,” he said.

Kerl’s practice offers

more than just tax preparation, including accounting services, QuickBooks support and year-round planning for businesses and individuals.

“I don’t just do taxes,” he said. “Planning throughout the year can help prevent surprises when tax time comes.”

Kerl also warned taxpayers to be cautious of tax-related scams.

“The IRS does not send emails — ever,” he said. “They contact you by mail. If you get an email or a phone call claiming to be the IRS, it’s almost always a scam.”

If there’s one takeaway Kerl hopes taxpayers remember this season, it’s to slow down and be thorough.

“Take your time, make sure you have all your documents, and read everything carefully,” he said. “In the long run, you’ll be fine.”

Indoor Farmers Market takes place Saturday morning

The Mt. Horeb Farmers Market will be holding its last indoor market for the winter season this Saturday, February 21, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 315

E. Main Street between 9 a.m. and noon. There will be plenty of parking both on Main St. and in the large parking lot behind the church. Enter the building from

either the front or the back and follow the signs.

Vendors at the market will be offering a wide range of products including seasonal vegetables,

pickled vegetables, beef, pork, lamb, chicken, eggs, sourdough bread, gluten free baked goods, pastries, pies, cookies, jams, pie fillings, dog treats, Middle Eastern

salads and dips, and handmade soap.

For more information inquire at mthorebfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

Getting started with Native Shrubs

Want to learn more about native shrubs and what they can do for your property? Join Master Naturalist Peter Marshall for “Getting

Started with Native Shrubs” on Thursday February 26th at 7 PM at the Mt Horeb Senior Center located at 107 N Grove Street. His

presentation will focus on the important roles native plants can play in your back yard or back forty. They can provide shelter and food for

wildlife, add seasonal visual beauty, serve as a screening tool and more. Feast your eyes on colorful photos and feed your imagination as

you ponder spring planting ideas for your outdoor spaces. This event is sponsored by the Blue Mounds Area Project (BMAP) as part of

their Winter Conversations series. All are welcome to this free event. More information on BMAP is available at www.BMAP.org.

Learn about the Nature Conservancy

On Tuesday, March 3rd, Trish Tegen, Associate Director of Development for The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin, will share an overview of TNC’s mission to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends, along with highlights of our local projects, statewide initiatives, and global conservation efforts. Discover how The Nature Conservancy is working to protect Wisconsin’s prairies, forests, and waterways,

and learn how these efforts connect to global strategies for biodiversity and climate resilience. Trish will also share more about TNC’s local preserves where restoration is taking place, along with practical ways you can make a difference in your own backyard in her program entitled Nature Conservancy Preserves to Explore.

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.



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Ms. Orange, former teacher who dreamed up Wednesday Night Live, is back in Wisconsin

Sage Lewis, the former Mount Horeb art teacher who founded the Caribbean Carnival in 1998 that planted the seed for the beloved Wednesday Night Live concert series, has announced a new concert. “Ms. Orange” is back in Wisconsin, now living in Middleton, and she helped celebrate Caribbean Carnival on Fat Tuesday in Madison.

The Caribbean Association of Madison officially announced Carnival Art Night as “a vibrant cultural event celebrating Caribbean art, music, dance, and community connections.” Carnival Art Night took place on Tuesday, February 17 at The Hub, located at 2352 S. Park Street, Madison.



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Countryside News: Turkey Vultures

By Jerry Davis

Some birds leave and some return when winter approaches Wisconsin. Dark-eyed junco is a notable returner, while turkey vultures are one of many who depart. This vulture has little going for it to love, but one has to admire its life style, finding carrion by sight and scent. Birders presumably, have given groups of turkey vultures three terms depending on what they are up to.

The most understandable being a wake of birds feeding on a dead animal. A committee of vultures roosts, sometime by the dozens.

When flying, kettle is used suggesting



some actions resemble an upside-down kettle. When it comes to the young, chicks and then fledglings do fine, sometimes going through these stages inside small caves while being fed regurgitate by both parents and hissing at intruders.

Recreation Notes

The legend of the Force Warriors lives on...through you! In **Video Game Design**, students in K through 2nd grades will design their own Knights of the Rebellion, chart a course across the galaxy, and create their own epic duel with the infamous Dark Knight. Students will learn character design and creation along with coding basics and video game theory. Leave the class with their own video game creations! Every Thursday, 5 to 6 pm, March 5 through April 16. The class fee is \$90 for residents and \$100 for non-residents. The deadline to enroll is February 26.

Join Wednesday evening **Fit for Life!** This 45-minute low-impact fitness class combines cardio and strength-training fitness with a focus on balance, stability, and flexibility. Participants ages 18+ will engage in both standing and seated

exercises, with optional chair support. The class is designed for a moderate, beginner-to-intermediate workout level, and all exercises can be modified. Class runs every Wednesday, 4:15 to 5 pm, March 4 through May 20 in the Senior Center. The cost is \$60 for residents and \$70 for non-residents. Register by February 25.

Looking for a fun and creative after school activity? Join **After School Art Class**, where young artists ages 5-12 will experiment with a variety of materials and techniques, including watercolor painting, oil pastels, ink and chalk, and vibrant marker art to create unique projects to take home. Art Class runs every Monday from 3:45 to 4:45 pm, March 2 through March 23. \$70 for residents and \$80 for non-residents. The registration deadline is 2/23.

HOW TO REGISTER:

There are multiple ways to register for programs and activities.

Online (go to <https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mhrd>)

In-person at 105 N. Grove Street

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

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

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

2/23: After School Art Class Sess. 2

2/24: Fit for Life Spring Session

2/26: Video Game Design

3/2: Total Body Fitness Spring Session

3/4: Grandmasters of Chess Sess. 2



Wienkes Named Volunteer of the Year

Mount Horeb Recreation Department named Kirk Wienkes as its 2025 Volunteer of the Year.

The Mount Horeb Recreation Department is proud to announce Kirk Wienkes as the 2025 Volunteer of the Year. Without dedicated volunteers, the Recreation Department would not be able to offer quality programs and activities enjoyed by residents of Mount Horeb and surrounding communities. Because a number of our programs rely heavily on volunteer support, we are committed to recognizing and celebrating those who give their time.

Kirk has volunteered for us for nearly seven years, supporting our programs including basketball, t-ball, coach pitch, soccer, and flag football. When asked what he enjoys most about volunteer coaching, Kirk shared, *“Sharing my love of sports with kids in the community while having lots of fun!”* His favorite coaching memory is the end-of-the-season parents vs players soccer

game, where he loved playing alongside the kids—and occasionally giving them a little extra help to keep things fun. Thank you, Kirk, for your time, energy, and dedication to creating a positive experience for every player you coach.

To all of our volunteers—past, present, and future— your contributions to the Mount Horeb community are truly appreciated. For those considering volunteer coaching, Kirk’s advice is simple: give it a try! Your kids are only little once, and you’re already driving to and from the field or gym anyway. It’s also a great way to stay active, whether you’re racing the kids or dropping down for a few push-ups with them.

Volunteers enrich our community and are one of our most valuable resources. To all volunteers, thank you.

CHURCH NOTES

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

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

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

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

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ
1693 Washington St. Verona
608-832-6677
Sunday Worship, in-person and on Facebook Live, 10:15 am
Bible Study 9am-10am
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation

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

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

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

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.

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

Anniversary

Aldine and Avis (Wahl) Sponem



Aldine and Avis (Wahl) Sponem will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on February 25, 2026. The couple was married on February 25, 1951, at Blanchardville Lutheran Church. They are the parents of four children: Vickie (Mike) Smith, Steven (Karen) Sponem, Judith (Scott) Wheeler, and Alan (Christine) Sponem. They have 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Throughout their life together, Aldine and Avis dairy farmed and enjoyed many shared interests, including square dancing and bowling. They have shared a lifetime filled with family, faith, hard work, and cherished memories. Their family joins them in celebrating this remarkable milestone and extends heartfelt congratulations on 75 years of marriage.

Beth and Steve Albert of Prairie Bluff Farm Named Marbleseed Farmers of the Year

Award Will Be Made at 37th Annual Marbleseed Organic Farming Conference

Beth and Steve Albert of Prairie Bluff Farm near Mount Horeb, WI, are Marbleseed’s 2026 Organic Farmers of the Year. They will receive the award and give a presentation about their farm during the non-profit’s annual Organic Farming Conference in La Crosse, WI, from Feb. 26 to 28.

Marbleseed’s Farmer of the Year Award honors certified organic producers in the Midwest who have contributed to the organic farming movement through significant experience. They are leaders who provide mentorship to less practiced farmers, helping the organic movement continue to evolve.

The Alberts sell pastured certified organic eggs throughout the greater Madison area under the brand name Pasture Patterns Eggs. They are the first pastured egg operation to receive the award.

The couple entered farming through a small dairy



Beth and Steve Albert run Prairie Bluff Farm and Pasture Patterns Eggs just outside Mount Horeb.

operation they purchased near Mount Horeb in 1992. They were forced to sell that business due to lack of financial viability and

returned to jobs outside of agriculture. But they tried again in 2007, this time with a focus on eggs. Today, Pasture Patterns Eggs has ap-

proximately 1,500 hens that spend most of their time in mobile coops designed by Steve Albert.

Lori Stern, Marbleseed’s

Executive Director, says of the Alberts, “So often we think of success in farming as a linear trajectory. Steve and Beth show us the real-

ity of a meandering journey, guided by a commitment to organic stewardship, animal welfare, and the love for community connections and what can be built together.”

The Farmer of the Year recognition comes at a time when the Alberts are ready to share what they have learned in more than a decade of a successful laying operation. Marbleseed will host a Field Day at their farm later in 2026.

Marbleseed educates, inspires, and empowers farmers to thrive in a sustainable, organic system of agriculture. For nearly 40 years, Marbleseed has been working in community with the Midwest’s small- and mid-sized farmers, leveraging its social capital to grow the region’s organic farming movement. The organization prides itself in farmer-to-farmer education and partnerships with allied organizations. It hosts one of the largest and longest running organic farming conferences in the country. Learn more about the upcoming 37th Organic Farming Conference here: conference.marbleseed.org.

Annual report shows public library is thriving

By Jessica Gretzinger,
Library Director

Your library staff are proud to serve this community and committed to fostering lifelong learning and literacy across all generations. If you don’t have a library card, please stop by and see what we have to offer! Overall, the library had a good year in 2025. Pictured above is a brief visual overview. Here are a few highlights:

On average, we are open 61 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Everyone is welcome to visit the library. A library card is not needed to use our space. However, a library card will open many borrowing possibilities for you (both physical and digital) and it’s FREE!

The library owns 53,556 books, 4,895 audio materials, and 5,769 DVDs. Last year we also added many new puzzles and board games! In addition, you can checkout radon test kits, blood pressure monitoring kits, a DVD player and CD player.

Mount Horeb Public Library is a member of the South Central Library System, which means we have borrowing privileges with 54 other libraries. If you

don’t find what you are looking for on the shelves, we may be able to order it from another library. We get deliveries every morning five days a week so you’ll have that item in your hands soon!

The library also has access to digital materials through our consortium buying power with the South Central Library System (Over-

drive/Libby). We also have a digital Lucky Day account for Mount Horeb Library patrons. We purchase digital content just for Mount Horeb patrons to use, which moves you up the waitlists faster in Libby.

Our programming staff of 2.5 FTE offered a whopping 329 programs with participation measuring at approximately 13,669 attendees!

The library employs approximately 9.70 FTE.

Computer usage at the library increased AGAIN in 2025 by 14%, which is likely due to a combination of an increase in internet service provider costs and a very active afterschool gaming crowd!

The library spent \$56,472 on the print collection, \$13,624 on the audio/video

collections, and \$14,322 on digital content. Our shelves are filled with new materials and we are committed to keeping them that way!

The library had a great year in 2025 and we look forward to serving our community in many ways this year!



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2025 at a glance



162,497 physical checkouts



42,921 digital checkouts



6,275 cardholders



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127,297 wireless sessions



329 programs
13,669 attendees



122,541 visitors



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Community Band will present concert February 25

The Mount Horeb Community Band will present a concert on Wednesday, February 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the MHHS Auditorium, located at 305 S. 8th Street. This year’s program explores the theme of HOME. The musicians have been preparing repertoire connected to ideas of belonging, searching, and what it means to feel at home.

Weekly rehearsals have included conversations and reflections about why we live where we do, how we define home, our connections to current and ancestral music, and how the ensemble can create a sense of aural imagery that evokes home for the audience. The community is invited to join the musicians for a performance of four featured works: Valdres March by Johannes Hanssen, The Rowan Tree by Randall Standridge, They Shall Run and Be Free by Brant Karrick, and Across the Halfpipe from Minnesota Portraits by Samuel R. Hazo.

For the first time, the group has reimagined itself as a pep band to perform some favorite classics from the pep band repertoire—think “25 or 6 to 4” or the Theme from The Pink Panther. Directors Will Janssen and Patty Schlafer are excited to bring community musicians together for this February 25, 2026 performance. The concert is free, family-friendly, will last approximately one hour, and is generously supported by the Mount Horeb Community Foundation.

DHS Confirms Salmonella Infections Linked to National Recall of Live it Up Brand ‘Super Greens’ Powder

Eleven Wisconsinites sick, two hospitalized with Salmonella infection

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has confirmed 11 Wisconsinites have become sick, and two of them have been hospitalized, from Salmonella infection after consuming Live it Up-brand Super Greens dietary supplement powders.

Wisconsinites who have purchased the product are advised not to eat or drink it, to throw it away or return it, and wash any items or surfaces that may have been in contact with it. Anyone who has used this product should monitor for symptoms of Salmonella infection and contact a health care provider if symptoms become severe.

Sugar River Euchre

by Stan Hook

This half has the makings of a dramatic finish. With just three weeks left to play there are five teams fighting for a first-place finish. Another three have a slim chance to finish first. The Cowboys have a slight advantage, but they still must play two teams that are just one game behind them.

The Pranksters must win out to even have a chance. If this past week is any sign of how their cards will go, they might as well as call it now. In a head-to-head match with the league leaders, the Pranksters were unable to disarm the Cowboys, falling by 72 points. Brandon and Keith Legler opened the trail for the Cowboys, losing only their second game to Dave Hook and Jim Bolland, they scored 118 points, this week’s high score. Harold and Tom Schlimgen raised some dust as well, scoring 110 points for the Cowboys. All four Cowboy couples rode above the 100 point ridgeline.

The J&M Bar River Rats, who were tied for first place going into this week’s match with the Red Mouse Shufflers, found themselves in another close match after going into overtime the previous week. The River Rats took an early lead and were up by 23 points after the sixth frame. With a perfect round in the seventh frame, the Shufflers outscored the River Rats by 23 to tie the match. After 3 of the four tables had reported the results of their final game, the Shufflers were down by 4. Shufflers Stan Hook and Kevin Haack had to win by 5 or more to win the match. River Rats Jack Gehin and Ernie Sarbacker, who had given Stan and Kevin a 6 the first time around, just didn’t have the cards this time. Stan and Kevin doused the River Rats’ hopes of an outright win or another overtime, with their 6 point win. The Shufflers won by 2. Darrell Storkson and Steve Ace did their part, scoring 114 points for the River Rats. Jimmy Gehin and Scott Keys could only manage 74 points for the team, this week’s low score.

The Kleeman Hay Shakers kept their dreams alive when, with the help of Jerry

Standings
Norsk Cowboys 5-1
J&M Bar River Rats 4-2
Kleeman’s Hay Shakers 4-2
Kurniki’s Express 4-2
Red Mouse Shufflers 4-2
Kurniki’s Pipe Benders 3-3
Norsk Pranksters 3-3
Viking Trolls 2-4
Red Mouse Uff-Da 1-5
Sportsman’s Cheese Eaters 0-6

Schedule for Feb 19th
Shufflers at Cowboys (7:00)
Pranksters at Uff-da (7:00)
Express at Cheese Eaters (7:00)
Hay Shakers at Pipe Benders (7:00)
Trolls at River Rats (7:30)

Judd and Jeff Goebler’s 111 points, they defeated the Red Mouse Uff-das by 64 points. For the second week in a row team Uff-da just didn’t have the cards to hold off their opponent.

The battle between the two Kurniki’s teams, the Pipe Benders and the Express, didn’t end well for the Pipe Benders. After winning the first four rounds the Pipe Benders were ahead by 2. But once again the Express engineers got the boilers cooking by the fifth frame to go ahead by 25 points. With little movement in the next three frames, that is how the match ended.

The Viking Trolls find themselves in a position that they are not accustomed to. After their 15 point win over the Sportsman’s Bar Cheese Eaters, the Trolls are ahead of two teams in the standings and match their best record ever recorded. Whereas the Cheese Eaters are looking for the first draft pick for next year. Someone should tell them that we don’t do draft picks.

WISPOLITICS-STATE AFFAIRS: Surplus money spurs talk of property tax relief

by WisPolitics.com/
State Affairs

Another year, another standoff between Dem Gov. Tony Evers and the Republican Legislature.

This time the issue is property taxes and Evers’ 400-year veto.

Evers in early January said state revenues for 2025-27 are on track to come in as much as \$1 billion higher than previously projected — and he wants lawmakers to use the additional funds to drive down property taxes.

The Dem governor, in his last year of office, called on lawmakers to approve the \$1.3 billion in property tax relief he included in the 2025-27 budget - a plan Republicans rejected. Still, he told reporters he was open to any approach that would help homeowners.

The call comes as GOP lawmakers have sought to blame Evers’ 400-year veto for the spike in property tax bills many homeowners saw in bills last month.

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos insisted Evers would have to help Republicans reverse his 400-year veto before they entertain any effort to address property tax bills.

“One of the things that has to happen is we need Governor Evers to admit he made a mistake,” the Rochester Republican said.

Evers used his partial veto in the 2023-25 budget to extend by 400 years an annual increase in the per pupil spending limit of \$325 per student. The 2025-27 state budget included no new state aid in the formula impacted by that spending limit. That allowed districts to raise property taxes to account for the additional spending authority.

Republicans are pushing legislation that would end that per pupil increase after the 2026-27 school year, and it recently cleared an Assembly committee.

“So hopefully he would

work with us to say, assuming we do property tax relief, we can’t just keep putting more water into a bucket full of holes. We need to fill the holes and then make sure that the bucket has the ability to deliver the relief,” Vos said.

The Senate in November signed off on its version of the bill to halt the annual per pupil increase.

“Now that everyday people are feeling the impact of his 400-year mistake, Governor Evers is desperately trying to pass the buck,” said Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, R-Oostburg. “If the governor really cared about lowering property taxes, he would sign our proposal to eliminate the automatic 400-year property tax increase he unilaterally created.”

Evers dismissed the criticism.

“Before that 400-year veto, we were going to referendum all the time,” the former state schools superintendent said at an availability previewing his final year in office. “They can use that as an excuse if they want to. Let’s just get it done. I don’t believe that has anything to do with this.”

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Village Vignette

Mount Horeb's Own Man of Iron, Woman of Steel: Wally and Shirley Keller

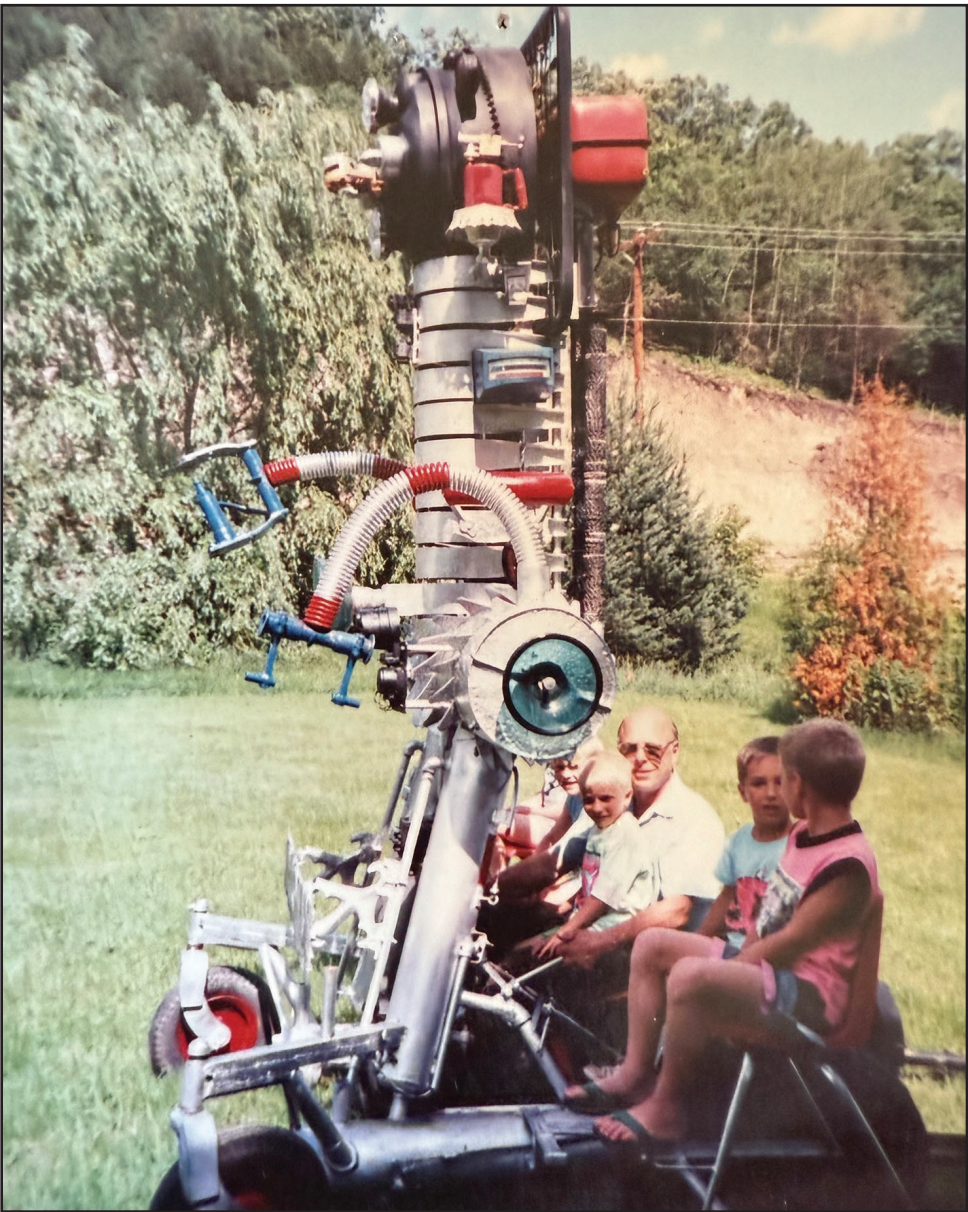
By Laurence Kruckman and Jack Pohle

From the moment of birth, we embark on a journey marked by various uneven stages—childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age—each change demanding a new adaptation of self. Some of us sail through these stages easily, others not so much. Knowing them for decades, we can't think of a couple who experienced more changes than Wally and Shirley Keller. At times, Guinness Book record levels of change. Fortunately for most, change forces us to confront the unknowns and redefine our identities for the best, which we think is the case for Wally and Shirley.

Most area people know them primarily through Wally's folk art...if he hadn't met an untimely fate in 2009, on what his spouse, Shirley, called that "damn tractor," he might have become even more famous, as he was on his way to being our own Dr. Evermor (Bluffview), Nick Englebert (Hollandale), or Father Wernerus' Grotto (Dickeyville). Fewer, however, know about Shirley. She grew up in Sun Prairie and went to Catholic School there. As you'll learn, her life soon moved her into the change lane.

Transformations: The Kellers seemed to frequently reinvent themselves career-wise. A case in point would be Wally, whom Larry met as a young teen, while tagging along with his father in search of one-of-a-kind parts for the new Pure Milk Association plant in town. Wally had recently returned from Korea, married Shirley and, in 1957, had purchased a dark and dreary welding shop behind the Ford garage (now the Duluth trading retail store on Main Street). Larry recalls the building right out of an Edward Hopper painting, dark and oil stained, with unfinished wood siding shielding long pieces of angle iron from the elements. "He seemed oblivious to the cold, and worked speedily outside with his oil drenched leather apron, and elongated leather gloves." Shirley was fearful the place would burn down, as it eventually did.

Navigating the In-between: As a boy, living on the family farm south of Mount Horeb (Hwy 78) Wally's parents had him quit school after 8th grade to help on the farm. In 1952, he enlisted in the Navy during the Korean War. The mechanical experience he had obtained in his early years on the farm, no doubt



"Parts Man" driven by Wally Keller with Tyler Pohle and his young friends taken by Jack Pohle in 1982.

directed him to Navy machinist school and his role as a war-time machinist on a destroyer. When he returned home, he decided not to join his dad on the farm. A few years later, after reinventing himself as a welder in his Mount Horeb shop, Larry remembers observing "Wally working hard and fast, without much chatter. He seemed rather taciturn, definitely focused on his task." Larry soon moved on from Mount Horeb, but on a return visit, in 1975, Wally (and Shirley too) had purchased the old Strand movie theater, reinventing themselves. He and Shirley had completely renovated that space into an antique store (currently home of Isaacs). Larry says, "when I bumped into Wally at their new store, I noted quite a different demeanor. Here was a guy in a colorful shirt, shaking my hand, gregarious, full of jokes and eager to sell me stuff." Years before, along with other kids from 2nd Street, an old dump SW of the old railroad station, had provided us with beautiful bottles from the 1890s. "When I brought them to the antique store to show Wally, he was all over them, and purchased the lot with a gleam in his eye." Perhaps as a window into a future interest, he asked if we had any tools to sell. We did not.

Unceasing Transitions: Little did we know that Wally and Shirley had gone through a number of transitions in between the welder shop and antique store. We learned this background a few months ago when we interviewed Shirley at her daughter's home in Oconomowoc. Shirley, now 89, vibrant, spunky, sharp as a pin and, obviously, a survivor, told us how the two of them were quite different in personality. However, they were able to form a unique bond, which allowed them to explore the world, try new things, build their own house and, in the mean-

time, raise five children. It seemed clear that, while different, they somehow complimented each other with the wisdom and resilience to remain open to possibilities, yet face the next challenge. While Wally worked primarily with iron, we came to see Shirley as a woman of steel, working many shifts as a nurse, and having the stable income and health insurance to provide the flexibility for Wally to risk new ventures. "I often worked the evening shift so I could take care of the kids during the day," says Shirley. In old English her name means "sunny meadow," and she radiates

that to this day. Though Wally never graduated from high school (he earned his GED during his stint in the Navy), he was self-educated and widely read. While college beckoned him to use his military benefits, he felt he was too old; he was older than Shirley by 7 years. What he lacked in formal education was made up by his personal philosophy of "if you want to do something, learn how to do it," "do it yourself," and "never say, never," according to his daughter, Rena. She recalls her father instilling the attitude to "just figure it out, and don't let anything stop you." Once she went to him to get help with a school physics problem and "he quickly came up with an answer, but couldn't tell me how he did it. That was his nature, he solved problems in his head."

Wally also worked at Madison's Holt Chevrolet selling cars; was a cattle truck driver for Witwer Trucking; and was employed by Polk Diesel Company, also in Madison. He knew engines and machines, and was very successful in sales. While farming with his father was not his thing, neither was urban Madison, so to stay in Mt Horeb they bought a restaurant, in 1967, across the street from what is now the Driftless Social. They named it simply "Keller's." In this particular transition, Shirley was concerned. "I told Wally he knew nothing of the restaurant and bar business, and I knew how hard that life would be." She recalls putting the kids to work cleaning the place, and "I bet my kids never again put gum underneath a restaurant table." It was, as Shirley predicted, a tough go, and they sold the business 3 years later.

Shirley, meanwhile, had been educated at Edgewood College and graduated from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing. She pursued many avenues in her profession, from hospital-based nursing to nursing homes, and eventually nursing administration. And, while raising the kids, she assisted Wally in his pursuits, which included membership in Rotary and Chamber of Commerce. She was a Township Board Official and school board member, and served as a director on the newly established Community Foundation. Later, she traveled for the state as a Nursing Home Surveyor. She was a seamstress her entire life and made the children's clothes. In the late 1990's she was a founding member of the Mount Horeb "Hands All Around Quitters" which is still in existence. Transitions indeed!

Slowing Down: Jack first met Wally when he came to work as a realtor in the local Century 21 office. "I don't remember his first day, but I did have the honor and entertainment of having his desk directly behind mine. This meant many hours of interesting conversation between us, and overhearing his relaxed banter with all sorts of local characters. These were the days of fax machine communication, and it seemed like almost every day Wally would receive humorous faxes, some of them borderline raunchy and all of them kept in a special file. Our office assistant would deliver them to Wally's desk with a sigh and her eyes in the air."

For Wally, the real estate profession seemed more an entertainment than a career. "I don't know how important the income might have

continued on page 14



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Mount Horeb Chorale to begin 40th season



The Mount Horeb Chorale will begin its 40th season on Sunday, March 1 in the high school choir room with its first rehearsal of this special season beginning at 7:00 P.M. All interested singers are invited to attend. The choir has been averaging between 60 and 70 male and female singers for the last several years. Rehearsals are on Sunday evenings from 7 to 9 P.M.

The chorale was started in 1987 following the choir created for the 125th anniversary celebration of the founding of Mount Horeb in 1861. More than 500 different people from Mount Horeb and the surrounding area have sung with the chorale throughout its long musical history. Singers must be of at least high school age and up. Yes, they have had people sing who were in their 90s as well.

A concert featuring a variety of kinds and styles of music is planned for Sunday, May 10 in the Mount Horeb High School Auditorium at 2:30 P.M. That Sunday is Mothers’ Day! What a nice way to celebrate that special day by enjoying a concert of beautiful choral music either by singing or being an audience member.

Singers are encouraged to arrive as early as 6:30 P.M. for the first rehearsal so they can be registered and receive music in time to start rehearsal at 7:00 P.M. Please enter the building using door #9.

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Charlotte Droessler honored with Student Spotlight



February’s Student Spotlight is 4K student, Charlotte Droessler! Children Community School’s teacher, Ms. Jes, introduced the Board to Charlotte as this month’s Student Showcase recipient. The school board learned that Charlotte was selected because she is consistently demonstrating responsibility, both with materials and with the relationships she builds with classmates and staff. Ms. Jes said, “I have had the privilege of working with Charlotte during her three- and four-K years, and during this time, she has worked on not only academic skills but also her ability to form meaningful friendships with everyone interested in being her friend. Charlotte is kind and respectful, she is ready and eager to learn. She is always willing to share her positive spirit.”

Pictured (from left to right in the back row): Mr. Michael and Mrs. Anne Marie Droessler, Ms. Jes Ammann (CCS Teacher), Mrs. Nicole Tepe (4K Coordinator), Board Clerk Leah Lipska, and Ms. Krystal (CCS Teacher); (from left to right in the front row) proud younger sister Vivienne, Dr. Salerno, and Charlotte Droessler.

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Representative Roundup

Rep. Jenna Jacobson Responds to Lat-est Votes in Assembly

State Representative Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) released the following statement following last week’s Floor Session in the Wisconsin State Assembly: “With one week remaining until the end of the two-year Legislative Session, we have no time to waste to do the People’s Business. When I am talking to people across the district, I am hearing the same problems surrounding affordability, rising costs of healthcare, and the rising costs of seemingly everything. Instead of trying to help make things right for all of us, Republicans are doubling down on their culture wars.

“What are we doing as your representatives if we are not trying to address the rising costs of food by providing free meals at school for students?” she continued. “What are we doing if we are not addressing unaffordable healthcare costs by not expanding coverage for moms and babies? What are we doing for you, by not passing laws to lower the cost for housing for all Wisconsinites? There is so much more we should be doing for you, but the majority party refuses to tackle the real issues we all care about.”

Sen. Spreitzer, Reps. Anderson & Jacobson Introduce Bi-partisan Bill to Save Wisconsin Wedding Barns

Senator Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) and Representatives Clinton Anderson (D-Beloit) and Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) along with Senator André Jacque (R-New Franklin) have introduced LRB-2567, which they said would protect Wisconsin’s iconic wedding barns and preserve affordable options for Wisconsin families planning major celebrations. This bipartisan legislation aims to roll back excessive regulations introduced in 2023 Act 73 that threaten to shut down many rural venues before the 2026 wedding season.

Under 2023 Act 73, many family-run venues are restricted to hosting just six days of celebrations per year - and no more than one per month - where alcohol is consumed. Impacted farmers have indicated that their seasonal events have been cut by as much as 75 percent, threatening their farms and their livelihoods. LRB-2567 provides a common-sense path forward by allowing these venues to host up to 36 events annually, ensuring they can remain viable while keeping costs low for couples. By allowing families to continue the tradition of providing their own refreshments in a safe, professionally-staffed environment, this bill ensures that a beautiful wedding in the Wisconsin countryside remains an affordable reality.

“Our agriculture and tourism industries are vital to Wisconsin,” said Jacobson. “This bipartisan bill will allow for customers to utilize these wonderful locations and for operators to stay in business. Removing barriers for small business owners and cutting these regulations will help our state grow. I am pleased to author legislation to help keep our wedding barns alive.”

Marklein releases statement on the Ag Economy

The Ag Economic Outlook Forum was held at the University of Wisconsin–Madison on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. Hosted by UW–Madison’s Renk Agribusiness Institute, the annual event brings together “more than one hundred industry experts and leaders, including agricultural economists, farmers, implement dealers, and other industry insiders. It is one of my favorite events each year because it offers a clear, data-driven look at where the agriculture industry stands and where it may be headed.”

“I also outlined several priorities that I hope to see passed before the end of the legislative session this spring to continue my support of Wisconsin’s farm-

ers,” said state senator Howard Marklein. “I am an author or co-sponsor of many of these bills including legislation to freeze fees on livestock dealers, auction barns, and truckers that the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) attempted to raise this summer. I also highlighted legislation to create a veterinary loan repayment program to attract large-animal veterinarians to rural areas, my bill to require schools to serve butter rather than margarine, and truth-in-labeling laws to require lab grown meat and lab grown milk to be clearly identified as such.

Jacobson Introduces “Farmers and Agriculture Keep Wisconsin Growing” Package

Rep. Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) in December joined her Democratic colleagues introducing the “Farmers and Agriculture Keep Wisconsin Growing” bill package. The bills include more funding for export promotion, agriculture land preservation, healthy food incentives, and buy-local grants that will directly help farmers and consumers across the state. Rep. Jacobson released the following statement after the announcement:

“When I talk to farmers in our community I hear a common refrain, times are so uncertain. Wisconsin’s identity is rooted in agriculture. Right now, our farmers are facing unnecessary strain as a result of Trump’s tariffs, which have raised costs and created instability across the industry. Instead of placing additional burdens on the people who put food on our tables, we should be giving them the resources they need to succeed. This set of bills expands opportunities for Wisconsin producers by increasing support for export growth, safeguarding farmland, investing in buy-local initiatives, and enhancing programs that connect families with healthy, locally sourced food. These efforts are designed to open doors for farmers and keep Wisconsin’s agricultural tradition thriving. I encourage everyone to stand with Wisconsin’s farmers by supporting this practical, forward-focused plan to help them keep growing—and keep feeding our state.”

Baldwin Votes Against Bill That ‘Fails to Rein in ICE’

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) released the following statement after voting against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding bill that failed to include accountability and common-sense guardrails to rein in Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE). Earlier in the day, Senator Baldwin held a virtual press conference laying out the guardrails she’s fighting to include in the funding bill and called on the White House to “get serious” on negotiations to stop ICE’s chaos.

“President Trump and ICE are totally out of control, and it’s putting American lives on the line. We need to stop the lawlessness, chaos, and violence we’ve all watched firsthand. ICE agents should be held to the same standards as our local law enforcement, they should have real warrants to arrest people, and they should take off the masks. This is commonsense stuff that Wisconsinites support,” said Senator Baldwin. “Today, we had a choice: give ICE a blank check to continue wreaking havoc on Americans, or say no and that we need to do better. I know better is possible, but the White House and Republicans need to get serious and listen to the American people who are demanding ICE be reined in.”

After the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, Senator Baldwin announced that she would not support any additional funding for DHS without increased transparency, accountability, and stronger guardrails to rein in ICE. Senator Baldwin also called on Secretary Noem to resign immediately.

Sen. Keyeski and Rep. Bare Introduce Bill to Establish “Revolving Door Law”

State Senator Sarah Keyeski (D-Lodi) and State Representative Mike Bare (D-Verona) have introduced LRB-6331/LRB-1996, to enhance state legislative ethics law by requiring that state legislators cannot become lobbyists until one year after they leave office.

Wisconsin law currently prohibits other state officials from lobbying for one year after leaving their position, but legislators are exempt from this prohibition. Federally, a member of the House of Representatives must wait one year after retirement and a member of the Senate must wait two years after retirement before becoming a lobbyist. Over 30 states currently have a version of a “revolving-door law.”

“Legislators are public servants, and working on behalf of the people of Wisconsin should be our top priority. It’s important that folks get into politics for the right reasons, not for the connections and career prospects after public service. State legislators should be held to the same ethical standards as other elected officials,” said Sen. Keyeski.

“Our job as legislators is

to represent the people who voted for us, not special interests. This bill is a great step to help earn and maintain the public’s trust in our Legislature,” said Rep. Bare.

Sen. Johnson Demands Audit and Inspection Records

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, wrote to Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Temporary Commissioner Shireen Gandhi requesting records related to oversight failures, fraud detection, and program-integrity controls across 14 Medicaid service categories designated by Gov. Tim Walz (D-Minn.) as “high-risk,” as well as Minnesota’s child care assistance program. A copy of the letter was sent to Gov. Walz.

“At the very least, routine DHS oversight should have identified obvious program-integrity red flags at child care centers receiving unusually large payments relative to their licensed capacity,” Johnson wrote.

In the letter, the chairman enclosed a list of over 70 examples of child care businesses in Minnesota that he said received over \$1 million in annual payments from the state in 2024. He demanded audit and inspection records connected to those entities.

“Given the pervasiveness of fraud in your state, it is past time for Minnesota to answer for its apparent failure to safeguard taxpayer dollars,” Johnson stated.

Pocan introduces Audit the Pentagon Act

U.S. Representative Mark Pocan (WI-02), co-founder and co-chair of the Defense Spending Reduction Caucus, and U.S. Representative Andy Biggs (AZ-05) has introduced the Audit the Pentagon Act, which aims to increase transparency and accountability in the defense budget.

As of December 2025, the Pentagon had failed its 8th consecutive audit. According to a recent GAO report, the Department of Defense (DOD) continues to be unable to account for billions of dollars’ worth of assets.

“For a department that gets more than \$1 trillion a year, it’s essential that they be able to pass a financial audit,” said Congressman Pocan. “After eight consecutive failed audits, the Defense Department remains the only federal agency to have never passed an audit. The Audit the Pentagon Act will create a powerful incentive for the Department to get its fiscal house in order, or otherwise face funding reductions. The Pentagon has a history of little accountability while pouring billions into weapons systems that just don’t work properly, and it’s past time

they be held accountable for this irresponsible stewardship of taxpayer funds.”

“For years, the Pentagon has failed audit after audit while Congress continues to write blank checks. That’s unacceptable,” said Congressman Biggs. “The American people demand accountability for every taxpayer dollar—especially when we’re spending more than \$1 trillion on our defense annually, and we’re facing a \$38 trillion national debt. The Audit the Pentagon Act imposes tangible consequences for bureaucratic failure. A strong national defense demands both readiness and fiscal responsibility. The era of endless excuses must end.”

This bipartisan legislation would provide the basis for critical fiscal reforms within the Department of Defense by imposing consequences on agencies and elements that fail audits. Specifically, it would administer a 0.5 percent cut to the budget of any office at the Pentagon that does not achieve an unqualified opinion on its full financial statements for the first year of the bill’s enactment, then rises to a 1.0 percent cut for subsequent years. The bill exempts funding for personnel, families, and military healthcare from these automatic cuts. It would also reassure the public that Congress is working to ensure that the Pentagon is held to the same standard as all other federal agencies that are required by law to pass an independent external audit each year.

Baldwin Cosponsors Bill to Redirect ICE Funds to Local Police

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin cosponsored the *PUBLIC SAFETY Act* to redirect almost \$75 billion in funding passed in the Republicans’ One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and send it instead to local law enforcement to help hire and train 200,000 local cops in communities across the U.S. “Under Donald Trump and Kristi Noem’s leadership, masked, armed, and untrained agents have flooded into communities, making our streets less safe. It’s clear that Donald Trump’s ICE is out of control and I’m fighting to rein in the chaos and violence we’re seeing before more of our neighbors get hurt,” said Baldwin. “ICE does not need this blank check and we should instead double down on what we know actually keeps people safe – and that is investing in our local police.” The bill would not rescind ICE’s regular appropriations, leaving the agency with historically normal funding levels to conduct traditional immigration enforcement operations.

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OWEN

continued from page 1

himself, members of the finance & personnel committee and village staff “are going to be performing more detailed due diligence/interviews with each proposal in the next week.”

“After those interviews, recommendations will be made to the [village] board for final approvals,” said Czyzewski. “Ideally that will be at another special

meeting for the board next week so we can begin the recruitment process. We’ll also be considering an updated job description (some minor tweaks from existing).”

“We’ll have more info publicly available at that meeting, as we should be done with the need for closed session deliberations,” he said. “We want the process to be transparent, but there is a need and value for the village’s ne-

gotiations and evaluations to initially be conducted in closed session.”

Starting last week, staff had already began requesting proposals for village leaders to consider for recruitment services as well as interim administration services.

“We’ll also discuss the job description, candidate profile priorities of emphasis, and the makeup of the hiring committee that will help interview candidates

and make the recommendation to the full board,” said Czyzewski. “We’ll also be integrating department head feedback on final candidates and get final candidates the opportunity to meet them and ask questions about the village.”

Village leaders expect the process to take about a month.

“In the meantime, we are fortunate to have an exceptional team of department heads and staff whose expe-

rience and commitment will help guide us successfully through this transition,” said Czyzewski. “I try to look at every challenge as an unrealized opportunity. We are at a crossroads with the future of the Village. However, I think the Vision and culture that began before and further cultivated during Nic’s tenure have kept the village a destination for skilled municipal employees, residents, and businesses, and can endure.”

“While I am happy for Nic as he takes this next step in his career, he will truly be missed,” Czyzewski added. “His professionalism and dedication have made a lasting impact on the Village. He’s helped make our village a better community and helped address the ever-increasing challenges we have faced those before us.”

KELLERS

continued from page 9

been for him at that time, but he was an example to all of us, not to take ourselves too seriously.” He did have his standards though. Back then, the prospective customers would usually ride in the Realtor’s car for the house tours. Wally’s car had a sign on the driver side sun visor stating, “Buy from me or get out of my car!”

“As we became better friends, I learned of Wally’s many varied talents and skills. I was happy to be invited to his and Shirley’s home to see his menagerie

of sculptures, antiques, widgets, and his vast antique tool collection. His basement was the tool museum with over 3000 items.” He had them all arranged according to use and many of them he could only guess as to what they were used for, their purpose long forgotten due to displacement by other machinery. Wally’s shop was a welder’s playground of lifts, torches, winches, farm machinery, grease, and oil.

“When I told Wally about my son’s upcoming 8th birthday party, he offered to take the whole crew for a ride around his place on ‘Parts

Man,’ the famous robot-looking monstrosity, with arms that the boys could sit on (see photo). That creation had shown up at many local parades loaded with his kids or grandkids.”

Jack came to believe that while Wally’s accomplishments loomed large in his eyes, “Shirley was the welcoming presence in the background.” In the title, we refer to her as a “woman of steel,” but I’d say Shirley is more like aluminum, flexible but strong.”

Shirley was not only compatible with Wally; she was proud of him, and continually expressed pride regard-

ing Wally’s folk art which included not only dinosaurs, turtles, and more. And she could name the pieces (Peg Leg the Pirate guarding the bridge to their house, and the Tin Man holding their mail box). When she sold her rural house, she made sure they all had safe homes: Brutus, the lion, is placed in front of the Mount Horeb Visitor’s Center, and the turtle sits outside Brix, and many pieces are at Shirley’s nephew’s. She loved his creativity: repurposing the communion rail from St Ignatius Church into a rack to display his tool collection, while the door frame of the

municipal building became their headboard. Their ingenuity carried over, as several of their kids and grandchildren became engineers.

According to Jack, “the tragedy of Wally’s passing was, I hate to say it, fitting. He died on his beloved Oliver tractor with his boots on. I always looked upon Wally as a true Renaissance Man, never set in his ways, always willing to try something new, and learning well through experience.”

Settling In. Shirley states perhaps her saddest time was following Wally’s accident and death. She reports that it was rough, and “dark

times with winter closing in.” But perhaps, just as Aristotle suggested, “during our darkest moments we must focus to see the light.” That definitely appears to be the case with Shirley, who at near 90 remains vibrant, active, alive, and positive. What did Shirley do? She kept on moving forward and continued to work till she was 75. After her retirement in 1990, she moved to Florida but has recently returned to Wisconsin and lives with Rena. Shirley certainly has seen that light and we are all better for it.

ELECTION

continued from page 1

ning for a seat on the board.

No incumbents are running, which means that whoever wins, the village will have new faces on its governing board. There are two seats up for grabs and terms are for a duration of two years.

“My wife and I have lived in the Village of Blue Mounds for over 25 years,” said Curt Winter. “Originally from Oconto Falls, I served in the Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in 1971 after three years of overseas service. Following my discharge, I attended UW-Stevens Point, where I met my wife and decided to make our home in Wisconsin.”

“Throughout my career, I have held various management roles, progressing from entry-level positions to General Manager of five markets across four states for a respected lawn care firm,” Winter continued. “I later owned and managed a lawn irrigation company. While I initially planned to retire after selling that business, my desire to remain active and productive has led me back to the workforce. I currently serve as a part-time Deputy Clerk for the Town of Blue Mounds and worked last season on the groundskeeping crew at Cave of the Mounds.”

“I believe many residents value the dedicated individuals who make Blue Mounds such a wonderful place to live,” Winter said. “We are fortunate to have an

outstanding Clerk in Mary Jo Michek and an excellent Public Works Department led by Dan and Andy. I would appreciate the opportunity to join this team. I strive to exercise sound judgment and be straightforward, candid, and respectful. I will work closely with the President and appointed committees to ensure the effective operation of village government.”

“I’m 72 years young and have been a resident of Blue Mounds on and off for just over 50 years,” said Bob Messinger. “I ran the Mobil Station in town for 12 years, and my wife, Jane, and I even built a house on top of it! We love living above the old gas station.”

“I enjoyed raising my children here and truly believe Blue Mounds is one of the best places to live in Wisconsin,” Messinger continued. “Having been part of this community for so many years, I feel a strong desire to give back and help ensure Blue Mounds remains a place where people can live safely, securely, and within reach financially.”

“I would bring honesty, trust, and a positive attitude to this committee. I believe growth is inevitable, but it must be done thoughtfully, responsibly, and with community input,” he added.

“I was born and raised in the area and graduated from Barneveld High School,” said Shanna Amble. “After high school, I continued my education in Fashion Merchandising & interior design. In the early 90s I left the area and worked for Norwegian cruise lines

for several years. Leaving ships, I returned to the area and ultimately chose to settle in Blue Mounds. After the birth of my second daughter, I went back to school to pursue a career beautifying fingers and toes. I am continually enhancing my education as a nail technician. I started my business right here in Blue Mounds in December of 2007.”

“I have been a Village of Blue Mounds resident for the last 25 years, raised my two daughters here and chose to build my business of 18 years in the village,” Amble continued. “Blue Mounds is an amazing place.”

“Over the last couple of years, I have chosen to get more informed and involved by attending the village board meetings so that I could be more informed about what is happening within the village,” she said. “I am interested in representing the residents of the village as trustee to serve this amazing community. There are some great ideas to improve some of the village’s communication, access and activities. I would love to be a part of bringing these ideas to reality.”

“My family moved to Verona when I was seven years old, and I have lived in Dane County since 1972,” said Jason Dorgan. “My wife, Lysianne Unruh, and I moved to Blue Mounds about 15 years ago. We were attracted by the area’s natural beauty, and the village’s proximity to Mt. Horeb, where at the time, she was the public library director.”

“I graduated from the UW-Madison, and I have worked for Durr Universal, in Stoughton, as a Mechanical Engineer since 1991,” Dorgan continued. “Professionally, I have held both managerial and technical positions, which I think will benefit me as a village trustee. Outside of work, I enjoy many activities with family and friends such as running, biking, hiking, traveling, camping, reading, and playing cards and pickleball.”

“I bring board experience to the trustee role, beginning with six years of service as a director on the Ice Age Trail Alliance board, followed by four years as a Dane County representative to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. I also spent 17 years as a co-race director of the Kettle Moraine Endurance runs, which involved managing runners, organizing aid stations, and recruiting volunteers—all this for the more than 600 participants choosing to run between 38 and 100 miles,” he said. “I enjoy the close-knit community of Blue Mounds along with its proximity to Blue Mounds State Park and county roads, great for biking. We love to garden, drop by the coffee shop, and eat lunch at Hooterville—all the simple things in life that

a small town offers us.”

“Blue Mounds is an affordable place to call home, in comparison to much of Dane County, and as a village trustee, I will strive to keep it that way,” Dorgan said. “My first commitment is to the residents and businesses, and this includes improving the board’s transparency, something the current members have been working on this past year. I want to better understand what goes into creating the Village budget, including the cost structure of our water utility. While the water quality is good, it’s expensive when compared to neighboring communities. And if there’s any chance, I’d love to get pickleball courts installed—provided there’s enough interest and the cost is minimal. I’ve seen how kids, parents, and community adults come together for games in Mount Horeb, and I’d like to bring this type of fun, healthy, all-ages, outdoor activity to our town, too.”

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds citizens how to obtain identification, free of charge, that is valid for voting.

Valid identification for voting purposes includes a driver license, identification

card, military or student ID card, etc. There is no separate “voter ID.” A federally compliant REAL ID card is not required for voting purposes. Anyone unsure if their identification meets the requirements should visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission website to check.

Begin online to see a list of the required documents that are needed to present at a DMV Customer Service Center in order to obtain identification to show at the polls: wisconsindmv.gov/identification. A process is available to U.S. citizens, free of charge, to obtain a receipt valid to take to the polls for voting if the ID card is not available in time.

Anyone with questions related to obtaining an ID that can be used to vote should call DMV’s toll-free hotline at (844) 588-1069. Questions regarding voter eligibility, poll locations, voter registration information or other election information can be directed to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov.

Start the application now at wisconsindmv.gov or at a local DMV Customer Service Center. To find a DMV, check hours, services and wait times, visit wisconsindmv.gov/centers.

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SPORTS

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SUPER SEVEN

MH-B sending seven wrestlers to the Division 2 state meet

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb-Barneveld's wrestlers are sending a school record seven individuals to the WIAA Division 2 state meet Feb. 26-28 at the UW Kohl Center.

The Vikings had two champions and five runners-up at the Richland Center Sectional last Saturday. All seven of those wrestlers qualified for state.

Hunter Stevens won a sectional title at 150 pounds, while Eli Leonard was also first at 190.

MH-B's Bryce Madden (106), Maxton Stevens (132), Easton Kammerud (165), Eli Maier (175) and Leland Havens (215) each

finished second at sectionals and earned trips to state.

Leonard, who improved to 49-0, is the No. 1 seed at 190 and has a first round bye. Leonard will then wrestle in a quarterfinal Feb. 26 at approximately 8 p.m.

Hunter Stevens (48-2) will open against Wyatt Bennett (36-10) of Beloit Turner on Feb. 26 at roughly 6 p.m.

Madden (41-12) will face Hunter Seefeldt of Coleman (27-11) in his first match on Feb. 26 at approximately 6 p.m. Maxton Stevens (35-17) will meet Coleman's Michael Ciano (33-3) in his first match on Feb. 26 at roughly 6 p.m.

Kammerud (20-3) will

continued on page 18



Mount Horeb-Barneveld's Hunter Stevens finished first at 150 pounds at the Richland Center Sectional last Saturday and earned a trip to the state meet. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo girls earn No. 4 seed

Vikings clinch second place in Badger Small

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

It's been more than a quarter century since Mount Horeb's girls basketball team notched a top-two finish in its conference.

The Vikings accomplished that impressive feat last week, though.

Mount Horeb rolled past visiting Sauk Prairie, 46-21, on Feb. 10. The Vikings then routed host Portage, 67-22, on Feb. 13.

Mount Horeb improved to 10-3 in the Badger Small Conference and guaranteed itself at least a share of second place in the league. Edgewood leads the conference with a perfect 13-0 mark, while the Vikings are second and McFarland (9-4) is third.

Mount Horeb can clinch at outright share of second when it hosts Fort Atkinson (5-8) Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

"It has been a while since we have finished in

continued on page 17



Aubrey Rockow and Mount Horeb's girls basketball team clinched at least a tie for second place in the Badger Small Conference last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Vikings hammer Portage

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's boys basketball team has had a demanding schedule this season.

The Vikings faced Slinger, the No. 1 team in Division 2, top-10 McFarland and Division 1 Stevens Point.

So nights like Feb. 12 are, at times, a blessing.

Mount Horeb routed visiting Portage, 73-36, in a game where coach Todd Nesheim was able to empty his bench as the Vikings posted their second-biggest win of the season.

"It is always good to have a game or two like this on your 24-game schedule," Nesheim said. "It's good for our kids to share in playing time and have a chance to get into the scoring column."

Mount Horeb improved to 16-5 overall and 8-3 in the Badger Small Conference. The Vikings also won for the eighth time in nine games and will now find out their postseason seed on Sunday.

Senior guard Josh Man

continued on page 17

Gymnasts third at Platteville Invite

Mount Horeb has solid meet after Finley suffers season-ending injury

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

At the conference meet, it was a tough week for Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team.

The Vikings lost standout sophomore Macie Finley to a season-ending injury in a meet against Sauk Prairie on Feb. 10.

"She has certainly been on all of our minds and the team truly misses having her out on the competition floor with them," Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. "Macie continues to have an incredibly positive outlook and is already focused on getting back to training and making the most of her junior and senior seasons."

The Vikings soldiered on, though, and had an impressive third place showing at the nine-team Platteville Invite last Saturday.

Dodgeville/Mineral Point/Highland/Iowa-Grant won the team title with 139.875 points, while Waunakee/DeForest was second (139.225). Mount Horeb (138.5), Southwestern/Cuba City/Benton/Darlington (134.625) and Baraboo (129.5) rounded out the top five.

"Overall, I'm pleased

with our girls' performances," Koller Faust said. "Finishing third as a team is a great accomplishment, especially in a meet filled with so many talented gymnasts. Our depth truly made the difference and helped us earn our third-highest team total of the season."

Mount Horeb had four all-around competitors and each of them took home medals.

Harper Hendrickson was fifth in the all-around with a 34.975, while Sylvia Seeliger was sixth (34.70), Carmen Oglesby was seventh (34.425) and Averi Kalscheur was 10th (33.85).

The Vikings also posted a season-best 36.65 on the floor exercise.

Hendrickson finished second on the floor with a 9.45, while Oglesby was sixth (9.125), Kalscheur was eighth (9.10) and Seeliger was 10th (8.975).

"One of the highlights of the day came on floor exercise," Koller Faust said. "It was especially exciting to close out the competition on such a high note and see our gymnasts' confidence and energy come together in strong, polished performances."

Mount Horeb also posted

a terrific 35.65 on the balance beam.

Hendrickson finished fourth with a 9.225, while Kalscheur was eighth (8.90), Oglesby was ninth (8.80) and Seeliger added an 8.725.

On the vault, Oglesby was fifth with an 8.70, while Seeliger was sixth (8.55), Hendrickson was eighth (8.45) and Tessa Soppe added an 8.0.

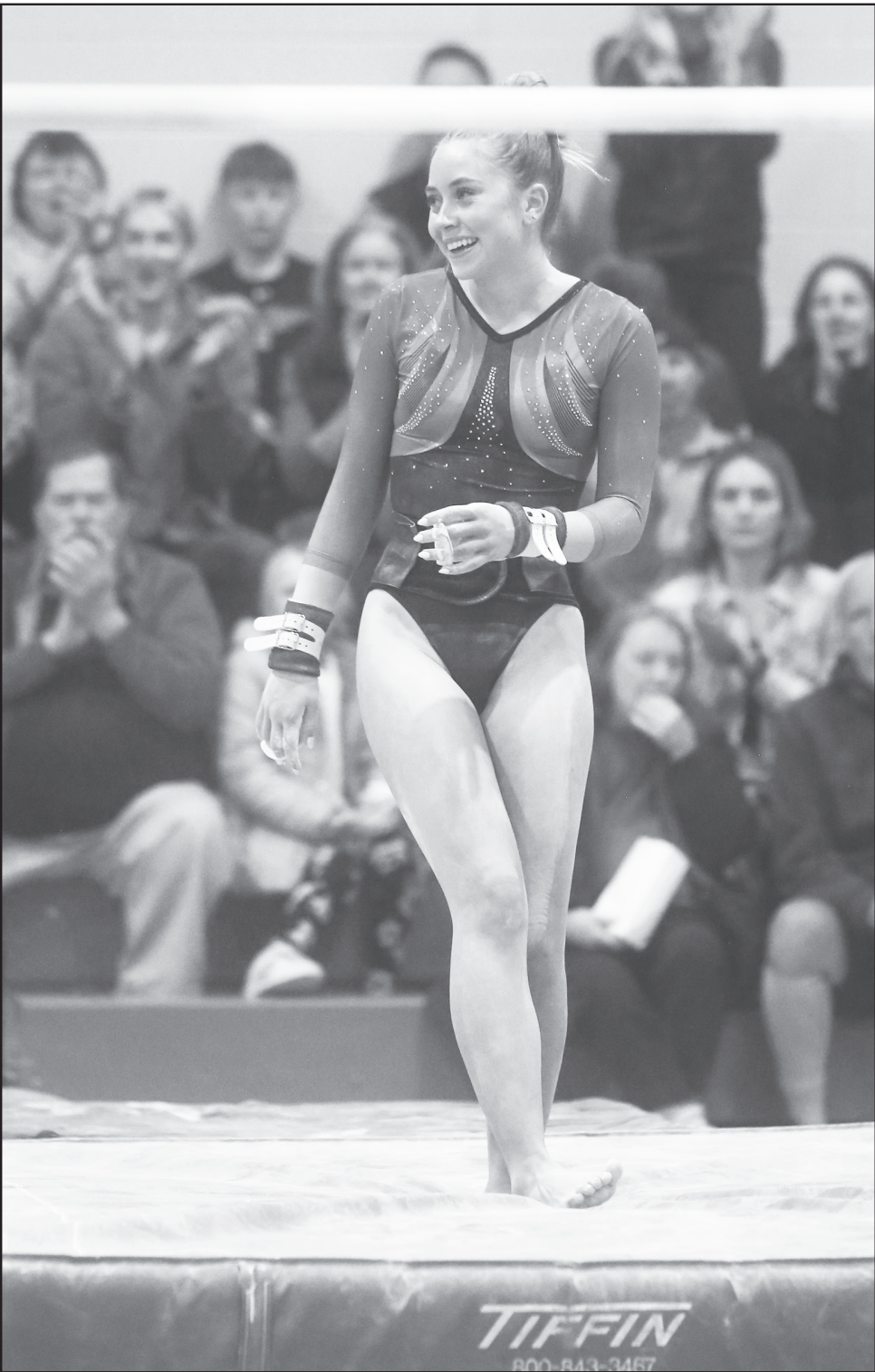
Seeliger was also fifth on the uneven bars with an 8.45, while Kalscheur was ninth (8.15), Soppe was 11th (8.05) and Hendrickson added a 7.85.

"I'm incredibly proud of how our team responded — stepping up for one another and competing with heart, focus and determination," Koller Faust said.

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb traveled to Sauk Prairie Tuesday to complete its dual from Feb. 10. That meet was suspended after Finley's injury.

The Vikings then compete in the Badger Conference Invitational at Waunakee High School Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.

This meet is a varsity and junior varsity meet with tickets (cashless) available at GoFan.



Mount Horeb gymnast Macie Finley suffered a season-ending injury last week. Photo courtesy of Holly Stoenner

Ballew headed to state MoHo swimmer qualifies in two events

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Jackson Ballew will end his freshman season with Mount Horeb's boys swimming team in style.

Ballew qualified for the WIAA Division 2 state meet in two events at last Saturday's WIAA Division 2 McFarland Sectional.

Ballew was fourth in the 100-yard freestyle in 50.19 seconds and is now seeded 10th at state.

Ballew was also sixth in the 50-yard freestyle (22.63) and is seeded 13th at state.

The state meet is Friday at Waukesha South High School beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Host McFarland won the



Julien Moreira and Mount Horeb's boys swimming team competed at the McFarland Sectional last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

sectional with 373 points, while Sauk Prairie/Heights (331.5), Madison Edgewood (284), DeForest (212) and Stoughton (183) rounded out the top five.

Mount Horeb finished with 77 points.

Here's how the rest of the

Vikings fared:

- Mount Horeb's quartet of Ballew, freshman Aidan Mulhern, sophomore Gavin Beglinger and freshman Julien Moreira finished sixth in the 200-yard medley relay.
- That same foursome finished 10th in the 200-yard

freestyle relay.

- Mulhern was 11th in the 100-yard breaststroke and Moriera was 14th.
- Beglinger was 21st in the 200-yard freestyle.
- Mulhern was 20th in the 50-yard freestyle and Moriera was 27th.

Hockey Vikings win three straight

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Stoughton's hockey team, which includes players from Mount Horeb, is entering the postseason on a hot streak.

The Vikings finished the regular season with a 5-4 win over Medford for their third consecutive win.

Stoughton, which began the year 1-20, ended the regular season 3-20.

The Vikings received the No. 14 seed in their sectional and opened the postseason at third-seeded Monona Grove Tuesday.

In Stoughton's win over Medford, Pete Heinecke scored two goals and had an assist. Paxton Nelson, Givon Storkson and Cy Inderrieden each had goals, as well.

Heinecke scored the game-winning goal with just 1:42 left in the game to break a 4-4 tie.

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Cal Odgers and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team rolled past Portage on Feb. 12. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

BOYS BB

continued from page 15

chester led the Vikings with 20 points, while junior guard Nick Ibinger added 12. Junior forward Owen Schultz had nine points, while senior guard Kam Nesheim had eight points and senior forward Henry Jennings added seven.

Mount Horeb has eight seniors, and Todd Nesheim opted to mix up his starting lineup to give certain players an opportunity. So Nesheim started senior guard Ethan Morrisard, Jennings and Ibinger — all reserves — along with Manchester and Hayden Anderson.

“As a coach, you always

worry a little about shaking things up, but the kids took my message to heart and came out with a great first segment,” Todd Nesheim said.

Manchester knocked down a 3-pointer to open the game, then found Jennings on a back door cut for a lay-up. Ibinger then had seven straight points and Morrisard added a basket to help the Vikings jump to an 18-4 lead.

By halftime, the lead had ballooned to 46-13. The only positive for Portage was it scored nine points late in the half after switching to a box-and-one on Manchester.

“We expected a box-and-one as they have run it before and we practiced it this week,” Todd Nesheim said.

“However, they got us playing a little too fast and that ended up helping them offensively. We were already out in front too much, so it didn’t really matter, but we had something to talk about at half.

“So we just talked about slowing down a bit, look to screen for Josh and for Josh to screen for others. It’s easy to take open three’s, but we talked about really getting the ball to the lane all week and we didn’t do a good job of that in the first half.”

Mount Horeb pushed its lead to 61-22 midway through the second half after Ibinger stayed hot with a 3-pointer and had a steal and lay-up.

Nesheim then cleared his bench and several reserves

had big moments.

Jennings knocked down a 3-pointer and had a lay-up. Everette Boatman had a traditional three-point play and Earl Strauss had a basket.

“We talk to our bench guys about when they get a chance to get in, does the game get ugly or can you continue to get high percentage shots and play good defense,” Todd Nesheim said. “Well, in this game, we had a stretch of good and bad.”

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb hosted Madison Edgewood Tuesday, then is at league-leading McFarland Friday at 7:15 p.m.

Postseason seeds will then be revealed Sunday.

“Things get much tougher going forward as we try to finish out our regular season,” Todd Nesheim said.

GIRLS BB

continued from page 15

the top-two in our league,” Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said. “Proud of the effort these kids have put in during the offseason to get into this position.”

The Vikings also earned the No. 4 seed in their WIAA Division 2 sectional.

Mount Horeb has a first round bye, then hosts fifth-seeded Sauk Prairie in a regional semifinal on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. If the Vikings win there, they’ll likely travel to top-seeded Edgewood for a regional final on Feb. 28.

The sectional semifinals are March 5 and the sectional finals are March 7.

Mount Horeb swept its season series with Sauk Prairie, so the Vikings are optimistic they can make some noise this postseason.

“Excited for our regional game vs Sauk,” Leibfried said. “Tough to beat a team three times in a season, but I am sure our girls will be ready to prepare and play the game.”

Here’s a recap of the Vikings’ games last week:

• **Mount Horeb 46, Sauk Prairie 21** — The Vikings built a 24-8 half-time lead and cruised past the visiting Eagles.

Mount Horeb forced 26 turnovers, which led to 20 points off of turnovers.

“We did a great job of switching on their ball screens and not allowing them to get into the lane,” Leibfried said.

Mount Horeb raced to a 10-0 lead and was never really challenged.

Aubrey Rockow led the Vikings with 12 points, while Courtney Monroe had 10 and Nalia Craven added eight.

Mount Horeb also hit 6-of-11 3-pointers in the first half when it built its commanding lead.

“Defensively this was

the best game Nalia Craven has played and Lauren Mester really did a great job of proper angles to keep their bigger guards out of the lane,” Leibfried said. “Really good win that kept us in second place.”

• **Mount Horeb 67, Portage 22** — Nalia Craven had 14 points and the Vikings had 10 players score in a rout of the Warriors.

Courtney Monroe added 12 first half points, while Lauren Mester added 11 and Avery Monroe had eight.

Magali Forlines also returned to the lineup following an ankle injury.

“This was great to see and she will really help us down the stretch and in the playoffs,” Leibfried said.

Portage held a boys-girls doubleheader, and the Warriors upset Madison Edgewood in the opener. Just two months earlier, Edgewood posted a 44-point win over Portage.

“I didn’t say a word, but I heard our girls talk about coming out strong and not letting something like that happen to us,” Leibfried said.

It didn’t.

Portage scored the first basket of the game, then Mount Horeb ran off 20 unanswered points. By halftime, the Vikings built a 43-13 lead.

The second half was more of the same as the Vikings forced 35 turnovers on the night and committed just 10 themselves.

“We did a lot of good things but again our on ball pressure defense led to turnovers and easy scores on the offensive end,” Leibfried said. “We were able to get some good minutes for our young guards in the second half and I thought Emily Wittenwyler, Isla Odgers and Rae Olson once again did some good things on the court and continue to get better.”

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TOWN OF SPRINGDALE
NOTICE

The Town of Springdale, Dane County, is seeking bids for remodeling a back hall, bathroom and closet area in the town hall (built in 1980). The project consists of drywall repair, electrical work, flooring, wall tile, shelving/cabinets, trim carpentry, doorway widening and replacement, wall bolstering for grab bars, painting, and installation of fixtures. For questions or to view the space, please contact Jackie at adminclerk@springdalewi.gov. Bidders should be aware that, as a municipal building during an election year, town hall will not be available for work during the following dates: 3/30- 4/8; 8/3-8/12; or 10/26-11/4. Bids should be itemized as much as possible, sealed, and submitted no later than noon on Friday, 3/13, to be opened at a public meeting at 7PM on Monday, 3/16.

Publish: 2/19/26, 2/26/26 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PRIMROSE
NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Planning Commission meeting for February 2026 will take place at 8468 County Road A, Verona WI, on Monday, February 23rd, 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.

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WRESTLE

continued from page 15

face Arcadia’s David Aguilar (43-8) in his first match on Feb. 26. Maier (47-4) will open against Benacee Jacker (38-16) of Little Chute on Feb. 26.

And Havens (39-7) opens with Jakob Soback of Spencer/Columbus/Granton (29-10) in his first match on Feb. 26.

Here’s how the Vikings fared at each weight class at sectionals.

106 — Bryce Madden finished second

Quarters - Bryce Madden (41-12) Fr., MHB pinned Dane Horkan (12-16) Fr., REAR, 2:39.

Semis - Bryce Madden (41-12) Fr., MHB pinned James Kastner (31-17) So., BEPL, 4:00.

First Place Match - Madox Mau (38-5) Fr., BMNG def. Bryce Madden (41-12) Fr., MHB, 3-1.

113 — Ryan Kuntz did not place.

Champ. Rd of 16 - Blake Delp (13-16) Fr., REAR def. Ryan Kuntz (3-12) Jr., MHB.

120 — Drew Droessler finished sixth.

Quarters - Jayden Vanderhoof (37-4) Jr., REAR def. Drew Droessler (22-20) So., MHB, 12-4.

Cons. Semis - Thomas Lohmar (35-9) So., BRJU pinned Drew Droessler (22-20) So., MHB, 5:45.

5th Place Match - Everett Dorshorst (33-12) Fr., LODI pinned Drew Droessler (22-20) So., MHB, 3:36.

126 — RJ Emanneul finished eighth.

Champ. Rd of 16 - RJ Emanneul (14-20) Fr., MHB pinned Aiden Weigel (16-7) Jr., BEPL, 4:34.

Quarters - Brayden Breider (38-13) Fr., STOU pinned RJ Emanneul (14-20) Fr., MHB, 4:00.

Cons. Sub-Semis - Noah Schuh (33-18) Jr., MONR pinned RJ Emanneul (14-20) Fr., MHB, 2:37.

7th Place Match - Khamani Gullens (10-10) So., RICE def. RJ Emanneul (14-20) Fr., 8-5.

132 — Maxton Stevens placed second.

Champ. Rd of 16 - Maxton Stevens (35-17) Fr., MHB pinned Waylon Andersen (7-14) So., MONR,

0:44.

Quarters - Maxton Stevens (35-17) Fr., MHB pinned Dash Ludwig (29-16) Sr., PORT, 0:37.

Semis - Maxton Stevens (35-17) Fr., MHB pinned Zander Kellogg (32-11) Sr., LODI, 1:46.

1st Place Match - Briggs Weigel (47-6) So., BEPL pinned Maxton Stevens (35-17) Fr., MHB, 0:50.

138 — Nick Burreson did not place

Champ. Rd of 16 - Weston Huntsman (25-22) So., MONR pinned Nick Burreson (13-13) Sr., MHB, 4:00.

144 — Timmy Kruse placed sixth

Champ. Rd of 16 - Timmy Kruse (21-18) Sr., MHB def. Sawyer Swatek (16-18) Jr., FENN, 8-7.

Quarters - Harrison Cyvas (21-6) Sr., STOU pinned Timmy Kruse (21-18) Sr., MHB, 1:54.

Cons. Sub-Semis - Timmy Kruse (21-18) Sr., MHB pinned Todd Hall Jr. (20-17) So., BRJU, 3:54.

Cons. Semis - Race Howlett (42-11) Sr., EVAN pinned Timmy Kruse (21-18) Sr., MHB, 1:46.

5th Place Match - Harrison Cyvas (21-6) Sr., STOU def. Timmy Kruse (21-18) Sr., MHB, 16-7.

150 — Hunter Stevens finished first

Quarters - Hunter Stevens (48-2) Sr., MHB pinned Jesse Kastner (20-18) So., BEPL, 1:10.

Semis - Hunter Stevens (48-2) Sr., MHB pinned Brody Blackbourn (36-12) Sr., CCBS, 2:10.

1st Place Match - Hunter Stevens (48-2) Sr., MHB pinned Hudson Jablonski (41-7) Jr., REAR, 1:31.

157 — Landon Kahl did not place

Champ. Rd of 16 - Adryan Wessels (23-16) Sr., EVAN def. Landon Kahl (17-17) So., MHB, 12-4.

165 — Easton Kammerud finished second

Quarters - Easton Kammerud (20-3) Fr., MHB pinned Bryce Ballweg (12-13) Fr., LODI, 0:26.

Semis - Easton Kammerud (20-3) Fr., MHB def. Landon Busch (38-11) Sr., CCBS, 13-3.

1st Place Match - Haakon Peterson (46-0) Sr., DODG

def. Easton Kammerud (20-3) Fr., MHB, 17-5.

175 — Eli Maier finished second.

Quarters - Eli Maier (47-4) Jr., MHB pinned Carter Wubben (6-18) So., STOU, 1:32.

Semis - Eli Maier (47-4) Jr., MHB pinned Cayson Helwig (35-6) Sr., BMNG, 3:26.

1st Place Match - Thomas Heiser (43-1) So., EVAN def. Eli Maier (47-4) Jr., MHB, 2-1.

2nd Place Match - Eli Maier (47-4) Jr., MHB def. Nolan Owen, (25-5) Sr., BARA, 8-0.

190 — Eli Leonard finished first

Quarters - Eli Leonard (49-0) Sr., MHB pinned Dean Smilgis (19-18) So., STOU, 0:43.

Semis - Eli Leonard (49-0) Sr., MHB pinned Brady Baer (30-16) So., BMNG, 0:37.

1st Place Match - Eli Leonard (49-0) Sr., MHB pinned Ryder Zdanczewicz (33-11) Sr., FENN, 0:19.

215 — Leland Havens finished second

Quarters - Leland Havens (39-7) Fr., MHB pinned Kadin Marz (13-20) Jr., BARA, 1:40.

Semis - Leland Havens (39-7) Fr., MHB def. Ethan Bindl (32-12) Sr., RICE, 9-0.

1st Place Match - Kade Splinter (46-3) Fr., STOU def. Leland Havens (39-7) Fr., MHB, 9-0.

2nd Place Match - Leland Havens (39-7) Fr., MHB pinned Kaden Butts (33-16) Sr., EVAN, 0:42.

285 — Gavin Reynolds finished sixth.

Champ. Rd of 16 - Gavin Reynolds (13-14) So., MHB def. Colt Neubauer (13-25) Fr., RIVA, 6-0.

Quarters - Gatlin Empey (43-1) Sr., STOU pinned Gavin Reynolds (13-14) So., MHB, 0:51.

Cons. Sub-Semis - Gavin Reynolds (13-14) So., MHB pinned Austin Browne (28-21) Jr., LODI, 3:16.

Cons. Semis - John Rogers (34-10) Sr., BARA pinned Gavin Reynolds (13-14) So., MHB, 0:51.

5th Place Match - Calvin Kravick (21-19) Sr., PORT def. Gavin Reynolds (13-14) So., MHB, 5-3.



Mount Horeb-Barneveld’s Bryce Madden (106 pounds) and Easton Kammerud (165) both finished second at the Richland Center Sectional last Saturday and earned trips to the state meet. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

**TOWN OF VERMONT
NOTICE**
Plan Commission Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2026,
at 6:00 p.m., 4017 County
Hwy JJ, Black Earth, WI
53517. See townofvermontwi.gov
for meeting agenda.
Please note: You can sign
up for emailed meeting agen-
das at www.townofvermontwi.gov

Publish: 2/19/26 **WNAXLP**

**TOWN OF PRIMROSE
REQUEST FOR BIDS ROAD WORK**

The Town of Primrose is requesting bids for approximately 1.5 miles of pavement overlay on Primrose Center Rd south of Ridge Dr. towards Miller Dr. THIS IS AN TRI/LRIP PROJECT.
Each road must be bid separately. Please contact the town clerk for more information regarding the limit of work. Bids can be submitted by mail to the Clerk at Town of Primrose, 8468 County Road A, Verona WI 53593 or by email to clerk@townofprimrose.com. The deadline for bids is 5:00pm on Friday, February 27th, 2026. Bids will be opened at the regularly scheduled town board public meeting on Monday, March 2nd, 2026 beginning at 7:30pm at the Town Hall, and the accepted bid awarded at that time. The Town of Primrose reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, as deemed to be most advantageous to the town.

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WICKBUILDINGS.COM 855-438-9425

Photo submitted

Walker headed to Minnesota State

Mount Horeb-Barneveld football stand-out Harrison Walker (center) recently signed his national letter of intent to play for Minnesota State University.

Walker, a defensive end, was named second-team all-Badger Small Conference last season.

Walker led the Vikings with 6.0 sacks and finished second in tackles for loss with 17. He was third on the team with 66 total tackles and also forced a fumble and recovered a fumble.

“Harrison is a disruptive force on the edge,” MH-B coach Bret St. Arnaud said of Walker at the end of last season. “He brings speed, strength, and relentless effort every play, consistently making life difficult for opposing quarterbacks and running backs.”



A group photo of Harrison Walker and his family/friends gathered around a table covered with a Minnesota State University Moorhead 'Dragons' banner. Walker is sitting at the table, signing a document. A football helmet and balloons are also on the table.

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS:
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- 30 Years Experience
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- Best Rates in Town
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Contact Jen / 608-712-0488

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD FOR SALE Larger pieces for outdoor wood stove. Call Steve 608-576-3637.

RENTALS

FOR RENT 2 bedroom on 2nd floor of 2 flat in Blue Mounds. Off street parking, laundry. \$950 plus utilities. 608-212-7347.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED Local countertop manufacturer is looking for person to build and install countertops in the local area. Good wages and benefits provided. Cal 608-798-4733 for an appointment.

HOME HEALTHCARE PROVIDER WANTED- weekend mornings available. House-keeping/personal care. Good Pay. Cross Plains area. Call for details. 608-798-4946

BLUE MOUND STATE PARK IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR SEVERAL POSITIONS, INCLUDING POSITIONS ON THE MILITARY RIDGE STATE TRAIL AND BADGER STATE TRAILS. POSITIONS RANGE FROM VISITOR SERVICES, PARK TECHNICIAN, PARK RANGERS AND NATURALIST.

PAY RANGES FROM \$15/HR.-\$16/HR.

Park Rangers & Park Technician positions require two years of driving experience. If you enjoy working outdoors, are self-motivated with good customer service and communication skills, we have several fun summer positions available.

Apply at WISCJOBS
Keyword "Blue Mounds"
Deadline is March 5, 2026



More Help Wanted Ads Can Be Found On The Back Page!

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM

Location:
Barneveld, WI



Procurement Specialist
Seeking a individual to support our manufacturing operations through strategic sourcing, inventory management, and cross-functional collaboration. This role is ideal for a detail-oriented professional who enjoys balancing analysis with relationship management and takes pride in ensuring materials, systems, and processes support efficient production and long-term business success.

Marketing Communications & Creative Specialist
Seeking a creative, detail-oriented individual with a passion for Ag- marketing and communications. Help produce content, manage campaigns, and build messaging that resonates with producers and distributor partners. Enjoy a collaborative team, and a role with measurable impact.

Apply here: www.bio-vet.com > Join Our Team
Questions? applications@bio-vet.com





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- Imaging Technologist (nights)
- Certified Diabetes Care & Education Specialist (CDCES)
- Clinic CMA or LPN
- Clinic Triage RN



- Director of Marketing & Community Relations
- Dietitian
- Human Resources Generalist
- Emergency Dept Intake Technician - AEMT
- Registered Nurses (ED, SNF, Float)

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

800 Compassion Way, Dodgeville, WI 53533 • 608.930.8000

Dane - Iowa Wastewater Commission

Entry Level Wastewater Operator

Full Time / 7:00am-3:30pm M-F
Location: Mazomanie, Wisconsin

Job Summary: We are seeking a skilled and motivated individual to join our team as an entry level wastewater operator. As a member of the team, you will work under the guidance of the Superintendent and Lab Manager to learn how to operate all aspects of the treatment facility in a safe and efficient manner.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with the day-to-day operations.
- Conduct regular checks and inspections to monitor equipment and process performance and identify potential issues.
- Perform equipment maintenance.
- Accurately record data, and maintenance activity in logs and computer systems.
- Stay current with industry advancements, best practices, and regulatory changes related to wastewater treatment.
- Learn to operate the sludge removal process and learn laboratory practices.

Required Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Strong work ethic and willingness to learn.
- Ability to work effectively in a team environment.
- Basic mechanical aptitude.
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation.
- Reside within 30 minutes of the facility for on-call emergencies.

Ideal Qualifications:

- Basic or advanced wastewater operator's license in the State of Wisconsin with any of the following subgrades: A1, B, C, P, D, L, and SS.
- Experience in wastewater treatment plant operations.
- Wastewater lab experience.

Compensation: Competitive wage with excellent benefits, Wisconsin Retirement System, paid vacation, sick leave and clothing allowance.

Application Process: To apply for this position, please submit your resumé, cover letter, and any relevant certifications or licenses to Jeff Moyer, Wastewater Superintendent, at daneiwawwtf@gmail.com. Interviews will be scheduled beginning the week of March 16.

EOE

WE'RE HIRING!

Spring Seasonal Positions Available

- CDL Drivers*
- Non CDL Drivers
- Warehouse/Skid Loader Operator

*Will consider assisting with obtaining CDL

Visit the Marxville or Spring Green Location at:
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Call for more information or apply online...
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Photo submitted

Celebrating history

Mount Horeb’s girls basketball program celebrated the 50th anniversary of WIAA girls basketball by introducing the 1976 team before their game with Sauk Prairie on Feb. 10. Pam Allen, a guard on the 1976 team, talked to the Vikings at an earlier practice about growing up in Iowa where they had girls basketball for decades, then moving to Wisconsin and not being able to play until her freshman year.

Members of Mount Horeb’s first girls basketball team included:

- Coach Kathy Davis
 - Manager Ellen Tracey
 - Kim Arneson (Class of ‘78)
 - Jacinta (Cindy) Bollig (Class of ‘76)
 - Barb Baumgartner (Class of ‘76)
 - Kathy Ann Wittenwyler (Class of ‘76)
- Marcia Marie Hirsch (Class of ‘76)
 - Marla Jean Esser (Class of ‘76)
 - Rhonda Sue Kurth (Class of ‘76)
 - Betty Opsal (Class of ‘76)
 - Diane Dangerfield (Class of ‘76)
- Kathy Schult (Class of ‘77)
 - Diane Brunner (Class of ‘76)
 - Jill Martin (Class of ‘77)
 - Kristi Kay Schumacher (Class of ‘76)
 - Teri Trainor (Class of ‘77)

HIRING DRIVERS & TECHNICIANS

Republic Services hiring CDL A & B Drivers and Diesel Technicians

Prairie du Sac, WI



REPUBLIC SERVICES



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- Competitive Pay
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- Career Advancement Opportunities



SURPLUS SUDS
LAUNDROMAT & PET WASH

NOW HIRING

Facility & Maintenance Team Members Surplus Suds – Mount Horeb, WI

Wisconsin Surplus is opening **Surplus Suds**, a brand-new laundromat, pet-wash, and apartment facility in downtown Mount Horeb — and we’re building a small, reliable team to keep it running smoothly starting in March 2026.

Duties Include: Laundromat & pet-wash cleaning and daily upkeep; bathrooms, office, and shop/warehouse custodial work; vending machine stocking; basic grounds care (mowing, snow removal); apartment maintenance & handyman tasks; mail/parts runs and general assistance as needed

Qualifications: Organized, detail-oriented, and dependable with a friendly, positive attitude; valid driver’s license and good driving record; able to be on your feet most of the day; basic cleaning, maintenance, and handyman skills; ideally live in or near Mount Horeb

Pay & Benefits: \$20.50/hr starting pay (60-day probationary period); pay increase based on performance; 401(k) with 4% match; PTO and paid holidays; yearly raises and end-of-year bonus; health insurance available (30+ hrs/week)

Hours: 20–40 hours/week | Weekdays, weekends & some on-call

Apply Today: Email your resumé, desired hours, and a short paragraph about yourself to Makenna@WisconsinSurplus.com



SCAN ME



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
FREE CLINIC

Community Connections Free Clinic in Dodgeville is Hiring!

Community Connections provides free medical care to people in the community without health insurance. Patients are scheduled on Tuesday afternoons and evenings (1-3 pm and 5-8 pm), and on Thursday evenings (5-8 pm). The clinic is a charitable organization and receives no government funding. We rely heavily on volunteers (physicians and other providers, nurses, receptionists, interpreters, and many others) to provide services. Spanish is the primary language of nearly 70% of the population served, so bilingual abilities are highly desirable, but not mandatory. The clinic provides a supportive and flexible work environment.

Clinic Director, Part-time (up to 15 hrs/wk)

In collaboration with clinic team, the Medical Director, and the clinic board of directors, the Director’s purpose is to attend to the administrative systems and processes of the clinic to assure high quality, efficient services are provided to our clients. This includes managing the non-clinical staff and volunteers in the clinic, developing strong relationships in the community to forge partnerships with other organizations and to promote the services of the clinic. The Director is also responsible for fundraising activities and working with the Board of Directors to create and sustain a long-term vision for the clinic.

If you are interested in this positions please contact Rebecca Steffes, RN, Clinic Manager at 608-930-2232 or ccfcrn@gmail.com.