

Laundy is new Senior Center director

Her love for seniors and helping people makes it a ‘dream career’

By MATT GEIGER

Mount Horeb Mail

Joan Laundy is the new director of Southwest Dane Outreach and the Mount Horeb Senior Center. Laundy recently replaced Lynn Forshaug, the long-

time director who retired at the end of May.

Laundy is a lifelong resident of Mount Horeb. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire. Since grad-

uating, she has dedicated her career to working with seniors and adults with disabilities.

Before heading up the Mount Horeb Senior Center, Laundy worked as the executive director of a home care

agency and as a case manager for a managed-care organization. She also worked at Ingleside Communities in Mount Horeb as their social worker and human resources manager.

Laundy has always felt a

strong connection to seniors, but it was through her work that she realized just how far the ripple effects of this kind of work can travel.

“I went into social work because I like to help peo-

continued on page 9



Joan Laundy



Norsk hosts big bash to celebrate nation’s birthday

Norsk Golf Club once again served as the hub for the Village of Mount Horeb’s annual 4th of July celebration (on July 3, of course). The event drew large crowds for a celebration capped off by a stunning fireworks show, above. *MHM photo.*



Mount Horeb man who worked at Middleton school convicted of repeated sexual assault of a child

Jury needed less than 90 minutes to convict

By KEVIN MURPHY

Mount Horeb Mail

Dane County jurors needed less than 90 minutes to convict a Mount Horeb man and former Kromery Middle School janitor of repeated sexual assault of a child.

James A. Myers, 41, was charged after a parent reported to Mount Horeb police in 2024 that her 13-year-old stepdaughter said Myers had exposed himself to her in 2013 when she was four or five years old, according to the amended criminal complaint.

The complaint continued:

The child told the Mount Horeb Police Department (MHPD) that her memories



James A. Myers

of the incident were triggered when she read the book “Speak” and clarified what she had long believed were bad dreams.

In a subsequent interview, the child detailed several graphic sexual acts he committed with her. Some of the incidents took place in a

bathroom where loud laundry machines prevented her from calling out to others in the house. Another time, Myers draped a blanket over the child to conceal his touching her.

She characterized some of the incidents as “weird, uncomfortable and scary.” She also wondered why Myers was doing these things to her and not the other children Myers’ girlfriend was babysitting.

Myers told a MHPD detective in 2024 that he remembered the child and “missed her,” calling her sweet and nice. He would babysit the child and other younger kids when his girl-

continued on page 7

Community members share their stories in PFLAG book

‘Brave Voices Rising: Stories of Identity, Resilience, and the Power of Being Heard’

By ABIGAIL KARBUSICKY

Mount Horeb Mail

The PFLAG organization in Mount Horeb has published its first book, with stories of LGBTQ+ individuals in the community and inspired by an event that shared these stories.

“Brave Voices Rising: Stories of Identity, Resilience, and the Power of Being Heard” was published June 23 by Little Creek Press.

Last June, PFLAG organized an event at Brix Cider where people submitted vignettes of their experiences and stories as LGBTQ+ people with connections to

Mount Horeb. To protect the identity of the authors, volunteers read the stories allowed at an event.

“It was incredibly powerful,” PFLAG Vice President Brooke Running said. “You could hear a pin drop. It was standing room only. As someone volunteering to read, I thought I need to do this person justice.”

After the event, PFLAG President Patty Schlafer said she heard so many people ask to read or hear the vignettes again, or for the first time if they couldn’t make the event.

So PFLAG formed a book continued on page 8



“Brave Voices Rising: Stories of Identity, Resilience, and the Power of Being Heard” was published a week before the Mount Horeb Pride Walk that took place Wednesday, June 30, above. Photo contributed.

PERSPECTIVE

Oshaben: Perhaps a more thoughtful management approach would be better at Donald County Park

Donald County Park
1945 WI-92 Trunk
Mt. Horeb WI 53572
781.5 acres

Known for hiking, horse-back riding, picnicking, trout fishing beautiful trails for birding and wildflower studies. Minor restrictions for dog leach controls, mainly so not to disturb nesting birds. The Park has a well-structured Blue bird nesting program.

I have just relocated to the beautiful town of Mt. Horeb and was very excited to find Donald County Park. For me, this Park offered the perfect opportunity for a Retired National Park Ranger to get some exercise, continue my birding hobby, learn and photograph the local flowers and most of all chat with other trail walkers who are basically enjoying pretty much everything I just mentioned. I spend five days a week there and even on days when the weather does not comply, I just set up camp under the pavilion armed with my binoculars, cell phone and my dog Dundee. A perfect place for taking in the serenity and the beauty of nature.

On Monday the 29th of June, I loaded up my dog with binoculars in hand and headed out for my weekday morning routine. Within minutes of my walk I notice someone had carefully pulled some of the wild flowering plants that were one of my favorites to photograph. This majestic five-foot-tall flower was constantly in demand with the local pollinators, featuring native bees, wasps, butterflies and our all-important honeybees. The plant was carefully laid out flat with all the soil carefully removed from the totally intact root system. That is a common practice used

by professional exotic plant removal teams to accelerate the dehydration process which guarantees the demise of a plant. This beautiful and unique plant's name was the Common Mullein. A very thick velvety smokey blue leaf originating from Europe with an incredible historic and cultural past. In the few thousand feet I walked, I found seven of these victims, which tells me, the plant had no plans on taking over Wisconsin! I was wondering what the purpose for the removal of that amazing plant was and I called a phone number of someone who hopefully could explain the rational to what I discovered. With my phone call made and message left I did receive a call back but this time I missed the call.

The next day I returned for my morning routine and did not look forward to walking past the remains of the destroyed wildflowers, but what I heard and saw completely took my thoughts elsewhere. There was a large piece of equipment called a skid steer with a mower/mulcher attached just tearing though that once pristine and beautiful park. There was zero rhyme or reason to his path, at least in my eyes. But I did see the operator aim for the Blue Bird post and nest to do some donuts. So much for protecting our Blue Birds!

Anyway, I made it back to my vehicle and immediately made a call to someone from the county. I was told that they were doing a wild parsnip eradication project. The conflict with such an aggressive action with a June clear cutting for wild parsnip is that this time of year is peak breeding and nesting season for grassland birds in Wisconsin. Possibly over 200

species will take advantage of these specialized areas. Mowing/clear cutting during this time will destroy nest, kill eggs and fledging's as well as remove future critical nesting habitat. As many of us Park visitors know, our grasslands that border the trails were prime nesting habitat and the perfect place to observe frantic parents darting in and out feeding their hungry brood. That habitat could have easily been the posterchild for the prime Bird nesting habitat.

The Question is, will I sleep better now knowing there is a tiny percentage of wild parsnip missing in that once beautiful park or will my mind totally focus on the reality that because of today's actions there could be easily hundreds and hundreds of fledgings and nestlings that never made it to maturity. My guess is that the state or feds offered them funding for the project, and without thinking of researching other options they needed to justify accepting the funds. I find it hard to comprehend that any manager would sign off to a project like this during this time of year which is easily the absolute peak of songbird breeding season which accounts for 75 percent of all active songbirds' nests in Wisconsin.

Not to make this a one sided: he said, she said: article, I do need to address the dangers of the wild parsnip issue and how it is possible for such an aggressive attack. This exotic invasive originates from Eurasia and does flourish throughout the Midwest. It is known for out-competing native vegetation and can cause a chemical burn, rash and can cause danger for grazing livestock. Any manager

should have red flags appear when this plant invades their park or property. Yes, actions are required, but first some research needs to be addressed before you bring out the big guns.

As I mentioned earlier, besides my interest in birds, i spent a good bit of time enjoying the amazing flora that the park had to offer and yes, I did notice the wild parsnip. In fact, the unique yellowish flower and celery type leaf and its size and shape made identification quite unmistakable. At the park I did notice there were areas that would contain small groups or clusters of plants and the rest were randomly placed. Now the hard part: Honestly witnessing the damage and devastation being carried out right in front of my eyes did get me a bit upset to say the least, especially watching birds fleeing their nesting areas, or at least the adults, and rabbits evacuating their once safe world with a CAT. Skid loader right behind them. I am guilty of contacting some poor Bio-tec and disturbing his office time with the rantings of an old naturalist from years gone by. I'm sure he is not the party responsible for signing off on such an important and controversial action as devastating a known bird nesting habitat during peak season. I thought before I continue my war with folks, that during different circumstances, I'd probably would have enjoyed sitting with them and talking about our park experiences over a

nice cold beer.

I did research on the eradication of wild parsnip in an environmentally sensitive area. In the six seconds it took me to complete that task I was pleasantly surprised that there are still people that do have what is needed to be on Jeopardy and thank God for them.... For an environmentally sensitive area there is a practice called target digging and surprisingly easy for the fact that all that is needed is (step by step) locating the wild parsnip, which is very easy. Take a round point shovel, place it on the base of the plant and sever the root. These problem plants have no tap root and now the plant is totally disabled and so long as this is done before seeding time it becomes nothing but a memory.

Ok, before someone brings up the Huge problem and possibly the reason for the CAT. Equipment which would be the fact that disturbing and handling this plant can create health issues. Again, to solve this dilemma I took the time to research safe ways to eradicate wild parsnip en-

vironmentally. And found the following: Protect your skin by wearing full-body synthetic water-resistant clothing which is easily obtainable as well as protective glove and if done before seeding time you don't even need to bag it up after severing the root. Probably a good idea to come with protective eye and face gear and if needed, a mask for breathing. I did return to the Park last evening to walk around and do a damage assessment; there were still bird chirping and singing in the background and I know there are some birds that will go into a second-round attempt in re-nesting after fires or other disasters so hopefully this is the case for some of our resident birds here. Surveying the affected area, I could see how easy it would have been to do a Target digging method of eradication. I myself would have found enjoyment knowing I was part of assisting in maintaining an unwanted exotic plant while doing it with a well thought out beneficial and sensitive plan.

Chuck Oshaben

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SCAN ME



Representative Roundup

Baldwin Calls for Investigation into USPS Delays During Wisconsin’s Spring Election

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) called for an investigation into the delays at the United States Postal Service (USPS) during the Wisconsin Spring Election that led to hundreds of Wisconsinites across the state not having their votes counted. Baldwin notes that hundreds of Wisconsinites sent their ballots before Election Day, some as early as weeks before the election, but were deprived of their right to vote because of delays by USPS. Two-thirds of Wisconsin’s local election officials across the state reported problems with the mail during the April 7th election, with some reporting election mail taking 7 to 10 days or more to reach polling locations.

“I request that USPS OIG conduct a timely review of Spring Election mail delays in Wisconsin and identify any remaining issues that undermine the on-time delivery of returned ballots so that USPS can resolve any outstanding concerns before Wisconsin’s elections this fall,” wrote Senator Baldwin in a letter to USPS Inspector General Hull. “If the election mail delays that we saw this spring are not addressed, USPS is likely to disenfranchise an even greater number of voters during the fall elections, increasing the risk that eligible voters will cast a ballot that is not ultimately counted through no fault of their own. Ensuring timely delivery of election mail is essential to maintaining public confidence in our elections, and delays that prevent ballots from arriving on time undermine voters’ trust that our elections are fair and reliable.”

Numerous media reports and accounts from elections officials in Wisconsin have indicated that hundreds of absentee ballots from across the state that were received by the Postal Service prior to the election were not delivered until after the election’s deadline had passed—and therefore were not counted.

Baldwin’s call for an investigation comes as President Trump has attempted to curtail legal mail-in voting, both through Congress and executive action. President Trump’s executive order directs the Postal Service to create a federal mail-in voting list made up of states’ absentee voters’ information. A U.S. District Judge blocked the President’s executive order limiting Americans’ use of mail-in voting, but

the Trump Administration is expected to appeal the ruling.

Following this unconstitutional directive, USPS proposed a rule that would ultimately allow the Postal Service to determine whether millions of Americans can receive and cast ballots through the mail. Baldwin has spoken out in strong opposition and demanded that the USPS abandon this rule. In a U.S. Senate Committee hearing, Postmaster General David Steiner confirmed that if the rule is finalized, the Postal Service would refuse to deliver any mail-in ballots from states that did not comply with this new standard.

Senator Baldwin has repeatedly called on the USPS to address the mail delays Wisconsinites are experiencing. In April, she demanded answers from Postmaster General David Steiner regarding long-term mail delays and staffing shortages at post offices across Wisconsin that are impacting local businesses, newspapers, and Wisconsin families who rely on USPS for prescriptions, bills, voting, and more.

“Numerous media reports and accounts from elections officials in Wisconsin have indicated that hundreds of absentee ballots from across the state that were mailed prior to the election were not delivered until after the election’s deadline had passed—and therefore were not counted. In Wisconsin, absentee ballots must be received by a polling location by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted, meaning that hundreds of my constituents voted on time but were deprived of their right to vote in the Spring Election because of delays by USPS. Members of the military face unique challenges in voting when election mail is delayed because they are more likely to rely on the Postal Service to mail their ballot. This is unacceptable and appears to be the result of decisions and actions by the Postal Service that are inconsistent with normal operations and threaten the ability of Wisconsinites to exercise their right to vote. It warrants an investigation by the USPS Office of Inspector General (OIG),” Baldwin wrote.

“In May, the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) sent a letter to the USPS Postmaster General expressing grave concerns about the performance of election mail for Wisconsin’s Spring Election. The Commission is a bipartisan body that administers elections across Wisconsin and

assists election clerks in all 72 counties. WEC conducted a survey of Wisconsin’s local election officials and found that two-thirds reported problems with the mail, and more than half reported receiving complaints and concerns about the Postal Service from voters. One in four clerks reported receiving more late ballots than is typical for an election—with some reporting election mail taking 7 to 10 days or more to reach polling locations. I have attached the Commission’s letter to the Postmaster General, as well as a memorandum prepared by WEC, for your review,” she continued. “I request that USPS OIG conduct a timely review of Spring Election mail delays in Wisconsin and identify any remaining issues that undermine the on-time delivery of returned ballots so that USPS can resolve any outstanding concerns before Wisconsin’s elections this fall. If the election mail delays that we saw this spring are not addressed, USPS is likely to disenfranchise an even greater number of voters during the fall elections, increasing the risk that eligible voters will cast a ballot that is not ultimately counted through no fault of their own. Ensuring timely delivery of election mail is essential to maintaining public confidence in our elections, and delays that prevent ballots from arriving on time undermine voters’ trust that our elections are fair and reliable.”

Sen. Johnson Introduces Right to Try for Individualized Treatments Act

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) in June introduced the Right to Try for Individualized Treatments Act (Right to Try 2.0) to provide access to individualized, one-patient therapies that are not eligible for approval under the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) regulatory regime. Right to Try 2.0 builds on the Right to Try Act of 2017 to create a pathway for patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating conditions to receive unique, patient-specific therapies that cannot undergo Phase I trials and may lack any commercial regulatory path.

Right to Try 2.0 is voluntary for all involved parties. To partake in such treatments, patients must have considered all approved treatment options, in addition to obtaining a physician recommendation. Manufacturers are not obligated to provide treatments and physicians are not required to

recommend such treatments. Manufacturers will receive coverage for direct costs but cannot profit from the unapproved treatment.

“I championed Right to Try to provide hope and freedom to those with terminal illnesses by giving them access to experimental treatments without waiting for full FDA approval. The original Right to Try Act was about giving terminal patients a fighting chance by cutting through red tape. Right to Try 2.0 builds on that success and would provide access to individualized, rare disease and one-patient therapies that the current regulatory environment has yet to accommodate. This is about medical freedom and putting doctors and patients at the top of the treatment pyramid,” Sen. Johnson said.

“When someone is fighting for their life, the last thing they need is the government standing in their way. We are entering a new era of medicine where breakthroughs in genomics and precision therapies can create treatments designed specifically for an individual patient, but our regulatory system was built for a different time and simply hasn’t kept up. This legislation makes sure patients have a clear, durable path to pursue individualized treatments when all other options have failed,” Rep. Harshbarger said.

U.S. Rep. Harshbarger (R-Tenn.) and U.S. Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Gov. Evers, DHS Celebrate Extended Postpartum Medicaid Coverage Now in Effect for Wisconsin Moms and Families

Gov. Tony Evers, together with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), recently celebrated that Wisconsin moms are now eligible for 12 months of postpartum Medicaid healthcare coverage thanks to a bipartisan bill signed by Gov. Evers earlier this year that goes into full effect today, July 1. This is expected to help more than 16,000 Medicaid members this year alone and deliver on a key promise Gov. Evers made to Wisconsin moms, babies, and families to expand postpartum Medicaid coverage as governor.

“Extending postpartum coverage was the right move for Wisconsin families and the right move for our state, and I’m darn proud that we got this done so that more moms

and babies have the care they need when they need it,” said Gov. Evers. “We know that postpartum recovery is a heckuva a lot longer than 60 days, and expanded postpartum coverage can and will save lives. That’s why I’ve been fighting to get this done for a long time, and I am glad Wisconsin’s women and families are finally getting the expanded coverage they deserve, including over 16,000 moms this year alone. That is a really big deal.”

For Medicaid members who are currently pregnant or still within 60 days postpartum as of May 31, 2026, Wisconsin Medicaid will automatically extend their coverage for the full year. Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus members who have questions about the extended postpartum coverage should contact their local county or Tribal agency.

Gov. Evers said he has been a “relentless” advocate for expanding access to quality, affordable healthcare and improving maternal and infant health outcomes in Wisconsin. Gov. Evers has made extending postpartum coverage to one year a cornerstone of his “Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies” initiative, which he’s spent seven years working to pass, including the proposal in each of his four budgets as governor and even going so far as to repeatedly and directly implore lawmakers in many of his major addresses over eight years as governor to do so. The governor renewed his call for lawmakers to extend postpartum coverage once again earlier this year in a letter to members of the Wisconsin State Legislature outlining his top legislative priorities for 2026. In March, the governor was proud to sign this important priority into law for expecting moms and their babies at a press conference with advocates, moms, and healthcare providers.

“Healthcare coverage is critical after pregnancy. A full year of coverage gives new parents and their babies the access to care and the safe and stable supports they need to thrive, from birth to baby’s first birthday,” said DHS Secretary Kirsten Johnson. “We know nearly half of pregnancy-related deaths happen in the year after a pregnancy ends, in what’s often called the ‘fourth trimester,’ but nearly all of these deaths are preventable. This coverage will save lives.”

“This is a huge win for Wisconsin birthing people and their families, and we still have a lot of work to do

to improve health outcomes for birthing people in our state. Let’s use this as momentum, but we can’t stop here,” said Dr. Jasmine Zapata, state epidemiologist for maternal and child health and chronic diseases and Bureau of Community Health Promotion chief medical officer. “In my years of practice, I have learned that we all have a stake in making sure pregnancy and birth are a time for health and joy, not something to fear, and one life lost to pregnancy complications is one too many.”

From pregnancy to childbirth to postpartum and beyond, ensuring the health and wellness of all mothers and babies in Wisconsin has been a top priority for Gov. Evers and the Evers Administration. Despite advances in medical science and technology, pregnancy-related complications and deaths continue to occur at high levels in Wisconsin. According to DHS’s Division of Public Health, Wisconsin’s severe maternal morbidity rate, which is described as serious birth complications or “near-misses,” has steadily increased in recent years, and the rate of severe maternal morbidity for people on Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus is higher than for those with private insurance.

According to DHS, nearly half of pregnancy-related deaths occur in the postpartum period, and the Wisconsin Maternal Mortality Review Team found that nearly all (95 percent) of these deaths were preventable. Unfortunately, in Wisconsin, this issue disproportionately affects families of color, especially Black families, as Black mothers are approximately 2.5 times more likely than their white, non-Hispanic peers to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Despite these appalling realities and the concept of expanding postpartum coverage having overwhelming support of 66 percent of Wisconsinites and a bipartisan supermajority in the Wisconsin State Legislature, Wisconsin has for years been one of just two states in the nation that had not expanded postpartum coverage under Medicaid to 12 months—until now.

Thanks to this extended coverage now in effect, many new parents who may have previously lost their coverage after 60 days will no longer have to worry about finding new health insurance or facing overwhelming out-of-pocket costs for life-saving care during a time when they need it most. Postpar-

Two dead following crash on Highway 92 in Town of Primrose

On Monday, June 22, 2026, at 5:49 p.m., Dane County Sheriff's Office Deputies, along with Mount Horeb Police, Verona Police, Belleville Police and Mount Horeb Fire and EMS, responded to a two-vehicle crash at STH 92 and Spring Rose Road, in the Town of Primrose.

Upon arrival, one vehicle was fully engulfed and the other had significant damage, with the driver being trapped. Initial investigation showed one vehicle crossed the center line and hit the other head-on. Each vehicle had a single occupant and they were both pronounced deceased at the scene.

The road was closed for over five hours for the investigation to be completed.

On June 26, the Dane County Medical Examiner's Office named the individuals that died in the crash – Maxwell J. Parman, 21, New Glarus, and Adam V. Schultz, 44, Barneveld.

Following a forensic examination, both Parman and Schultz were found to have succumbed to injuries sustained in the crash and additional testing is underway at this time.

These deaths remain under investigation by the Dane County Sheriff's Office and the Dane County Medical Examiner's Office.

Plants, Pollinators, and People: Free event at local church

Want to learn more about the wonderful world of pollinators? Join Elizabeth Braatz, a UW-Madison PhD Student studying pollinator conservation, on a guided walk/sit to look at the world through a bug's eye through a guided pollinator walk. The free event will take place Sunday, July 12 from 11 a.m. to noon at Mt. Vernon United Church of Christ 1693 Washington St., Verona, WI 53593.

It will cover bee biology, some of the amazing adaptations and many species of bees, and how to look for the endangered Rusty patched bumble bee.

Participants should bring: Camera/camera phone; Comfortable clothes/footwear for a short walk (or sit will have chairs and shade tent!) to the garden.

Braatz, has a Master's in Entomology from the University of Florida and five years of experience with pollinator conservation programs at Disney Conservation Fund. Today, she is pursuing a PhD at UW-Wisconsin on pollinator conservation and coordinates the WI Department of Natural Resources Bumble Bee Brigade, a statewide citizen science project that YOU can get involved in. She is excited to meet people, hear about their experiences with the wonderful world of insects, and talk bugs.

Obituary

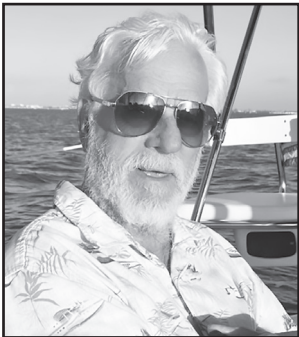
William "Bill" Douglas Darrow

William "Bill" Douglas Darrow, 84, passed away peacefully on June 11, 2026, surrounded by his family.

Born in Madison, Wisconsin, Bill grew up in Mount Horeb and was a proud graduate from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he earned a degree in Photographic Engineering. After college, he worked



as a physicist and engineer on spy plane cameras, satellites, and medical imaging; eventually settling in Min-



nesota's St. Croix Valley in 1976.

Above all, Bill was a family man. To his children, he

was the smartest person in the world. He showed his love through consistency and unwavering support - dependable, always present, and their first call for advice. He instilled in them the values of integrity and loyalty. To his grandchildren, he was the man who always showed up – making each of them feel deeply loved, seen, and cherished.

He and his beloved wife, Sheila, built a beautiful life

grounded in love, partnership, and simple joys. Sheila showed loving devotion to the very end; and they celebrated their 48th anniversary the day before his passing in a way that honored their life and love— with family and ice cream.

He was and always will be the rock of his family — steady, dependable, and deeply loyal, with a sharp wit, a fiery laugh, and a presence that made others

feel safe and loved.

Bill is survived by his wife, Sheila; his children, Bill Jr. (Stephanie), James, Tom, and Anne Marie (Jamie) Persico; his grandchildren, Kristen, Tiffany, Jacob, Connor, Hope, Grant, Grace, Will, Bella, Dylan, and Weston; several great-grandchildren; and his sister, Janet Young.

The Badger Project

Democrats from the state missed more votes than their Republican counterparts

By Peter Cameron and Wanwa Omot

Wisconsin's only two House Democrats missed many more votes than their Republican counterparts in the 2023-2024 congressional session, the last two years of President Joe Biden's Administration.

The data and analysis come from GovTrack, a private organization that monitors Congress and the White House.

Members of Congress often spend the week in Washington D.C., attending committee meetings and other official business in the capital, then fly home for a long weekend to visit events in their district.

In the last complete congressional term of 2023-2024, U.S. Rep Gwen Moore, a Democrat from Milwaukee, had the highest absentee rate, at 6.4%, according to data from GovTrack. Rep. Mark Pocan, a Democrat from Madison, was next at 4.4%. That puts Moore in the top 15% of most missed votes in the 435-member House, and

Pocan just inside the top 25%.

The current congressional term will finish at the end of this year.

Votes cast by the minority party, which in that term was the Democrats, are often much less consequential than those in the majority.

As Republicans held the House majority in the 2023-2024 Congress, their attendance and votes were generally much more important, as they controlled the body, therefore deciding which bills got votes. And the GOP started 2023 with a narrow, 9-seat majority, making each of their member's votes even more crucial.

By comparison, Moore missed only 1.5% of votes and Pocan only 1.4% in the 2021-2022 Congress, when Democrats used their own minuscule majority of nine seats to pass a flurry of legislation in President Joe Biden's first two years.

In that term, Sen. Ron Johnson missed the most votes amongst the state's congressional caucus, at 5.7%.

Rep. Tom Tiffany, a Republican, missed the most votes of Wisconsin's House members, at 4.3% in the 2021-2022 term. He is leaving the House this year as he runs for governor. Tiffany missed 2.4% of votes in the 2023-2024 Congress.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, a Democrat, had a near-perfect attendance rate in 2023-2024 and the lowest missed vote rate of all Wisconsin's congressional members, at 0.4%.

Republican Reps. Bryan Steil and Scott Fitzgerald had the lowest missed vote rates of all eight House members from the state, at 0.6 and 0.7%, respectively.

Nationally, the U.S. House representative with

the highest absentee rate in 2023-2024 was Amata Coleman Radewagen at more than 61%. But that number comes with many caveats. Radewagen is from American Samoa, a territory rather than a state, so she is a delegate who cannot vote. And American Samoa is more than 7,000 miles away from Washington D.C., a route

which takes 20-30 hours to travel by plane. Rep. Raúl Grijalva, a Democrat from Arizona who was fighting cancer and died in 2025, had the highest absentee rate of any voting House member in 2023-2024, at more than 40%. Next was Rep. James Moylan, Republican of Guam, at about 36%. Guam is also a territory, about

8,000 miles away from the capital, so Moylan is a non-voting member as well. Rep. Dwight Evans, a Democrat from Philadelphia, came next, missing more than 30% of the votes in the last full congressional term. He is retiring at the end of 2026.

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COMMUNITY

Students Shared Message of Peace and Unity



Mount Horeb Intermediate Center students recently took the stage for the annual Intermediate Center Peace Program, “We Are We,” a meaningful production centered around acceptance, kindness, leadership, and the importance of working together to create a more peaceful world.

Held on Friday, May 15, the performances featured third, fourth, and fifth-grade students who shared messages inspired by their classroom guidance lessons, the school theme “I Am We,” and the stories of leaders who have helped shape our country. The family and community turnout was bigger than ever before!

Throughout the program, students highlighted the importance of accepting differences, showing compassion toward others, and recognizing that everyone has the ability to make a positive impact in their community. Through music, narration, and collaborative performances, students reminded audience members that “we are in this together.”

The production was facilitated by Mount Horeb Intermediate Center Guidance Teacher Annie Beier, who has led the Peace Program for many years. This year’s performance carried special significance as it marked Beier’s final program before her anticipated retirement at the end of the school year.

Students, staff, and families celebrated not only the important messages shared during the event but also Beier’s longstanding dedication to fostering kindness, empathy, and connection among students throughout her career.

The annual Peace Program continues to be a treasured tradition at the Intermediate Center and a powerful reminder of the positive difference young people can make in the world.

MYERS

continued from page 1

friend was at appointments but couldn’t remember ever being alone with the child, he said.

Myers was charged by complaint with one count of

repeated sexual assault of a child on March 7, 2025, and within days was arrested and released on bond. He pled not guilty to the charge in June 2025.

He voluntarily resigned from Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District (MCPASD) in August 2025, according to Carrie Booker, a district media contact. Booker didn’t provide the date Myers’ employment with the district began.

At trial, beginning June 30, Assistant District Attorney Will Davis called six

people identified only by their initials and the MHPD detective.

Myers didn’t testify at the two-day trial. His attorney, Jason Gonzalez, recalled some of the state’s witnesses for further questioning and rested after about 75 minutes.

To be convicted of repeated sexual assault of a child prosecutors must prove the defendant committed at least three violations of First-Degree Sexual Assault

Jurors returned a guilty verdict. Circuit Judge John Hyland accepted the verdict, revoked Myers’ bond and ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation.

Myers faces maximum statutory penalties of 60 years in prison at a sentencing date to be determined.

Springdale 4-H Club promotes Dairy Month with free ice cream



By Liam Crolla, Springdale 4-H Secretary

On June 25, the Springdale 4-H Club promoted June Dairy Month by handing out free ice cream at the Mount Horeb Farmers Market, giving away dairy related goodies and asking fun dairy trivia questions.

When walking up to the stand, folks were asked if they wanted to answer a question to win free ice cream. An example of the questions was, “How many pounds of milk does it take to make 1 lb. of cheese?” The people then guessed from a choice of three answers. In this case, it was either 2, 5, or 10 lbs of milk.

The answer is 10 lbs, but if they got the answer wrong, it did not matter, because they still got free ice cream. The ice cream was generously donated by Sassy Cow Creamery in the flavor options of Purple Cow, Root Beer, or Blue Moon. The favorite was Purple Cow, which was a mix of berry flavors, followed by Root Beer. The ice cream was served in reusable, plastic cups, with the words “Wisconsin, America’s Dairyland” and cartoon cows printed on them. Before leaving, folks were offered a large selection of dairy themed goodies to choose from, such as adorable cow fans, flavored milk straws,

and recipes for activities at home, like making “ice cream in a bag” or “butter in a jar.”

The club estimated they served over 200 people! Springdale members volunteering received many compliments and thanks for the delicious ice-cream, and now the Club would like to thank the M.H. Farmers Market for use of a stand at the market, Sassy Cow Creamery for the ice cream, and the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Association for the fun goodies to give away.

Finally, we want to remember all the dairy farmers in our state who make such wonderful products!



BOOK

continued from page 1

committee of three members, and within a year gathered the vignettes, wrote an introduction and conclusion, and connected with a publisher to get the book in print.

In the book, there are 17 vignettes, with stories of parents, LGBTQ+ people and their connections to Mount Horeb.

Running said the story that stood out to her was a parent sharing about their experience traveling with their trans child.

The vignette shares about the family wanting to take a cross country road trip, and evaluating which states they felt would be safe to stop for the bathroom with their trans child. The author talks about a map that color codes states based on how supportive the state is for trans people.

Running noted that she didn’t realize how much planning went into traveling with a trans child, and concerns over stopping at restrooms and whether their child would be safe to use a public bathroom in certain states.

“That’s something I’ve never had to worry about, or

never even thought about,” Running said.

Running said it was important to PFLAG to protect the identities of those who shared their stories, and the anonymity of the event and the book helped people to express more raw and vulnerable stories and emotions.

“I would say absolutely, that everyone is feeling more comfortable and safe to share those stories,” Running said.

In the book, several of the vignettes are written by parents of trans or LGBTQ+ children. Only one vignette was written by someone

whose parents did not support their identity, but in the other stories by parents, there is a sense of fear for their children’s safety and sense of protection and worry, especially in environments where they said their child was hurt for being themselves.

“So many of those parental stories are about fear and protection and trying to support their child,” Schlafer said.

Schlafer noted that Mount Horeb already has a strong group of supportive parents and a community of people that share these stories, so it wasn’t a surprise to hear so

many parents sharing support for their children.

Mount Horeb has had a PFLAG chapter since 2015, and there are about 30 or 40 active members who are registered with the national PFLAG organization. But Schlafer noted that more people can and do attend PFLAG events, including last year’s Pride Festival, which had about 150 people.

The proceeds from the book go to support the Mount Horeb Social Justice Award that goes to a graduating senior from the school district. Running said the award has been going for about six years, and she’s very proud of it because the award just encourages students to share about their life, what they want to do and how they have helped social justice.

She said this often leads to reading incredible essays by students, and she’s excited every year to present the award. Schlafer added that the award acts as a scholar-

ship, but doesn’t have to go towards education.

Running said she also hopes this book can serve as a resource for people: maybe someone who is trans to understand they are not alone, or maybe an ally can share the book with a family member who isn’t supportive of the community.

Schlafer said the book is powerful in its simplicity. While the introduction and conclusion were written after the event and edited, the vignettes and stories themselves are kept exactly as written by the authors, so readers know they are getting the raw voices within the book.

“It’s what makes me so trust the words in this book,” Schlafer said.

Copies of the book were available at the annual Pride Walk, or anyone could purchase online or order from any local bookstore.

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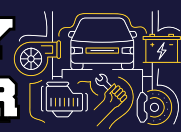
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Pop-up pottery is a hit at the public library



On June 16 Center Ground Studios hosted a “Pop Up Pottery” event at the Mount Horeb Library that was funded through the Optimist Club. They had more than 50 participants working with clay throughout the three-hour event. There were several hand-building stations that allowed folks to explore and create with a variety of tools, techniques, and textures. In addition, we had four pottery wheels at the event. Heidi Clayton from Center Ground Studios utilized one wheel as a demonstration wheel. People could ask Clayton questions and explore “what if” scenarios to see how the clay would move or what it would look like if different techniques were used. The other three wheels were staffed by local potters who supported library program participants in creating their own pieces. Some chose to make bowls, others mugs and vases, and a few plates. Participants had the option to have their creations fired at Center Ground Studios.



LAUNDY

continued from page 1

ple,” Laundy explained. “But I guess I didn’t realize the magnitude, of how, when you help someone you aren’t just helping them, you are helping their entire family. It’s really rewarding.”

Located at 107 N. Grove Street, the Mount Horeb Senior Center serves people aged 60 and up. She hopes in the coming weeks, months and years, she can reach new generations of seniors, many of whom don’t really think of themselves as particularly “old,” with a wide range of resources, activities and more.

“For me, it’s a way of giv-

ing back to the Mount Horeb community,” Laundy said.

“I do have a lot of ideas, but honestly I’m here for the seniors and I want to listen to them before I implement anything,” she continued.

Laundy said she learned a lot from her parents and her grandparents. One of the most vital lessons was to “respect your elders.” Another was just how much fun cooking and sharing recipes can be.

Yet another was how quick society can be to marginalize people due to their age or a slate of other factors.

“I think in our society, anyone with any differences, people immediately look at

them in a different light. But I think people are people,” she said. “If you look past age, past disabilities, race, you see a lot of commonalities.”

Many of the issues seniors face are as old as time. Some, like constant scams, phishing, hacking, deep-fakes and more, are new. With social media comes a new need for everyone, including seniors, to understand what is real, and what is not.

“It’s hard,” Laudy said, “to be constantly worried someone is trying to dupe you.”

“But I think there is an increased awareness that skepticism in general is a good thing,” she added.

Mental health will be a key focus for the senior center in the coming year.

“We have a separate pool of funding from the county for mental health,” said Laundy. “I think there is a still a stigma around mental health,” she said. “I think we need to make it more of a conversation and actually open up actual resources.”

Outside of work, Laundy enjoys spending time with her son, who just finished fourth grade in Mount

Horeb, as well as traveling, gardening, and spending time with their animals.

When she’s on the job, she enjoys a vast assortment of things, from the way she gets to help people, to the manner that help spreads out to loved ones and the greater

community.

“It probably sounds cliché, but it is such an honor,” Laundy said. “My love for seniors and my love for Mount Horeb melding together is a dream career.”

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Six local students selected for WSMA's Middle Level Honors

Six Mt. Horeb Middle School students have been selected to participate in the Wisconsin School Music Association's Middle Level Honors ensembles this fall. Participating students completed a rigorous audition process in April. This year, over 1000 students from around the state auditioned for approximately 300 spots in the middle level honors band, choir, and orchestra. From WSMA's website:

The WSMA Middle Level State Honors Music Project offers musically accomplished youth the opportunity to rehearse and perform with nationally-known conductors in a professional setting. All Honors groups perform at the Wisconsin State Music Conference. Middle Level State Honors students receive their music in August and meet for the first time the day before their fall performance. The rehearsal day and formal concert will take place in the Madison area.

The six Mt. Horeb Middle School students are Jayden Smith (alto, choir), Lilli Hefty (clarinet, band), Cora Cheadle (oboe, band), Khoudia Ndiaye (soprano, choir), Dorothy Krantz (alto, choir), and William Ramos (bass, choir).



Scouts team up with PD for successful Bike Rodeo



Cub Scout Pack 62 held a fun and educational Bicycle Rodeo on Sunday, June 28, from 2-4 pm at the Mount Horeb Intermediate Center parking lot along Garfield Street. The event was hosted by the Pack along with support by the Mount Horeb Police Department and the Boy Scout Troop 62. Pictured above, Officer Brian Hugill of the MHPD watches over the rodeo to check bike safety by participants hosted by Cub Scout Pack 62; Troop 62 volunteers braved the stormy weather to run the rodeo stations.

Correction

Our article regarding Mount Horeb Rotary's recent grants contained the wrong information regarding their support for Morgan's Caring Connection. The correct information follows: Mount Horeb Rotary recently awarded \$1,250 to Morgan's Caring Connection. Janis and Kelly Strutt started this charity to honor their late daughter, Morgan. The grant will help a local family with a special needs dependent to cover the legal fees for setting up trusts, guardianships, and other means of long-term support. The *Mail* regrets the error.



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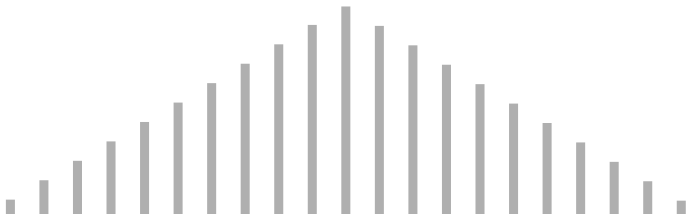
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Mount Horeb's 'Best of the best'

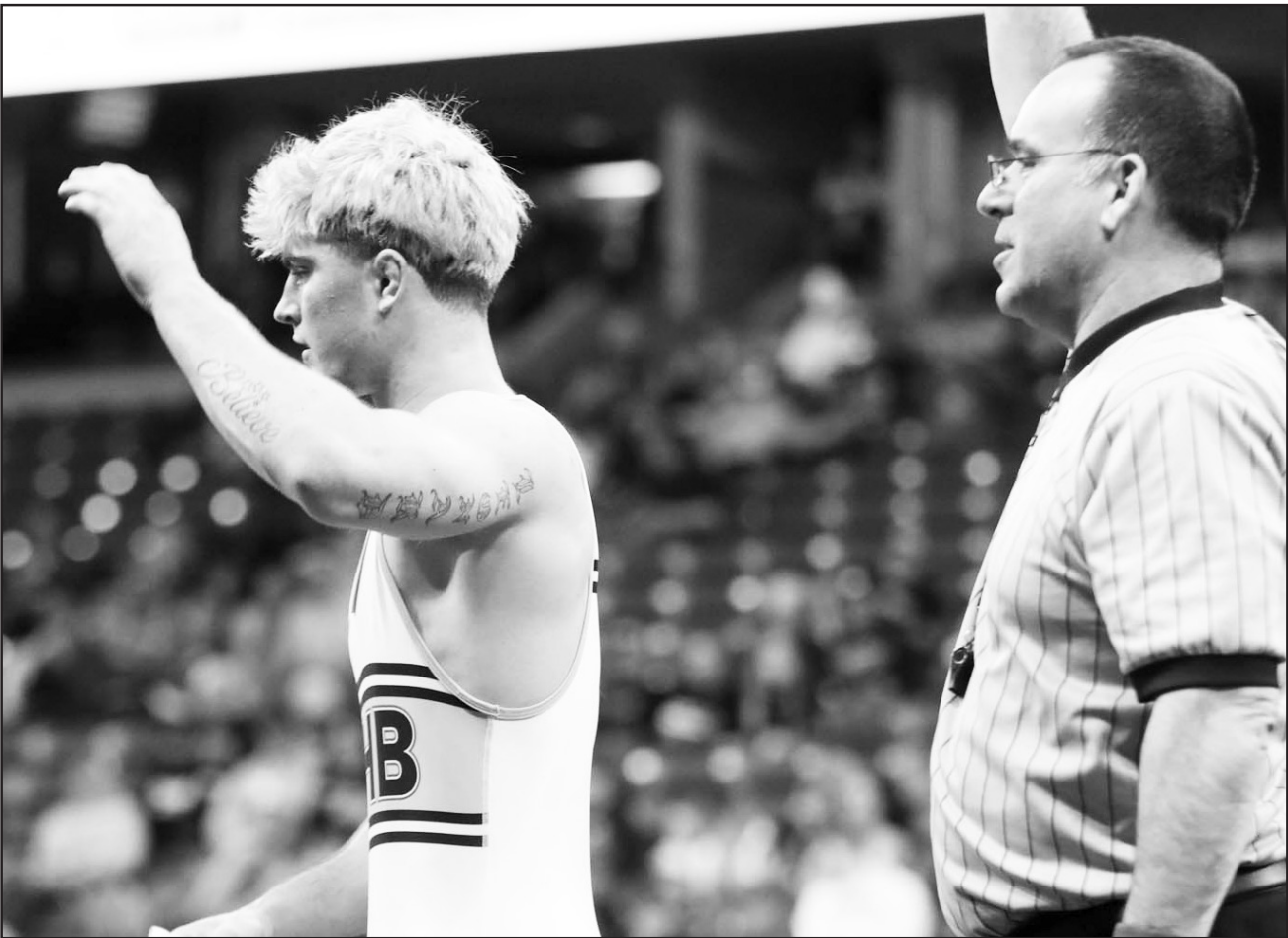
Vikings' boys enjoyed a terrific year



It was another terrific year on the gridiron. The greatest basketball player in school history capped off one of the finest careers the state has ever seen. And the wrestling team had the best season the program has ever known. Mount Horeb's boys sports programs produced one highlight after another during the 2025-'26 school year. And per usual, the Mount Horeb Mail has picked the 'Best of the Best' from the year that was. This week, we'll honor the Vikings' boys, and next week we'll recognize the top girls.

Team of the Year Wrestling

The Mount Horeb-Barneveld wrestlers sent a school record seven individuals to the WIAA Division 2 state meet held at the UW Kohl Center on Feb.



Hunter Stevens (top, left) and Eli Leonard (above) won individual state wrestling championships in 2025-26, while Easton Kammerud (top, right) finished second at state and helped Mount Horeb's wrestlers earn 'Team of the Year' honors. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

26-28. Then, Hunter Stevens and Eli Leonard won state championships, while Eli Maier and Easton Kammerud finished second at the state meet. "We peaked at the right time," MH-B third-year coach Tim Sarbacker said. "This was the best time to do it."

Boy, was it ever. Leonard, a University of Wisconsin recruit, was the top-ranked 190-pound wrestler in Division 2, according to Wisconsin Grappler. He became the first Vikings' wrestler to win a state championship since Matt Blome earned the 182-pound title in 2016. Leonard finished the year

a perfect 57-0 after pinning previously unbeaten Sawyer Dailey (48-1) of Plymouth in 1 minute, 48 seconds in their 190-pound title match. "My goal obviously was to win," Leonard said. "But my goal was also to dominate. I didn't want to win by points, decision, or a major (decision). I wanted

a tech fall or a pin." A four-time state place winner at four different weights, Leonard got a measure of revenge after losing in the Division 1 state finals at 175 pounds in 2025 to Liam Cook of Kaukauna. "I knew I had the ability to finish it off, but executing is another thing," said

Leonard, who was fifth at 132 pounds as a freshman and fourth at 165 before last year's runner-up finish. "I executed my game plan. "I just tried to keep everything the same. From day one, that's what the coaches preached. I did that the entire day and got the job done." Stevens, who began his prep career at Iowa-Grant where he was a two-time state place winner, had to sit out the 2024-25 season after transferring. He then made his only varsity season for the Vikings one to remember. The fifth-seeded Stevens (55-2) pummeled seventh-seeded Jacob Lootans (49-7) of Regis/Altoona, 15-0, to win by technical fall in 2:36 in the 150-pound championship match. "I was going out knowing I didn't get the seed I wanted, knowing I'm the best and working to prove everybody wrong," said Stevens, who knocked off No. 1 seed Westin Ingham of Amery and fourth-seeded Max Gonzalez of East Troy on his way to the title. "I didn't look down at (Lootans) in the finals. I knew he was in the finals for a reason, but I was going in to win the battle. I went in, gave it all I had. continued on page 12

MOUNT HOREB’S BEST OF THE BEST



Eli Maier (left) finished second at state for a Mount Horeb wrestling program that earned ‘Team of the Year’ honors. At right, Mount Horeb basketball coach Todd Nesheim was named the MHM’s ‘Coach of the Year.’ Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



BEST

continued from page 11

It was my last high school match ... let’s go.”

While Stevens couldn’t compete for the Vikings during his junior season, he competed in college opens to hone his skills. But he was glad to be back at state for one last shot at a championship.

“It was well worth the wait,” he said. “My adrenaline was up. It felt so good to be in this big of an arena and compete in front of all these people and compete against some great wrestlers. I was so grateful to be back.”

Not only did Leonard and Hunter Stevens end a 10-year championship drought for the Vikings, but they had plenty of company on the award stands.

Junior Eli Maier took second at the opening weight of 175 pounds, while freshman Easton Kammerud was second at 165 pounds. Freshman Leland Havens also made his mark with a fifth-place finish at 215 pounds.

Maier (53-5) reached the finals where he lost an 11-6 decision to third-seeded Thomas Heiser (50-1) of Evansville.

“He finally got through to

the finals,” Sarbacker said of Maier. “They’re never easy. We had, I thought, a pretty good game plan. He had a lead on him, but you’ve got to wrestle all three periods. He came back and scored on us, and we couldn’t quite get over the hump.

“It’s like splitting hairs. We were super close, but you’ve got to finish the match. Tonight wasn’t our night. Eli’s a competitor. He’ll be working really hard to come back. We’ll get him next time. He’ll bounce back. He’ll be the first one in the (wrestling) room tomorrow after a tough loss like that.”

Kammerud (24-5) had an even tougher test in the finals when he faced three-time defending state champion senior Haakon Peterson of Dodgeville, who entered the tournament field with a career mark of 170-0.

Peterson (50-0) prevailed with a 15-4 major decision over Kammerud (24-5).

“Another freshman, Easton’s had a heck of a season,” Sarbacker said. “He had a knee infection, so he spent most of January out. It’s hard to train and do anything.

“Easton’s a phenomenal talent, especially at 165 for

a freshman. He’s young for his weight class. He also lost to Peterson in the sectional final, who is ranked number four in the nation and is going to the University of Michigan, but he wrestled him tough. To be in the finals at that weight as a freshman is impressive.”

After losing a tough match in the semifinals, Havens rebounded with a vengeance with a pin and two major decisions in the consolation rounds. He earned a fifth-place finish with an 11-3 major decision over Osceola’s Elliot Havlish.

“He got two big wins to finish fifth to keep us in the top place in the overall team standings,” Sarbacker said of Havens. “As a freshman to get on the stands at that weight class is a big deal.”

Havens said the best is yet to come.

“That was my main goal, to get on the podium,” Havens said. “Obviously, it wasn’t what we wanted. We wanted to be in the finals match. My goal was

to place, so we got my goal done.”

In addition, Maxton Stevens (132) and Bryce Madden (106) both qualified for state during a historic year for the program.

“You can’t ask for anything more,” Sarbacker said. “The results speak for themselves.”

Coach of the Year Todd Nesheim, basketball

Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team was without star guard Josh Manchester for seven games this season due to a separated shoulder. Standout junior wing Alex Chapman missed five contests with a broken wrist.

Somehow, somehow, though, Vikings coach Todd Nesheim kept his team afloat. And when the Vikings caught fire down the stretch, they captured a share of their second straight Badger Small Conference title.

Mount Horeb went to Fort Atkinson for the final game of the regular season, raced to a 33-14 half-time lead, then held off a

late Blackhawks surge and posted a 66-58 win.

Mount Horeb, Sauk Prairie and McFarland all tied for the conference title with 11-3 records.

“I mean, this is special,” Manchester said.

Senior post Hayden Anderson agreed.

“Coming together and being able to win a conference championship is really impressive,” Anderson said. “I’m really proud of the team.”

Mount Horeb was two games behind both Sauk Prairie and McFarland in mid-February, but when those teams slumped to the finish line, the Vikings took full advantage and caught them both.

“It’s awesome,” Nesheim said of winning the conference title. “I’ve said this before, and every coach says this, but it’s true — winning is hard. And it doesn’t matter who you’re playing.

“There’s a lot of people

that are responsible for this. It starts at home, right, with each of us and our spouses and our families, and it goes from there. And, you know, coaches sit in the gym all summer long, all spring and all fall, nobody gives a (darn). So, you start thinking about all that goes into it. So, yeah, just extremely proud.”

Nesheim, who just wrapped up his 18th season as the Vikings’ head coach, has had many terrific coaching seasons. He led the Vikings to a 25-0 start and a trip to the sectional finals in 2014. He guided Mount Horeb to the WIAA Division 2 state title in 2015. And his 2019 team went a perfect 14-0 in conference play.

This year was extremely special, though.

Nesheim had coached the eight-person senior class — which included his son, Kam — since they were

continued on page 13

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MOUNT HOREB’S BEST OF THE BEST

BEST

continued from page 12

third graders. Nesheim knew it would be his final year with longtime assistant coaches Mark Fredrickson, Jack Prehn and Paul Manchester.

And injuries and early chemistry issues provided challenges the Vikings didn’t envision back in November.

Nesheim never blinked, though.

He’s won more than his share of games with lesser talent. So even with Manchester and Chapman sidelined, Nesheim carved out a path for these Vikings to succeed.

“As I told them, my bar is here (raising his hand) and I’m not adjusting it,” Nesheim said after Manchester — the Vikings’ all-state guard — was injured on Jan. 15. “The standard is the standard. I still plan on winning plenty of games, and we’ve got to find guys that can do that and that will be a group effort, certainly.”

It was exactly that. Mount Horeb ripped off five straight wins after Manchester went down. Then following a loss to Sauk Prairie on Jan. 29, the Vikings rolled off eight straight wins.

Manchester and Chapman returned to form during that stretch. And that helped the Vikings catch the conference leaders and earn a share of the league title.

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“This group’s been through a lot, but they’ve accomplished some great things and we’re not done yet,” Nesheim said after winning the conference title. “But this is pretty awesome.”

Senior Athlete of the Year

Hayden Anderson (football, basketball, baseball)

Anderson had the type of senior season most athletes can only dream of, earning all-conference honors in three sports and helping the Vikings win league titles in two sports.

Anderson, a St. Thomas (Minn.) football recruit, was a first-team all-Badger Small Conference and an all-Region selection at tight end.

Anderson led the Vikings with 51 receptions for 681 yards and 11 touchdowns, with a long of 75 yards. Anderson had a 10-catch, 165-yard night against Lakeside Lutheran where he hauled in four touchdowns. He also had a two-touchdown night against Burlington in the second round of the playoffs.

“Hayden caused all kinds of problems for defenses,” MH-B coach Bret St. Arnould said. “He’s a big target who can stretch the field and make plays in the passing game, but what really makes him special is how dominant he is in the run game.

“He’s physical, covers a ton of ground, and was a mismatch no matter how teams tried to defend him. He was an anchor in our run game the last couple of years and just became more and more dominant at it. Then he added the receiving ability and became a real problem.”

The 6-foot-5 Anderson was also named second-team all-conference in basketball after averaging 10.1 points and finishing second on the team with 6.4 rebounds per contest. Anderson also averaged 1.3 assists, 1.0 steals and shot 54.9% from the floor.

“We expected big things, but weren’t sure what that would look like,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “Was it going to be offense? Defense? Rebounding?”

“Turns out, he was really good at all three of these things. He showed the ability to score around the rim and when we needed it, from the arc. He was usually guarding the best post player, but occasionally guarded smaller. He was a



rebounding force and was especially good at offensive rebounding.

“The one thing we will miss about Hayden is his personality and his ability to lead with it. He could play the leadership role of intimidator, friend, humor, or fun locker room guy, and also the emotional rah, rah guy. He did what he needed to for us to have success.”

Anderson was then named first-team all-conference in baseball after posting a 1.84 ERA. He also batted .364 with a .973 OPS, which were both second on the team.

“Hayden had a huge senior season for us at the plate and on the mound,” Mount Horeb manager Ryan Finley said. “His record didn’t reflect his pitching dominance as we let him down a bit defensively and didn’t score a ton of runs for him when he pitched,

“A true three-sport star for Mount Horeb during his career, Hayden will be continuing his athletic career (at St. Thomas) playing football. But don’t be shocked if the baseball coaches get a hold of him while he’s there.”

Game/Event of the Year

Golf regionals

Never flinch. That phrase is often a rallying cry for teams and coaches, encouraging them to stay strong under pressure.

That’s exactly what Mount Horeb’s boys golf team did on May 26, when the Vikings finished fourth



Hayden Anderson (top) was the MHM’s Senior Athlete of the Year, while Nick Ibinger (above) and Mount Horeb’s golf team qualified for sectionals for the first time since 2019. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

at the WIAA Division 1 DeForest Regional and earned a trip to sectionals for the first time since 2019.

“We had not a had a round this year where everyone played their best on the same day, but (at regionals) we did just that,” Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz said. “With such a loaded regional, not much was expected of us heading into the round, so our

message to the team was to enjoy it and play loose, as the pressure was on the other teams expected to move on. We did just that, matching our best score of the season.”

Middleton shot a 4-over-par, 292, at Lake Windsor Country Club and edged runner-up Madison West (298) for the regional title. Waunakee (299) was third and Mount Horeb (314)

was fourth among the eight teams.

DeForest was fifth with a 317 and Verona was sixth at 326.

The top four teams and top four individuals from non-qualifying teams advanced to the Reedsburg Sectional that was held on June 2. While the Vikings failed to move on that day, just reaching sectionals

continued on page 14

MOUNT HOREB’S BEST OF THE BEST

BEST

continued from page 13

from a loaded field is an impressive achievement.

“I could not be prouder of our guys and the way they showed ‘competitive greatness’ and playing their best when playing your best is needed,” Krentz said. “Playing in arguably the most difficult regional in the state year-in and year-out and going against schools two to three times bigger than us has been a challenge the past few years, but we proved that we could compete with some of the state’s best teams.”

Mount Horeb junior Finn La Fleur had a magnificent day carding a 76 and finishing ninth individually. Vikings sophomore Jace Stadele shot a 78, which was good for 14th overall.

Mount Horeb senior Nick Ibinger and freshman Nolan Niemetscheck both fired 80s as the Vikings matched their season-low of 314 which they had shot earlier this season at Portage.

Mount Horeb was on its game from the start, firing a 162 on the front nine. That had the Vikings sitting in fourth place at the turn, just ahead of fifth place DeForest and Verona (164).

“We got off to a terrific start,” Krentz said. “We don’t typically make a lot of birdies as a team, but we had four different players record one in their first five holes, which always helps on the scorecard.”

“Our score could have been even lower, but we ran into some trouble on holes seven through nine, making three double bogeys and two triple bogeys across our lineup. That being said, we put ourselves in great position after nine holes to secure one of the four team qualifying spots for sectionals, but we’d need to play an even better second nine in order to advance.”

The Vikings did just that. With DeForest charging on the back nine, Mount Horeb shot a season-low 152 on its second nine to hold off the Norskies.

Never flinch!

“Tremendous performance by our guys down the stretch,” Krentz said.

LaFleur led the way carding two birdies on the front nine — one at the par-3, fourth hole and another at the par-4 ninth hole — and made the turn at 40. LaFleur then stayed red hot and fired an even par, 36, on the back nine, which helped him post a career-low 76.

LaFleur began the back nine with five straight pars, then birdied the par-5, 15th

hole. His only blemish on the back nine was a bogey at the par-4, 17th hole.

Stadele made a birdie at the par-4, third hole and shot 41 on the front nine. Then Stadele fired a blistering 1-over, 37, on his inward nine.

Stadele parred No. 11-13 before making a 40-foot putt for birdie on the par-three, 14th hole. Stadele then parred No. 15, 17 and 18 and set a career-low with his 78.

“Both Finn and Jace played great golf for us on the back nine,” Krentz said. “Both struggled in their practice round the day before, but learned a lot and put it to use when it really counted.”

Ibinger made a birdie at the par-5, fifth hole and shot 41 on the front nine. Then he made six pars and three bogeys on the back, where he carded a 39 to finish with an 80.

And Niemetscheck shot 40 on each side.

He made a birdie at the par-4, third hole and added five pars on the front nine. Niemetscheck then birdied No. 15 and 18 — both par 5s — on his way to a 40 on the back nine and an 80 overall.

“Led by Nolan’s two birdies, we played the par five’s in 3-under as a team with no bogeys on the back nine, something we had struggled with throughout this season,” Krentz said. “That proved to be the difference over DeForest as they played the same holes in even par as a team.”

“We certainly struggled a bit with our inexperience this year, finishing sixth in conference play, but with six teams from the Badger Small Conference advancing to sectionals, we proved to be battle-tested come postseason play.”

Which sent them to sectionals for the first time since 2019.



Vikings to back-to-back Badger Small Conference titles.

The night of Dec. 5, 2025 will always rank among the most memorable of the Manchester-era, though. That’s when the star guard eclipsed 2,000 points during a 68-35 win over Reedsburg.

Manchester hit the magic number when he drove from the left corner along the baseline, and with 2 minutes, 55 seconds gone in the game, made a right-handed reverse lay-up, etching his name in Wisconsin boys basketball history as the 69th player in the state to reach the milestone.

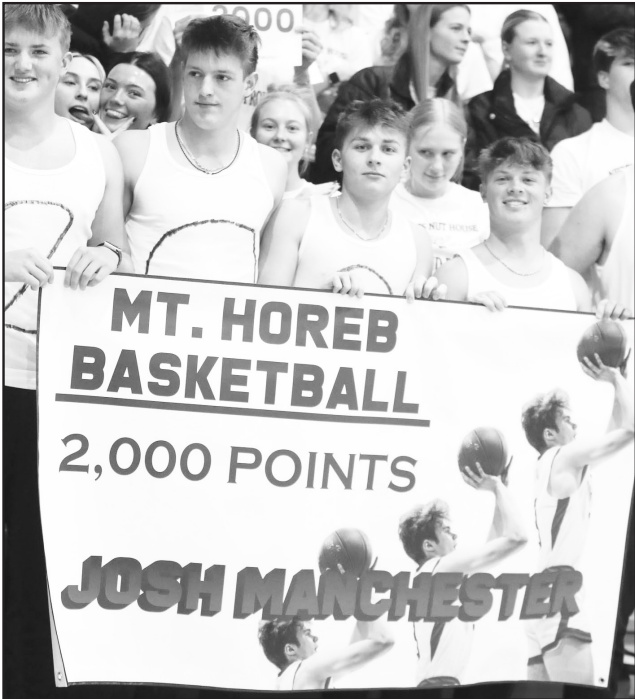
“I just wanted to get it done,” Manchester said. “I didn’t want it to be the focus. I wanted to win first, then worry about all this (congratulatory) stuff after.”

“I’m glad I got it out of the way — later (in the game) than I wanted, but I got it out of the way.”

After Manchester’s 2,000th point, officials stopped the game for Vikings head coach Todd Nesheim to address the crowd and recognize the accomplishment.

Manchester then made his way to the bench and hugged his dad, Vikings assistant coach Paul Manchester.

“He’s been in this gym since he was 5,” Paul Manchester said of Josh. “He’s spent so many hours in here shooting, so it kind of came



Mount Horeb’s Josh Manchester (top) had the Performance of the Year when he eclipsed 2,000 career points, which delighted the Vikings’ crowd (above). File photos

flooding back, all the nights we had in here, how much work we put in. I just stood there rebounding — but he’s worked so hard for it.

“Proud dad, so happy for him. And his teammates have been so good, and this coaching staff and community have been so great to him. It was a lot of good emotions tonight. It was fun.”

Nesheim, Mount Horeb’s longtime coach, echoed those sentiments in his remarks to the crowd.

“Josh has been a consistent force for our program,” Nesheim said. “What stands out most is not just the points, but the way he earns them — through effort, discipline, leadership,

and an incredible competitive spirit.

“He makes his teammates better, he elevates our program, and he plays the game the right way. This milestone is a tribute to his dedication, to the teammates who’ve battled with him, and to the coaches and family who have supported him every step of the way.”

After reaching 2,000 points, Manchester dished out assists on the Vikings’ next two baskets, one made by fellow senior Hayden Anderson in the paint and the other a pass to junior Alex Chapman for a fast-break lay-up.

“We love that he can go see the floor, and there’s

continued on page 16

CHURCH NOTES

- Immanuel Lutheran- ELCA**
310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb
608-437-8733
10am Sunday Worship
www.immanuelmh.org/
1st Steps Childcare
608-218-4425
- 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
- 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
- Perry Lutheran Church ELCA**
1057 Hwy 78 S, Mt. Horeb
608-437-5294
Sunday Worship 9:00 am
www.perrylutheranchurchelca.org
- St. Michael The Archangel Parish**
~St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Weds-Friday, 7:30 am;
Sat. 5:00 pm
~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr.,
Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am

- Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church – ELCA**
315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012
www.elcmthoreb.org
5 pm Saturday Worship
9 am Sunday Worship
- 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
- 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.
- Good News Lutheran Church - WELS**
9975 Pepper Dr, Mt Horeb
Pastor Jonathan Bauer
Thursday Worship: 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
Sunday School and Bible Study: 10:15 am
608-437-4646
GoodNewsLC.org
- Mt Vernon United Church of Christ**
1693 Washington St. Verona
608-832-6677
Sunday Worship, in-person and on Facebook Live, 9:30 am
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation~ Contact us at pastor@mtvernonucc.org or visit our website http://mountvernonucc.org

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GARAGE/ CRAFT SALE

GARAGE SALE Sat 7/11 8-5, Sun 7/12 8-4. 2532 State Road 92, Mount Horeb. Kids items, golf items, manual lawn mower, kitchen, books, water table, etc.

TOWN OF PERRY NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING Tuesday, July 14, 2026 Perry Town Hall 10084 County Highway A 7:00 PM PETITION TO DISCONTINUE PART OF JOSEPHSON ROAD

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Perry will hold a Public Hearing to consider action on a petition submitted by Ron Josephson to discontinue part of Josephson Road located at 9835 County Rd A. Description: The westerly 450 feet of Josephson Road. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 PM, prior to the monthly Town Board meeting, at the Perry Town Hall.
Stephanie Zwettler
Clerk/Treasurer
clerk@tn.perry.wi.gov
Published and Posted: Mt. Horeb Mail, Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville signpost, and Town website – June 25, July 2, and July 9, 2026.

Publish: 6/25/26, 7/2/26, 7/9/26 **WNAXLP**

**TOWN OF PERRY
TOWN BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, July 14, 2026
Perry Town Hall, 10084 County Highway A
Teleconference - 425-585-6272 access - 394-722-206 #
approx. 7:30PM,
following the public hearings to discontinue
an unpaved alley in Daleyville and part of Josephson Rd.**

1. Call to order. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Announcements.
3. Comments by Town residents – non-agenda items.
4. Land Use:
 - a. Terry & Monica Miller, 10783 Clay Hill Rd – driveway permit.
 - b. Permit Application Form – form revisions.
 - c. Density unit determination – Terry & Monica Miller, Lots 8-11, Goli Addition.
 - d. Committee appointment.
5. Roads, Equipment, Facilities:
 - a. Petition for Discontinuance of Unpaved Alley – Grove Street.
 - b. Petition for Discontinuance of Part of a Public Way – Josephson Road.
 - c. Recycling Center.
 - d. ATV/UTV access on Town roads – draft ordinance.
 - e. Dane Co. Bridge Aid Application – Sherven Rd. bridge update.
6. Mount Horeb Fire Department – proposed change to service payment.
7. Treasurer’s Report.
8. Peoples Community Bank authorized check signer update.
9. Friends of the Parks of Perry report.
10. Parks and Open Space Committee:
 - a. Committee appointments.
 - b. Groundswell Conservancy 2026 Monitoring Report.
11. Dane Co. Towns Association and Wisconsin Towns Association discussions.
12. Town Hall Renovations – sound boards.
13. Community meeting / correspondence to elected representatives update.
14. Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 9, 2026.
15. Pay Bills due.
16. Succession planning.
17. Closed Session. Dane Co. Circuit Court case 15CV0065 DSG; Hauge Historic District Park easement negotiations: convene a closed session under WI § 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel concerning strategy and WI §19.85(1)(b) and (c) personnel.
18. Adjournment.
Action might be taken on any agenda item shown above. Public comment might be invited on any agenda item presented.
Stephanie Zwettler, Clerk/Treasurer
Posted and published: July 9, 2026 – Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville Signpost, Town website.

Publish: 7/9/26 **WNAXLP**

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TOWN OF PRIMROSE NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Board of Supervisors meeting for July 2026 will be held on Monday, July 13th, 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: 7/9/26 **WNAXLP**

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**TOWN OF PERRY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026
PERRY TOWN HALL, 10084 COUNTY HIGHWAY A , 7:00 PM
PETITION TO DISCONTINUE UNPAVED ALLEY**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Perry will hold a Public Hearing to consider action on a petition submitted by Terry Miller to discontinue an unpaved alley described as follows:
Grove St, approx. 50 ft wide by 68.7 ft long, lying north of Clay Hill Rd.
Grove St, lying north of Sunset Ave and south of Clay Hill Rd, along the west side of Block 2 of Goli Addition.
Alley between Lot 11 and Lot 1, approx. 16.4 ft wide by 73 ft long, lying north of Sunset Ave.
The Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 PM, prior to the monthly Town Board meeting, at the Perry Town Hall.
Stephanie Zwettler, Clerk/Treasurer
clerk@tn.perry.wi.gov
Published and Posted: Mt. Horeb Mail, Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville signpost, and Town website – June 25, July 2, and July 9, 2026.

Publish: 6/25/26, 7/2/26, 7/9/26 **WNAXLP**

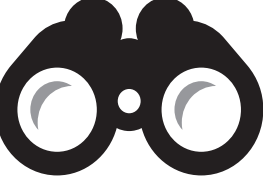
**VILLAGE OF MT. HOREB
OPEN BOOK**

Village assessments are handled by Tyler Technologies. The purpose of the OPEN BOOK is for property owners to meet directly with the Assessor to discuss their assessment valuations for 2026 and to resolve any questions in relation to their assessments.
The 2026 valuation discussions will be conducted at the in-person **Open Book on July 30, 2026** from 1-3pm in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street. No appointment is needed. If you are not able to attend the in-person session on the scheduled date, please call Sam Monroe at Tyler Technologies at 812-483-0653. “Change of Assessment” notices will be sent out on July 21st for new construction and properties that pulled a building permit in 2025.
If you still disagree with your assessment after talking with the assessor, and you wish to object to the assessment, contact Alyssa Gaffney-Clerk at the Village Office, 608-437-9404 to file a “Form of Objection” and to schedule an appointment before the Board of Review. You will need to file a written or oral intent to object with the Municipal Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the Board of Review. **The Board of Review will be meeting at the Mount Horeb Municipal Building in the 2nd Floor Conference Room from 12 P.M. -2 P.M. on Thursday, August 27th, 2026.**
Appearances at the Board of Review are by prior appointment only. The Board of Review functions like a court in that it is required to evaluate evidence based on facts. You must provide factual information showing your property is incorrectly assessed. Please contact the village office at 437-9404 for additional information.

Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk
Posted: 07/06/2026

Publish: 7/9/26 **WNAXLP**

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VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT
August 11, 2026 Partisan Primary Election
Villages of Mount Horeb & Blue Mounds
Towns of Springdale, Perry, Blue Mounds, Cross Plains, Primrose & Vermont

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 for the Partisan Primary Election may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. Citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on election day, and who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot.

TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MUNICIPAL CLERK, OR GO TO MYVOTE.WI.GOV

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the Partisan Primary Election. You may also request an absentee ballot by letter, email, or fax. Your written request must list your voting (registered) address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, your name, and your signature (if by letter or fax). Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, overseas, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, please contact your municipal clerk. You can also personally go to the clerk's office, complete a written certification, and vote an absentee ballot in-person. **YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR PHOTO ID TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING APPLICATION TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL IS 5:00 P.M., ON THE THURSDAY BEFORE THE ELECTION – AUGUST 6, 2026. DATES AND TIMES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE ARE DETERMINED BY EACH MUNICIPALITY, BUT NO EARLIER THAN TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026 AND NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026. THE TIMES SET BY EACH MUNICIPALITY FOR THE PARTISAN PRIMARY ELECTION ARE LISTED BELOW.

ALL VOTED BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE MUNICIPAL CLERK **BY THE VOTER** BY MAIL, IN-PERSON, OR VIA DROP BOX, SO THE BALLOTS CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE PROPER POLLING PLACE BEFORE THE POLLS CLOSE ON AUGUST 11, 2026, THE DAY OF THE ELECTION. BALLOTS WILL NOT BE COUNTED IF THEY ARE RECEIVED AFTER 8:00PM ON ELECTION DAY. BALLOTS MUST BE DELIVERED BY THE PERSON WHO VOTED THE BALLOT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES. THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE IN RETURNING THEIR ABSENTEE BALLOT.
To obtain an absentee ballot, send a written request to:

Village of Mount Horeb
Alyssa Gaffney, Clerk
138 E. Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
alyssa.gaffney@mounthoreb-wi.info
Office hours: 7a–4:30p Mon–Thurs; 7am–12:00pm Fri
Absentee Voting: Weekdays Only
July 30th – Aug 9th, 9am–3pm
Village of Blue Mounds
Beverly Petrolis, Clerk/Treasurer
PO Box 189, 11011 Brigham Ave
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
clerk@bluemoundsvillage.com
Absentee Voting: 7/28 – 7/30 & 8/3 – 8/6, 8am–4:30pm, and 8/7 from 8am–12pm
Tel: 608-437-5197 ext. 1
Town of Springdale
Jackie Arthur, Clerk
2379 Town Hall Road
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Absentee Voting by appt on 7/28, 8/3, and 8/4 from 8am–6:30pm
Tel: 608-437-6230 ext. 5
Town of Blue Mounds
Amanda Burghy, Clerk
10566 Blue Vista Rd
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
townofbluemounds@gmail.com
Absentee Voting July 28–July 30 & Aug 3–7, 9:30am–1pm, or by appt.
Tel: 608-437-8722
Town of Cross Plains
Jennifer Broberg, Clerk
3734 County Road P
Cross Plains, WI 53528
Absentee Voting 5pm–6:30pm M–Th 7/28–7/30 and M–F 8/3–8/7
Tel: 608-798-0189
Town of Perry
Stephanie Zwettler, Clerk
9730 County Rd A
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Absentee Voting by Appt Tel: 608-444-6425
clerk@tn.perry.wi.gov
Town of Vermont
Katie Zelle, Clerk
4017 County Road JJ
Black Earth, WI 53515
Tel: 608-767-2457
Absentee Voting by Appt
Town of Primrose
Matthew Waite, Clerk
8468 County Road A
Verona, WI 53593
Absentee Voting by Appt Tel: 608-576-6821
Mount Horeb Mail

Publish: 7/9/26 **WNAXLP**

MOUNT HOREB'S BEST OF THE BEST



Evan Leibfried (above), Nolan Niemetscheck (center) and Maxton Stevens (right) were the MHM's Co-Breakout Performers of the Year. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



BEST

continued from page 14

more to his game than just shooting the ball,” Paul Manchester said. “That was fitting that the next two baskets were assists.”

The blowout was on.

Manchester scored inside to make it 8-2, drained a 3-pointer to make it 11-5 and then missed a 3-pointer, only to have Anderson collect the rebound and feed Manchester for a lay-up that made it 13-5.

With 6:06 left in the half, Manchester broke away for a fastbreak dunk that pushed the Vikings’ lead to 24-10. And with 8 seconds left in the half, Manchester converted his own steal into another fastbreak basket, giving the Vikings a 39-15 halftime lead.

Manchester had 25 points at the break, meaning he had 2,023 for his career.

“Two thousand points is something that doesn’t come around often,” said Mount Horeb senior guard Kam Nesheim, Todd’s son and one of Manchester’s best friends “Being in the top 70 in the state is an insane accomplishment — and he could be top-10 by the end of his career. So it’s really special for him.”

Because of their friendship, the moment was special for Kam, too.

“Me and Josh have been close since day one,” Kam Nesheim said. “He’s worked his butt off, so he deserves this. Home opener, good crowd, so it’s nice for everyone to come out and celebrate this unbelievable milestone.”

Reedsburg never got close in the second half, scoring only 20 points over

the final 18 minutes.

Manchester, meantime, remained hot.

He scored the first basket of the half to make it 41-15, later drained a step back 3-pointer from the right corner for another high-light-reel play and finished with 10 points in the half to give him 35 for the game.

His night was done with a little over 10 minutes left.

When the game ended, the Vikings spent time reflecting.

“I remember coaching (Manchester) in third grade. He was always the best player in the gym. In fourth and fifth grade, teams knew about Josh Manchester,” Todd Nesheim said. “I remember Columbus (playing a) box-and-one against him in seventh grade. He’s always been the best player in the gym.”

That made it easy for Todd Nesheim to come up with the right words to say to the crowd when the game was stopped.

“I was ready,” he said. “Those were heartfelt words.

“I’ve watched him play baseball in the spring, he gets done with a game at 7:30 (p.m.) and he’s in the gym at nine o’clock. He’s just always been that kid who doesn’t sit still. Him and Kam, best friends (since little). He’d come over and Kam would want to play video games and Josh would want to go outside. That’s the way he was. He wanted to be active.”

By the end of Manchester’s brilliant career, Wausaukee’s Anthony Pieper (3,391), Southern Door’s Drew Daoust (3,096), Oshkosh North’s Xzavion Mitchell (2,824),

St. Nazianz JFK Prep’s Mickey Crowe (2,724), Chris Davis Jr. of Sun Prairie East, Sun Prairie West and Madison East (2,688), Mike Koehler of Elkhart Lake (1,993), Cody Schmitz of G-E-T (2,654), Sheboygan Lutheran’s Sam Dekker (2,593) and Cassville’s Sam Okey (2,539) were the only players in state history with more points than Manchester.

“I grew up looking up to a lot of guys he’s going to pass,” Paul Manchester said. “There’s a lot of pride seeing Josh’s name go past some of them. For me, a Wisconsin basketball junkie, it’s really neat seeing his name on there.

“There’s so many names. He doesn’t take it for granted. He stays humble and hungry. I think we’re proud of that more than anything — how he stays humble, and loves his community.”

That’s why so many community members in attendance came up to Josh after he reached 2,000 career points to congratulate him.

What did it all mean to him?

“The accomplishment, not too much,” Josh Manchester said. “But the love I’ve gotten tonight, it means a lot. This community, since I was in third grade, has shown me so much love. I have so much gratitude.”

It was also a big moment for Josh from a team perspective. So with a large banner unfurled to recognize the accomplishment, the Vikings took a team picture.

“That just means everything,” Josh Manchester

said. “Those were my guys since as long as I can remember. It was just a really special moment. And they’re so cool about the attention I get. They’re great teammates — there’s no one else I want to spend the season with.

“I started getting a little emotional when I was taking a picture with all the seniors. It feels like yesterday we were playing in the Troll Classic here. It’s sweet and sour. It’s kind of sad (that it’s ending), but it’s going to be a fun last ride.”

Co-breakout Performers of the Year Maxton Stevens (wrestling), Nolan Niemetscheck (golf) and Evan Leibfried (football/basketball)

Stevens had a sensational freshman season, going 39-23 and qualifying for the state tournament at 132 pounds. Stevens then came up one match short of the medal round when he lost 6-4 in the consolation semifinals to Adam Kautzer (47-10) of Neillsville/Greenwood.

“It was a really, close match,” Mount Horeb/Barneveld coach Tim Sarbacher said. “That was a heartbreaker, but he’s had a whale of a season. He wrestled so many top kids who are on the podium. He’s super close. Only a freshman, he had a hell of

a tournament.”

Niemetscheck, another freshman, had a big first year on the golf team, helping Mount Horeb reach sectionals for the first time since 2019.

Niemetscheck finished with the Vikings’ second-best nine-hole scoring average for both the entire season (42.0) and in conference play (42.2). Niemetscheck also led or tied for Mount Horeb’s low score in 10 rounds.

Niemetscheck also had four rounds in the 70’s highlighted by a 73 to share medalist honors at the Portage Invite and a 79 at the Badger Small Conference tournament to tie for seventh place individually.

“Nolan was a mainstay as a freshman in our varsity lineup,” Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz said. “Nolan is just scratching the surface of how good

he can be as a player and should be one of the better players in the Badger Small Conference next year.”

And Leibfried had a terrific football season, where he was named second-team all-conference at right tackle. He added to that with a solid basketball campaign where he was a key reserve for a Mount Horeb team that won a share of the Badger Small Conference title.

“Evan was our best athlete up front and one of the most reliable guys in pass protection,” MH-B football coach Bret St. Arnould said. “He’s got smooth feet, great length, and just makes it tough for defenders to get around him. He worked hard all season and played with great effort every snap. Evan’s a competitor and a big reason our offense clicked the way it did.”

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