

Historium Takes Kids on an Irish Adventure with Free Workshop

Mount Horeb’s downtown Driftless Historium (100 S 2nd St) invites students in grades K to 4 to their new “Hands-on History” afterschool workshops. Each session will be held on second Tuesdays through May and feature season-themed crafts with a historical twist!

Don your best green garb and join us on March 10 for an “Irish Adventure.” Participants will explore the culture and history of Ireland, and hear about the Irish immigrants who helped shape the Mount Horeb area. Students will dabble in a mix of Irish traditions: they’ll create a Celtic knot (ancient symbol of eternity and interconnectedness), try their hand at finger weaving (in honor of the island country’s seafaring traditions), learn about Saint Patrick (patron saint of Ireland)—and more!

This, and every session, will wrap up with an exhibit scavenger hunt, so our young historians become comfortable with museum etiquette and familiar with the stories, people and places in



Some of the first Irish families to settle in the area included Brennans, Browns, Cardens, Deneens, Howerys, Kelliheres, McAuleys, Quigleys and Ryans. Their history was well represented in the 1986 parade celebrating our Village’s 125th anniversary. Photo courtesy Mount Horeb Area Historical Society.

their own hometown.

The workshops are planned and led by museum staff and experienced educators. Sessions run from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and are absolutely free, due to a generous grant from the Mount Horeb Community Foundation. Capacity is limited to just twenty students per month and registration is required.

For more information related to Hands-on History or to register for the March session, visit mthorebhistory.org and search “Events,” or call 608-437-6486.

Johanna Miller to speak with PFLAG

PFLAG Mount Horeb continues monthly chapter meetings on Monday, March 2 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Mount Horeb Public Library meeting room with guest Johanna Miller.

Johanna Miller is a licensed clinical social worker with experience providing individual, family, and group therapy, supervising behavioral health clinicians, and supporting organizations and communities through

training and programmatic change. Johanna spent 13 years volunteering with GLSEN Baltimore, where she provided workshops to youth and K-12 staff with the goal of increasing school safety and



Miller

was recently certified as a Trevor Project Trainer. In addition to operating a private practice, Johanna is Director of New Program Development and Clinical Training for Catholic Charities of Baltimore’s behavioral health clinics, where she has used her knowledge to support the development of a more trauma-informed, LGBTQ+-responsive agency.

Johanna will be joining

the group via ZOOM and will speak the first hour, with the second hour dedicated to confidential support and sharing. Email pflagmoho@gmail.com to request the zoom link.

This event is free and open to the public. The program is made possible by a grant from the Mt. Horeb Community Foundation and is not a library sponsored event.

Woman with Mount Horeb connection pens her debut romance novel

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

Two area residents – one of whom has Mount Horeb roots - recently penned their debut novel together, telling a cozy holiday romance

inspired by the local community and the many things that make it special.

Jessica Aasve and Ashley Arn wrote “Love in Little Switzerland” together using the pen name Jessica Ashley. Aasve’s father, Lee Sherven, and her uncle and godfather Mark Sherven, are both from Mount Horeb, and her grandparents owned a farm here, where she spent time growing up.

They said the book is in-

spired by the village’s winter charm, traditions, and strong sense of community. The story highlights familiar local experiences, including the Christkindli Market, snowy winter nights, and community gathering places like The Alpine. Themes of fresh starts, belonging, and connection are woven throughout, drawing from the authors’ own lives.

“At its heart, this book is meant to feel like a warm es-

cape,” said Arn. “It’s a story people can curl up with during the holidays or anytime they want something comforting and familiar.”

“This is our first novel, but it’s sparked a creative partnership we hope to continue,” added Aasve. “New Glarus holds endless inspiration, and if readers want more, we may just have other ideas for future novels

They recently took the time to tell us more about

continued on page 9

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT
Finger Publishing, Inc.
1126 Mills Street
Black Earth, WI 53515
608-767-3655

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT MOUNT HOREB, WI 53572
(USPS 365-340)

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Mount Horeb Mail
1126 Mills Street, PO Box 286
Black Earth, WI 53515

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
In Wis: \$59/1 yr.; \$108/2 yrs.;
out of state: \$75/1 yr.; \$135/2 yrs.
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TAILSPIN

JOHN ARMBRUSTER

John Armbruster, who wrote the story of Gene Moran’s life in his book, *Tailspin*.

WWI SURVIVAL STORY TOLD AT LOCAL LIBRARY

In November 1943, in the skies over Nazi Germany, a wounded American tail gunner, Gene Moran, lay in the severed tail of his Flying Fortress bomber. The mangled wreckage plunged four miles toward German soil. His parachute shredded by enemy fire, Gene awaited the inevitable. The cartwheeling tail section slammed into a forest and dumped Gene onto the cold ground. He was alive! Gene fell four miles without a parachute and survived. But his ordeal had just begun. Discover his incredible life story Thursday, March 5 at 1pm at the Mount Horeb Public Library with author John Armbruster, who wrote the story of Moran’s life in his book *Tailspin*.

For more than sixty years, Gene said little about one of the most extraordinary stories of World War II until he met the author, John Armbruster. John, a close friend of the Moran family, initially refused to write Gene’s story. Twenty years removed from a journalism degree and writing high school basketball stories for

newspapers, John couldn’t imagine taking on such significant work. But the author agreed to the project when one of Gene’s daughters told John, “He’ll do it, but only if you write it.” The journey of telling the story becomes a story itself. *Tailspin* chronicles Gene’s unbelievable World War II survival saga. It will also show an elderly man finally coming to terms with the cruelties of a war that would haunt his entire life.

John Armbruster graduated from UW-Madison with degrees in journalism and secondary education. After a 30-year career teaching middle and high school social studies, John published his first book *Tailspin*, the World War II story of a Wisconsin tail gunner and prisoner of war who fell four miles without a parachute and lived.

Books will be available to purchase. Armbruster will also display WWII artifacts and newspapers. For more information about the library, its programs and services, visit mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021.

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Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago-
Mar. 3, 1886

Thos. Gordon lost a valuable horse last week.

The Harmony Band enlivened matters at the rink on Friday evening last.

A rumor which has been going the rounds for some time is now beginning to assume tangible shape, to the effect that we shall have a feed mill erected here before many months.

Chester Torgerson recently had disposed of a lot of 26 hogs to Robert Martin, which averaged nearly 400 pounds each. This is the finest bunch of porkers received in this market for some time.

130 Years Ago-
Feb. 27, 1896

Call at Dahlen’s harness shop for your harness this spring. A good assortment is now made up to supply the spring demand.

The whisker club has unceremoniously gone to pieces; there are but two or three steadfast remaining. Wonder if this is not a sign of an early spring.

The finest suit of clothes ever seen on the streets of Mount Horeb was worn by Mr. Ed. Bennington (a medicine show man). Made by our merchant tailor, L.H. Lewis.

The finest stock of goods in the country is to be found at N.C. Evans’ Family medicines. Every bottle war-

ranted. They will give you satisfaction.

A.C. Brader was here yesterday to have Kleven Brothers figure on a contract to erect a building on the County Farm for person, afflicted with Leroy, there being now two cases under county care.

120 Years Ago-
Mar. 1, 1906

A son of Martin Nelson, saloonkeeper at Madison, confessed to having stolen a bag of gold containing a thousand dollars while acting as bank messenger. His father made good the amount and the lad has not been arrested.

The Coach Horse Association met last week and closed up the affairs of the company.

Chas. Lindstrom and Henry Anderson have been busy at work building the stone foundation wall for the new electric light plant. The work is being rapidly pushed.

Mr. and Mrs. Britton returned Saturday to take charge of their hotel after a few month’s absence, and by all appearances greatly refreshed. Mr. Britton’s eyesight has improved considerably, which his many friends will be pleased to learn.

110 Years Ago-
Mar. 3, 1916

Ladies coats and suits with their refreshing newness and springy appearance are now being shown in our garment section. This

is a surer sign than the first robin. A. Hoff Co.

A number of our citizens attended the automobile show at Madison last week.

A sound proof telephone booth was this week installed at the National Hotel for the convenience of the traveling public who use long distance lines, it is also used for local calls. Host Blakeslee has now about completed everything about the up-to-date Hostelry which comparison favorable with most city hotels.

Thursday evening Feb. 24, our venerable friend Paul Sletto was called to the great sickness at the State Hospital, which terminated in pneumonia. The remains were brought here the following day and over Sunday the remains were permitted to rest over the Sabbath in the Peterson millinery parlors his former place of business where many of Paul’s friends called to once more look upon his face.

100 Years Ago-
Feb. 26, 1926

Mrs. John Deneen is dangerously sick with blood poison. She is about 50 and has raised 8 or 9 children.

The sale on the Forsmo farm went very good. Cows sold from \$65 to \$104 apiece. Horses sold up to \$157.

The Rev. Lavik, who for the past three years has served the Perry, Primrose and York congregations, handed over his resignations last Sunday.

L.M. Stuessey has bought 100 big shocks of corn from Mrs. Mary Keleney.

We have learned from reliable sources that more than

\$4,300 has been subscribed from members of the Perry congregation for the Lutheran hospital at Madison. In Rev. Gunderson’s four congregations over \$8,000 has been subscribed for the same cause up to Christmas time and the work is not yet completed. Rev. Berkelo of Madison is the solicitor.

90 Years Ago-
Feb. 27, 1936

Mrs. Albert Lukken, 37, who was badly burned Friday, Jan. 31, died Monday afternoon, Feb. 14. The injuries causing her death were sustained when a kettle of oil caught fire in her home.

Songbooks to be used at the Legion Auxiliary meetings have been donated by Miss Delia Mael, an auxiliary member.

Edna Nygard, head nurse at the Buckner Hospital here, fell on the icy streets in Madison Monday and broke a vertebrae and one rib.

Hiram Skuldt underwent an appendectomy at Madison General Hospital Wednesday.

It happened! A packed house witnessed it. It was the first conference loss of the current season for the local cagers. A wild enthusiastic crowd cheered and applauded and sat with fingers crossed and tried many other Hoodo means of stimulating victory, but their efforts were in vain. The contest was furious from start to finish.

Protecting your Pastures from Grub Injury” will be one of the subjects talked over at a meeting of farmers Friday afternoon. the the Mt. Horeb Village Hall.

John DeWitt of Holland,

Mich., has spent the las week in Barneveld installing new hatching equipment for the Campbell hatchery. The hatchery has been moved to the building formerly used by the Badger-Brodhead Cheese Co. for cheese storage. Next Wednesday and Thursday, brings MGM’s 3rd dimension sound film sensation, “Audiospopiks” to the Strand in addition to Jack Benny in “It’s in the Air.” Here are some of the allusions effected by the new film wonder: mice nibble on the end of your nose, dreams of seltzer spatter your shirt front, a baseball lands smack in your eye, skeletons chuck you under the chin, slide trombones whizz close to your cheek, lovely girls swing out of the screen!

I will be at the Mt. Horeb Bank on Saturday, Feb. 29th, all day. Owing to the bad roads I have received very little of the taxes during the month of February. I hope many will pay on the 29th. Thomas Ayen, Treasurer, Town of Springdale.

80 Years Ago-
Feb. 28, 1946

Mr. and Mrs. Werner Ryser of Mount Horeb and Chicago had the pleasure of hearing Wednesday of last week that their daughter, Chermaine, has a movie contract waiting for her in Hollywood Calif., after she finishes high school. Chermaine was born on South Fifth St., Mount Horeb.

Fred Zweifel, Springdale, has purchased an addition of 40 acres of land adjoining his farm from the M.O. Kobbervig estate.

With jumps of 132 and

147 feet, Rudy Rettenmend won third place at the Westby Ski Tournament Sunday.

60 Years Ago-
Feb. 24, 1966

Super Ball: Get the incredible bouncing ball that’s caught the nations fancy. You’ve seen it on TV. Has 50,000 pounds of compressed energy. Get yours today, just 49¢ with a \$5 purchase at Kalscheur’s Fine Foods.

After spending the past 15 of their 16 years in Mount Horeb in offices over the Farmers Store (now Kalscheur’s) the Attorneys Cook and Kalbacken law firm has moved around the corner to the first floor new building at 119 Front Street owned by Clarence Labansky.

20 Years Ago-
Mar. 2, 2006

Helen Bergey closed the door of her jewelry store at 203 East Main Street for the last time in early 2005. Her granddaughter, Julie Bergey has polished the counters, restocked the cases and reopened the store as the third generation in the family business.

Bryce Lawrence is the name chosen by Larry and Jamie Losenegger of Mount Horeb for their son born on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2006 at Meriter Hospital, Madison.

Harold “Junior” Cushman, 77, of Vermont Township, died on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006, at the home farm surrounded by his family. He was married to Marcella “Tootie” Forbes on Feb. 8, 1956, in Dodgeville.

Student Musicians to Perform in the Annual Festival February 28

On Saturday, February 28, over 450 student musicians from grades 6-12 will participate in the District Solo & Ensemble Festival at Mt. Horeb High School. The festival is the culminating event for this period of year, and most students choose to perform their finished product at the festival. The event is sponsored by the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA), which promotes school music statewide.

Students can participate in various configurations for

their performances; they can choose to play in everything from solos to duets and trios to larger ensembles. Many students participate in more than one event; it is not uncommon for high school students to participate in four or more events.

Students perform their pieces for an adjudicator provided by WSMA; these adjudicators are experienced musicians, many of them current and retired music educators. After students perform, they work with the

adjudicator on a few items and receive written feedback after the festival. Students also receive a rating based on their performance; unlike a competition festival, they receive ratings based on their performance against a set of standards.

For students, the Solo & Ensemble unit is a chance to learn a lot about music, but it is also a favorite for students as they have a lot of freedom to choose what they want to perform and who they want to work with, for example,

students have the opportunity to try out new styles, sing in new languages, or work with a group of friends on a saxophone choir.

For teachers, the Solo & Ensemble unit is the only time of year where students perform more as individual musicians rather than the typical large ensemble settings. Band teacher Kellen Dorner sees this as the time of year when students experience the most growth because each student must be self-reliant and individually

accountable.

“You can’t look at your neighbor and match what they’re doing, since you are the only person playing that specific part in your trio. That kind of independence improves our entire program, and gives students the skills needed to succeed in really amazing large group performances,” says Dorner.

The festival is also popular with the families and friends of the performers, as it is an excellent opportunity to see individuals perform

up close.

This annual event is sponsored by the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA), a leader in providing programs and services that challenge youth to achieve excellence through music.

Founded in 1932, WSMA is a non-profit, statewide association serving more than 3,500 music teachers and school administrators in the education of over 100,000 students annually.

School District Selects C.D. Smith Construction for Mount Horeb Elementary School Project

The Board of Education took action February 16 and the Mount Horeb Area School District (MHASD) announced its selection of C.D. Smith Construction as its general contracting partner for the Mount Horeb Elementary School project.

This project represents what the district called “an important milestone made possible by the strong support of the Mount Horeb community through the successful passage of the school referendum. MHASD ex-

tends its sincere gratitude to community members for their engagement and trust in supporting facility improvements that directly benefit the community’s youngest learners and staff.”

The Mount Horeb Elementary School renovation will combine “existing first- and second-grade spaces with kindergarten areas, creating a more cohesive, safe, and developmentally appropriate learning environment for the District’s youngest learners.” C.D.

Smith Construction brings extensive experience in K-12 and higher education construction throughout Wisconsin, with more than \$440 million in projects recently completed and an additional \$159 million currently underway, according to the district.

“To maximize efficiency and ensure responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources, the District partnered with Bray Architects and utilized a Design-Bid-Build delivery model,” a

district statement continued. “This approach is projected to generate approximately \$4 million in savings com-

pared to original estimates. These savings will be reinvested into critical facility needs, including the replace-

ment of failed backup boilers and other strategic cost-saving measures.”

Village board candidate forum will take place March 14

There will be a Mount Horeb Village Board Trustee Candidate Forum on Saturday, March 14 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Cafeteria Commons at Mount Horeb High School. The event is being sponsored by Mount Horeb Rotary, The Mount Horeb Mail, and Cathy Scott, and coordinated with the League of Women Voters. Check back soon for more information.

Homicide

Authorities launch homicide investigation after dead body is discovered in Ridgeway

A homicide investigation is underway in the Village of Ridgeway after authorities found a man dead inside his home there, according to the Iowa County Sheriff's Office.

On February 12, 2026, at approximately 11:20 a.m., the Ridgeway Marshal's Office and an Iowa County Deputy responded to a residence on Collins Street in Ridgeway to conduct a welfare check. Upon arrival, deputies located a deceased adult male inside the home. Following further investigation, the death was determined to be a homicide.

The victim has been identified as Todd Nechkash Sr., 62, of Ridgeway. Authorities said Nechkash was the homeowner and the only person living at the residence.

Investigators determined that Kelli R. Nechkash, 67, of Black Earth, Wisconsin, had prior contact with law enforcement the evening before Todd Nechkash was found deceased. On February 11, shortly after 11:00 p.m., she was arrested in the Town of Mineral Point following a motor vehicle crash and taken into custody for Operating While Intoxicated – 6th Of-



Nechkash

fense. Those charges have been referred to the Iowa County District Attorney's Office.

As the homicide investigation progressed and evidence was gathered, Kelli Nechkash was identified

as a suspect in Todd Nechkash's death. On February 16, 2026, she was formally arrested for First-Degree Intentional Homicide. She remains in custody at the Iowa County Jail and was scheduled to appear for a bond hearing, February 16, at the Iowa County Court-house.

Todd and Kelli Nechkash are married but maintained separate residences.

Authorities stated there is no danger to the public, and the incident appears to be isolated. The investigation remains active and ongoing.

The sheriff's office is

asking anyone who observed suspicious activity during the late afternoon or evening hours of February 11, particularly in the area of Collins Street, to contact Iowa County Crime Stoppers at 608-319-6703 or submit a tip through the sheriff's office mobile app. Residents and business owners with security cameras in the area are encouraged to register their cameras through the app's Crime Prevention tab.

The investigation is being led by the Iowa County Sheriff's Office with assistance from the Ridgeway Marshal's Of-

fice, the Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigation, the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory, the Iowa County District Attorney's Office, and multiple local and state agencies.

In a statement, the sheriff's office extended condolences to the family and friends of Todd Nechkash and acknowledged the impact of the incident on the Ridgeway community. Additional updates will be released through the sheriff's office's official channels as information becomes available.

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 **Total Body Fitness**! This class is designed to improve fitness and overall health. Tone muscles while boosting your balance, flexibility, endurance, and speed. Exercises can be modified to accommodate all fitness levels! The spring session takes place at 6 pm on Mondays, March 9 through May 4. The cost is \$40 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. The registration deadline is March 2.

Chess Class is starting soon! Open to beginners and casual players, this class teaches chess basics, strategy, and sportsmanship in a fun, relaxed setting. **Grandmasters of Chess** keeps chess students progressing through 60+ chess

lessons and thousands of puzzles as well as guided games and in-class tournaments. This class is for K-5th graders every Wednesday, 4 to 5 pm, March 11 through May 22. The cost is \$105 for residents and \$115 for nonresidents and the deadline is March 4.

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:

2/26: Video Game Design

3/2: Total Body Fitness Spring Session

3/4: Grandmasters of Chess Sess. 2

3/10: Water Exercise Sprig Session

3/30: Little Folk Art Studio

Sugar River Euchre

By Stan Hook

With just two weeks left to play in the second half of the season, the race for first place is the tightest I believe it has ever been. Five teams are currently tied for first place after seven weeks of play. Several of these teams will play each other over the next two weeks, which should help narrow the field. The first of these important matches will take place this week between the Kleeman Hay Shakers and Kurniki's Express. At this point it is anyone's guess who will win the second half.

One of the five teams fighting for a first-place finish is the J&M Bar River Rats. After defeating the Viking Trolls by 46 points, the J&M Bar River Rats, who held a first-place spot through the first four weeks of this half, before losing two matches in a row, have now struggled back to a share of first place. Tracy Funseth and Jimmy Gehin led the way for the River Rats, scoring 113 points on the Trolls.

The slow start by the Red Mouse Shufflers in the second half of the season hasn't kept them from becoming one of the five teams in the hunt for first place. The Shufflers stole 31 head of cattle from the Norsk Cowboys. The Shufflers led this match by as many as 45 points at one point. The lost stock knocked the Cowboys out of sole possession of first place and into a tie with four other teams.

Kurniki's Pipe Benders, who lost to the Cowboys in the season's first half playoff match haven't had the best of luck in the second half either. Their 8-point loss to the Hay Shakers virtually eliminated them from the hunt and propelled the Hay Shakers into the elite five.

The Norsk Pranksters are also on the outside looking in but kept their hopes alive by knocking the wind out of the Red Mouse Uff-das. Corey O'Hern and Tommy Schulenberg played a big part in the 27 point victory, scoring 115 points for the Pranksters. Uff-da's Bruce Milestone and

Standings:

Norsk Cowboys 5-2

J&M Bar River Rats 5-2

Kleeman's Hay Shakers 5-2

Kurniki's Express 5-2

Red Mouse Shufflers 5-2

Norsk Pranksters 4-3

Kurniki's Pipe Benders 3-4

Viking Trolls 2-5

Red Mouse Uff-Da 1-6

Sportsman's Cheese Eaters 0-7

Schedule for Feb. 26th

Cheese Eaters at Shufflers (7:00)

Pranksters at Trolls (7:00)

Uff-da at River Rats (7:30)

Hay Shakers at Express (7:00)

Pipe Benders at Cowboys (7:00)

Congratulations to the winners of our

Red-Hot Valentine's Day Giveaway!

Rhoda Hehn, Belleville

Bob Zantow, Verona

Jackie Coyle, Cross Plains

Each winner will receive a \$30 gift certificate redeemable at any of the participating businesses.

Thank you to our sponsors and to everyone who participated in our contest!

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John Baumgartner did all they could to counter the attack of Corey and Tommy, but 112 points just wasn't enough.

The last team to join the group of five was Kurniki's Express. In their match with the Sportsman's Cheese Eaters, engineers Dave Steinhauer and Ed Chancellor shoveled 118 points into the boilers for this week's high score. Engineers Jim Boland and John Scheidegger heated their boiler to 112 psi. Cheese Eaters Jon Duerst and Brett Hoesly devoured just 82 lbs. of cheese for this week's low score. The Express ended last week's journey 67 points ahead of the Cheese Eaters.

Village Vignette

A window on the world

By LAURENCE KRUCKMAN
Village Vignette

By the late 1950s, Mount Horeb and the surrounding Driftless area was entering an economic transition with small farms, slowly at first, becoming less predominant on the landscape. Cheese factories were still evident, but the curious, and wonderfully elongated, buildings with their large, shiny, burnished copper kettles catching glimmers of sunlight were transitioning to homesteads. Believe it or not, one room school houses could still be found in the area until the 1960s. But they too were beginning to close as “consolidation” became the new buzzword in education pedagogy.

While change was coming to the public schools, my high school graduating class of 1961 was still small, 75 in number, and the majority of my peers were bussed in from rural farms. So why would several of us explore and, eventually, live internationally for decades? Yes, we were rural and small, but we were certainly not provincial. The mysterious, limestone walled, steep valleys of the Driftless were a beckoning call to outsiders. In fact, the declining use of small dairy farms provided a ready-made residence for newcomers seeking “back-to-the land” lifestyles, University of Wisconsin faculty with worldwide reputations, related researchers, writers and artists, and many others. Besides the excellent local teachers, the high school also attracted a few unique educators, often the spouses of graduate students at the UW.

All of this provided us with a window on the world. Croatian born artist, Marko Spalatin, turned an old school house in Blue Mounds into his studio where he created silk screen works that have been displayed internationally; world renowned Danish born UW harpsichord musician and scholar, Gunnar Johansen (featured in Time Magazine), built his own house and recording studio north of the mounds; Marie Teresa Ríos, a writer best known for her 1965 book,



Norm Thomson looks on as his spouse Dr. Rose Jepkorir Chepyator receives a sports award in Nairobi Kenya. She was a member of the Kenyan national team for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow. Currently a Professor at the University of Georgia, she has appeared on PBS and ABC news.

“The Fifteenth Pelican” (became the basis for the TV sitcom “The Flying Nun”), lived north of town on Highway 78; Jane Farwell, creator of “Folklore Village,” brought international folk dancing and music to the Mount Horeb school during winter vacations. I was lucky enough to meet several of these people; I worked as a printmaker’s assistant with Spalatin, was invited to dinner with the Johansen’s and, by chance, ended up at the high school gym and dancing with people from around the country.

One idea that truly broadened our “window on the world” was the Peace Corps, originally proposed in the 1950s by our own Wisconsin Representative, Henry Ruess. However, it was slow in coming until Kennedy promoted the volunteer corps during his 1960 presidential campaign, possibly mentioning it during his campaign stop in Mount Horeb. The first groups of volunteers began training in June 1961, just as my classmates and I were graduating from high school. The idea was so widely promoted in colleges that those attending were well aware of the Peace Corps!

Norm Thomson was the first of my cohort not just to volunteer, but to “go native” following his graduation from Milton College. He headed to Uganda after

which, in an unusual twist, he completed a second Corps term in Kenya. No doubt his parents, John and Olive, well-known UW biologists, were part of the stimulus (the UW has consistently sent some of the largest numbers of Peace Corps volunteers overseas with 3,074 alumni having served since 1961). After his Peace Corps stints, he remained in Africa due to opportunity to teach biology at St. Patrick High School, in Iten, in the Rift Valley of Kenya. He gathered lab equipment, created curriculum, taught science, and encouraged his students to seek high education worldwide. He also coached track (having been on the track team in Mt. Horeb) and led many of his students to international competition and even the Olympics.

Peg Henze’s father was co-owner of Kessner-Henze Cheese Company on South 2nd Street. He had lived in New York City for several years where he met Peg’s mother, Madaline, so they were both rather cosmopolitan. When asked about her love of things international, she exuberantly describes her favorite children’s book series, My Book House, a treasured gift from her

mother which tells stories of kids growing up, primarily, in Europe. At the UW Madison, Peg lived in the French House which further opened her eyes to the world. Florian, her future husband had come to Madison from France on a Fulbright Fellowship to study economics. They met in 1961 and were married in 1964, her senior year, just prior to Florian’s return home to serve in the French Army. Interestingly, before he left, he was teaching French to future US Peace Corps workers. Peg reports she knew all about Kennedy’s Peace Corps and was attracted primarily to its humanitarian goals. She would have volunteered had she not gotten married.

Dennis Lienau selected a religious school affiliated with the Evangelical Lutherans, Midland College, in Nebraska. His parents operated the Gamble-Skogmo Hardware on Main Street in Mount Horeb. While at Midland, Dennis joined the civil rights activists riding interstate buses into the segregated South to challenge the non-enforcement of Supreme Court decisions that ruled segregation was unconstitutional. Another classmate, Jim Lund, did the same. After college, Den-

nis volunteered in the Peace Corps and was sent to Thailand. Post Peace Corps he obtained a graduate degree at the University of Hawaii, then moved to Indonesia. There he became a teacher and administrator at the Jakarta International School where he remained for over a decade.

And how did these three fare? Norm spent many years in Kenya where a Thomson Education Fund has been established with a national biology contest for all high school students. He returned to the US, completed his PhD in biology from UW Madison and taught at the University of Georgia. There he published a large number of papers (often linked to Louis Leakey’s paleontology work in the Rift Valley) and was honored with several university-wide teaching awards. He also directed the University of Georgia’s Kenya Study Abroad Program. Norm died from melanoma at age 70, in 2013. He is survived by his spouse, Rose Jepkorir Chepyator-Thomson, and three sons. Dennis married Sri Setyanings and has three daughters. After decades in Indonesia, he returned to Virginia and now teaches history part time.

Peg has outlasted them all and continues to live in France for over 60 years. She has three children, and numerous grandchildren. Regrets? “None, really, although I do miss the snow, especially around Christmas.” But she also states, “mentally, I live on two continents!” She often visits family and friends in the US, plus, she has been fortunate to keep and ride several beloved horses at her home in France, a special love since her Mount Horeb childhood. And she adds, “My life is filled with many friends. I feel very engaged and happy here in southern France.”

Looking into a crystal ball in 1961 and asking who of

this small graduating class might spend decades living overseas, these same individuals might have come to mind. Why? Their level of involvement in the community and high school might be the giveaway. All three were in the National Honor Society, participated in multiple plays, wrote for the student newspaper, starred in forensics and eagerly joined the chorus, orchestra, and dance band. Peg recalls they “were politically active and the three of them, as high school juniors, wrote a political piece which appeared in a Madison newspaper.”

All three were curious, bright go-getters. But so were others, so no doubt there were a variety of factors, including having families that were open to the world, or “worldly,” if you will. According to Peg, all three definitely wanted to be humanitarians, perhaps embracing the Peace Corps’ goals: To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained workers, and, to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Then there is the unpredictable variable of love, perhaps the true key to their decisions as they all married spouses from their adopted countries. The heart, unbothered by borders, remembers what the passport forgets. Or perhaps better said by the Roman poet Virgil, “Love conquers all; let us too yield to love.”

DISAGREE

continued from page 1

Public Affairs, for an evening covering the latest research on civil discourse initiatives, as well as best practices and methods of public engagement. Following the public talk, participants will have the opportunity to brainstorm and discuss ways to apply these insights in our own community.

More program dates, speakers, and registration details will be announced soon. For more information, visit www.mhpl.org or call Melissa Roelli at 608-437-5021.

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MoHo and Barneveld students shine at SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA Wisconsin, a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce, announced the results of its regional competition held on Friday, January 30, at UW-Platteville in Platteville, WI.

3-D Printing & Design (High School)
First Place: Chet Davis, Germantown High School
Second Place: Linnea Jacobson, River Valley High School
Third Place: Mason Neuenschwander, Cambridge High School

3-D Printing & Design (Middle School)
First Place: Peleus Parker, Waunakee Middle School
Second Place: Allie Riley, Barneveld Middle School
Third Place: Arwen Valcheff, Barneveld Middle School

Carpentry
First Place: Logan Ferguson, New Glarus High School
Second Place: Shomari Tubbs, Barack Obama School of Career & Tech Ed (BOSCTE)
Third Place: Jackson Albers, McFarland High School

CO2 Dragster (High School)
First Place: Bevin Bradley, Barneveld High School
Second Place: Isabel Pahlman, Barneveld High School
Third Place: Jackson Albers, McFarland High School

CO2 Dragster (Middle School)
First Place: Nolan Quinn, Waunakee Middle School
Second Place: Ryan Haesler, Barneveld Middle School
Third Place: Griffin Pohlman, Barneveld Middle School

Electrical Construction Wiring
First Place: Connor McDonald, Winneconne High School
Second Place: Caleb Hilmer-Amundson, Hartford Union High School
Third Place: Sophia Schwartz, Howards Grove High School

Electronics Technology
First Place: Dakota Grey, Waunakee High School
Second Place: Justin Schnarsky, Jefferson High School
Third Place: Adam Nobling, Jefferson High School

Entrepreneurship (High School)
First Place: Logan Deml, Zhicheng Huang, Geetham Pabbisetty, and Grant Walsh, Germantown High School
Second Place: Sydney Doll, Eva Gunenfelder, Maya Martinson, and Sophia Smith, New Glarus High School
Third Place: Charles Gullickson, Dea’Mon Meise, and Luisita Murray, Madison East High School

Entrepreneurship (Middle School)
First Place: Cheyenne Alfred, Addyson Durst, Wynn Heibel, and Makena Moyer,

Barneveld Middle School
Second Place: Janiya Beverly, Kamryn Hall, LaNiah Rushing, and Ava Smith, Barack Obama School of Career & Tech Ed (BOSCTE)

Facilithon
First Place: Jonathan Reyes, Cambridge High School
Second Place: Grace Freemark, Oshkosh North High School
Third Place: Shaila Randall, Howards Grove

Job Interview (High School)
First Place: Charlotte Rehm, Oshkosh North High School
Second Place: Kallan Jacobson, River Valley Senior High School
Third Place: Emily Steiner, Oshkosh North High School

Job Interview (Middle School)
First Place: Jacob Sandry, Barneveld Middle School
Second Place: Coryn Roethle, Barneveld Middle School
Third Place: Dewayne Harris, Barack Obama School of Career & Tech Ed (BOSCTE)

Job Skill Demonstration Open (High School)
First Place: Junie Kierce, Waunakee High School
Second Place: Naga Gandhari, Sun Prairie West High School
Third Place: Stephen Hulett, Oshkosh North High School

Job Skill Demonstration Open (Middle School)
First Place: Annalee Luna, Barneveld Middle School

Medical Math
First Place: Kerrigan Kimball, Oshkosh West High School
Second Place: Olivia Ghorai, Hartford Union High School
Third Place: Nolan Baryenbruch, Barneveld High School

Medical Terminology
First Place: Layla Silva, Oshkosh North High School
Second Place: Liana Smithyman, Hartford Union High School
Third Place: Anna Lyngen, Oshkosh North High School

Power Equipment Technology
First Place: Zach Klauer, Waunakee High School
Second Place: Wyat Schleis, Mishicot High

School
Third Place: Joseph Schuch, Oregon High School

Prepared Speech (High School)
First Place: Kiyah Brunner, Oshkosh North High School
Second Place: Tristyn Holzhueter, Oconomowoc High School
Third Place: Landon Marty, New Glarus High School

Prepared Speech (Middle School)
First Place: Jordan Whitehead, Barack Obama School of Career & Tech Ed (BOSCTE)

Promotional Bulletin Board
First Place: Izabel Durst, Hannah Esch, and Erin Lasse, Barneveld High School
Second Place: Megan Bingen, Lydia Gault, and Paige Teske, Hartford Union High School
Third Place: Colette Alexander, Cali Aslesen, and Lena Jarvela, Waunakee High School

Related Technical Math
First Place: Xavier Bott, Waunakee High School
Second Place: Finnegan McGuire, Oregon High School
Third Place: Brady Bartlett, Oregon High School

Team Engineering Challenge (High School)
First Place: Jaydin Knickmeier, Masina Lealaua, and Meghan Saemann, Cambridge High School
Second Place: Ben Dutcher, Blake Horsfall, and Genesis Solache, Madison East High School
Third Place: Jada Bell, Neva Clarke, and Brooklyn Gross, Clinton Junior Senior High School

Team Engineering Challenge (Middle School)
First Place: Jake Davis, Asher Lee, and Nyima Shingza, Waunakee Middle School
Second Place: Bristol Hird, Arabella Redman, and Ellasyn Sims, Wauzeka-Steuben Middle School
Third Place: Brookes Benisch, Nathan Jones, and Titus Miethke, Clinton Junior Senior High School

TeamWorks
First Place: Callan Jaeger, Brook Jelen, Charlie Kraus, and Nathaniel Weber, Hartford Union High School

Second Place: Brady Brunk, Wyatt Harlfinger, Roland Jaeckel, and Lucas Valenzuela, Watertown High School
Third Place: Evan Johnson, Mazin Plumb, Myron Reuter, and Marshal Rooney, Platteville High School

Technical Drafting
First Place: Drew Kraus, Hartford Union High School
Second Place: Rowen Parsons, Oregon High School
Third Place: Levi Gonzalez, Oshkosh West High School

Welding
First Place: Lucas Palmer, River Valley Senior High School
Second Place: Nicholas Bork, Cochrane Fountain City
Third Place: Gabryel McDonald, Winneconne High School

Welding Sculpture (High School)
First Place: Claire Mondlach, New Glarus High School
Second Place: Austin Carstensen, River Valley Senior High School
Third Place: Deagyn Lupiezowicz, Cambridge High School

Welding Sculpture (Middle School)
First Place: Charlie Ford, River Valley Middle School

Woodwork Display – \$0-\$50 (High School)
First Place: Sawyer Larson, McFarland High School
Second Place: Maddie Becker, Mount Horeb High School
Third Place: Connor Selinske, Waunakee High School

Woodwork Display – \$0-\$50 (Middle School)
First Place: Calista Johnson, Waunakee Middle School
Second Place: Reid Knowles, Waunakee Middle School

vited to represent Wisconsin at the National Leadership & Skills Conference in Atlanta, GA, June 1–5, 2026.

Nationally, there are 114 head-to-head skilled and leadership competitions, and the 2026 Wisconsin SkillsUSA SLSC will offer more than 60 different competitions across middle school, high school, and post-secondary divisions, with more than 1,750 students participating. This is the largest showcase of career and technical education in the State, with business and industry representation from over 100 companies and over 300 volunteers, technical chairs, and judges.

Founded in 1973, Wisconsin SkillsUSA added 14 new chapters in the 2025 school year, bringing the total to 166 high school and middle school Wisconsin secondary chapters. A partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working together to ensure America has the skilled workforce needed to stay competitive, the SkillsUSA diverse talent pipeline covers more than 110 trades, technical, and skilled service occupations, mostly related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Dozens of corporations, trade associations, businesses, and labor unions support SkillsUSA Wisconsin to assure its mission success. Programs are integrated into career and technical education through a framework of personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics. SkillsUSA also offers technical skill assessments and other workplace credentials.

Helping each student excel and as a solution to shrinking the skills gap, SkillsUSA is a national non-profit organization serving high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations.

SkillsUSA empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA improves the quality of our nation’s future skilled workforce by developing framework skills, including personal, workplace, and technical skills grounded in academics. The SkillsUSA mission is built upon — and its success depends on — the commitment of members and partners to the following values: integrity, respect, responsibility, citizenship, and service.

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	Perry Lutheran Church ELCA 1057 Hwy 78 S, Mt. Horeb 608-437-5294 Sunday Worship 9:00 am www.perrylutheranchurchelca.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	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
Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church – ELCA 315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012 www.elcmthoreb.org 5 pm Saturday Worship 9 am Sunday Worship	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
Mt. Horeb United Methodist Corner of Hwy. S & Hwy. 78 Sunday Worship: 9am online and in person umcmh.org Celebrating God's Inclusive Love	Vermont Lutheran Church-ELCA 9886 Vermont Church Road Black Earth, WI 53515 www.vermontlutheran.org 608-767-3312 (office) Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Mt 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	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
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	

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Intro to Prescribed Fire Training
Date: Friday, April 24th Location: Mineral Point, WI Cost: \$100 (Lunch Included)

Sign up on the Events page at driftlessgrasslands.org



Questions? Contact Olivia
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Carsyn Ames is curator for the Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey, which houses 660,000 linear feet of subsurface rock samples (as well as fossils and other relics) in Mount Horeb. Photos by Matt Geiger.

GEODE

continued from page 1

and even before the continents had found their current homes, they were here.

“Wisconsin has some of the oldest rocks on the continent,” explains Carsyn Ames, curator for the Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey. “And some of the youngest. That’s cool in and of itself.”

Located at 211 S. Blue Mounds Street in the Village of Mount Horeb, the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey’s geologic repository houses “a variety of carefully organized and maintained earth-science materials.” These collections, which are carefully stored in what was once a Gemplers call center and warehouse, are essential to improving the scientific community’s understanding of the geology and natural resources of the state.

The fact that the geologic repository is in the Troll Capital of the World means Mount Horeb is home to cores from more than 2,000 drillholes throughout the state, representing more than 660,000 linear feet of subsurface rock samples

from mineral, engineering, and geologic investigations. The samples are obtained by driving a diamond-studded drill bit deep into the Earth.

There are also more than 15,000 hand-size rock samples as well as cuttings from more than 12,000 individual water-wells throughout the state. The cuttings include 700,000 individual samples, each covering a five-foot interval, representing approximately 2 million linear feet of drilling.

Scientists estimate the collection is worth northward of \$170 million, although much of it is simply impossible to replace.

The Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey is not open to the public every day, but it does work to engage with and educate the community. The WGNHS Research Collections and Education Center includes approximately 20,000 square feet for the collections but also space for public education, where staff develop programs and host workshops that have a hands-on component for groups interested in learning more about the geology and hydrogeology of Wisconsin.

Ames, who originally

hails from South Carolina, manages the geologic collections and core repository while also coordinating visits for researchers who would like to view, sample, and analyze the core or cuttings collections. Despite the vastness of the facility, she knows it like the back of her hand. These rocks have enormous scientific value, but they hold something else in them, too.

“I feel a sense of place anywhere,” Ames explains.

At a young age, Ames suspected she wanted to work outside, which eventually led her to a job where she regularly works jobsites at which heavy machinery drills deep into the earth. It’s what she calls a “hands-on” approach to science and one that has “powerful” applications.

For Ames, these samples tell a story that delves deep into history, telling epic tales that made this place what it is and formed everything that came after them. These rocks bore witness to the very first origins of life and some still bear their marks, like the perfect image of a cephalopod death assemblage or the remnants of trilobites that were once every

bit as alive as any modern human. For Ames, Wisconsin is a place where the tides of a vast sea once lapped – “We used to be beachfront property, back in the day,” she jokes - where Milwaukee was under a mile of ice, where everything is linked directly to something that came before and something that will inevitably this way come.

“We can look at the landscape now and know all that

stuff,” she said.

It gifts anyone a certain comforting and healthy perspective on existence.

“Oh yeah,” Ames smiled. “We’re all temporary.”

It is also a place where very old things encounter very new ones. Where prehistoric rocks are penetrated by x-ray machines that read their chemical fingerprints.

Ames points out that it’s very human to look to the Earth for answers, from a small child collecting small

rocks to an adult carefully cataloguing miles of core samples for scientific posterity. In fact, that’s why Wisconsin is called “The Badger State.” Because people, all of whom are relative newcomers to this place and this planet, have dug into the earth for generations, finding lead and other resources, but also discovering important things about their own stories - their own shared *story* - along the way.

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FEBRUARY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

From FFA Member to Industry Professional – Mt. Horeb Chapter’s Path to Career Readiness

By Taylor Ferguson
Mt. Horeb FFA Reporter

The Mt. Horeb FFA is a premier leadership organization dedicated to supporting students as they navigate the diverse landscape of modern Agricultural Sciences. To participate in FFA, students must be enrolled in at least one Agricultural Science course per year. This requirement bridges the gap between classroom theory and leadership development. Today, the field of agriculture, food, and natural resources extends far beyond traditional production, offering over 250 unique career paths. According to the Wisconsin DATCP, agriculture remains a cornerstone of the state’s economy, employing approximately 10% of the workforce and generating \$113 billion annually.

The Agricultural Sciences Department at Mt. Horeb High School offers tailored “Programs of Study” designed to guide students toward their specific career goals. These pathways include Agricultural & Industrial Welding; Diesel Power, Structural, & Technical Systems; Animal Production & Veterinary Science; Biotechnology; Horticultural Production & Plant Science; Natural Resources & Environmental Science; and Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Literacy.

Through partnerships with the Wisconsin Technical College System and the Universities of Wisconsin,

Mt. Horeb Agricultural Sciences offers extensive dual enrollment opportunities. Students can earn college credits and build official transcripts while still in high school through advanced courses such as ASR (Agricultural Sciences Research) Gas Metal Arc Welding, ASR Shielded Metal Arc Welding, ASR Natural Resource Management, Agricultural Mechanics II, Horticulture II, Animal Science, Plant Science, Biotechnology, and ASR Biotechnology Lab Skills. Beyond the classroom, students gain invaluable on-the-job training through the Youth Apprenticeship and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) work-release programs.

The success of Mt. Horeb FFA is fueled by a robust Program of Activities aimed at post-secondary success. These initiatives allow students to build professional resumes and establish critical networking connections. This work is made possible by the unwavering support of over 260 local members of the Mt. Horeb FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter, alongside more than sixty local and regional businesses and organizations. These partners provide essential funding, mentorship, work placements, and contest coaching.

From the National FFA Convention & Expo and the annual Toy Show to the Canada Fishing Trip and the FFA Plant Sale, students engage in dozens of high-impact activities. Each year, the program hosts the

Mt. Horeb FFA Annual Banquet in March. This event celebrates student achievements, where members receive Proficiency Awards for their professional work, earn FFA Degrees, and are awarded post-secondary scholarships to further their education.



Mt. Horeb FFA’s Trout Team raises Rainbow Trout fry to fingerling size and then releases them in late spring. Last year’s Trout Team included (Left to Right) Callaway Deegan, James Zwettler, Jack Davis, Mason Schauf, Anaveja Burns-Blizzard, and Layla Havens.



This school year marked the chapter’s first “Calm in the Country” event. FFA members helped the student body learn about the mental health benefits of animals by bringing several of them to enjoy during study hall and lunch at the beginning of the school year.



The chapter annually travels to the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis. Graduates Aubrey Schlicht and Garrett Waefler received the American FFA Degree at this year’s convention.

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ROMANCE

continued from page 2

their debut novel.

First of all, tell us a little about yourselves. How did you end up becoming writers, and how did you end up in New Glarus?

Ashley Arn: I’ve been an avid reader for as long as I can remember, especially romance novels. Our local library would confirm that I tend to go through books pretty quickly. Writing was never something I initially planned, but storytelling has always been part of how I process the world. I moved to New Glarus from California seeking a different pace of life and immediately felt drawn to the deep sense of community here. I’m also the owner of The Alpine in New Glarus, along with my husband, and being so immersed in village life and the people who pass through its doors every day has only deepened my love for this place. The village has a way

of making people feel welcome and rooted, and that sense of belonging became central to both my life and our story.

Jessica Aasve: I’ve always wanted to write a book, but for years that dream quietly sat on the back burner while I focused on work, family, and raising my kids. I came to New Glarus at a time when I was rebuilding and creating a new chapter for myself and my kids. Living here reminded me how powerful community can be, and writing this book felt like finally giving myself permission to pursue something creative that had been calling to me for a long time.

There are a lot of steps (and hurdles) to go from wanting to write a book to writing and publishing one. What was the process like for you?

Arn: The process was equal parts exciting and overwhelming. We didn’t start with a formal plan. We



Jessica Aasve and Ashley Arn wrote “Love in Little Switzerland” together. Photo contributed.

started with conversations, ideas, and a shared sense that there was something meaningful here. Balancing writing with real life meant most of the work happened late at night or through long voice note conversations. Slowly, those pieces came together into something real.

Aasve: What surprised me most was realizing that it doesn’t take perfect timing to write a book. It takes commitment. We wrote in spare moments between work, kids, and everyday life, and those pieces eventually became a full novel.

Publishing was intimidating, but once we committed, the process felt empowering. The biggest hurdle was trusting that our story belonged out in the world.

Tell us all about ‘Love in Little Switzerland.’ It’s a cozy holiday romance, right? Tell us how your sense of place and home informed the story.

Arn: “Love in Little Switzerland” is very much a cozy holiday romance, but it’s also a story about rediscovery and belonging. New Glarus becomes almost cinematic during the holidays. The lights, chalets, crisp air, and snow already feel like a story waiting to be told. We wrote from what we know, love, and experience every season, paying close attention to the sensory details that people who live here sometimes take for granted.

Aasve: We wanted readers to feel like they were walking through New Glarus in December. The

setting isn’t just a backdrop. It’s an active part of the story. The warmth of the village, the sense of safety, and the way people show up for each other all naturally shaped the narrative.

Co-writing anything comes with both opportunities and challenges. How did you make the collaborative process work for you?

Arn: Collaboration for us was chaotic, funny, emotional, and surprisingly seamless. We leaned into each other’s strengths and trusted the shared vision. Some of the best moments came from late-night brainstorming sessions when the story felt most alive.

Aasve: Because we’re best friends, honesty came easily. The process wasn’t always polished, but it was deeply authentic. We trusted each other to speak up when something didn’t feel right and to protect the heart of the story together.

SWEET

continued from page 1

Ehlert.

The Ehlerts purchased the business, located at 122 East Main Street, from Robin Pharo, who opened the shop where countless kids (and plenty of adults) have visited to peruse the chocolates, caramels, sour candies, nostalgic throwbacks and new candy innovations. They officially became the owners on February 1, and they are keeping the store, and the name, moving forward.

“We used to own a lawn-care business and we knew Robin through that,” explained Hana. “So, we reached out to her and asked if it was true she was selling. She’s been so supportive.”

The Ehlerts, who live in Mount Horeb, have visited Sugar Troll with their children and with Hana’s mother when she visited from Japan, so they knew it was capable of putting smiles on the faces of its customers.

Hana first came to the United States in 2008 as a high school exchange student.

“I didn’t speak English!” she recalls with a hearty laugh. “I cried all the time because I was hungry and I didn’t know how to ask for food.”



Sugar Troll in Mount Horeb will celebrate five years in operation on Saint Patrick’s Day, now under new ownership. Photo by Matt Geiger.

But in her host family near Germantown she found a second home, and she remains close with them today. “With them, I knew I

would never be alone,” she said.

She returned to the United States for college at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, where she tutored another student who was majoring in Japanese. His name was Jason, and the two fell in love and married. The rest is history. Today she speaks perfect English, and

Archeologists have found evidence of candy dating back more than 5,000 years in Egypt. Ever since then, across the globe, people have used treats to mark life’s highs and lows, and to sweeten the average day. A wedding is highlighted by a cake. A funeral ends with a communal meal at which the grieving share desserts. Kids spend the entire autumn brimming with anticipation for Halloween. Kids save up their allowance to head down to the local candy shop, a place where all the angst of youth is dimmed by the bright packaging and silly images adorning the many varieties of treats.

she jokes that she wouldn’t have to ask for candy anymore, anyway, because she now owns Sugar Troll.

Along with the store, they also inherited general manager Lisa DeKolver, who has been with the business for the past three-and-a-half years.

“The store truly is multicultural and those walls are all international, but Lisa also did a great job focusing on local, and that whole section there is local,” explains Hana.

“I also want people to know we have vegan and

sugar free options,” she added.

They even plan to start serving Japanese crepes, a popular street food that Jason noticed Americans particularly loved during his time there. There will also be boba tea coming soon.

DeKolver will remain the manager, keeping a sense of continuity and stability. And the Ehlerts are excited to spend time there, too. They look forward to a sweet future together.

“Rest assured, we’re staying,” Hana said.

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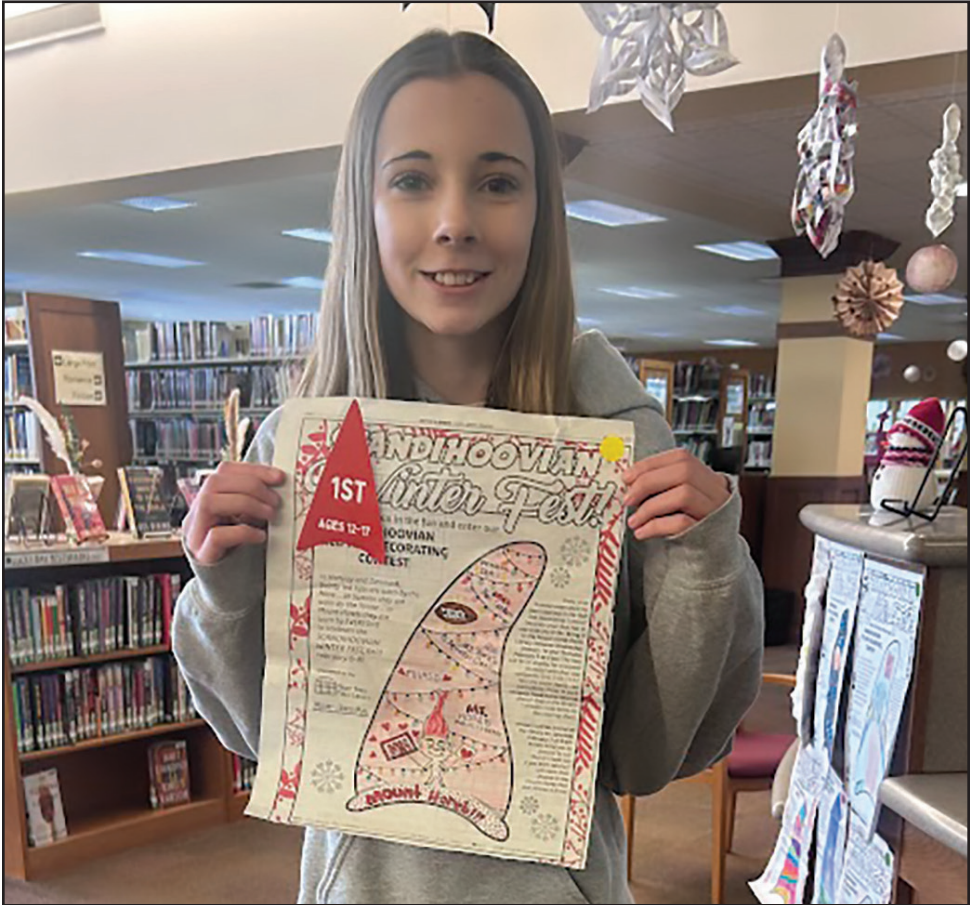
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SPORTS

Vikings surge into tie for league lead

Mount Horeb posts huge win at McFarland

by ADAM MERTZ
Sports Reporter

McFARLAND — On a night when a key return from a standout player, a bold shift toward a big lineup and a monster second half by their star helped deliver a significant revenge win for Mount Horeb's boys basketball team, an even bigger surprise unveiled afterward in the locker room transformed jubilation into unrestrained celebration.

Junior forward Alex Chapman returned with a flourish from a five-game absence due to a broken wrist, scoring 19 points last Friday to help power the Vikings to a 74-64 triumph over McFarland in a playoff intensity environment between Badger Small Conference rivals who seem destined to square off again in the postseason.

In itself, this was an important statement for Mount Horeb, which improved to 18-5 overall and 10-3 in the Badger Small. The Vikings have now won 10 of 11 games despite playing much of that time without Chapman and/or senior guard Josh Manchester, one

continued on page 15



Alex Chapman and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team moved into a first place tie in the Badger Small Conference after a win over McFarland last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb rallies past Madison Edgewood

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Senior Night is always an emotional evening.

At times, it can be a tough night to focus, concentrate and perform at a high level.

Mount Horeb's boys basketball team did just enough of all three and defeated visiting Madison Edgewood, 61-54, on Feb. 17.

Senior guard Josh Manchester erupted for 37 points and the Vikings pulled away in the final four minutes to notch a huge win.

Mount Horeb improved to 17-5 overall and 9-3 in the Badger Small Conference. League-leading McFarland also fell to Fort Atkinson on the same night, opening the door for the Vikings to get back in the conference title chase.

Mount Horeb did just that, too, defeating McFarland three nights later, while Sauk Prairie was also stunned by league bottom-

continued on page 14

Wrestlers fall short at sectionals

MH-B settles for second in team competition

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb-Barneveld's wrestlers finished in second place at the WIAA Division 2 Lodi Sectional last Saturday and fell short of the state team meet, which will be held in La Crosse March 6-7.

The Vikings edged Belmont/Platteville, 39-38, in the semifinals, but lost to Evansville, 45-36, in the

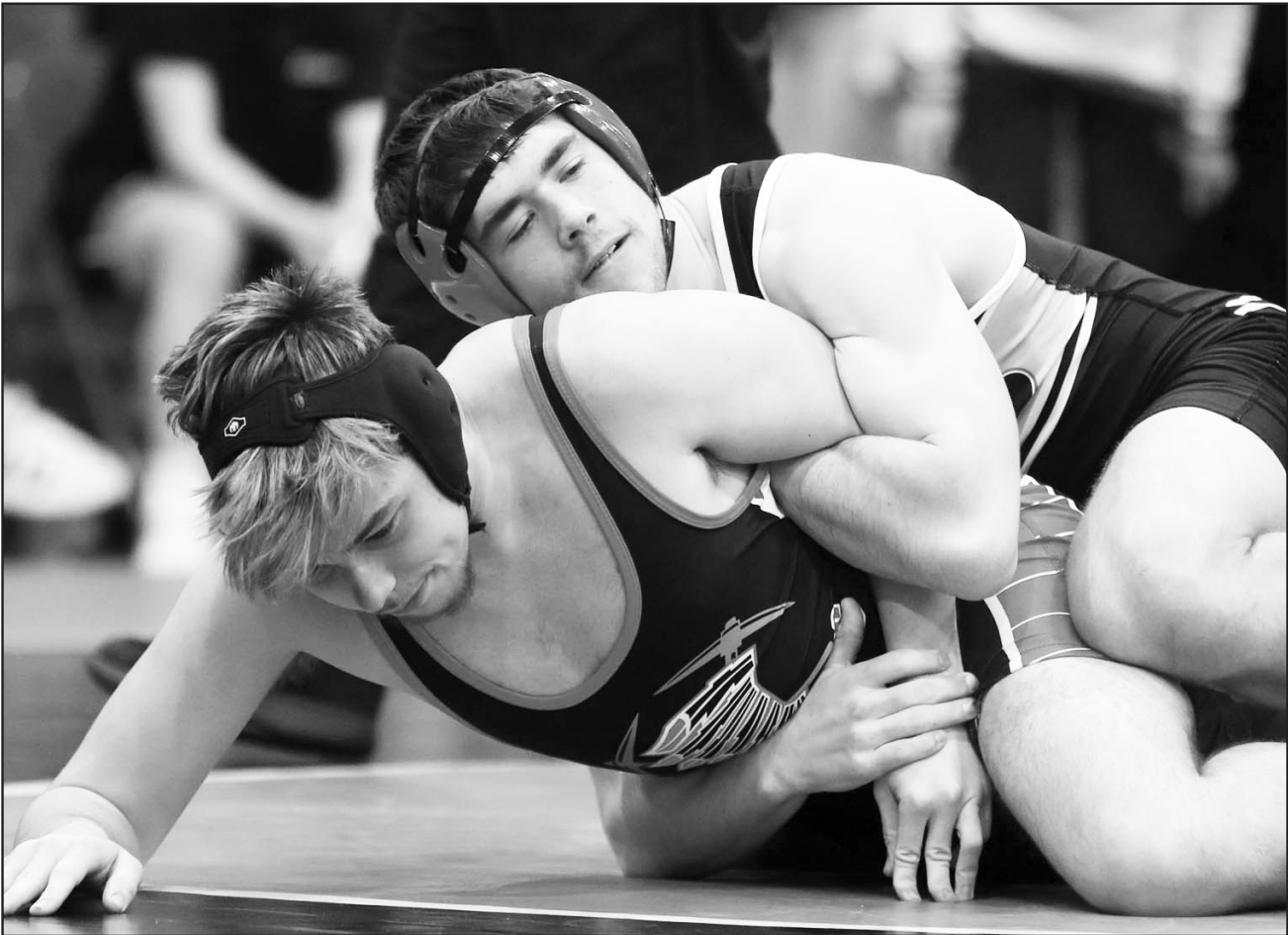
championship match.

MH-B defeated Lodi, 50-29, in the second place match.

Here's a recap of the Vikings' matches.

- **Mount Horeb-Barneveld 39, Belmont/Platteville 38** — The Vikings received pins from Hunter Stevens at 150 pounds, Easton Kammerud (165), Eli Leonard (190) and Le-land Havens (285) and

continued on page 13



Mount Horeb-Barneveld's Eli Maier won all three of his matches at the Lodi Sectional last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Vikings hope to shine in second season

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Twenty four games are in the books — and they were certainly impressive.

Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team went 14-10 overall. The Vikings also went 11-3 in the Badger Small Conference and finished second in the league.

Now, Mount Horeb is hoping its second season rivals the first.

The Vikings begin the postseason Friday when they host Sauk Prairie in a WIAA Division 2 regional semifinal at 7 p.m. Mount Horeb is the No. 4 seed and the Eagles (13-11, 9-5) are seeded fifth.

The winner will likely travel to top-seeded Madison Edgewood (18-6, 14-0) for a regional final on Friday.

“The kids have worked hard and continue to have great team chemistry,” Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said. “So, hoping they get the opportunity to play in front of packed gyms to show the community what they are capable of.”

The Vikings wrapped up the regular season last week with a 56-52 loss at Min-

eral Point on Feb. 16 and a 57-26 rout of Fort Atkinson on Feb. 19.

Here’s a recap of those games.

- **Mineral Point 56, Mount Horeb 52** — The Pointers, who went 20-4 in the regular season and won the Southwest Wisconsin Activities League, edged the visiting Vikings.

Mount Horeb got a terrific game from Jami Chapman, who scored 25 points, including 21 in the second half. But the Vikings shot just 24.0% from the field and 42.8% from the free throw line (6-of-14).

“Really good game leading up to the WIAA playoffs against a quality opponent,” Leibfried said. “We did everything except make shots consistently to win the game, so lots to build on.”

The Vikings fell into an 11-2 hole after they had four turnovers in their first six possessions.

“Unforced turnovers where you just fumble the ball, dribble it off your knee or get it ripped away cannot happen when you play on varsity, especially against a quality opponent like Mineral Point,” Leibfried said

Lauren Mester, who had

10 points on the night, keyed a comeback and Mount Horeb pulled even, 16-16. Mineral Point closed the half on a 12-4 run, though, and surged to a 28-20 half-time lead.

“We had another stretch where we missed some easy scores inside and missed some wide open 3s,” Leibfried said.

Chapman’s scoring barrage helped Mount Horeb put together a 14-2 run and surge to a 35-33 lead with 7:30 left in the game.

“The staff got on her a little at half to get great shots, not good shots, and to be quick with her decisions and moves around the bucket,” Leibfried said of Chapman. “She responded.”

Mineral Point answered with a 12-4 run, though, and reclaimed a 45-39 lead. Then the Pointers went 10-of-12 from the free throw line in the last 4 minutes to prevail.

In addition to Chapman’s big night and a strong effort from Mester, Courtney Monroe added nine points.

“Games like this will only help us going into the playoffs,” Leibfried said.

- **Mount Horeb 57, Fort Atkinson 26** — Nalia Cra-



Jami Chapman and Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team open the postseason Friday at 7 p.m. when they host Sauk Prairie. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

ven led a balanced scoring attack with 11 points as the Vikings routed the visiting Blackhawks on Feb. 19.

Courtney Monroe added eight points, Jami Chapman and Avery Monroe both had seven and Magali Forlines and Lauren Mester had six points.

“It was the first time all year I didn’t see the intensity pre-game to be ready to come out to play,” Leibfried said. “So I had to get their attention in the locker room before even coming on the court and they responded.”

It worked.

The Vikings picked apart Fort’s 1-3-1 zone defense throughout and made 11 3-pointers.

“We got great ball movement and kids found the open spots, which led to us shooting the ball well and especially the 3,” Leibfried said. “All of them were great inside-out looks with our feet stepping to the rim, which really helps the ball go in.”

In all, nine different Vikings scored.

“It was nice to see Nalia

Craven get back on track with 11 points after not scoring against Mineral Point,” Leibfried said. “We need Nalia to score from the perimeter and in the mid-range with her pull up jumpers.

“Courtney Monroe did a really nice job of finding open players when getting the ball in the high post and finished the game with eight assists.

“We will continue to work on the one stretch each game where we get loose with the ball and have unforced turnovers.”

Ballew makes a splash at state

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Jackson Ballew made his first trip to the WIAA Division 2 boys state swimming meet a memorable one.

Ballew, a freshman at Mount Horeb, earned points in two events at the state meet held Feb. 20 at Waukesha South High School.

Ballew finished in 12th place in the 50-yard freestyle in a time of 22.56 seconds. McFarland standout Blake TeBeest won that event with a new state record time of 20.29 seconds.

Ballew was also 13th in the 100-yard freestyle in 50.47 seconds. TeBeest also set a new state record in that race with a winning time of 42.92 seconds.

Ballew earned nine points for Mount Horeb, which finished in 25th place in the overall team standings. Whitefish Bay won the state team title with 319 points, while McFarland — which had won the previous two state titles — was second with 241 points.

Mount Horeb had just four swimmers in its program this season, so Ballew’s performance at state was

a notable achievement for everyone involved with the Vikings.

WIAA Division 2 state meet

Feb. 20

Team scores

1, Whitefish Bay, 319; 2, McFarland, 241; 3, Sauk Prairie/Wisconsin Heights, 184; 4, Ashwaubenon, 159; 5, Edgewood, 157.5; 6, Cedarburg, 146; 7, Shorewood, 128; 8, Rhinelander, 117; 9, The Prairie School, 116; 10, Nicolet, 88; 11, Chilton Coop, 81; 12, DeForest, 80; 13, Stoughton, 79; 14, White-water, 68; 15, Watertown, 63.5; 16, Plymouth, 46; 17, Port Washington, 40; 18, Notre Dame/Southern Door, 29.5; 19, Rice Lake, 29; 20, Brookfield Academy, 29; 21, Wayland Academy, 25; 22, Whitnall, 24.5; 23, Grafton, 24; 24, Kiel/Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah, 15; **25, Mount Horeb, 9**; 26, Tomahawk, 8; 27, Mil-ton, 7; 28, Augustine Prep South, 4; 29, Fort Atkinson, 1.

Top Mount Horeb finishes:

- **50-yard freestyle:** 12. Jackson Ballew, 22.56.
- **100-yard freestyle:** 13. Jackson Ballew, 50.47.



Mount Horeb’s Jackson Ballew had a terrific performance at the WIAA Division 2 boys state swimming meet last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Hockey Vikings ousted

The hockey season for Stoughton — which includes players from Mount Horeb — ended in the first round of the WIAA Division 1 playoffs.

Third-seeded Monona Grove rolled past the Vikings, 8-0, in a regional semifinal.

The Silver Eagles scored two goals in the first period, four in the second and two more in the third.

Monona Grove held a 65-12 advantage in shots on goal, including a 27-2 edge in the first period.

Monona Grove then rolled past sixth-seeded Madison Memorial, 7-0, in a regional final. Stoughton finished the season 4-20.

— by Rob Reischel

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Gymnasts second at conference meet

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

On one hand, Mount Horeb’s gymnastics team was disappointed its six-year run as Badger Conference champions came to an end last Saturday.

On the other, the Vikings were thrilled how they performed at the conference meet and remarkably optimistic about the upcoming postseason.

Waunakee/DeForest won the league title with 141.275 points, edging second place Mount Horeb (140.50). Monona Grove (134.05), Watertown (133.0) and Baraboo (131.725) rounded out the top five at the eight-team conference meet.

Mount Horeb did post its highest team total of the year, though, giving them tremendous hope for what lies ahead.

“We knew we had our work cut out for us, especially after Waunakee/DeForest came out on top in our dual meet (Feb. 3) and again at the Platteville Invite last week,” Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. “Our team embraced the challenge and certainly gave their best efforts.”

The top-five finishers in each event earned places on the podium.

Mount Horeb’s Sylvia Seeliger was fourth in the all-around competition with a 35.35 overall score, while Carmen Oglesby was fifth (35.125).

Harper Hendrickson was first on the balance beam (9.20) and Oglesby was third (9.0). Seeliger was fourth on the uneven bars (8.8) and Aver Kalscheur was fifth (8.70).

Oglesby was fourth on the vault (8.85) and Hendrickson was fourth on the floor (9.125).

“Our girls put up a strong fight with competitive performances on all four events, but we came up just short,” Koller Faust said. “I couldn’t be more proud of this entire team — their effort, resilience and support for one another — and I truly couldn’t have asked for anything more from them today.”

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb heads to the WIAA Division 2 Dodgeville Sectional on Saturday. Opening ceremonies are at 9:40 a.m. and the meet begins at 10 a.m.

Other teams competing for a trip to state include: Dodgeville/Highland/Iowa-Grant/Mineral Point co-op, Monona Grove, Platteville/Belmont/Lancaster co-op, River Valley/Barneveld co-op, Southwestern/Cuba

City/Darlington co-op and Watertown.

• **JV:** Mount Horeb’s JV team edged Waunakee/DeForest, 127.725-127.50.

W/D had won the dual meet championship, meaning the two teams tied for the overall conference title.

“This was a great testament to the depth and strength of our entire program,” Koller Faust said. “The Badger Conference is very competitive not only team-wise, but individually.

“We had several gymnasts earn individual honors by placing in the top five across all five events at both the varsity and JV levels, which is always so rewarding to see.”

Elise Hooks won the all-around title with a 32.55, while Tori Schilling was fifth (24.575).

Tessa Soppe was first on the vault (8.45), while Aver Kalscheur was second (8.30), Schilling was third (8.225), Hooks was fourth (8.25) and Evie Wyse was fifth (8.20).

“Having all five of our JV vaulters stand atop the podium was extra special and a true highlight of the day,” Koller Faust said.

Hooks was first on the balance beam (8.50) and Schilling was second (8.30), while Kate Van Gorden was

first on the floor exercise (8.40). Hooks and Schilling also tied for second on the uneven bars (8.05).

Varsity team results: 1. Waunakee/DeForest, 141.275; 2. Mount Horeb, 140.5; 3. Monona Grove, 134.05; 4. Watertown, 133.0; 5. Baraboo, 131.725; 6. Reedsburg, 127.4; 7. Milton/Edgerton, 122.275; 8. Sauk Prairie, 118.925.

VAULT (34.45)
4th place medal — Carmen Oglesby, 8.85
Sylvia Seeliger — 8.7
Harper Hendrickson and Avena Meyers — 8.45

BARS (34.35)
4th place medal — Sylvia Seeliger, 8.8
5th place medal — Aver Kalscheur, 8.7
Tessa Soppe — 8.55
Harper Hendrickson and Carmen Oglesby — 8.45

BEAM (35.70)
1st place medal — Harper Hendrickson, 9.2
3rd place medal — Carmen Oglesby, 9.0
Sylvia Seeliger — 8.95
Aver Kalscheur — 8.55

FLOOR (36.0)
4th place medal — Harper Hendrickson, 9.125
Aver Kalscheur — 9.0
Carmen Oglesby — 8.975
Sylvia Seeliger — 8.9

ALL-AROUND
4th place medal — Sylvia Seeliger, 35.35
5th place medal — Carmen Oglesby, 35.125
Harper Hendrickson — 35.075



Mount Horeb’s Carmen Oglesby finished fifth in the all-around competition at the Badger Conference meet last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

JV Team Results: 1. Mount Horeb, 127.725; 2. Waunakee/DeForest, 127.5; 3. Baraboo, 120.975; 4. Watertown, 108.35; 5. Monona Grove, 45.15; 6. Reedsburg, 31.95; 7. Milton/Edgerton, 30.5; 8. Sauk Prairie, 14.65.

VAULT (33.225)
1st place medal — Tessa Soppe, 8.45
2nd place medal — Aver Kalscheur, 8.3
3rd place medal — Tori Schilling, 8.225
4th place medal — Elise Hooks, 8.25
5th place medal — Evie Wyse, 8.2

BARS (30.6)
2nd place medals — Elise Hooks and Tori Schilling, 8.05
Kate Van Gorden — 7.35

Marie Hutchins and Evie Wyse — 7.15

BEAM (32.60)
1st place medal — Elise Hooks, 8.5
2nd place medal — Tori Schilling, 8.3
Tessa Soppe — 8.0
Ava Bilse — 7.8
Kate Van Gorden — 7.6

FLOOR (31.30)
1st place medal — Kate Van Gorden, 8.4
Elise Hooks — 7.75
Jacey Morin — 7.7
Evie Wyse — 7.45
Ava Bilse — 7.3

ALL-AROUND:
1st place medal — Elise Hooks, 32.55
5th place medal — Tori Schilling, 24.575.

WRESTLE

continued from page 11
edged Belmont/Platteville in the semifinals.

Bryce Madden also won, 12-2, at 106 pounds and the Vikings’ Drew Droessler (120) and Eli Maier (175) both received forfeits.

• **Evansville 45, Mount Horeb-Barneveld 36** — Evansville won eight of the first nine matches and defeated the Vikings in the championship.

MH-B’s Hunter Stevens pinned his opponent at 157 pounds. After Evansville clinched the match, though, it forfeited the final five matches.

• **Mount Horeb-Barneveld 50, Lodi 29** — The Vikings notched seven pins and nine overall wins and captured the second place match.

MH-B picked up pins from Timmy Kruse at 144 pounds, Hunter Stevens (150), Easton Kammerud (165), Eli Maier (175), Eli Leonard (190), Leland Havens (285) and Bryce Madden (106).

Maxton Stevens also notched a 7-0 win at 132 and Gavin Reynolds received a forfeit at 215.

Semifinals
Mount Horeb-Barneveld 39, Belmont/Platteville 38

113: Payton Morshead (16-23) Fr., BEPL pinned Ryan Kuntz (2-11) Jr., MHB, 3:00

120: Drew Droessler (23-20) So., MHB won by forfeit

126: Aiden Weigel (16-7) Jr., BEPL pinned Nolan Ryan (3-7) So., MHB, 0:57

132: Briggs Weigel (47-6) So., BEPL def. Maxton Stevens (35-17) Fr., MHB, 15-1

138: Jaxcyn McCartney (9-14) Fr., BEPL pinned Dawson Bell (8-11) So., MHB, 4:37

144: Dylan Weigel (52-1) Sr., BEPL pinned Timmy Kruse (21-18) Sr., MHB, 3:01

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

157: Tyler Kisamore (49-6) Sr., BEPL pinned Landon Kahl (17-17) So., MHB, 3:48

165: Easton Kammerud (20-3) Fr., MHB pinned Jerdan Crase (13-26) Fr., BEPL, 1:21

175: Eli Maier (47-4) Jr., MHB won by forfeit

190: Eli Leonard (49-0) Sr., MHB pinned Cam Moore (29-20) Sr., BEPL, 3:00

215: Ethan Burggraf (21-27) Sr., BEPL pinned Gavin Reynolds (13-14) So., MHB, 4:30

285: Leland Havens (39-7) Fr., MHB pinned Thomas

Kastner (17-11) Sr., BEPL, 4:09

106: Bryce Madden (41-12) Fr., MHB def. James Kastner (31-16) So., BEPL, 12-2

First Place Match
Evansville 45, Mount Horeb-Barneveld 36

120: Collin Frey Jr., EVAN pinned Drew Droessler (23-20) So., MHB, 5:12

126: Kolten Bollig So., EVAN pinned Nolan Ryan (3-7) So., MHB, 0:51

132: Benjamin Braunschweig So., EVAN pinned Maxton Stevens (35-17) Fr., MHB, 5:03

138: Brandon Staver Jr., EVAN pinned Dawson Bell (8-11) So., MHB, 1:44

144: Liam Crandall Fr., EVAN pinned Nick Burrenson (13-13) Sr., MHB, 1:16

150: Race Howlett Sr., EVAN pinned Timmy Kruse (21-18) Sr., MHB, 3:19

157: Hunter Stevens (48-2) Sr., MHB pinned Lincoln Keller Sr., EVAN, 3:50

165: Adryan Wessels Sr., EVAN pinned Landon Kahl (17-17) So., MHB, 5:54

175: Thomas Heiser So., EVAN def. Easton Kammerud (20-3) Fr., MHB, 17-5

190: Eli Maier (47-4) Jr., MHB won by forfeit

215: Eli Leonard (49-0) Sr., MHB won by forfeit

285: Leland Havens (39-



Timmy Kruse and the Mount Horeb-Barneveld wrestlers finished second at the Lodi Sectional last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

7) Fr., MHB won by forfeit
106: Bryce Madden (41-12) Fr., MHB won by forfeit
113: Ryan Kuntz (2-11) Jr., MHB won by forfeit

Second Place Match
Mount Horeb-Barneveld 50, Lodi 29

126: Aiden Zitani So., Lodi pinned Nolan Ryan (3-7) So., MHB, 1:23

132: Maxton Stevens (35-17) Fr., MHB def. Bryer Caves (36-5) Jr., Lodi, 7-0

138: Zander Kellogg (28-9) Sr., Lodi pinned Dawson Bell (8-11) So., MHB, 0:56

144: Timmy Kruse (21-

18) Sr., MHB pinned Liam Johnson (24-16) Jr., Lodi, 5:44

150: Hunter Stevens (48-2) Sr., MHB pinned Hayden Struse-Clark (19-14) Sr., Lodi, 1:41

157: Alex Breunig (46-8) Sr., Lodi pinned Landon Kahl (17-17) So., MHB, 0:27

165: Easton Kammerud (20-3) Fr., MHB pinned Bryce Ballweg (11-11) Fr., Lodi, 0:46

175: Eli Maier (47-4) Jr., MHB pinned Devyn Brown (19-23) Jr., Lodi, 1:05

190: Eli Leonard (49-0) Sr., MHB pinned Levi Maier (6-24) Fr., Lodi,

0:20
215: Gavin Reynolds (13-14) So., MHB won by forfeit

285: Leland Havens (39-7) Fr., MHB pinned Austin Browne (26-19) Jr., Lodi, 0:31

106: Bryce Madden (41-12) Fr., MHB pinned Isaac Ziegler (22-17) Fr., Lodi, 5:55

113: Owen Dorshorst (44-5) So., Lodi pinned Ryan Kuntz (2-11) Jr., MHB, 2:00

120: Everett Dorshorst (32-10) Fr., Lodi pinned Drew Droessler (23-20) So., MHB, 4:33

Mount Horeb lands No. 2 seed

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

They’ve been battered and bruised, injured and aching all year long.

Yet somehow, Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team has put itself in position to have a memorable postseason.

The Vikings received the No. 2 seed in their half of their WIAA Division 2 sectional.

Mount Horeb (18-5) has a first round bye, then hosts the winner of seventh-seeded Fort Atkinson (12-11) and 10th-seeded Elkhorn (5-17) in a regional semifinal March 6 at 7 p.m. If the Vikings advance there and seeds hold, they’d host third-seeded Monroe (15-7) in a regional final March 7 at 7 p.m.

The sectional semifinals are March 12 and the sectional finals are March 14.

Mount Horeb is gunning

for its first trip to state since the 2015 team won the championship.

“I’m happy with the (No.) 2 seed,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “I thought maybe we’d have a chance at the (No.) 1 seed with the win the other night (over McFarland). Either way if we take care of business, we get two home tournament games and play McFarland on a neutral court in the sectional semifinals.”

McFarland is the No. 1 seed on Mount Horeb’s side of the bracket, followed by the Vikings, Monroe, Milton, Waukesha West, Stoughton, Fort Atkinson, Madison Edgewood, Waukesha North, Elkhorn and Jefferson.

If seeds hold, Mount Horeb would face top-seeded McFarland in a sectional semifinal. The Vikings defeated the Spar-

tans, 74-64, at McFarland on Feb. 20.

New Berlin West is the No. 1 seed on the other side of the bracket, where Beaver Dam, defending Division 2 state champion Wauwatosa West, Sauk Prairie and Brookfield Central round out the top five seeds.

Mount Horeb travels to Fort Atkinson Thursday, where it can capture a share of the Badger Small Conference title with a win. Considering those same teams could meet in the regional semifinals, Nesheim isn’t quite sure what to expect from the Blackhawks.

“I think typically it would be a game where you played it kind of vanilla,” Nesheim said. “But obviously with a championship on the line for us this week we can’t do that. It will be interesting to see if (Fort) coach (Mike) Hintz does that.”

Either way, Nesheim is thrilled how his team is playing heading into the postseason.

Mount Horeb has suffered a bevy of injuries this year, most notably to standouts Josh Manchester (shoulder) and Alex Chapman (wrist). Despite those challenges, the Vikings have won five straight games and 10 of 11.

“I was extremely pleased with the way we performed at McFarland,” Nesheim said. “It’s been a season of adjustments that’s for sure and now trying to get Josh and Alex back into the mix and have the rest of the guys play as well as they have been playing without them was going to be key.

“I thought we did that really well the other night. If we can continue to play at that level, we will be hard to beat.”



Hayden Anderson (right) and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team received the No. 2 seed in their sectional. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

EDGEWOOD

continued from page 11

feeder Reedsburg. That left Mount Horeb, McFarland and Sauk all tied atop the conference with 10-3 records with one game left in the regular season.

Edgewood led, 51-50, when Manchester drilled a 3-pointer and was fouled with 3:49 remaining. Manchester missed the free throw, but on the Crusaders’ ensuing possession, Manchester forced a steal and scored giving the Vikings a 55-51 lead with 3:34 left.

“That was the turning point,” Nesheim said. “Both teams missed their share of free throws down the stretch, but we did just enough to get the win.”

Mount Horeb honored its eight seniors — Man-

chester, Hayden Anderson, Kam Nesheim, Ethan Morrisard, Max Grundahl, Cal Odgers, Henry Jennings and Nick Ibinger — before the game. The Vikings then raced to a 16-9 lead.

“A really great start for us,” Todd Nesheim said. “We were very good offensively as we had some balance and were able to score around the basket. On the other end, I thought we were outstanding. We had Edgewood frustrated with our ball pressure and did a nice job of keeping them out of the lane.”

Anderson picked up his second foul midway through the first half, though. And with Mount Horeb’s Alex Chapman still sidelined, that left the Vikings with Manchester as their only proven scorer.

That helped Edgewood

pull even by halftime, 24-24.

“I felt fortunate to be in that situation,” Todd Nesheim said. “I felt with Anderson coming back we would be in good shape. We got by sitting him and survived and I felt with him and (Evan) Leibfried on the floor that would be a good matchup for us.

“They were also bothering us with their wing pressure, so we talked about some ways to defeat their switches both on-ball screens and on-wing to post pin down screens. We needed to touch the paint more.”

Neither team could gain any separation, though, much of the second half and the teams were tied, 39-39, with nine minutes left.

“We were a heavy dose

of Manchester offensively,” Todd Nesheim said. “And Nick Ibinger brought some scrappiness and lots of momentum our way with his offensive rebound and hustle plays in consecutive order.”

Anderson helped give the Vikings a 48-43 lead with a left wing attack and a nifty assist to Leibfried.

The Crusaders answered with five quick points to tie the game, 48-48, and took a 51-50 lead. But Manchester’s five straight points put Mount Horeb back in control, and the Vikings held

on down the stretch.

Mount Horeb shot just 2-of-17 from 3-point land (11.8%) and 11-of-20 from the free throw line (55.0%), but found a way to prevail.

“We continue to win games in different ways without a full roster. I guess that means we are doing some other things pretty well.”

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb is at Fort Atkinson (12-11, 8-5) Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

TOWN OF PRIMROSE NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Board of Supervisors meeting for March 2026 will be held on Monday, March 2nd, 2026, at 8468 County Road A, Verona, WI beginning at 7:30pm. The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, and on the Town website. A summary of the agenda will be available on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

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

TOWN OF PERRY NOTICE
LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Perry Town Hall
10084 County Highway A
7:00 PM
Teleconference:
425-585-6272
access: 394-722-206 #

Agenda

1. Call to Order.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 4, 2026.
3. Michelle Thode, 10864 CTH A – land division and zoning changes from FP-35 to RM-16 for a 30.5-acre lot with site plan and driveway for residence, 29 acres to rezone the existing residence, and 1.5 acres to FP-1. *
4. Town Comprehensive Plan – review and edit Element 8, “Land Use.”
5. Pending applications – review and discussion.
6. Schedule meetings.
7. Adjourn.

Stephanie Zwettler
Deputy Clerk
www.perry-wi.gov

A quorum of the Town Board may be present at this meeting.
* A site view will be conducted at the Thode site on Saturday, February 28, 2026, beginning at 8:30 AM.
Posted: Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville signpost, Town website – February 26, 2026.

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

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.

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BOYS BB

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of the state’s leading scorers.

Beating the Spartans (18-5, 10-3) on their home floor avenged a 42-point loss to them on Jan. 15 when Manchester went down early with a separated shoulder that put him in street clothes for the next seven games — the same type of injury that ended his postseason last year.

“We were embarrassed at home, big time,” Chapman said. “We took that personally and we made it happen tonight.”

The win took on even greater importance when the Vikings learned that Reedsburg had shocked conference leader Sauk Prairie, elevating the Vikings into a three-way tie at the top with the Eagles and McFarland.

With a victory this Thursday at Fort Atkinson, Mount Horeb can claim at least a share of the Badger Small title.

“Feels like we’re kind of the underdogs almost — kind of beaten up, guys out, not knowing how we were going to put it all together,” said Manchester, who was held to just one point in the first half but finished with a game-high 27, all inside the 3-point line. “It’s kind of fun to just go out there with nothing to lose and having fun.”

Want to talk about having fun?

Check out Chapman, who raged out of the gates with a baseline jumper on a designed set and a 3-pointer from the right corner.

“It was nice to see him get going with that first shot. He was laughing down the court,” junior post Evan Leibfried said. “It was awesome to get him back.”

Or listen to Manchester, who said “life was easy” during a first half when he missed all eight shots from the floor — and admittedly got a little agitated by “overrated” chants from the McFarland student section — but was feeding red-hot teammates for their own scores.

“If I have to score one point, 30, 40 — doesn’t matter. I honestly could care less,” said Manchester, who is averaging nearly 30 points per game on the season and now ranks No. 15

on the all-time state scoring list with 2,413 career points. “I’ve got nothing left to prove in my career, so I’m just trying to go out there and win.”

Then there was Leibfried. Historically, Mount Horeb has lacked size in its program, instead hanging its hat on scrappiness, shooting and a team-first mentality.

But after watching 6-foot-9 junior post Eli Krueger exert his influence on both ends of the floor in the first half — hitting 3-pointers, blocking or altering a multitude of shots, and clogging Manchester’s path to the basket — the Vikings assistant coaches recommended an elevated role for the 6-foot-7 Leibfried to form a potent frontcourt alongside 6-6 senior forward Hayden Anderson and the 6-4 Chapman.

Head coach Todd Nesheim bought in.

The chess move suddenly gave Mount Horeb a significant advantage in size and mass at the other four positions. And Leibfried embraced the role with vigor, keeping Krueger in check on the defensive end — including putting him on the floor once with an emphatic blocked shot — and providing an outside threat offensively that drew Krueger away from full-time basket protection mode.

“He’s really good,” Leibfried said of Krueger, who finished with 23 points and eight rebounds. “The coaches told me to play physical and get up in his face. That’s what I tried to do, and I think I did a pretty good job.”

Riding Chapman’s hot start, Mount Horeb forced an early timeout by McFarland after Anderson’s 3-pointer produced a 10-3 lead. The Vikings prompted another Spartans timeout after staking themselves to a 23-14 lead at the 8:15 mark on their best possession of the half, with Nick Ibinger draining a 3-pointer off an inside-out assist from Leibfried following an Anderson offensive rebound.

The Spartans responded with a 10-2 run bookended by a basket from Ben Bosold, their lone honoree on Senior Night, and a 3-pointer from Krueger to draw within 25-24. McFarland seized its only lead of the first half moments later

when sophomore guard Braydon Fischer sliced through the Mount Horeb defense on a coast-to-coast layup for a 31-29 edge.

Manchester — face-guarded throughout the half by McFarland’s Garrett Crull, and with second and third defenders rushing at him regularly — finally got on the board with a free throw with 46.8 seconds left. Manchester then forced a steal, missing a transition layup that Anderson put back in the closing seconds to send the Vikings to the locker room with a 32-31 lead.

Chapman finished the first half with 13 points, with Nesheim taking no credit for his mental readiness and lack of rust.

“I don’t have to say anything to him. He’s the smartest kid we’ve got,” Nesheim said. “He stayed ballhandling, he stayed conditioning. We never once talked about anything basketball-related.”

Added Manchester: “That’s just the type of kid he is. He’s always going to be prepared. He’s one of the hardest workers on the team and he’s always locked in. When we were both hurt, we talked about how when we were both back, how deadly it would be. And we showed that tonight.”

Just as Mount Horeb orchestrated early opportunities for Chapman in the first half, the Vikings went straight to Manchester in the second to get him back on track. He scored four of the team’s first five baskets, including a three-point play following one of his five steals to provide Mount Horeb a 44-41 lead with 14:48 left.

The teams traded the lead four times before the Vikings went on an 8-0 run behind a putback and 3-pointer by Leibfried (seven points, team-high 11 rebounds) sandwiched around another steal-and-score by Manchester for a 54-47 edge.



Evan Leibfried (21) and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team notched a huge road win at McFarland last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

“He’s an energy guy,” Chapman said of Leibfried. “When you get him rolling, get him moving, he’s going to be hard to stop. He played out of his mind tonight.”

Mount Horeb repelled another McFarland surge when Chapman drained a 3-pointer from the left wing and Manchester converted a turnover into a layup for the third time, claiming a 64-58 lead with 3:52 remaining. Spartans guard Kam Meinholdt answered by draining his third 3-pointer of the second half and, after a stop, Sawyer Punzel had a potential tying trey go off target.

But that was it for McFarland.

Shaking off his early struggles, Manchester resumed his customary late-game role of closer, scoring the Vikings’ final 10 points. He hit a spinner over Fischer and blew through him for another hoop and a 68-61 advantage, then made his final six free throws.

Now, Mount Horeb has a chance to repeat as Badger Small champion, and has its sights set on a deep postseason that — if seeds hold — sets up a rubber

match against McFarland. The Vikings will make this push without two contributors who’ve been ruled out for the season — Kyle Freitag (shoulder) and Aiden Aeschlimann (foot) — but with a resurgent Chapman and Manchester alongside a supporting cast that has matured mightily.

“We’re going to be a tough out,” said Nesheim, whose team topped the Spartans in the regional finals last year before falling one step shy of the state tournament. “That’s been the goal since we lost last year — get back to that sectional final game, and then be a little better.”

Feb. 20
Mount Horeb 32 42 — 74
McFarland 31 33 — 64
Mount Horeb (fgm-fga ftn-fta pts) — Kam Nesheim 0-1 0-0 0, Josh Manchester 9-22 9-13 27,

Hayden Anderson 6-7 1-3, Max Grundahl 0-0 0-0 0, Cal Odgers 0-3 0-0 0, Mason Williams 1-3 2-2 4, Evan Leibfried 3-5 0-0 7, Nick Ibinger 1-3 0-0 3, Alex Chapman 8-14 0-1 19. Totals: 28-58 12-19 74.

McFarland — Joe Fortune 0-2 0-0 0, Braydon Fischer 3-11 0-1 7, Garrett Crull 7-15 2-2 17, Eli Krueger 8-13 5-6 23, Parker Roh 0-0 0-0 0, Kam Meinholdt 4-12 0-0 12, Ben Bosold 2-4 0-0 4. Totals: 24-57 7-10 64.

Team stats
Three-pointers: MH 6-15 (Chapman 3-7, Leibfried 1-1, Anderson 1-2, Ibinger 1-2, Manchester 0-3), McF 8-25 (Meinholdt 4-11, Krueger 2-3, Crull 1-4, Fischer 1-5, Fortune 0-1, Bosold 0-1). Transition points: MH 9, McF 4. Points off turnovers: MH 11, McF 9. Rebounds: MH 39 (Anderson 11, Leibfried 11), McF 30 (Krueger 8, Bosold 8). Assists: MH 14 (Manchester 6), McF 19 (Crull 6). Steals: MH 6 (Manchester 5), McF 3 (Fischer 2). Blocks: MH 2 (Anderson 1, Leibfried 1), McF 3 (Krueger). Turnovers: MH 7, McF 9. Fouls: MH 12, McF 15.

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