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SWEENEY

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calm, thoughtful, friendly and decidedly unfrazzled by the many dramas that can unfold on a farm at any given moment, Sweeney is a member of the American Morgan Horse Association Breeders Hall of Fame and a well-regarded figure in the worlds of breeding, training and caring for horses.

Sweeney’s father and mother bought their first Morgan foal the same year their daughter was born. Over the ensuing three quarters of a century, she has guided countless horses through life, from the very beginning to the very end at HyLee Farm.

“It started with my parents,” she says. “When they saw a big old mare trot across a field in Columbus, Wisconsin.”

The family chose Morgans because of their versatility. The breed can be used

for just about anything, from driving to reining, from dressage to jumping.

“Every horse has to have a job to be happy, and Morgans are extremely versatile,” she explains.

The key to being a good trainer, she adds, is knowing how to match each horse with the things it will be good at.

“It has to do with the attitude of letting them be what they want to be,” she advises. “Letting them be a success.”

Sweeney grew up riding and playing around horses, and she learned how to train from her father and how to run a breeding program from her mother.

Her father, who is now 100 years old, is still alive today. He’s confined to a wheelchair, but his mind is still sharp and he still has much to teach his daughter, she says.

“The words come slow, but the memories are still



Jackie Sweeney in her childhood (left) and with her 100-year-old father recently (right).

there,” she says with a gentle smile. “You would think your father wouldn’t have anything new to tell you at 100, but you would be wrong.”

Sitting in an office filled with the sweet smells of saddle soap, hay and apple-flavored horse treats, the walls are of golden wood, or at least the little of them that can be seen behind the hundreds of ribbons of blue, lavender, yellow, red and white, trophies and photos of champion horses that

cover nearly every surface. Sweeney is proud of what they represent, but it is the living, breathing animals that interest her, far more than the accolades.

“People used to ask how many blue ribbons we had, and my mother would say, ‘What does it matter?’” she recalls.

There are 44 stalls at HyLee, and they are filled with horses in the farm’s breeding program as well as those that board there.

With pretty much every-



thing, the philosophy is the same.

“We always take our time,” she says. “Always try to be patient.”

Much has changed in the equestrian world over the last quarter century, particularly in terms of technology and communication.

“Back then, most people did their own work. They didn’t have a trainer,” Sweeney explains. “Things now have changed to specialization.”

But much of what truly

matters has stayed the same.

“It’s still magical,” she says. “The magical part for me is the breeding program and foaling my mares.”

Sweeney’s husband, William “Doc” Sweeney, was an equine veterinarian. He died in 2016, but memories of him, and the time they spent together and the lessons they taught each other, remain in the barn, still alive with so many horses, the one constant in her life. “I don’t think I’ve ever been without horses, period,” she says.

HISTORIC

continued from page 1

mission,” Village Administrator Nic Owen said. “It would try to look for historic properties and help them get listed, help them find grant opportunities, and help with the historic tax credit. It’s an important part of Mount Horeb. Historic charm...we felt there should be more of a focus on that.”

Village Trustee Tim White spoke about the desire of visitors seeking experiences beyond “...another apartment complex or yet another KwikTrip.”

“Their attraction is to visit

a quaint village that still wears its heritage by way of its unique architecture,” White said. “I wholeheartedly encourage the creation of a new function of local government—a Historic Preservation Commission. I believe such a body will serve the community well.”

The Commission will be comprised of five members. These will include one Village Board representative and four citizen members with expertise in the following areas: architecture, history, planning, architectural history, archeology, conservation or other closely related fields. Owen stated

there is not yet specific language explaining the process of appointing members of the Commission but clarified members would be appointed by the village president subject to confirmation by the Village Board.

“A Commission would have a specific purview: preserving what the village has been lucky enough to retain,” White said. “I am confident that there will be several passionate and dedicated residents who want to serve on the Commission.”

Nominations for designation of a single property or a historic district under this

chapter may be submitted to the Commission by any resident of the Village of Mount Horeb. The Commission will then review the nomination for completeness and eligibility before then having the opportunity to forward it to the Village Board along with its recommendation for or against designation.

Local resident, Brian Durtschi, commented on several properties in the Front Street area. He hopes they will be redeveloped, paving the way for revitalized downtown gathering spaces.

“I wish we could replicate

the opera house down there on Front Street as a starter to have as a gathering place for events, whether that’s movies, plays, or dances that local organizations would put on,” Durtschi said. “I think that type of development and others along that area will come along eventually, and this new commitment will be very critical in trying to replicate the history of Mount Horeb.”

Resident, Lori Midthun, described the character of the village’s buildings and structures as playing a key role in making Mount Horeb a desirable place to live and visit.

“I recognize that the Commission wouldn’t have any authority to enforce preservation measures, but simply the act of committing to assemble a group of experts who can advise us moving forward will help Mount Horeb be deliberate about decision making,” Midthun said. “With intentional effort and planning, we might be able to hold on to the character that makes Mount Horeb stand out.”

The village board subsequently unanimously voted “Yes” on its reinstatement, as well, clearing the way for the commission to reform and help guide the village.

MLK

continued from page 1

seniors.

“Normally this is a day of professional development for our staff, and while some staff will be receiving professional development, for the remaining staff we’ve flipped it and decided to do a day of service,” Brian Johnson, MHASD director of student services said. “We’ve provided multiple different venues for employees to volunteer and receive

professional development, joining a Martin Luther King celebration across town or surrounding towns, and if they participate in any of these opportunities then that’s considered their workday.”

With the demands of a new school semester, MHASD Director of Curriculum Sarah Straka said she was pleasantly surprised that a significant portion of the staff were able to spare a day to volunteer.

“Eighty people committed to doing some sort

of volunteer service or to participate in one of our in-house learning opportunities,” Straka said. “We still have to assign 27 staff, so that’s about half of our staff who will be doing some sort of day of service activity. That’s a really good number of people.”

Volunteering students and educators will be served breakfast catered by *Just Bakery* at 10:15 a.m. in the high school cafeteria. *Just Bakery* is an educational and vocational training program that works with individuals

experiencing significant barriers to employment such as homelessness or lack of education and/or work history. The program is run out of Just Dane in partnership with United Way of Dane County.

“They really add so much value to the day for us,” Straka said. “It wouldn’t have been possible without them.”

Some offerings for volunteer engagement include opportunities with United Way of Dane County, the American Red Cross, LUKE

House: The Community Meal Program, and the Beacon: a Catholic Charities Program.

“Our staff, they give us service every day; that’s the nature of their jobs,” superintendent Dr. Steve Salerno said. “We don’t want to negate the impact they have each and every day on the children and the families that we serve. This is just hopefully another way that we can demonstrate our appreciation for others.”

Individuals that wish to learn about the various vol-

unteer opportunities and/or sign-up may visit the January 2 Board of Education Communications Recap for more information.

The Board’s next meeting occurs on Monday, January 29, as a joint meeting with the Village Board and the Chamber of Commerce. The meeting takes place at the Senior Center (107 N Grove Street) at 5:30 p.m. Supper will be served prior to the meeting at 5 p.m.

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WEC completes review of Spring Election materials

The new year has barely begun, and Wisconsin Elections Commission staff have already accomplished one significant task related to the 2024 election cycle.

The filing deadline for candidates for the 2024 Spring Election, scheduled for April 2, was last Tuesday at 5 p.m., and shortly after that WEC staff completed initial reviews of each candidate's nomination papers and declaration of candidacy.

In all, WEC staff thoroughly reviewed filing materials from more than 70 candidates. It's an all-hands-on-deck effort for the small state agency, as each filing petition takes about an hour for a specialist to review. Once an initial assessment is complete, a second WEC specialist performs an additional review. WEC staff offer this preliminary review service as a courtesy to candidates.

The first review is to ensure that the required information from the candidate, the circulator, and the signers appear on the candidate's nomination papers and that the signers all list addresses that are within the district of the open seat.

"The second review is to double-check our work and make sure that we didn't miss anything," said WEC Administrator Meagan Wolfe. "It also helps to have two reviews on each petition to make sure that we are confident in the number of valid signatures that we find for the candidate."

Wolfe said the review process for the Spring Election cycle "went incredibly smoothly."

The number of required signatures on nomination papers varies, depending on the race. For Circuit Court judges outside of Milwaukee County, candidates need a minimum of 200

signatures and a maximum of 400. Milwaukee County Circuit Court judges and Court of Appeals judges need a minimum of 1,000 signatures and a maximum of 2,000.

Other than April's Presidential Preference Primary, which runs concurrently with the nonpartisan Spring Election, this Spring Election in Wisconsin is for judicial offices and other nonpartisan offices at the local level. There are no statewide nonpartisan offices up for election. In the event there are more than two candidates in a race, a primary election will be held on Feb. 20.

Candidates who hadn't already done so had to file their Statement of Economic Interests with Wisconsin Ethics Commission by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5.

Parties could challenge nomination papers until Friday, Jan. 5. Also, candidates

had until that time to provide correcting affidavits due to errors of signers or circulators of nomination papers.

The Commission considered any challenges and officially approve the list of candidates at a Ballot Access meeting on Jan. 9.

Presidential Preference Selection Committee

In a process separate from the WEC's nomination paper review process, Wisconsin's Presidential Preference Selection Committee – a committee defined by state statute § 8.12 that is independent from the WEC – selected one Democrat and six Republicans to appear as candidates on the ballot for the Presidential Preference Vote on April 2, 2024.

The committee met in the State Capitol Tuesday and approved the candidates from lists submitted by representatives of the two political parties permitted by statute to participate

in the presidential primary. The Committee has the sole discretion to determine those individuals whose candidacies are generally recognized or advocated in the national news media for placement on Wisconsin's presidential primary ballot. The order below reflects the order the names were read out loud by the committee during the public meeting:

Republican

Chris Christie
Ron DeSantis
Nikki Haley
Asa Hutchinson
Vivek Ramaswamy
Donald Trump

Democratic

Joe Biden

The signed minutes of the Presidential Preference Selection Committee's meeting, which list the committee's members, are available at the following link in

the Spring Election 2024 file: <https://elections.wi.gov/elections> Click on "2024 Presidential Preference Selection Committee Minutes_signed.pdf"

Last Tuesday's meeting opened a four-week window in which candidates chosen by the Committee may opt out, or those not chosen may circulate nominating petitions to get on the ballot. To be removed from the ballot, a candidate must file a disclaimer with the Wisconsin Elections Commission by January 30. To get on the ballot, a candidate who was not chosen by the Committee must collect at least 1,000 signatures from each of Wisconsin's eight congressional districts by January 30. The candidates' ballot order will be selected at random after the deadline.

In the Presidential Preference Primary, an elector may vote on the ballot of only one political party.

ELECTION

continued from page 1

tive and inclusive learning environment, where every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential."

"I believe that collaborating with parents, teachers and community members in an objective manner is essential for our schools to continue to provide high-quality education and prepare students for a successful future," she said. "I also have the utmost respect for the educators in our district that put forth the care and effort necessary to foster excellence in education for our students. I have always felt that this district has served my children and myself as a parent very well, and I would like to return that favor by serving the district and community on the board of education."

Schlimgen said he is "a proud graduate of MHHS, class of 1996." "I have spent my entire life in Mount Horeb, currently residing on my family's farm south of town with my wife and second grade daughter," he said. "We raise crops and steers on our farm. I am also a long-time employee of Minitube and currently working in Verona."

Schlimgen said he is run-

ning because he "believe(s) in the importance of a strong education for our children and the impact our schools have on them."

"I will be committed to keeping our schools at the top of the education standard while not forgetting I would be a representative of the voters of the district," he said. "I am confident I will serve the district tirelessly ensuring that the communities' families and students get the education and opportunities that they all deserve. I want each student to be given the best opportunity to be successful in life once they graduate."

"I know I will be able to work well with other board members, educators, and families to keep the future bright for our students," Schlimgen concluded. "At the same time, I won't pretend to have all the answers to tough questions but will work hard to educate myself so I can make the most informed decision possible. Thank you for considering me for working for this great school district which I hope we can make even better."

Myers, who was first elected to the school board in 2021, said the experience "has been extremely

rewarding and has provided me a chance to collaborate closely with staff members, community members and members of past and present school boards."

"Together, we have done some monumental work, but I feel like we are just getting started," he continued. "With a commitment to student success, transparency, and community involvement, I look forward to expanding on my experience in this leadership role."

Myers, who is vice president of company retirement plans with First Business Bank, has served as treasurer of the school board in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 years, as well as serving on a variety of committees.

Hise, who first joined the school board in 2018, said he chose not to seek another term primarily because he feels the board of education has fallen into groupthink, fostering a climate in which debate, discussion and the healthy and creative exchange of varying ideas is no longer encouraged. He believes the change in gov-

erning philosophy comes from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards [WASB] and has had a chilling effect on the ability of the local board to serve its students, families, teachers and other staff.

"You have to stand for something, for sure, but you also have to be productive," said Hise. "The last few years, I've been one vote among seven. While I think it's important to take a stand on issues, you also have to be able to move the ball forward."

Hise said he believes an environment in which robust debate is quashed in favor of unanimity of thought is "wildly dangerous to the work of school boards and the policies they pass."

"The things WASB has put in place are meant to suppress minority positions and suppress people who want to thoughtfully dissent," Hise continued.

He said one of his proudest action during his half a decade on the board was to help stop a proposal that he believes would have "pun-

ished school board members who do not vote in the majority."

"I never dissent just to dissent," he said. "I dissent when I think that's the right vote to take."

"My advice to any board member in the future would be to welcome divergent voices and welcome dissent, and to more fully engage with the community," Hise concluded.

The next school board terms will begin on Monday, April 29, 2024, and expire on April 26, 2027. The school district includes nine municipalities including the Village of Mount Horeb, the Village of Blue Mounds, and some (or all) of the Towns of Blue Mounds, Cross Plains, Perry, Primrose, Springdale, Vermont and Moscow.

Blue Mounds Village Board

In the Village of Blue Mounds, the terms of trustees Jim Frame and Rick Kelly will end in the spring, with the new terms beginning April 20. The village uses a caucus system. That

caucus was scheduled to take place January 10 at 6:15 p.m. at the village hall.

Vermont Town Board

In the Town of Vermont, Seat 2 and Seat 4 are up for election for two-year terms. Incumbent Doug Meier has filed paperwork for Seat 4. Incumbent Nick Balster has filed for Seat 2

Other towns...

Primrose does not have anything for the Spring primary except possible school positions or referenda.

The Town of Blue Mounds does not have anyone on the spring ballot for town board seats. Their seats will be up for re-election in 2025.

Municipal Judge Joanne Morey also filed to run for re-election.

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PERSPECTIVE

Cast away your troubles by giving fly fishing a try!

Thank you for the front page story about Katherine Ford and fly-fishing on December 14, 2023. Thank her for being interviewed and doing the article. It was a wonderful story on so many levels.....trying something new at any age, patience, perseverance, can-do attitude, being outdoors in Nature, and as Katherine says in the article, its immense mental health benefits. It's "reel therapy" and "reel-axation."

As a fly-fisher for over 50 years, it offers all that and more. Fly-fishing any of the hundreds of trout streams in southwestern Wisconsin provides outdoor Driftless experiences like few others, where, with each fly cast, one's cares and worries flow away with the currents.

For youth or anyone looking to get started in flytying and/or flyfishing, our local Trout Unlimited chapter is a great resource and for classes. So for those ready to give it a try, wade in or fish from the banks and cast away your troubles this trout season. You'll be hooked for life and quickly find out that, once you hook, play and land your first trout, "the tug is the drug!"

Jack Saltes
Mount Horeb

District Day of Service will honor Dr. King's legacy

Mount Horeb Area School District Equity Team is proud to announce its upcoming District Day of Service, where staff, juniors, and seniors will join forces to commemorate the remarkable legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This event, scheduled for January 15, aims to inspire and empower the community through acts of kindness, compassion, and unity.

In 1983, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established to honor the memory of Dr. King. This day was later transformed to be recognized as a National Day of Service. In alignment with Dr. King's vision of equality and justice, the Mount Horeb Area School District recognizes the importance of fostering a culture of service and giving back to the community. This day of service serves as a powerful reminder of the impact that individuals can make when they come together for a common cause.

Students and all staff have registered to volunteer at local organizations including Neighbors Helping Neighbors, the American Red Cross, LUKE House: The Community Meal Program, and The Beacon. Others are attending presentations held by Dane County United Way including "211," "Limited Resources, Limited Choices Activity," and "The Brain Architecture Game." Additionally, some staff and students have self-selected to attend the "Just Dane's Lived Experience" panel discussion and the "39th Annual City of Madison & Dane County MLK Day Observance."

For those who will be working in the District, we are hosting a breakfast break featuring food provided by Just Bakery, a 12-week educational and vocational training program run by Just Dane in partnership with United Way of Dane County and the HIRE initiative. The program works with individuals who are experiencing significant barriers to employment including homelessness, justice-involved circumstances, lack of education, and a lack of work history or skills.

"We believe that education extends beyond the classroom walls," said Dr. Salerno, MHASD Superintendent and member of the District Equity Team. "By engaging in this Day of Service, our staff and students have the opportunity to embody the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and contribute to the betterment of our community. We are proud to be part of a community that values service and actively encourages our students to become compassionate and engaged citizens."

The Mount Horeb Area School District invites all community members and local organizations to join them in celebrating this day of service. By highlighting the collective efforts of staff and students, we hope to inspire others to embrace the spirit of Dr. King's legacy and make a positive impact in their communities.

Stay tuned for more details regarding a Community Engagement Night focused on our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts. This will take place on March 6 and will include a summary of self-evaluation on the status of nondiscrimination and equality of educational opportunity per the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Mount Horeb Area School District is committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment for all students, and we believe that partnering with parents, guardians, and the community will only serve our students better.

School board thanks staff

Thank You,
MHASD Staff!

As we start the new year, we are grateful for our staff's tireless efforts. Staff at Mount Horeb Area School District pour their hearts and souls into growing the minds of our students. Their dedication to education is truly remarkable. Whether it's staying late to help a struggling student or going the extra mile to make learning fun, their commitment to student success is inspiring.

Our staff's constant efforts to create innovative programs truly make a difference in students' educational journey. Don't just take our word for it. Here are a few words from our Vikings.

To the entire staff of Mount Horeb Area School District, thank you for your unwavering dedication, passion, and hard work. You all make a tremendous impact on the lives of our students, and we are truly grateful for everything you do. Keep up the fantastic work!

MHASD Board of Education:
Jessica Arrigoni, President
Rod Hise, Vice President
Jim Myers, Treasurer
Leah Lipska, Clerk
Joel Craven, Director
Carly Fisher, Director
Adam Mertz, Director



"My teacher is my best friend."
-Emma

"I have the best teachers!"
-Emily

"My bus driver is really nice and waves to me every day!"
- Lucas

"The custodians are super helpful and make an effort to get to know students."
- Sophie

"My gym teacher is awesome. He taught us how to throw a football."
-Cora

"Our teacher encourages us to learn about real world issues and share our opinions."
- Josh

"The food service staff are really nice!"
- Amanda

"The staff here are the best."
- Will

"My teacher understands the perspective of students."
- Josie

"Our teachers are incredible because they wave to us all the time, inside and outside of school!"
-Faye

"My teacher got me through a time when I was stressed. Her support meant a lot."
- Griffin

Gleanings

By **BARB JOHNSON**
Mount Horeb Mail

130 Years Ago- Jan. 11, 1894

The grip is reported as cutting a wide swath this winter.

Gabe Anderson and Carl Edseth occupy rooms after the New Year, on the second floor of the Times building, and are attending the winter term of the Academy.

Iceboat racing is now the sport of the day in Madison.

Severson, Syvrud & Gesme sold 250 chairs and some tables to the Academy last week.

A gentleman from Milwaukee has been here this week talking up the ques-

tion of electric light for the village. Who says we are not in it?

The question of building a Catholic Church in Mt. Horeb is receiving encouragement from all quarters. We understand a free sight will be given.

If you want a first class farm within a radius of five miles of Mt. Horeb for \$25 an acre call on this office.

Henry Owens, son-in-law of Mr. Lotis arrived here from Chicago yesterday accompanied by his family. They will try farm life we understand.

**120 Years Ago-
Jan. 14, 1904**

A \$173 bell has been or-

dered for the new village hall.

Andrew Odden of Primrose made us a pleasant call Monday, and speaking about the condition of Nels Haadem, who has been making his home at this house for some time, and said the old man was quite feeble and had to remain in bed most of the time.

Lewis Rue marketed a fine bunch of fat cattle Monday.

Zach. Nelson spent a couple of days with relatives here, including Sunday, on his way back to North Cape, this state, having spent a couple of months at Daleyville. Zach. must intend to practice up for some ski tournaments, as he purchased two pairs of snowshoes at S. Thompson's factory and had same sent by express to his home.

110 Years Ago- Jan. 9, 1914

Work on the ski tower was completed Tuesday, and now for a good big snowfall for Tuesday, Jan. 20, the day set for the first tournament.

J.P. spool cotton will be sold for one cent per spool while they last at the big sale at the People's Mercantile Association.

If you live in a town you should believe in it. If you don't believe your own town is a little better in most respects than any of its neighbors you should move out.

K.H. Stolen and family autoed to Perry Wednesday of last week, took in the Kvindeforening at Syver Rundhaug's and attended services at their church on New Years and motored home in the snow storm in the evening,

The 25th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Finke was fittingly celebrated Wednesday evening at the village hall, where a large number of friends and neighbors had gathered for occasion. Two tables the length of the room swayed under the heavy burden of many good things brought by the many hosts. Rev. Rowe was called on for a few remarks and happily voiced the sentiment of the large gathering present, referring to Mr. Finke as a manly man and Mrs. Finke as a womanly woman.

100 Years Ago- Jan. 9, 1924

Temam Gordon and son, George, accompanied by Frank Malone, left Tuesday for Pasadena, Calif., to visit friends and relatives.

Knute L. Lunde, 94, died at his home here Saturday.

Jeanette Rue has been hired to fill the vacancy of third grade teacher here due to the resignation of Miss Webster.

It looks as if under the direction of Messers Berg, Stat and Johnson, that the skating pond will be a reality by Wednesday night. The pond is located on the baseball field at the high school and is 65 by 180 feet. This will furnish the youngsters and older folks too, some fine amusement this winter.

B.J. Jones, Chiropractor, who has successfully practiced here for several years, has sold his extensive practice to Clarence Gonstead of Madison. Mr. Gonstead is well known here as he is the son of Carl Gonstead of the town of Primrose. He is con-

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U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs tours Mount Horeb’s veterans memorial

Denis McDonough, the secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, visited the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Friday, December 29, 2023 and met with several local veterans. McDonough was in the area and made a point of meeting with Jerry Hook (American Legion 3rd district commander), Don Hartman (Post 9511 commander) and Jeff Anderson (chair of the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Board) to discuss the memorial and the history of some of the Mount Horeb veterans who perished in combat. McDonough was very familiar with the story of Florian Stamm, of Mount Horeb, who was one of the few that survived the sinking of the USS Indianapolis during World War II.

As the secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, McDonough is part of the president’s cabinet and supervises the second largest federal agency behind the department of defense, with over 400,000 employees. The VA is responsible for medical hospitals, clinics and the administration of benefits to veterans and their spouses.

Local veterans were honored and thrilled that secretary McDonough would take time from his busy schedule and tour the Mount Horeb memorial. Photos contributed.

GLEANINGS

continued from page 4

sidered one of the best in the profession. Mr. Jones will erect a factory in the spring in which will be manufactured his B.J.J. New Posture Adjusting Table, which he has brought to a high state of perfection.

90 Years Ago- Jan. 11, 1934

Engineers are here to make surveys for flood control work under the CCC. Operations on approved jobs are expected to be started on or about April 1 in order of application. A definite decision as to whether or not a camp is to be located in Mount Horeb will be announced after Jan. 18.

Village President Frank Heuser was in Madison Saturday relative to the C.W.A. Program.

James Brown was appointed to take a census of all business places in Mount Horeb under the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau, Washington, D.C. This is not for assessment value and is strictly private for the information of the U.S. government only.

Our townsman, Christian Erickson, passed away at the Madison General hospital Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the age of 70 years.

80 Years Ago- Jan. 13, 1944

J.B. Johnson made a buying trip to Milwaukee this week. He reported merchandise scarce and hard to get but was fairly successful in picking up some much-needed merchandise for the A. Hoff Co. store.

Kroger’s Clock Bread, sliced white. 24 oz. loaf, 10¢.

The Mt. Horeb Fire De-

partment was called to a chimney fire at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Opsal.

50 Years Ago- Jan. 10, 1974

Mount Horeb Joint School District #6 ran out of gasoline Tuesday morning and for a time School Superintendent Richard Peterson “had no idea if we had enough fuel to get the students home again.” Peterson called an emergency board meeting and in the mean time was able to get the tanks filled by an area vendor.

The Mount Horeb Jaycees completed erecting the enclosure for their new hockey rink behind Anderson’s Foods last weekend and village crews were busy flooding it.

Mrs. Ream Turk, age 84, of Cross Plains passed away Sunday, Dec. 30 at her home. She was the former Mabel Halsten born in Vermont Township.

40 Years Ago- Jan. 12, 1984

The doors on Hoff’s will probably shut on Friday, according to Lyle Johnson, owner and manager of the historic Main Street Department store.

Jean A. Mason, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mason, Mount Horeb and David E. Reed, son of Mr.

and Mrs. Robert Reed, Winnebago, Ill., were married on Saturday, Dec. 10, 1983, in the United Methodist Church.

A son, Andrew Wallace, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Knudson, Mount Horeb, on Saturday, Jan. 7 at Madison General Hospital.

Scott Altman, 24, of New Glarus was killed and his riding partner, Mike Storey of Belleville, was injured when they struck a barbed wire fence while snowmobiling near Mount Horeb Sunday night.

30 Years Ago- Jan. 13, 1994

Mary Margaret Peterson, age 103, a resident of Mount Horeb since 1911, died on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1994, at the Ingleside Nursing Home. She and her husband Alfred built and operated the former Parkway Theatre and dance hall.

Rob and Diane Farnsworth, Mount Horeb, announce the birth of a son, Brett William, on Thursday, Dec. 30, 1993, at Meriter Hospital, Madison. Little Brett has remained in the hospital since birth, but he is expected to arrive home soon.

An open house will be held at the new Mount Horeb Middle School on Sunday, Jan. 16 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for 1:45 pm.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cave of the Mounds promotes Phillip to GM

Cave of the Mounds has recently promoted their Communication Manager, Tate Phillip, to Assistant General Manager. They are “delighted with the positivity and professionalism Tate brings to work.”

Tate has worked at Cave of the Mounds for almost six years. She started as a tour guide back in 2018. Over the years, she has given programs during school season, successfully taken on social media platforms, and has excelled at every project she has taken on.

One of her co-workers has called her the “Juggling Genius.” This was in reference to all the work she does and the success of her projects. Since 2020, she has rebuilt the Cave of the Mounds website, created audio tours, redesigned local ads, and revamped the events department. She brought back Blacklight Tours which have become a popular event.

“One of my supervisors when I first started working

at Cave of the Mounds used to say that this job is the best job IN EARTH,” Tate said, “She wasn’t joking. I enjoy working at Cave of the Mounds and I’ve had many different jobs but this one feels like the right fit. I look forward to being a bigger part of Cave of the Mounds and a part of the community.

Before coming to Cave of the Mounds, Tate was a Social Media Consultant for a few small businesses, an event coordinator for a kitchen store, and in her early 20s, she worked in the film & television industry in New York and Florida. All those experiences have guided her to Blue Mounds, Wisconsin to work at a cave.

When asked about how it feels to work at Cave of the Mounds, Tate said, “It feels like a childhood dream. Like a Goonie Adventure or a journey to Fraggie Rock. When giving tours, I started to have questions. This led me to learn so much about the area’s history and geol-

ogy. There’s so much variety in a job here. It’s hard to sit still. I have done so many jobs here that my leadership comes from the understanding of each department. I started from the bottom and now I have a career.”

Earlier this year, Tate published a book on the history of Cave of the Mounds. The book contains many pictures and quotes from people throughout the cave’s history. It’s sold many copies this last year and is available for purchase online and in-store.

Tate looks forward to the challenges and changes that come with this promotion. Cave of the Mounds was discovered in 1939 but rediscovered daily by many guests from all over the world. She will be involved with some of the projects that are going on over at Cave of the Mounds. Events are coming back. Solar Panels are installed. And so much more!

“I found a place where I can grow and learn. I am proud to work at Cave of the Mounds. It’s an incredible place that I didn’t know I would love so much. Knowing the history, there have been many incredible people who have worked here and I hope to be one of them.”



Cave of the Mounds has recently promoted their Communication Manager, Tate Phillip, to Assistant General Manager.

said Tate Phillip, Assistant General Manager. Discovered in 1939, Cave of the Mounds (A National Natural Landmark) is open year-round for daily tours.

COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Mt. Horeb Seniors shopping trip to Dodgeville, 9:30am

Neighbors Helping Neighbors - Food Closet open 6:00-7:30pm

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Closet open 9:00 to 10:30am (Seniors Preferred) ; All shoppers - 3:00-6:00pm

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food and Clothes Closet open 10:00-11:30am

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

Martin Luther King Day - Senior Center Closed

Friends of Military Ridge monthly meeting, 5:30pm, Friends Shelter, Blue Mound State Park

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

Tai Chi, Senior Center, 1:00pm, RSVP 608-437-6902

Ageless Grace, Senior Center 2:00pm, RSVP 608-437-6902

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

Foot Care Clinic, Senior Center, 9:00-3:30pm, RSVP at 608-6902 for appt., or In-Home appt. 608-576-8986

Lunch for Mt. Horeb Seniors at Fink’s Cafe, 11:00am-1:00pm.

Euchre - Mt. Horeb Senior Center, 12:30pm

Information for the Community Calendar must be emailed by noon on the Monday of the week of publication.
Information should be emailed to mhclasses@fingertpub.com.
We reserve the right to edit for length.

Sugar River Euchre

By Stan Hook
Sugar River Euchre

Until further notice, the teams that play at Morgan’s Bar & Grill (the Express and the Pipe Benders) will play their home matches at the Red Mouse.

The Red Mouse Uff-das took an early lead over the Norsk Cowboys and never looked back. They led by as many as 66 points and won by 37. Dan Meinholz and Curt Herfel had a good night, losing just one game to Randy Schmid and Dean Disch in the fifth frame. Curt and Dan finished with 113 points for team Uff-da. Cowboys Don Field and Roger Olstad did everything they could to skunk Tom Magnuson and Bruce Milestone. But, by the end of the seventh frame Tom and Bruce were able to score one point in that round. Don and Roger had little more to

cheer about as they recorded this week’s low score at just 75.

Much like the Packers seem to do, the Red Mouse Shufflers started slow and quickly found themselves down 21 after the third frame against the Norsk Pranksters. But, by the end of the fourth frame the score was tied. With the momentum clearly shifting towards the Shufflers, it was apparent that the Pranksters had failed to pack enough tricks into their bags. Loretta Herfel and Randy Skogen, at 112, secured the 40 point win for the Shufflers.

Is New Glarus the new sleepy hollow when it comes to euchre? Only one couple in the match between the Kleeman’s Hay Shakers and the Sportsman’s Bar and Grill Cheese Eaters had the energy to record 100 or more points. Unusual as it may seem, that distinction went to a couple from the losing team. The Hay Shakers were behind the entire match, by as much as 32 points, but by the end of the seventh frame they were up by 2. Picking up another 8 points in the eighth frame, the Hay Shakers shocked the Cheese Eaters with their 10 point win.

In their 26 point win over the Viking Trolls, Express engineers John Scheidegger and Steve Thoni scooped up 111 lbs. of coal, while fellow engineers Karen Miller and Dale Herfel added another 110 lbs.

As for the final match of the night, the Pipe Benders held an 18 point lead over the J&M Bar River Rats at the start of the fifth frame but quickly found themselves down by 13 after the sixth frame. By the end of the match the River Rats had a 16 point advantage. River Rats Ernie Sarbacker and Scott Keys and Pipe Benders, Chris Booth and Derek Schmitz led the way for their respective teams with 114 points, this week’s high score.

Standings: Express 1-0 J&M Bar 1-0 Kleeman’s 1-0 Shufflers 1-0 Uff-Da 1-0 Cheese Eaters 0-1 Cowboys 0-1 Pipe Benders 0-1 Pranksters 0-1 Trolls 0-1
Jan. 11 Schedule: Express @ Shufflers (7:00) Uff-da @ Pipe Benders (7:00) River Rats @ Cowboys (7:00) Pranksters @ Cheese Eaters (7:30) Trolls @ Hay Shakers (7:00)

COMMUNITY

Obituaries

Laura Hazel Marie Zemp

March 13, 1933 – Jan. 1, 2024



MADISON - Laura Hazel Marie Zemp, age 90, of Madison, passed away on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, at Timberwood Lodge Assisted Living. She was born on March 13, 1933, in Prairie du Sac, the daughter of John and Selma (Demstedt) Heintz.

Laura graduated from Mazomanie High School. She married Raymond Zemp on Sept. 27, 1952, in Mount Horeb. Laura worked for Wisconsin Education Association, retiring in 2011. She enjoyed vis-

iting casinos, playing bingo and thrifting.

Laura is survived by her two daughters, Bette (Michael) Vivian of Barneveld and Bonnie (Wayne) Jones of Mount Horeb; three grandchildren, “Biggest Best Grandson” Kole (Christi) Vivian and their daughter, Scarlett; “Best Granddaughter” Jessica (Mac Arnold) Jones; and “Littlest Best Grandson” Brad (Caroline) Jones and their daughter, Lydia; special friend, Agnes; and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond; son, Thomas Zemp; parents; brother, Ervin (Gladys) Heintz; and sister, LaVina (Edwin) Evert.

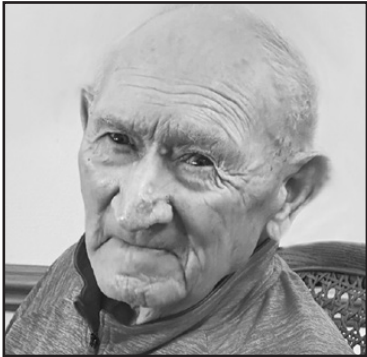
A funeral service will be held at MOUNT HOREB EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 315 E. Main St., Mount Horeb, at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, with Pastor John Twiton presiding. Burial will be held at Union Cemetery, Mount Horeb. Visitation will be held at the church from 9 a.m. until the time of the service on Fri-

day. Memorials may be made to the family. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

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500 N. Eighth St.
(608) 437-5077

Norman Oliver Hanna

Oct. 15, 1927 – Jan. 4, 2024



BELLEVILLE - Norman Oliver (Butch) Hanna, age 96, of Belleville, passed away peacefully at his home on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024. He was born on Oct. 15, 1927, in Mount Horeb, the son of Adolph and Agnes (Ness) Hanna. Norman attended the New

Glarus High School and completed his GED in the U. S. Navy. He proudly served with the U.S. Navy Seabees following World War II until 1947. He returned home and began working on the family farm and started his construction career.

Norman was united in marriage to Rosemary Evans on June 16, 1951. He owned and operated the N.O. Hanna Siding Co. for many years, where he worked throughout Southern Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri. Norman was also a produce farmer, raising tomatoes, cabbage and sweetcorn. Always known for his truck farm, he later raised and nurtured beautiful geraniums. He always wanted to keep busy and finally retired in his 80s.

In his retirement years, he enjoyed fishing, gardening, traveling and spending time with family and friends. He especially enjoyed dining out. He prided himself with his culinary skills of rolling Lefse and baking Krumkake. Norman was very active in the community. He was a member of Primrose Lutheran Church, and a member of the New Glarus American Legion (Veterans Strengthening Americans), plus he supported many non-profit organizations and community events.

Norman is survived by his

daughters, Renee Joette (Dale) Ketelboeter and Suzanne (John) Klumb; grandchildren, Nathan (Cheyenne) Klumb, Paul (Cassy) Klumb, Zachary (Hannah) Ketelboeter and Jeremy Ketelboeter; great-grandchildren, Braylon, Jemah, Gunner, Gracie, Morgan, Madex, Carson James (CJ), Sully and Cassidy; sister-in-law, Barbara Hanna; and niece, Sonja Galovics.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rosemary; brother, Russell Hanna; and sisters, Mae (Emery) Kahl and June (Jim) Stanton.

A luncheon for family and friends to share memories will be held early this summer.

Memorials may be gifted in Norman’s name to Primrose Lutheran Church.

Special thank you to his caregivers, Brenda Jelle, Brenda Parrell, Lynn Slotten and Sierra Whisler. Spiritual Care Gratitude, Pastor Zach Smirris from Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mount Horeb, Wis.

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

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A photo from the exhibit: E. A. Birge and Chancey Juday use a plankton trap in Lake Mendota off Madison, Wisconsin in 1917.

of our state’s relationship with water through over 70

historic and contemporary photographs and documents.

The display is available for viewing during the library’s open hours. For more information about the library, its programs and services, visit www.mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021.

This exhibit is part of History Maker’s Tour, one way the Wisconsin Historical Society is continuing to serve learners and history lovers across the state in the time leading up to the opening of the new Wisconsin History Center in early 2027. Don’t miss this opportunity to explore our shared histories!

Weigh in now: Should snowmobile parking be provided along Military Ridge Trail?

DNR Seeking Public Comment On Master Plan Variance To Provide Snowmobile Parking Along Military Ridge State Trail

Submit Comments Through Jan. 29

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment on a master plan variance that would add access to alternative snowmobile parking facilities connecting to the Military Ridge State Trail around the Verona area in Dane County. As described in Chapter

NR 44 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, a master plan variance is a change in the use or management of an area that is consistent with the area’s land management classification and objectives.

The variance to the Military Ridge State Trail in the Southwest Savanna Regional Master Plan proposes providing alternate parking access to snowmobiles at a location that would allow connection to the Military Ridge State Trail and other local club snowmobile trails. This variance would

not require passing through or around the city of Verona.

The 40-mile Military Ridge State Trail in Iowa and Dane counties connects Dodgeville and Madison by way of an 1855 military route between Verona and Dodgeville. Summer trail use is primarily walking and bicycling, with winter uses including cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The trail is also groomed and open for snowmobiles between Dodgeville and Verona.

The public can review the

draft variance by visiting the DNR’s Southwest Savanna Regional Master Plan webpage.

Please submit questions or comments on the proposed variance by Jan. 29, 2024 to:

Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources
c/o Erin Rieser, DNR
Property Planning Section
Manager
101 S. Webster St.
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
Erin.E.Rieser@wisconsin.gov or 608-400-6171.

CHURCH NOTES

Good News Lutheran Church - WELS

NEW LOCATION:
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Pastor Jonathan Bauer
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(in person and online)
Sunday School and Bible
Study 10:15 am
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for details & directions

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Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Mt Horeb Evangelical Lutheran

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www.elcmthoreb.org
Facebook: evangelical
lutheran church of mt. horeb
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Mt Vernon United Church of Christ

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608-832-6677
www.mtvernonucc.org
Sunday Worship, in-person and
on Facebook Live, 10:15 am
Email:
pastormtvernon@gmail.com
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639 S. Eighth St., Mt. Horeb
Phone: 608-437-3273
www.newhopeefc.org
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship
Service

Perry Lutheran Church ELCA

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

Springdale Lutheran Church

2752 Town Hall Rd. 608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th
Sundays of the month at 10am
twosteeplep.org

St. Michael The Archangel Parish

Rev. Robert Butz- Parish
Administrator
St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday thru Friday - 8:00 am
Sat. 5:00 pm
Holy Redeemer Catholic
Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr.,
Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am

Vermont Lutheran Church-ELCA

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

West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church

2962 Church St., Blue Mounds
608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: Every 2nd & 4th
Sunday of the month, 10:00 am

The stories of 2023: Part 2

Village switches trash collection

The village board approved a new sanitation company, a loan for water line work and a parking usage study last week.

The board approved a bid from Pellitteri for garbage and recycling services. They will be replacing the current service provider, Waste Management.

“They have been with us for 10 years,” board trustee Cathy Scott said. “I think that sometimes when you’ve had an account for a long time in any business you can get lazy.”

Pellitteri had the lowest average per household cost averaged across five years, as well as fewer service days than similarly-priced Lake Shore Recycling Services (LRS). LRS also has a fuel surcharge whereas Pellitteri does not.

Pellitteri offers the village an annual document shredding event without charge, and E-waste disposal events for a fee.

The village will continue to have recycling every other week rather than weekly. “The only time people complain typically is during the holidays,” Scott said.

Final details such as when the garbage cans will be switched, and new pick-up days still need to be figured out.

In other news, Waterworks System Revenue Bonds are being purchased to fund water utilities portion of the public part of the lead-lateral improvements. That amount of the project cost is about \$3.805 million. \$450,000 of that cost is water projects related to the Street Improvement projects.

The village’s current revenue outlook is expected to cover this borrowing and it should not raise tax rates.

Property assessments skyrocket

The Village of Mount Horeb’s latest assessments are out, and the municipality says the value of local properties skyrocketed from \$772.5 million last year to more than \$1.1 billion in 2023. The change repre-

sents a 49 percent increase, but the numbers could still change following the upcoming Board of Review at which residents can challenge their assessments. The meeting will take place Thursday, August 10 from noon to 2 p.m.

According to the village’s assessor, residential properties took the biggest leap, going from \$614.6 million to \$930.4 million, an increase of 51 percent.

Commercial properties rose slightly less, but still a lot, from \$157.8 million to \$223.2 million.

It is the local assessor’s responsibility to discover, list, and value each taxable real estate parcel and each taxable personal property account, according to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. The assessed value is what the local clerk uses to determine the share of property taxes that is borne by each property owner.

Assessed Value represents an estimate of value assigned to taxable property by the assessor for purposes of property taxation, and state law requires all assessments periodically be within 10 percent of market value. Equalized Value, which is distinct from the Assessed Value, is the full market value of all taxable property in a municipality, both real and personal. The Equalized Value is determined by the Department of Revenue.

In Mount Horeb, the residential equalized valuation rose 13 percent, from \$823.8 million to \$930.9 million. The commercial equalized valuation rose 17 percent, from \$190 million to \$222.4 million. While assessment values and equalized values usually differ, it’s unclear why the disparities in Mount Horeb are so vast.

Jason Stein, vice president and research director of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, explained that the massive jump in assessments does not mean local tax bills will grow by such a large percentage. In other words, if the assessed value of property in Mount Horeb increased 49 percent, it does not mean the village board can increase the local tax

levy by that same amount. In fact, the village can only raise its levy based on net new construction in the community. Wisconsin’s state-imposed levy limits cap annual increases in municipal (and county) property tax levies to the amount of new development in that municipality or county within a given year.

If, for example, the value of new construction in a municipality equaled 2.5 percent of the value of all its taxable property in a given year, the municipality or county in question could increase its levy by no more than 2.5 percent the next year.

The current levy limits have been in place since 2006.

According to a 2018 paper by the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the property tax has long been a source of discontent among Wisconsin taxpayers, which is unsurprising because most residents pay more in property taxes than state income or sales taxes.

State legislators’ efforts to curb property tax growth have met with resistance from municipalities and school districts, which rely on property taxes to make up a large portion of their funding each year.

Local utility bills will rise by 7.59 percent

Average residential customers of the Mount Horeb Utilities will be paying \$6.67 or, 7.59 percent more on their electric monthly bills, the first such increase since 2009.

The new rates took effect on Tuesday, August 1 when residential customers began paying \$94.54 monthly for 705 kilovolts, up from \$87.87, according to a rate order the Public Service Commission (PSC) issued July 19.

Rates for general service customers are to increase by nearly 12 percent. The percentage increase an individual customer pays depends largely on their usage, according to the order.

The new rates are needed to finance the cost of a new substation to be built southwest of the intersection of CTH ID and SH 78 in the town of Blue Mounds.

The PSC approved the project in February 2021 to meet the increased load and geographic size of the distribution system which would

have made it infeasible to serve the south and west side of the village if the East Lincoln Street substation went down.

Originally, the Military Ridge substation was planned to be completed this summer but, now it is expected to be finished next spring, according to Alyssa Gaffney, village clerk/utility manager.

The substation’s initial construction cost was estimated at \$2.2 million and has since grown to \$2.8 million. Forster Electric Engineering, Inc., project managers, will update the construction costs later this month after equipment bids are opened.

The electric utility hasn’t had to file a rate case since 2009, “Because we haven’t done anything big,” said Gaffney.

The utility can pass through to customers increases in the wholesale cost of the power it buys from WPPI Energy, while other costs have remained manageable as the system has been well maintained over the years, said Jordy Schmidt, electrical superintendent.

“Our system has been kept up to date. The problems we’ve had had been small. We had issues with the Wally Road substation in March of 2021 but that was finally figured out this February,” Schmidt said.

While some put the cost of fixing the Wally Road substation at \$1 million or more, replacing a defective relay remedied the problem at a cost of \$3,000, he said.

“We’ve been able to avoid the really, big, costly problems...which has kept us from raising rates,” said Schmidt, who’s been superintendent the past one-and-a-half years.

Neither of the two existing substations could power the village if the other substation went out of service. Having a third substation also allows the utility to perform maintenance needed on the East Lincoln Street substation which was last rehabilitated in 1976, Schmidt said.

PSC staff calculated the utility would finish 2023 with a \$63,518 income deficit. That came in contrast to the utility’s forecasting a positive net income of \$42,490 when it filed the rate increase request in August 2022.

The utility projected 2023

revenues of \$6.835 million and expenses of \$6.792 million.

The new rates are projected to boost revenue to \$7.323 million against estimated expenses of \$6.792 million, according to the rate order. That would earn the utility a net income of \$531,061 and the six percent return on the value of its infrastructure it requested.

The rate order also allows the utility to pass onto customers the three percent transaction fee when using a credit card to pay their bills. That amounted to \$19,403 to the utility in costs associated with credit card fees.

The inspiring story of a local woman’s gift to Mount Horeb

“And, as you read and re-read, the book of course participates in the creation of you, your thoughts and feelings, the size and temper of your soul.” – Ursula K. Le Guin

If you lived in Mount Horeb, you probably saw her around. A woman handing out free books to farmers at the local co-op, tutoring young children at school, working at the local bookstore, helping out at the public library.

Nancy Washburn’s traveled to countless places, real and imagined, and befriended the people in thousands of times and lands. She got to know Plato, Dante, the gunslingers of Louis L’Amour and Zane Grey, and the heartwarming hijinks of Calvin and Hobbes. While her husband died nearly half a century before her death, she was never alone in her 92 years. Not really. She had her books. She knew how they could edify the soul, and when she wasn’t reading, she was helping nurture a love of literature in everyone around her.

To mark her place in her many books, she collected bookmarks, eventually amassing a huge collection from all over the world. When Washburn died following a stroke earlier this year, her family gifted many of her books to the local library, one of her favorite places in the community. They also donated hundreds of her bookmarks, many with special, handwritten notes on the back. They are currently being handed out, free of charge, to anyone who wants one.

Melissa Roelli, adult programming librarian in Mount Horeb, says she’s not supposed to have favorites when it comes to patrons. Washburn was a favorite of

hers, nonetheless, she admits.

Despite knowing her for years, Roelli had no idea Washburn’s family was going to give her personal bookmarks, which came from all corners of the world, to the community after her death.

“I didn’t know about the bookmark collection, though I suppose it shouldn’t have surprised me,” said Roelli. “It seems like a very Nancy thing to do!”

“When her family brought in a wicker basket filled with them, I got a bit teary,” she continued. “What a great way to gather bits of the world.”

Roelli said watching people browse through her bookmarks has been “a delight.”

“When I explain that a lovely library patron collected them from her friends’ travels, and her own, people marvel and comment how neat they are,” she explained. “Many share why they are choosing the ones they do, and often take [them] to give to loved ones. We get to hear stories about people’s travels and connections to different countries as they make their selections. Through these bookmarks, Nancy is still generating conversations and putting smiles on people’s faces.”

Washburn was born on Nov. 2, 1930, in McKeesport, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh. She grew up an only child. Her mother, an immigrant, spoke only German. She was born into the Great Depression and on the brink of a World War. She went to college, became a teacher, and never, in all her years, stopped participating in the great human story whose many chapters and footnotes are laid out in the books the human species creates.

One of her two sons, Chris Washburn, remembers building shelf after shelf to house her many treasured tomes in her home.

“I built shelf after shelf after shelf for her,” he said. “She probably had over 1,000 books.”

“She always had books out rather than the TV on,” he added. “I think she just grew up enjoying her own imagination.”

At a young age, Washburn found the key to a good life, a way to unlock meanings and emotions shared by people across time, culture and class. But she wasn’t greedy with this treasure; she spent much of her life sharing her love of reading with others.

“She was just an amazing woman, a schoolteacher by

continued on page 9

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training, she always kept a hand in teaching,” said her son.

“The kids, we always got socks and a book for Christmas and birthdays,” he continued. “Even when she died, she left each of us a special gift-wrapped book that was specific to our life.”

Nancy’s husband, Ralph, died in 1984. She never remarried, and she never slowed down. She liked to drive, and even into her late 80s her son would spot her zooming past him in her little stick-shift car, in Madison, much to his horror.

“Two years ago, I forbid her to drive into Madison anymore,” he says with a wistful chuckle.

She touched countless lives during her two decades calling Mount Horeb her home.

“In 2003, she moved to Mount Horeb,” said Chris. “She was retired but got a job at Prairie Bookshop. She would just work the shifts nobody else wanted to work. She could pick out the perfect book for anybody.”

John Stowe, who owned the community’s bookstore for more than two decades, is generally reserved and softspoken, but he had this to say when asked about his memories of Washburn: “I’m not generally a very effusive person but, about Nancy, I’m afraid I gush.”

“I had some really fine employees in the 23 year run of the bookstore, but, out of all of them, Nancy was the best,” Stowe continued. “She was conscientious, hard-working, and always willing to help out while, at the same time, very clear about her boundaries and what she would and wouldn’t do. But, above all, she was a true book person.”

“One of my grandmothers was a true book person,” Stowe recalled. “She was on the board of the city public library and always had a stack of books on the table next to her chair in her living room. When she read to me as a little boy, she somehow always made it clear how much fun she was having. Nancy was like my grandmother reincarnated. During the school year she volunteered once a week to read to JoAnn Prehn’s elementary school class and, if anyone could convey to kids what a wonderful thing it is to be able to read, Nancy could do it. She had the true book person’s passionate curiosity about people and the world. She clearly enjoyed having a job where it was part of her job to engage people and talk about books and reading.”

As she made her way through story after story, book after book, Washburn needed a way to mark her

place during brief pauses. And so, the bookmark collection began.

Her daughter, Lisa worked for the U.S. State Department. “Everywhere in the world she went, she got a bookmark to send home to mom,” explained Chris. Her other son, Scott, joined the Navy, sending his mother bookmarks from Japan, Australia and beyond.

“Eventually, friends caught on,” said Chris. “People would go on vacation and offer to get her chocolate or figs or something, and she would say, ‘Just send me a bookmark.’”

Her grandchildren got in on the trend, too, taking time out while on band trips to New Orleans and elsewhere to search the local landscape for bookmarks to bring back to grandma. In their younger years, the kids handmade bookmarks for her, drawing and cutting them from sheets of paper.

“It just grew and grew and grew until she had hundreds and hundreds of bookmarks,” said Chris. “When she passed, we just kept finding bookmark after bookmark.”

“Some were really ornate, handmade, from Portugal and other places,” he added. “Some were handmade by my son when he was three. We kept some that were special to us, and the others we donated to the library.”

Nancy spent much of her life gifting books to people – she tried to give away at least one volume each month – and the big wicker basket of bookmarks her family delivered to the library seemed like part of a fitting tribute that would touch hundreds of lives. People will mark their places in various stories, sitting in the waiting room at the doctor’s office, enjoying the sun on a summer afternoon on the porch, curled up under a blanket on a dark winter night, together with their children, or when they are totally alone. But not really alone. The bookmarks will find their way into hundreds of stories. Some old. Some new. All important.

“Nancy’s family donated many of her books to the library,” explained Roelli. “During one of their last deliveries, they brought her basket of bookmarks and asked if we’d put them out for people to take. They wanted to share them. I didn’t count, but there were probably around 250 to 300.” As of last week, there were about 100 left.

The endeavor left Roelli beaming, but tearful.

“My first memory of Nancy is her cheerful, inclusive presence at our monthly book clubs,” she said. “She brought warmth, humor and wisdom to the group in a way that immediately stood out. She asked insightful questions that made every-

one think a little deeper. It was obvious that she truly wanted not only to hear everyone’s thoughts and opinions, but to learn from them.”

As a natural extension of her love of literature, Washburn volunteered for many years as treasurer for the Friends of the Library.

“As the programming librarian, I was often asking the [Friends of the Library] for funding,” Roelli recalled. “She always met my requests with great enthusiasm and pride in what the library was offering the community.”

Roelli said Washburn was clearly a book lover, but it was also “deeper than that.” “She was a knowledge seeker and books were major pathway to that,” she said. “So were people. She attended almost every ... program the library offered and always engaged with the presenters and other attendees. She had an easy laugh, and openness that invited you to talk with her, share with her, and learn from her. She often professed her love of the library and all it offered, and this fondness showed every time I saw her. Nancy had an immense curiosity and kindness that radiated from her. It made me want to learn more about the world, and based on my observations, I think others felt the same. Her quick smile, wit and wisdom always made my day brighter.”

“Nancy was a remarkable person,” Roelli concluded. “I’m honored that I had the chance to learn with her, laugh with her and call her a friend, all thanks to the library.”

Washburn’s circles in life were large. She tutored young readers at the Primary Center, set up a table and handed out free books to people shopping at the Do-It-Best store, and even transcribed Charlotte’s Web into braille. She chatted with famed author Michael Perry when he visited the Mount Horeb bookstore where she worked. She carefully selected the stories she felt people needed in their lives. In addition to books, and bookmarks, she gave out something else throughout her life: handwritten ‘thank you’ notes. She never felt the need to write her own book, being so absorbed in the stories of others, but she did take the time to write little notes to everyone from friends and family to her accountant. She was busy.

“It was a good life,” said Chris. “A very independent life. She was alone for 40 years.”

But of course, he knows she was never really alone. She was accompanied the entire way by every character imaginable, a vast human crew on a voyage of 92 years, each story pick-

ing up where the last left off, the bookmarks never static, always merely resting for a few moments, before the pages were opened and turned again.

Love for the Happy Place

Facing immeasurable pain and loss thirteen years ago, a group of people in Mount Horeb needed something to smile about. They wanted a place free from angst, anger, politics and pessimism. They wanted to come together and build a “Happy Place.” So they did.

The inspiration for the Happy Place, which is a beautiful, heart-shaped respite from the world located in front of the Intermediate Center (IC) school, was Cari Hadac, a little girl who was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma at the beginning of her fourth grade year at the IC. Cari helped dream up the idea for a heart shaped garden filled with flowers, bricks and a statue of a smiling child. When Cari died two weeks after school was out for the summer, her memorial service was held at the Happy Place, with visitors walking from Evangelical Lutheran Church to the school, where there was a dove release. Several years later, a group of friends and family released a cluster of colorful balloons there to lift people’s spirits. When multiple local families lost loved ones to suicide a few years later, a massive community walk to embrace them led to the same little heart-shaped brick garden.

Last week, as students, teachers and administrators returned to school for the year, they glimpsed a group of people hard at work pulling weeds, installing new benches, and cleaning up the much-used spot. It was Shannon and Jim Hadac, Cari’s parents, and Maddie, her sister.

Thirteen years is a long time, and a lot has changed in the world since Shannon and Jim said goodbye to Cari, but Happy Places are still very much in need, perhaps now more than ever. With a bit of labor over the course of a few late summer days, they worked to make sure this one will be there for years to come, for anyone who needs it.

Local towns and villages to get more than half a million dollars in new state funding

Wisconsin’s biennial budget includes a hefty increase in funding for local municipalities. Starting this summer, a full penny of the sales tax, equaling more than \$1.5 billion, will end up in the coffers of local government, providing funds that can be used for law enforcement, fire protection, EMS, public

works, transportation and more.

The Village of Mount Horeb is slated to receive \$153,259 in existing county and municipal aid next year, plus \$204,111 in this new supplemental funding. That adds up to \$357,370 in total aid for the village, an increase of more than 133 percent. In 2025, the village will receive at least \$156,818 in existing aid and \$208,851 in supplemental aid for a total of \$365,669, another increase, this time of 2.3 percent.

The Town of Blue Mounds will get \$9,279 in existing aid and \$45,123 in supplemental aid in 2024. That adds up to \$54,402, an increase of more than 486 percent. It will be followed up a 2.3 percent increase in 2025.

The Village of Blue Mounds (which is different than the town with which it shares a name) is slated to receive \$116,311 in existing aid and \$46,013 in supplemental aid for a total of \$162,324, up by about 40 percent. In 2025, the Village of Blue Mounds can expect \$119,012 in regular aid and \$47,082 in additional aid for a total of \$166,094, a 2.3 percent increase.

The Town of Springfield can expect \$36,366 in existing aid, plus \$79,272 in supplemental funding for a total of \$115,638 in 2024, an increase of 218 percent. The following year, Springdale can expect at least \$118,323.

The Town of Perry is in line to get \$9,542 in existing aid and \$42,436 in supplemental aid for a total of \$51,978, an increase of \$445 percent. The town will get at least \$53,185 in 2025.

The Town of Primrose is projected to receive \$8,318 in existing aid plus \$42,789 for a total of \$51,107, a 514 percent increase in 2024. Primrose will get at least \$52,293 in 2025.

The money is being doled out by the state as part of Acts 12 and 19.

The Town of Vermont will get \$9,628 plus an extra \$44,838 for a total of \$54,465 in 2024, an increase of 466 percent. Vermont will get at least \$55,730 in 2025.

In 2024 (2024-25), Act 19 (the 2023-25 biennial budget) provides \$206.9 million to municipalities and \$68.0 million to counties in supplemental aid, in addition to the existing county and municipal aid payment currently received

by each local government. The supplemental county and municipal aid will be distributed according to a formula included under Act 12. The formula will provide each municipality with a population below 110,000 with a minimum increase of 20 percent of their existing county and municipal aid payment. Counties, and municipalities with populations over 110,000 (Madison and Milwaukee) will receive a minimum increase of 10 percent of their existing aid. Some counties and municipalities will receive more than these minimum amounts.

In 2024, counties and municipalities will receive a total of \$1,027.9 million in both county and municipal aid and supplemental county and municipal aid.

According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, for payments in 2025 (the 2025-26 fiscal year) and each year after, annual supplemental county and municipal aid payments and the existing county and municipal aid payments will increase by the percentage change in state sales and use tax revenues in the prior state fiscal year over the preceding state fiscal year. The summary of general fund taxes in Act 19 indicate an increase in state sales and use tax revenues of approximately 2.3 percent between those two years. The actual amount local communities receive in those years could still vary, however.

The state indicated that the extra money will be distributed to local governments in July and November of this year (2024-25) and next year (2025-26), respectively.

The money could have an impact in a growing problem across the state and in the Mount Horeb Area Fire District. Chief Jenny Minter said she hopes her department will be able to use some of the funds to shore up a worsening budget gap and to help pay enough staff to cover the region’s medical emergency needs. Earlier this year, James Small, the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health’s EMS outreach program manager, headed up an extensive study and survey that showed the current models for staffing and funding emergency medical services are not sustainable. The end result, he said, is likely that local town and

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villages are going to need to step up and start funding EMS at significantly higher levels if they want ambulances to continue showing up quickly and reliably.

“It’s a major crisis,” Small said. “And it’s all over the country, but particularly in rural areas.”

He called the report’s findings “ominous.”

Minter, chief of the Mount Horeb Area Joint Fire and EMS Department, called the current, primarily volunteer-based method of staffing fire and EMS “not sustainable.” She said the situation was “grim.”

Minter said she hopes the municipalities that fund the fire and EMS district will direct a percentage of the money to first responders.

The Department is asking for a budget increase of \$298,800 in its proposed budget, an increase of around 24 percent. If the eight municipalities in the district used the new, supplemental funding— which totals more than half a million dollars next year – to pay for the increase, that would leave \$144,185 of supplemental funding left over for other needs in 2014.

She believes the funding is the direct result of a push to make legislators aware of an ongoing crisis for fire and EMS departments across the state.

“We’re in a crisis,” she said.

When Minter moved up from deputy chief to chief several years ago, her former position was left vacant. She hopes to fill it with some of the new money.

While the department does have some paid staff, it has historically relied on volunteers to respond to calls. While the number of volunteers remains steady, the number of volunteer hours has plummeted in recent years. In some nearby districts that provide mutual aid, Fire and EMS vehicles are experiencing longer and longer response times due to a lack of staffing. In Mount Horeb, Minter says it’s becoming more and more difficult to get to emergencies in a timely manner.

“We need this funding to keep ambulances and fire trucks going out the door,” she said. “We’re at crisis levels right now, and when people call 911 they need those vehicles to go out the door. Unfortunately, right now some people are experiencing a 20 minute wait for an ambulance.”

Minter’s 24 percent budget increase request has already been approved by the fire board, and is now being mulled over by the eight municipalities that make up the district. Seven of them must approve it in order for it to take effect.

The district’s annual meeting, at which the various towns and villages will vote on the proposed budget, is scheduled to take place September 27.

Unlike the fire district, the Mount Horeb Police Department functions solely under the purview of the Village of Mount Horeb. Chief of police Doug Vierck said he doesn’t plan to ask specifically for any of the new money included in Acts 12 and 19. However, he said the department does have some new costs to think about. For one thing, the vil-

lage’s growing population is leading to a steady increase in calls for service, which costs more in both time and tax dollars.

“I am not adding anything specific into the budget based on the additional funding,” commented Vierck. “But I am asking for an additional patrol officer based on call volume, increased time off as the agency ages - over time officers build up more time off in their banks, start families, and there are more shift vacancies - and to eventually add another supervisory position to give more career advancement options for staff.”

That position was previously outlined to village leaders in 2020 as part of Vierck’s five-year plan. “I had talked about adding a position in 2024, so it was not an addition based on the increase in funding, but the timing is helpful,” he said.

“The other additional high cost item would be getting new tasers,” he continued. “The tasers that we have now are getting to be outdated. There have been three different model updates since the ones we use. There has also been an addition to virtual reality training. This would offer more realistic training and help with de-escalation, stress management, and use of force decision making. We were also due to start updating the tasers in 2024, but with the changes in technology and logistics, we are going to have to replace them all instead of a phased in approach. This makes the cost quite a bit higher than in the past.”

Mount Horeb’s Finance and Personnel Committee will start their budget work at their October 4, meeting with all department heads presenting their budget requests. Finance and Personnel usually meets two to three times to refine the budget before it is then presented to the full Village Board at their first meeting in November.

MH Village Board approves pollinator garden ordinance

The board approved an amendment to “Section 10.03 Public Nuisances: Weeds and Grass” to allow planned natural landscaping of native plant pollinator areas.

This will allow these lawns to exceed the 18-inch height limit if they include

native plants and no invasive plants.

Citizen member of the Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee Kerry Beheler explained some of the reasons this change can benefit the village.

“I think it’ll be a really great thing for tourism, there are garden tours where people actually go online and look for them, so pollinator gardens are a big draw for that,” she said.

The change would also put Mount Horeb on an international pollinator pathways map.

Pollinators are necessary for 80 percent of flowering plants to reproduce, and an estimated one of three bites of food is grown with the help of pollinators. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees in the village rely on pollinators as well.

“I want to be clear that what we’re asking for in the amended language is not just uncontrolled growth,” Beheler said, “It’s a planned, natural landscaping ordinance that would benefit pollinators.”

Village resident and gardener Brad Brookins also showed support for the amendment, especially the restrictions on invasive species.

Board trustee Tim White expressed support for the amendment for the reasons given, as well as general sustainability in minimizing the use of heavy lawn equipment like mowers.

Board trustee Ben Jones said he supports the amendment, but registration with the public works department should be required as well as a plan including what plants they will include and a lay-out for their pollinator lawn.

“I think this is a good trend but it’s also something we want to encourage people to be more intentional about it,” Jones said, “you really have a plan going into this rather than just winging it.”

Jones said he has been annoyed by other people not taking proper care of their lawns. “It’s a lifestyle issue that I think does affect people and it matters in the community,” Jones said.

Czyzewski agreed that registration should be necessary as well as a plan but clarified that the plan would not necessarily go through an approval process. Jones agreed that approval or denial would not be necessary, but if there are issues later it

could be amended to require approval.

New owners at Olson’s

When Kristen Dresen’s father was diagnosed with dementia, the man she loved so dearly started slipping away. It is a long and erratic goodbye that many people are forced to say to their parents. But when he would work in the garden with his daughter, he would return to her, becoming more fully himself for a few blissful hours that swelled as they pressed up against the abyss of time and age.

“I had started to grow flowers, it was kind of a hobby that got out of hand and really scaled up a lot in recent years,” she recalls. “What happened was, we had a farmer who was using our land, and he stopped using our lower field, so I told my husband I was going to plant some flowers there. The farmer was my dad, and he had dementia that came on very quickly. He might not remember what he had for breakfast that day, but when he would come and help me with my flowers, he’d come back. He was a full-on farmer again.”

Dresen, who grew up on a family farm in a tiny Wisconsin town, was nearing two decades working at Epic at the time, and her employer graciously gave her ample time off.

“We spent that whole summer together,” she says of her dad, hesitating for a moment as a tear rolls down her cheek. “I feel like if it wasn’t for flowers, I might have just gone to work and missed that last year with my father. He was a typical farmer, a man of few words, but when we would sit there, we would talk and be together.”

When he was admitted to a memory care facility, Dresen brought carloads of flowers for him and everyone else there. When he died, she handled the floral arrangements for his funeral. In those distinct scents, which will return year after year for as long as the world persists, she still detects memories of the time they spent together.

And that, more than anything else, is the reason she is the new owner of Olson’s Flowers, Mount Horeb’s oldest and most iconic floral shop. Dresen took over the business in August of this year, taking the reins from the family that gave the

store its name. Bill and Muriel Olson met at a party in a cow pasture in rural New Glarus many years ago, fell in love, got married, and spent their lives together running the flower business. The shop moved to Mount Horeb in November of 1962, and it has been in the village ever since, currently at 214 East Main Street. Bill died in late 2020, and the family announced they were planning to sell shortly afterward.

It was more than merely a business then, and it remains far more than merely a business today, as Dresen, who is keeping the name just as it is, works to guide Olson’s into the future.

“Flowers are one of the few universal things,” she says. “On good days and bad days, when there’s a birth, or when someone gets sick or for a funeral. They are so meaningful. Someone might not remember all the details of those days, but they will remember the flowers. They anchor those moments, in good times and bad.”

The way the simple smell of a lilac bush can send someone 50 years into the past, to a time and place that no longer exists, is all anyone needs to know about the power of these bursts of color and fragrance.

“I really like learning about neuroscience, and I think the senses have so much to do with it,” she says. “I’ve been trying to learn about that, and lean into it.”

Dresen and her family have lived in Mount Horeb for more than a decade. “Mount Horeb is that true small town,” she explains. “Madison was lovely but it was too big, and when we moved to Mount Horeb we immediately started making friends. It’s a town where people and businesses help each other out. It’s a place where people stick around. It’s a community where, if someone is going to go out to eat, it’s probably going to be here, in town.”

“It’s way bigger than the town I grew up in, but Mount Horeb still feels like a small town because everyone here is so connected,” she continues. “When your drop your kids off at school, it feels like they are being taken care of by family.”

It was shortly after moving to Mount Horeb that Dresen first ventured into

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Olson’s Flowers while exploring her new home. She continued visiting over the years, eventually walking through the door one day and simply asking if she could work there for free in order to learn more about being a florist.

“I’ve loved flowers my whole life, but also the energy of this place,” she explains. “I never knew Bill [Olson] but when I started spending time here, I got to hear all these stories about him, about how kind-hearted he was.”

“That’s why it’s bigger than running a flower shop, or being a small business owner,” she says. “I’m proud of both of those things, but it’s more than that; it’s the connections.”

Dresen said even during her 20 years in the corporate world, she always looked at the human side of business. “Epic is healthcare,” she says. “It’s helping people. That’s what I loved about it.”

While her father helped inspire her to love flowers, her mother – who went to nursing school in the 1980s with four small children at home - showed her that it’s okay to change course in the middle of your life and pursue your dream job.

“She showed me that doing that was okay,” she says. “That’s why, pursuing this dream, I have zero doubt that it’s the right decision.”

Dresen spent much of the prior evening talking on the phone with people who were planning funerals. Some of the conversation was about flowers, but much was about the people who recently passed out of the world.

“Someone who calls for a funeral arrangement might just need someone to talk to,” she says. “My experience is, I want to spend my days doing that.”

In addition to many of her own flowers, Dresen is also carrying ones from other local growers she met in re-

cent years though a gardening group.

She was handed the keys to the business on August 5, which would have been Bill Olson’s birthday.

“That first morning, I couldn’t sleep,” she recalls. “I got here at four in the morning. I was out front watering the flowers. It was quiet and still and dark. It just felt completely right.”

Her first month owning the business has only reinforced her sentiments.

“It’s been about what I imagined, but probably even better,” she says. “I’ve gotten a lot of hugs and high-fives and stories from people.”

Jeff Grundahl, who recently bought the property and was instrumental in bringing in Dresen, said he’s glad Olson’s will remain part of the community for another generation.

“As a lifelong resident, I know how important the Olsons have been to Mount Horeb,” said Grundahl. “Through the purchase of the real estate and business, that knowledge deepened, and I am proud that we found someone to not only continue but to enhance the business.”

“Kristen ... and her local flower farm bring new farm-to-vase options to our community, and her passion is very evident from the moment you walk in the door,” he continued. “I look forward to working with Kristen to bring new life to the local business community and real estate in the coming years.”

Shortly before her father died, Dresen had a short but pivotal conversation with him in a moment of lucidity.

“I think I’m going to do the flower thing,” she told him.

“Oh,” he replied. “I know you will.”

Kemp joins county board

Dane County Board chair Patrick Miles last week announced the appointment of Chad Kemp to replace Mike Bare in the District 32 county supervisor seat.

Bare, a Democrat, had been serving as both the District 80 State Assembly representative and the District 32 Dane County Board supervisor for more than eight months.

Bare was already a member of the county board when he ran last year for the state legislature, defeating Kemp and others in the primary and then Republican Jacob Luginbuhl in the general election in the fall of 2022. Bare was sworn into his State Assembly seat on January 3 of 2023 and held both offices until stepping down from the county board on August 18. He said he expects Kemp to be an effective member of the board.

“Chad brings great experience and ideas to the county board,” said Bare. “He has a knack for bringing people together and that’s a skill necessary on this board. I’m looking forward to seeing him succeed in this new role.”

The full county board approved Kemp’s appointment at its September 21 meeting. He, along with two other appointees (Jay Brower and Steven Peters) was immediately sworn in. The three will serve through the remainder of the 2022-2024 county board term, according to Miles.

Four candidates had applied to fill the District 32 vacancy: Nathan Graewin (who also ran for Assembly in 2022), Kemp, Matt Neuhaus and Lachlann Swanson. Hearings on their applications took place September 6 and 7.

“I was pleased that multiple people applied in each district,” Miles said. “The quality of the applicants made this a difficult decision. I think each person I am appointing holds views consistent with the incumbent the voters last chose. I look forward to working with them as we address important issues in the coming budget cycle.”

Kemp is an attorney who has served both on and as president of the Verona City Council. He earned a B.A. from the University of Wis-

consin-Madison in Political Science & Afro-American Studies and a degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

“First and foremost, I think it’s important to come in and listen to people,” Kemp said. “Obviously, I have my own ideals, but I think it’s important to be open-minded and not to dismiss people you might disagree with out of hand.”

Kemp went on to say his experience as part of a family that moved from inner city Milwaukee to Verona when it was a small, rural community offered up an important lesson to his parents, and to him.

“They’ve always stressed to me that we have more in common than our differences,” he said.

Kemp has known – and worked with – Bare for years, calling him “a good friend.”

“I look forward to serving the community, and obviously I want to take the time to thank Representative Bare for his service,” he said. “He served on the county board during a particularly difficult time with COVID and all that involved. I’d also like to thank my colleagues on the [Verona] City Council and Mayor [Luke] Diaz.”

Kemp said he understands the diverse nature of the 32nd county supervisory district he will now represent, which includes both the fast-growing City of Verona and much of the pristine agricultural and conservation land that surrounds it.

Bare won the State Assembly seat formerly occupied by Sondy Pope, who served in the legislature for 20 years (in both the 79th and 80th districts due to boundary changes). At the State Capitol, he serves on four Assembly Committees: the Committee on Rules, the Committee on Insurance, the Committee on Housing and Real Estate, and the Committee on Forestry, Parks, and Outdoor Recreation. Bare is a former aide to U.S. Senator Russ Feingold. He formerly served on the Verona City Council, the

Verona Plan Commission and Verona’s Parks Commission.

“I’m filled with gratitude as I end my time serving on the county board,” he said. “I’m grateful to the voters of the 32nd District for trusting me to represent them. I appreciate my colleagues who I have learned so much from. I’m proud to have worked on so many things that have improved peoples’ lives in Dane County. And I will cherish having more evenings with my wife and two sons and I so appreciate their support during my time on the county board.”

Bare listed his proudest accomplishments on the board including county workers access COVID leave benefits and travel reimbursement for leaving Wisconsin to access abortion care, as well as authoring a resolution to create the County’s Eviction Defense Program. He said he is also proud of championing the expansion of the Dane Double Dollars program that helps people stretch the value of their FOODSHARE benefits at farmers markets, helping the Dane County Housing Authority secure \$3 million for improving the quality of its housing units and expanding its available units, and amending a plan for the new Dane County Jail to investigate reducing the jail population.

Both Kemp and Bare live in Verona.

In addition to Bare, Miles appointed Jay Brower to represent District 13, which includes City of Madison Wards 56-59, 63-64; and Steven Peters to represent District 9, which includes City of Madison Wards 109-110, 113-114, 118-119, 138-141.

Some states – Wisconsin among them - allow lawmakers to hold multiple state or local offices at the same time if there is no risk of a conflict between their purviews. Often, conflicting roles are referred to as “incompatible offices.” In essence, one office cannot be held when it holds supervisory jurisdiction over

another. In Wisconsin, there are some statutes prohibiting individuals from holding incompatible offices, notably one that prohibits anyone from serving in the state legislature and as county executive for more than 60 days. However, there are no rules that explicitly prohibit serving on a county board and in the state legislature at the same time.

Rare bird visits Stewart

If you are one of the many enthusiastic birders who calls the Mount Horeb area home, there is some big news, as a rare animal that usually lives in much warmer climes has been hanging out at a local swimming hole.

A Limpkin, scientifically known as *Aramus guarauna*, took up residence at Stewart Lake County Park about two weeks ago.

Madison resident Dexter Patterson has an encyclopedic knowledge of the Limpkin and quickly made his way to Mount Horeb when he learned through the eBird app - and from a fellow bird lover - that it was present.

“[S]ightings of Limpkins in the state are quite unusual, given that they are not native to this region,” said Patterson. “Limpkins primarily inhabit areas in the southeastern United States and further south. Observing a Limpkin in Wisconsin is a rare event, possibly associated with unusual migration patterns or an individual bird straying far from its typical range.”

“One interesting fact about the Limpkin is its specialized diet, primarily consisting of apple snails, which it was feeding on at Stewart Lake,” he explained. “Using its distinctive bill, the Limpkin skillfully extracts snails from their shells, making it a unique predator among birds.”

According to Patterson, Limpkins are native to the wetlands of the Americas, stretching from the southeastern United States - including parts of Florida

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and Georgia - through Central and South America, as well as various Caribbean islands. They are usually found in freshwater marshes, swamps, and wetlands with abundant vegetation and shallow water. He said they are often called the “crying bird” due to their “distinctive wailing call that closely resembles the cry of a human child.”

“This intriguing bird boasts a slender body, speckled brown plumage, a long neck, and a distinctive curved bill resembling a large rail or heron,” he added.

Patterson’s trip to Mount Horeb was certainly a fruitful once, and the Limpkin wasn’t the only rare animal he spotted. He also saw an endangered Blanding’s Turtle.

County exec to step down

There are only a few ways to leave public office. Politicians can be removed by disgruntled voters, die or step down of their own volition. Dane County’s top elected official will leave office the last way, retiring next spring after nearly 13 years running one of the state’s most prominent counties and the half a million people who call it home.

It was last week that Dane County executive Joe Parisi announced he intends to retire in May of 2024, before his current term expires. The upcoming retirement caps decades of public service in a community he was born and raised in.

A statement from his office called him “a tireless advocate for those most vulnerable and natural resources that contribute to Dane County’s incredible quality of life,” touting “innovative services like mental health teams in schools and prioritized conservation, renewable energy, and improving water quality.” Under his leadership, Dane became the fourth county in the United States to achieve 100 percent “renewable status” through its generation of clean energy.

Parisi was first elected county executive in April of 2011 in a special election to fill out the remainder of a term started by former executive Kathleen Falk. Born and raised in the area, he was subsequently elected to full terms as executive in 2013, 2017 and 2021. A Democrat in a largely blue county, he ran unopposed in 2013 and 2017 and received nearly 79 percent of the vote in the 2021 campaign.

Prior to being executive, he served as Dane County Clerk from 1996 to 2004 and represented the east side of Madison, Monona, McFarland, and the Towns of Dunn

and Blooming Grove in the Wisconsin State Assembly from 2005 until 2011.

Parisi, who recently introduced his next budget, has overseen day-to-day operations of county government in the fastest growing county in Wisconsin, which today has 100,000 more people than it did just over a decade ago. With population growth, county spending has also risen. Parisi’s budgets spend roughly \$282 million per year on human services.

“Serving my community as county executive has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I’m grateful beyond words for the trust my hometown has put in me over the past 12 years,” Parisi said. “This work has been purely a team effort, with my staff, county employees, and our partners throughout the community rising to the occasion time and again to ensure our community’s values of watching out for one another and protecting our natural environment have been respected and acted upon.”

State Senator Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) commended Parisi for his service.

“I congratulate Dane County executive Parisi on his well-earned retirement after decades of public service,” she said. “Joe has dedicated his career to serving the people of Dane County as Dane County Clerk, State Representative, and most recently Dane County Executive. I always appreciated working with him for the betterment of our shared constituencies.”

“I wish Joe the very best in his retirement and thank him for his years of dedicated service to the people of Dane County,” Hesselbein added.

While Parisi enjoyed great popularity throughout much of his time in office, the current county board chair, Patrick Miles, often clashed with him.

“I want to congratulate county executive Parisi on his plans for a well-earned retirement from public service next spring,” said Miles in his official statement. “In his many years serving in elected office, especially as county executive, he accomplished much that will have lasting benefits to all Dane County residents. Retirement is a major life decision and I wish Joe all the best.”

Miles pointed out that Parisi’s retirement will occur after the next Dane County Board election cycle.

“The Board Chair initially serves as County Executive until an interim County Executive is appointed by the Chair and approved by the Board. In response to questions I’ve already been asked, I want to be clear, I have no intention of running for county executive. I will

be seeking reelection to represent District 34, and subsequently to serve another term as county board chair. As chair, I would appoint someone who knows county government but would not run in the special election.”

Parisi’s office said the county’s rainy-day fund today is at its highest level ever, “helping to protect county services from the risk of economic downturn or other global events outside of the control of local officials that would otherwise greatly impact the county’s budget.”

Parisi developed the “Dane County Suck the Muck” initiative that’s removed thousands of tons of decades old sludge from area waterways, and he created the Dane County Office of Equity and Inclusion and county government’s first capacity to address criminal justice reform and re-entry several years ago. He built a program with local schools to help children living in poverty overcome the financial difficulties of earning a driver’s license and a partnership between Dane County Parks and Operation Fresh Start to help young people develop job skills while improving the outdoor spaces.

Parisi also acquired the former Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce building and converted it into the county’s first homeless day resource center, known as “The Beacon.”

Parisi’s parks and recreation projects include the first phase of the Lower Yahara River Trail linking Madison and McFarland, with plans for the second phase of the project now complete so that construction can begin on it in the coming months. He added miles of on- and off-road bike paths and lanes, improving safety and creating more opportunities for families to get outside. His Dane County Continuous Cover program has converted hundreds of acres into cover crops and prairies, slowing erosion, reducing carbon emissions and the risk of flooding.

According to his office, Parisi has grown the county’s Affordable Housing Development Fund and overseen extensive building projects like Dane County’s East District Campus, which houses the Highway Department and Medical Examiner’s Office, and soon will be the location of a new \$35 million Dane County 911 Center. He’s forged partnerships like one with the World Dairy Expo and the State of Wisconsin that resulted in the construction of 300,000 square feet of new pavilions for agricultural events at the Alliant Energy Center and a long-term contract extension for the world’s largest dairy

exhibition show.

Parisi ran the county during the Covid-19 pandemic and authored the popular Dane County Farm to Foodbank program, linking local farmers and producers with those in our community who struggle to meet basic needs, like access to food for their families. That program will continue with an additional \$6 million in funding in the 2024 Dane County budget Parisi recently introduced.

“There are a lot of challenges in the world today, but we have much to be grateful for in a community so full of empathy, talent, and generosity,” Parisi said. “Doing this work requires a lot of partners and a shared ‘can-do’ spirit of collaboration, and together we have accomplished a great deal. I’m forever grateful for the trust and opportunity to lead, advocate for, and give voice to those who face challenges like behavioral health, racism, poverty, homelessness, and addiction.”

Ukrainian family escapes war to make new life in Mount Horeb

A Ukrainian family is living an American story right here in the Village of Mount Horeb. More than 5,000 miles away from the bombs and suffering and loss, they are making a new life while reflecting on the one they had to leave behind.

No good story is without its heartache and the tale of America is no exception. The diverse group of people that made up the early United States seemed to possess a resiliency born of absolute necessity. Extreme need demanded that they looked at whatever was before them and saw beyond what it was, to what it may yet be, whether in the wilds of the western frontier, down a dark mine shaft or standing in the middle of a field of dirt that they would have to work tirelessly until the day they died, hoping, but not knowing, when that day might come.

Where is the romance in that? It is a question worth asking. The romance lies within the human spirit. The spirit that rises like bread dough, punched down and twice proved, growing that it might feed its children. What most defines this spirit is not the outcome; history has shown that people who come to America meet with both failure and success, justly and much less so. What makes a person in possession of this spirit is that they try, almost by compulsion, and try again. And they rise.

This spirit does not exist solely in some bygone time in history. This vital force is alive and well in the person of Kateryna Yevko, a

Mount Horeb resident who was forced to flee from her war-torn homeland of Ukraine when the Russian invasion began. Those who spend time with Kateryna, or “Katya” as her friends call her, would not guess that a worry ever creased her brow. Her pervasively upbeat temperament and enthusiasm comes through as she encourages her young son and daughter to climb the great hill before them at Blue Mound State Park, calling to them in her warm Slavic accent, “Let’s go!! You can do it!”

Yevko, now 30, was born in Zaporizhia, Ukraine. As a child she lived with her mother, stepfather and younger brother in the smaller, nearby city of Marhanets. There, most people worked in one of two jobs; down a manganese mine or in a farmer’s field.

Yevko loved her childhood, though it was marked with poverty and literal prayers for a change of clothes or a fresh orange for New Years. She spent much of her time outside in nature, which to her seemed a far better childhood than that of many children now who are so often indoors with electronic distractions.

Yevko preferred work over school and on summer days would join her mother in their neighboring farmer’s field and labored to break up the soil and plant seeds by hand. For 10 hours a day she would do this and receive only three dollars as pay, even though she worked just as hard as the adults alongside her who received a greater sum. This didn’t bother her, though. She was proud to be allowed to earn money just like an adult and to help her family. It never even occurred to her that a child her age ought to be off playing somewhere instead of breaking up rocky clods of dirt in a field. So, she worked without complaint. To earn extra money, she would gather up the produce from her family’s garden - grapes, potatoes and whatever other plants she could sell, and take them by train to the farmer’s market in Zaporizhia.

When Yevko finished school she went to a public college in Zaporizhia. During this time she contracted tuberculosis, but she continued her studies from the hospital during the eight months she was there. She eventually recovered fully and, after being released from the hospital, graduated. She went on to further study business and marketing at a private college.

Around that time Yevko met Dimitry, or “Dima,” a witty, wise and adventurous brodbingnagian man with whom friendship naturally grew over the course of years from conversations

in an online chat room, to dancing in a nightclub, eventually moving together to Kyiv, marrying and having their son Maxim.

The Olympic sport of trampoline jumping was known in Kyiv where they lived but Yevko saw the value it could bring to her community back home in Zaporizhia and so she decided to open a trampoline club and named it for her son, calling it “Max Jump.” She ran the business from Kyiv, driving eight hours back and forth to Zaporizhia whenever she needed to take care of things in person. But as she was opening her business, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the club closed its doors, as did most other businesses. Reaching out to her community via Instagram, Yevko asked parents how they were doing – did they need a place to let their children come and play if it could be safely done? The answer was many, many messages of “Yes!” So she reopened her doors to provide a place for children to come.

A year and some months passed. Yevko and Dima welcomed their second child, a daughter and the now family of four decided to take a very special trip to Dubai to celebrate Dima’s birthday on February 23, 2022. The very next day, Russia invaded Ukraine, and the celebratory trip instantly turned into an experience of complete horror.

While they themselves were safely outside Ukraine, the family, friends, community and country they dearly loved were under siege. To make matters worse they could not return to collect any of their belongings as Dima would be conscripted into military service and be forced to leave Katya alone with their infant daughter and young son. They decided to travel to the border between Poland and Ukraine, and through connections with other Ukrainians - some of whom were complete strangers - they were able to arrange for their vehicle to be driven from Kyiv the two days’ distance to bring it to them. Yevko had also forgotten her travel documents but was able to receive them by way of someone giving them to an obliging bus driver who drove them to Poland and delivered them by hand to an employee in a McDonald’s who held them until Katya came to get them. “The kindness of strangers” is a phrase that means far more in wartime.

And further kindness is what led Katya and her family to Wisconsin. An Irish man working to help refugees at the Polish border took a picture with the family and became friends

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with them over social media. Three months later, after they had found temporary housing in Spain, the man contacted Dima, saying that his friend’s brother had a place for the brother in the United States. The Yevkos very enthusiastically answered that they would. They talked over the phone directly with Mount Horeb resident Bill Snyder – the brother of a friend of a friend - who after one failed attempt at gaining them temporary visas, tried again and was able to secure their entry into the United States. When they flew into Chicago, Yevko felt as though she had walked onto the set of an American movie.

“Everything was so BIG – the houses, the cars, everything!” she said. She could not help thinking there had been some kind of a mistake and that at some point someone would approach them and tell them they must return home to Ukraine.

It has been over a year now since the Yevkos first came to Mount Horeb. Dima has found work. The children enjoy their days with their mother, who remains as industrious here as she was in Ukraine. She now runs her trampoline club from an even greater distance, entirely online, and has expanded her mission to provide a place for the displaced refugee children arriving from Russian-occupied cities to come and play, free of charge. She has been busy writing and has self-published a children’s book through Amazon, named for her son, “Maxim and Purple on the Farm.”

Kateryna still longs to be back home in Ukraine where her heart, her family and friends are. In private moments, she bows down in prayer, through tears as she petitions God for her country. And then she rises, resilient as ever.

Teacher Molly Lawry honored

Mount Horeb resident Molly Lawry, who teaches third grade at Country View Elementary School in the Verona Area School District, is the latest WEA Member Benefits-WEAC Outstanding Educator.

Lawry was notified of the honor in front of students during an assembly featuring members of the Badgers Spirit Squad. She was recognized on field during the Badgers Football Homecoming game.

Lawry is active in her school, Verona Area Education Association and the Mount Horeb community. She has been involved in her school’s Girls On the Run program for the past 2 years.

“One of my favorite parts of my job is seeing the joy

in student’s eyes and hearing the connections they make to learning,” Lawry said. “When students can voice how they have grown as learners and it connects to their goals it gives me goosebumps- that is why I teach!”

Lawry was nominated by Hope Schroeder, also a third-grade teacher at Country View Elementary.

“Molly Lawry is an amazing educator,” Hope wrote in her nomination. “I have had not only the pleasure to be her colleague for the past three years, but also the privilege to be her student in her fifth-grade class. I know firsthand the impact she has on her students. It’s amazing how she inspires others around her to be the best they can be, both teachers and students.”

Lawry said having a former student become a teaching partner has been one of the great rewards of her career and a constant reminder of how she and other public education employees make a difference.

The statewide Badgers Outstanding Educator award program recognizes the everyday heroes who work in Wisconsin Public Schools, creating safe and welcoming places for students to learn and be inspired. The program is sponsored by the Wisconsin Education Association Council and WEA Member Benefits. Nominations are accepted at www.weac.org/badgers.

School board approves \$2 million in additional compensation for teachers

The Mount Horeb Area Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution Monday evening that will increase compensation for local teachers by an estimated \$2 million. This is the second time this year the board has authorized raises, with a stopgap 2022-23 contract approved early in 2023.

Much of the new funding this time around stems from a voter-approved referendum that significantly bolstered the district’s coffers. However, the exact distribution of the new money amongst staff is still unclear, as the local teachers union and the district were scheduled to hold a “meet and confer” session on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at which they hoped to decide exactly how to allocate \$1,079,000 of the \$2 million in new funding that was approved by the board on Monday of this week. The board has asked the union to draw up multiple options for supplemental salary distribution to use as a starting point at the meeting.

The school board issued a statement following Monday’s vote praising teachers and announcing the raises.

Union officials, however, have again expressed frustration with the fact that the school board opted to “impose” the new contract on teachers when the two sides were unable to come to an agreement. Teachers have voiced concerns throughout the negotiation process, saying they disagree with how the school district defines “base pay” in its calculations and contending that the current methodology favors new educators over those who have been in the district longer.

“Great teachers make great schools, which is why the board is significantly increasing the Mount Horeb Area School District’s investment in attracting and retaining high-performing teachers,” said the school board’s official statement Monday night. “To this end, the board has approved a \$2 million (or 15 percent) budgetary increase thanks to the community-funded 2022 operating referendum.”

The board said it looks forward to “collaborating with our faculty regarding the distribution of funds allocated for compensation” at Wednesday’s meet and confer session.

“The resolution to impose a conclusion to 2023-2024’s contract negotiations now enables both parties to move to the action we both want to happen: rewarding our teachers’ dedication for high student achievement by making their compensation scale more competitive with comparable districts in our area,” the board continued. “The board would like to express appreciation for the passion and dedication that our faculty bring every day and thank all members of this year’s bargaining team.”

In its statement, the teachers union elaborated on prior statements about what they say is a flawed bargaining process.

“Under Wisconsin’s collective bargaining law for school district employees, an employer can impose their final offer when the parties reach [an] impasse,” said the Mount Horeb Education Association (MHEA) in a statement released Monday. “Mount Horeb teachers certified in the spring of 2022; this will be the second year in a row the MHASD Board has imposed without reaching an agreement with teachers. Hundreds of supporters packed the October 2 School Board meeting encouraging board members to work with teachers to find a compromise. Unfortunately, it appears that is not going to happen.”

“At the heart of the dispute is the definition of the base wage, the wage on which bargained increases will be calculated,” the union statement continued. “MHEA believes the district

should use actual teachers’ salaries when discussing the base wage. This is common practice in neighboring school districts. However, MHASD maintains the base wage increase will be calculated off the starting teachers’ salary.”

The district has stated that its legal counsel says the union’s preferred method of calculating base pay is not legal under Wisconsin statute.

“It is a matter of respect to bargain over my actual salary as the base; it would show that Mount Horeb School District values my voice and regards my union as an equal collaborator,” said MHEA negotiator and middle school teacher Stephanie Schlimgen.

“The MHEA offered a compromise that we believe could have led to a settlement without the District giving up anything,” MHEA co-president and Spanish teacher Steve Austin said. “Teachers have tried to meet the district more than halfway on this issue. All we were seeking through our offer was the opportunity to continue working on this issue in the next bargain.”

MHEA said Mount Horeb “is poised to become the only school district in Dane County to impose on their teachers two years in a row.”

“While the MHEA Bargaining Team is disappointed in the outcome of this bargain, the team is looking ahead to meet and confer, the process for discussing supplemental pay,” their statement continued. “The MHEA Team is committed to advocating for fair, competitive teacher compensation, and will continue striving to collaborate with the district to ensure that Mount Horeb’s educators are compensated fairly.”

“MHEA appreciates the district’s agreement to move into the meet and confer process, and we look forward to discussing supplemental pay,” the union said. “All teachers thank the community for the overwhelming support in last year’s referendum. We know the community values teachers and MHEA values this community. Ensuring MHASD educators are compensated competitively is crucial to attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers and ensuring those teachers can afford to raise their own families in our school district.”

“MHEA understands the district has budgeted significant increases for teachers through supplemental pay. We acknowledge and value that; an increase through supplemental pay matters and we do not want anyone to lose sight of that,” the union’s statement concluded. “However, the base wage is about much more

than a number. It’s about respect. Redefining the base wage costs the district nothing. MHEA is not asking for more money in redefining the base wage; we are simply asking for the district to acknowledge teachers’ actual salaries in the bargaining process.”

“I have been teaching in Mount Horeb for 27 years,” said MHEA co-president and second grade teacher Melissa Olmsted. “I am lucky enough to have landed my first job here. Calculating my base wage increase off the lowest paid teacher is hurtful. All staffs’ base wage increases should be based on their salary; a 27-year veteran’s experience should be acknowledged.”

The additional spending approved this week comes after the school board voted in early 2023 in favor of a 2022-23 contract under which full-time faculty members received a wage increase of \$1,959 plus a longevity increase for those that qualified. A typical longevity increase was approximately \$827 but was sometimes higher. The 2022-23 contract increased the average salary by about 4.75 percent, from \$58,700 to \$61,488 per year, not factoring in benefits.

Look for a detailed breakdown of how the new contract will impact employees following the meet and confer session(s).

Local detective wins First Responder of the Year

State Representative Mike Bare (D-Verona) welcomed Mount Horeb Police Department detective Jennifer Schaaf to the State Capitol on Tuesday, Oct. 19, where she was recognized as First Responder of the Year for the 80th Assembly District.

“Detective Jennifer Schaaf has proven to be a tremendous asset to the Village of Mount Horeb and its Police Department,” said Bare. “She has continually shown immense care and compassion for her colleagues and Mount Horeb’s residents. I am honored to have been able to recognize her accomplishments and am grateful for her service to the 80th District.”

Schaaf has served with the Mount Horeb Police Department for 10 years. In that time, she has garnered a reputation for treating citizens compassionately and fairly. Last week, she praised Mount Horeb residents for their sense of community and their kindness to local first responders.

When asked why she went into a career in law enforcement, Schaaf replied: “There are a lot of reasons, but at the end of the day it’s to stand up for people who can’t, or won’t, stand up for themselves.”

“When you are a young

officer, you tend to look at the numbers a lot because you want to show that you are doing a good job,” she said. “But as you get a little older, you start to understand that there are human beings behind those numbers; both the victims and the suspects.”

She said understanding the humanity of the people she deals with helps inform the way she does her job. Schaaf said she generally tries to avoid the spotlight and was surprised to learn she would be honored at the State Capitol.

“When Lt. Jarvis first told me, my first reaction was, ‘Why?’” she said. “I simply do my job, and it’s a team effort here. We all work together, so I was a little surprised, a little shocked, that I got an award.”

Even before being named First Responder of the Year, Schaaf already knew the community appreciates its police officers.

“The level of support we have her in Mount Horeb is unmatched,” she said.

“We decided to nominate two officers from the Mount Horeb Police Department for the First Responder of the Year award based on their contributions to the Village of Mount Horeb over the last year,” explained Mount Horeb Police lieutenant Joshua Jarvis. “Detective Schaaf was nominated for her exemplary work as a detective. She shows a passion and a dedication to protecting the victims of crimes that is unmatched. She does everything in her power to ensure that the best possible outcome is found, oftentimes by connecting people with necessary resources rather than taking enforcement action. She is a dedicated employee that is a great asset to the Mount Horeb Police Department and the Village of Mount Horeb.

“We would also like to recognize Officer Brian Hugill for his nomination,” Jarvis continued. “As a new officer he has taken on a lot of extra responsibilities including being involved in our social media presence. He is always volunteering for community events and striving to become better each day.”

“He has shown his ability to go above and beyond in his investigations and is always finding outside-the-box ways to conduct investigations. His future with this agency is very bright,” Jarvis continued.

Village works with public on downtown parking plans

The Village of Mount Horeb held a public open house Monday, Oct. 23 regarding the development of a new strategy for the downtown business cor-

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ridor. Following a presentation based on a recent parking study conducted by an outside consulting firm, residents and local business owners weighed in on the results of the study, saying they believe there is an increasing need for parking for employees of downtown businesses, demand for additional parking and signage for visiting tourists, the reliance of a large local business on use of a private parking lot owned by a neighboring church, as well as concerns that the study did not include analysis of weekend parking usage. In addition to the parking audit, an online survey was conducted by the village, an information booth was made available at a public event and interviews were held with select local businesses.

The Oct. 23 meeting was attended by more than 50 residents and local business owners who engaged in discussion following the presentation by project and design consulting firm MSA Services. The goal of the study was to provide the community with a plan to efficiently utilize the current parking facilities, anticipate future needs as the downtown develops and supply recommendations for ways to incorporate additional parking in the area. The firm carried out audits of the available parking on three separate days, one in August to evaluate for summer tourism, one in September as a representative sample of a “normal day” and one day in October which included an evening with a special event. Of the 912 total parking spaces the peak parking occupancy for all three days ranged from 44 percent to 58 percent of the total available parking. According to MSA “75-plus percent Occupancy within the District would be considered a parking issue.”

While the reported parking occupancy is well below the level that MSA identified as being an issue, some attendees were concerned that the audit of the special event parking took place on a day with inclement weather, which they say may have resulted in less than normal attendance, thereby skewing the accuracy of the study. It was additionally noted that, no audits were conducted on a weekend or during winter weather conditions.

Currently, of the nineteen lots that provide off-street parking in the downtown corridor, twelve are privately owned and one is for mixed public and private usage. A community member connected to the Evangelical Lutheran Church also noted that Duluth Trading Company, which employs over 200 people at their location

in downtown Mount Horeb, relies on an agreement with the church to use their privately-owned parking lot for parking during business hours. If this agreement were not to be renewed in the future it could drastically affect the available parking in the Mount Horeb business corridor. The Village of Mount Horeb will continue to consider the project with the next Steering Committee meeting planned for November 2 to review the results of the parking study and recommendations by MSA Services with the final completion of the project planned for March of 2024.

Local child care initiative is meeting community needs head on

A conversation has been circulating in the Mount Horeb community that echoes a growing concern in the state and nation – more and more families are finding it increasingly difficult to secure child care and this in turn is creating a strain on local businesses and the community as a whole.

The Mount Horeb Community Coalition has recognized this critical childcare shortage and is taking a proactive approach to meeting this need. In cooperation with a local childcare agency, 4-C, the Coalition is launching the Mount Horeb Child Care Initiative with the goal of facilitating the opening of twelve new regulated in-home providers in Mount Horeb. They hope to remove barriers to would-be providers through increased support and resources for navigating starting a regulated child care service. Included in this initiative is a new Certification Reimbursement Grant program which would compensate participants for costs associated with completing the regulation process.

The Mount Horeb Community Coalition made up of members of the Mount Horeb School District, the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Village of Mount Horeb, exists to “elevate Mount Horeb as a great place to live, to work, and to start or grow a business.” A member of the Coalition and Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce director Rachel Lacasse-Ford, began hearing from local employers and residents “that there seems to be a childcare shortage and people cannot find childcare, especially for their babies. So we wanted to dig in and find out what the numbers really said and if that was the case.” The Coalition sent out a survey to current regulated child care providers through which they were able to estimate that there are currently 120 families on waiting lists for spots for their children

from birth to school-age, 50 of which are for children under two years of age. In order to bring this waitlist down to a more manageable level it was estimated that an additional 12 in-home providers should be encouraged to open. To facilitate the opening of these providers the Coalition started the Mount Horeb Child Care Initiative with the aim of removing as many barriers for people wanting to open new regulated child care services as possible.

Brenda Moore Fritz, owner of The Academy of Little Vikings in Mount Horeb offered her support as a current Mount Horeb child care provider.

“Building a resilient child care infrastructure that offers diverse options for families is what is best for everyone...it was obvious this is the sector that can be increased and become a bigger part of the infrastructure and be supported by the village as well. While it costs significantly more to build another group center we rely on the notion that “it takes a village to raise a child.” In-home providers have an opportunity to be even more impactful in the childcare arena... it is very easy to set a goal and dedicate a dollar amount to achieve that goal with grant funding from the village.” Moore Fritz went on to say “I’m excited to see this village take steps to help problem solve and create real solutions. What a gift to the children and families of our communities to have a solution-facing village.”

The Initiative is offering a two step process to residents interested in becoming a regulated child care provider. Step One of the initiative is to offer Community Information Sessions to residents four times a year which will be available in-person and online. According to the Coalition, “The sessions would be led by a certification specialist and pre-licensing technical consultant from 4-C ...This speaker would provide an overview of the different forms of regulated child care business, and they would provide next steps for learning more and starting the process.”

The second step available is the Certification Reimbursement Grant through which Mount Horeb residents who pursue becoming regulated child care providers may be reimbursed for the cost of the two requisite courses, which is around \$500.

Local teen harvests 1,000-pound bull elk

In a state of nearly 6 million people, only eight lucky individuals won the opportunity to take part in this year’s elk hunt. Four were members of the Ojibwe tribes, who declared

their elk according to treaty rights within the Ceded Territory. The other four were state-licensed hunters who won their tags through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ annual lottery.

One of them lives right here in Mount Horeb. Sixteen-year-old Isabella “Izzy” Wink harvested her 1,000 pound bull on October 19, following months of planning and scouting and five days of hunting in Wisconsin’s northern elk zone, which covers portions of Ashland, Bayfield, Price, Rusk and Sawyer counties. The northern herd’s area includes the 1995 reintroduction effort, which began with 25 elk from Michigan. The northern elk herd population is projected to reach 355 animals this year. The central elk herd is estimated near 155 elk this year, bringing the statewide post-calving population above 500 elk.

This hulking, iconic animal, one of the largest cervids in the world, is native to Wisconsin and is making a strong comeback. One creature can feed a family for a year and the Winks have freezers full of meat and hearts full of memories that will last a lifetime.

The tag was initially won by Izzy’s father, Brian. The Winks are passionate conservationists who donate both their time and money to a variety of causes, including elk management.

Elk applications from Wisconsin hunters contribute directly to the future of the state’s elk population. For each \$10 application fee, \$7 goes to elk management, habitat restoration and research. In 2023, some applicants chose to give amounts above the \$10 fee, and their additional donations totaled more than \$8,000. Most were happy with a bit of hope – however slim – as well as the knowledge they are actively supporting the state’s wildlife. The Wink family got an unexpected surprise: the chance to hunt.

“In our family, we apply every opportunity we get,” said Brian. “You have to be pretty lucky to draw a tag. It’s like winning the lottery.”

It was late spring when Brian received a call from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). “Shortly after that, I thought it would be a pretty unique opportunity for our whole family,” he said. So he reached out to the DNR and asked if he could transfer the tag to his daughter. They said yes, and it was all arranged. Izzy received the elk tag as a surprise on her birthday in August.

“I was ready to help him,” said Izzy. “I was super excited for him. I was so surprised when I learned it was going to me that I couldn’t

believe it. I didn’t want to take away from his experience, but I was extremely grateful.”

The family spent much of the ensuing months researching the northern Clam Lake herd and its habitat. The area they planned to hunt includes 1,600 square miles, much of which is public.

“I’m one for boots on the ground scouting,” said Brian. “Walking, hiking, driving; just trying to put together a mental picture, investing a ton of time.”

When the season opened, Izzy, Brian and a family friend spent four-and-a-half days hunting without seeing an elk. Then, as the sun began to set on their fifth day, everything happened in a flash.

“There were three of us, one of my dad’s friends was there as well, and we were spread out about 50 yards apart so we could all get our eyes on different areas. It was probably six o’clock, the sun was going down, and I was starting to lose hope.”

But then, after several days without seeing a single elk, they saw a lot of them.

“I just started shaking,” she said. “I grabbed my pack and my tripod and my rifle. The only path was across a bunch of rocks. I looked over and there was a field full of elk.”

“I was trying to be as quiet as possible, and I didn’t have much cover,” she continued. “I had the cow call in my mouth and I was making noise. A bunch of the cows looked up and I was like, ‘I’m busted; it’s over.’ But then I saw this big bull, and I set down my tripod. I was shaking – elk fever, I guess – and I just kept calling and calling. Then the bull starts running toward me. He stopped and turned broadside.”

Standing between 70 and 100 yards from the animal, Izzy fired, sending a 140-grain 7mm-08 bullet through the bull’s vitals. He spun 180-degrees and she fired again almost immediately, ensuring a quick and ethical death. The two bullets hit less than two inches apart from one another.

DNR officials confirmed that the six-year-old animal she harvested, which was wearing a tracking collar, was the herd bull. He had traveled three miles that day and crossed a river to get to the spot where they found him.

They turned the carcass over to the DNR, then it went to Outdoor Addiction in Blue Mounds to be processed. Soon after that, they sat around the table as a family and ate their first Wisconsin elk steaks together.

“That is something that’s very important to us,” said Brian. “We don’t hunt for

antlers. We harvest animals to consume and be respectful of the animal that gave up its life for us.”

The meat will last a long time. But even after it’s gone, this local family will have a special experience to relive and retell, again and again. And because of the efforts of conservationists and hunters like them, wild elk will roam Wisconsin for generations to come.

“Honestly, the best part of this whole experience was, well, the whole experience, but also the fact that, as I’m getting older, I get to spend less and less time with my family. We’re all busy, you know? And this gave me a chance to spend extra time with my family. Time to be together. Honestly, that was my favorite part of the whole thing.”

Village’s 2024 budget approved

The Village of Mount Horeb held a public hearing on the proposed 2024 budget in-person on Wednesday, November 15 at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street.

The proposed budget includes \$28,037,430 in spending, and the village plans to collect \$7,237,034 in property taxes. The draft budget includes \$9,027,114 in general fund expenditures, \$2,845,284 in debt service and \$1,459,112 in spending on capital projects.

The assessed value of land in Mount Horeb rose by more than 25 percent this year, from \$873,404,820 to \$1,099,480,800, which means despite the fact that the village expects to collect significantly more in taxes, the mill rate would decline by 18.5 percent, from \$6.321906 to \$5.146463 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

That means a Mount Horeb resident would pay \$2,058 in village taxes on a \$400,000 home.

The village currently has \$43,434,323 in outstanding debt.

Upon opening the meeting village administrator Nic Owen reported that there were “no new changes or new news since we last discussed the budget.” The floor was opened to comment and discussion by the public but, as no one was present to comment, the hearing was then closed.

The board then voted and approved the resolution to authorize the levy for the upcoming 2024 operational budget as well as the resolution to adopt the 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan. Mount Horeb village president Ryan Czyzweski commented on the vote, saying: “Thank you to staff in the budget and finance for getting this together. This will now go to the staff that will put together the property tax bills.”

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SPORTS

Up and down week for Vikings

MoHo cruises past Portage

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

They're called trap games.

They come after a team has a big game and is looking ahead to another giant contest.

And Mount Horeb boys basketball coach Todd Nesheim feared his Vikings could be staring at a trap game when they faced Portage on Jan. 4.

"We were coming off a loss to Franklin and looking forward to the game at Onalaska on Saturday," Nesheim said.

Turns out, the Vikings had nothing to worry about.

Josh Manchester poured in 25 points and Nick Vorwald added 24 as Mount Horeb cruised past the host Warriors, 81-52.

"We played very well," Nesheim said. "Our guys have now taken care of business against the teams on paper you think they should do that against ..."

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Josh Manchester and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team split a pair of games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb toppled by Onalaska

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

A two-hour bus ride.

A disappointing performance.

And an even longer bus ride home.

It all made for a rough Saturday for Mount Horeb's boys basketball team.

The Vikings trekked to Onalaska to face one of the better Division 2 teams in the state. Mount Horeb felt it was ready to make a statement, but instead the Vikings struggled from start to finish a dropped a 66-49 decision.

Mount Horeb fell to 7-3 on the year and remains 5-1 in the Badger Small Conference.

"This was by far our most disappointing performance of the year," Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said of the Vikings' loss to Onalaska. "We weren't good enough today and we thought we were ready."

"The good news is we"

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Gymnasts win own invitational

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

It should come as a surprise to no one.

Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team begins the year at a certain level. And as the season progresses, the Vikings get stronger, and stronger and stronger.

This year appears to be no different as Mount Horeb posted a season-high point total and won the seven-team Mount Horeb Invite last Saturday.

The Vikings finished with a 134.20 team score to edged Dodgeville/Highland (132.8750) for the title. Westby/Cashton/DeSoto was third (126.9250), while

GET/Cochrane-Fountain (124.250) and Platteville/Belmont (121.90) rounded out the top five.

"Our first place finish was a true team effort and we coaches are super proud of our gymnasts' efforts and performances," Vikings' coach Martha Koller Faust said. "Two of our gymnasts got injured during our first two events. Our alternates didn't hesitate when we called on them to warm-up and compete."

"When a teammate gets hurt, of course it impacts the entire team, and our girls were able to really dig in and together, they earned the championship team"

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Mount Horeb girls gymnastics coach Martha Koller Faust (left) and Harper Hendrickson (right) helped the Vikings win their own invite last Saturday. Photo submitted



Next stop: Indiana

Mount Horeb senior offensive tackle Austin Leibfried recently signed his national letter of intent to play football at Indiana University beginning next season.

Leibfried was named first-team all-Badger Small Conference, the league’s top offensive lineman, all-region and honorable mention all-state.

On top, he’s shown with several of his MH-B teammates. At right, Leibfried is shown with his parents, Jenny and Bart. And above, Leibfried and MH-B coach Bret St. Arnauld are all smiles after he signed with the Hoosiers.



Wrestlers finish 14th at Sauk Invite

The Mount Horeb/Barneveld wrestling team finished in 14th place at the 20-team Sauk Prairie Invitational last Saturday.

Middleton won the event with 214.5 points and edged runner-up Mauston (188.5). Seymour (184.0), West Bend East (160.5) and Ithaca/Weston (153.0) rounded out the top five.

The Vikings finished with 89.0 points.

Here’s a recap of MH-B’s day:

138 — Marcus Sevilla (5-8) placed 8th and

scored 1.0 team points.

- Champ. Round 1 - Sevilla received a bye
- Quarterfinal - Pavil Jones (Middleton) 11-7 won by fall over Sevilla (Fall 3:52)
- Cons. Round 2 - Sevilla received a bye
- Cons. Semi - Samuel Merrill (West Bend East) 14-15 won by fall over Sevilla (Fall 3:20)
- 7th Place Match - Espen Pitts (Mauston) 6-10 won by fall over Sevilla (Fall 2:45)

150 — Ryan Errthum

(10-8) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.

- Champ. Round 1 - Mason Bunnell (Seymour) 15-9 won by fall over Errthum (Fall 3:06)
- Cons. Round 1 - Errthum received a bye
- Cons. Round 2 - Aedan Hernandez (Badger) 14-10 won by decision over Errthum (Dec 7-4)

157 — Eli Maier (15-3) placed 1st and scored 35.0 team points.

- Champ. Round 1 - Maier won by fall over

Angel Nemeckay (Madison La Follette) 3-9 (Fall 0:54)

- Quarterfinal - Maier won by decision over Carter Henschel (West Bend East) 23-9 (Dec 12-5)
- Semifinal - Maier won by fall over Brason Ballweg (Sauk Prairie/Wisconsin Heights) 21-8 (Fall 3:06)
- 1st Place Match - Maier won by decision over Finn Grauwels (Middleton) 12-4 (Dec 7-0)

165 — Eli Leonard (19-1) placed 1st and scored

38.0 team points.

- Champ. Round 1 - Leonard received a bye
- Quarterfinal - Leonard won by fall over Jayden Zimbauer (Mauston) 13-11 (Fall 1:09)
- Semifinal - Leonard won by major decision over Logan Anderson (Ithaca/Weston) 14-10 (MD 14-1)
- 1st Place Match - Leonard won by fall over Taylor Joseph (Johnson Creek) 15-4 (Fall 0:41)

215 — Levi Maier (13-7) placed 5th and scored

15.0 team points.

- Champ. Round 1 - Maier received a bye
- Quarterfinal - Logan McIntyre (Sauk Prairie/Wisconsin Heights) 17-10 won by fall over Maier (Fall 3:48)
- Cons. Round 2 - Maier received a bye
- Cons. Semi - Maier won in sudden victory - 1 over Jaren Hansen (Mauston) 9-12 (SV-1 8-6)
- 5th Place Match - Maier won by fall over Jack Maier (Pardeeville) 13-15 (Fall 2:48)

MoHo girls toppled by Reedsburg

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Reedsburg is one of the elite girls basketball teams in the state this year.

The Beavers are 10-2 overall and challenging for a Badger Small Conference title at 5-2. Reedsburg has the state's leading scorer in senior guard Sydney Cherney, who is averaging 35.0 points per contest.

So the fact Mount Horeb matched the Beavers blow for blow much of the way last Saturday left Vikings coach Bart Leibfried feeling awfully good about his team — even though they eventually suffered a 74-59 defeat.

“Our team effort and energy was great,” said Leibfried, whose team fell to 4-8 overall and 3-4 in the league. “I am so proud of our effort and energy on and off the court. One of these games we will start to make these open shots and get rolling.”

Cherney, who will play collegiately at Division 2 Grand Valley State, led all scorers with 33 points.

Rowan Johnson led a balanced effort for Mount Horeb with 14 points, while Morgan Monroe and Hallie Klein scored nine, Courtney Monroe added eight and Maren Johnson had seven.

“Our conference and schedule is so tough,” Leibfried said. “Just in the Badger Small you have two 2,000 point (career) scorers in (McFarland’s) Teagan (Mallegni) and Syd

(Cherney). “Our non-conference teams that we have played at this point are 40-15. The message is keep improving, keep working, trust the process on the court, in the weight room and in the film room and soon the outcomes will be different.”

Mount Horeb gave Reedsburg all it could handle. But the Vikings were hurt by a rough start that saw the Beavers jump to an 18-3 lead.

“Reedsburg came out on fire,” Leibfried said. “We put so much focus on trying to stop Syd Cherney. And her teammates, who are good shooters, but not great shooters, knocked down the first six open 3s they took. Once we settled in and they started to miss a few we battled back.”

They sure did, as the Vikings closed within 36-27 by halftime.

Mount Horeb had a chance to creep closer to start the second half, but missed three straight shots inside of 3-feet. Cherney then got rolling, scored 10 straight points, and just like that Reedsburg’s lead had grown to 20.

“I thought Jada Mathews and Courtney Monroe did a great job on Cherney and Ella Fager stood in and took two charges on her,” Leibfried said. “But at the end of the game she still had 33 points and was 13-of-16 from the line.

“She is so good and plays so hard. Our kids hate playing her on the



Jada Matthews and Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team fell to Reedsburg last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

floor because she is so physical and grabs, hooks and clutches, but they respect her as one of the best players in the state.”

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb hosts the Badger Challenge Friday night and Saturday. The Challenge matches teams from the Badger Large Conference against teams from the Badger Small based on where they currently sit in the conference standings.

“It will be interesting to see how the smaller schools match-up against the larger schools,” Leibfried said. “There should be some really good games on Saturday.”

BADGER CHALLENGE FRIDAY
5:45 p.m. (#8 seeds)
Fort Atkinson vs. Portage
7:20 p.m. (#7 seeds)
Milton vs Baraboo

SATURDAY
11 a.m. (#6 seeds)
Watertown vs Stoughton
12:40 p.m. (#5 seeds)
Deforest vs Mt Horeb
2:20 p.m. (#4 seeds)
Waunakee vs Sauk Prairie
4 p.m. (#3 seeds)

Beaver Dam vs Edgewood
Reedsburg 7:20 p.m. (#1 seeds)
5:40 p.m. (#2 seeds) Oregon vs McFarland
Monona Grove vs

Hockey co-op team sneaks by Stoughton

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Sauk Prairie’s co-op hockey team — which includes Mount Horeb, Barneveld, River Valley and Wisconsin Heights — edged Stoughton, 3-2, on Jan. 5.

The Eagles are now 10-4 overall and sit in third place in the Badger Small Conference with a 5-2 record.

Sauk Prairie’s Colin Harrington scored the game-winning goal with just more

than 3 minutes remaining. Stoughton scored the only first period goal, before the Eagles struck for a pair of second period goals.

Landon Froese had an even strength goal on an assist from Harrington at the 13:29 mark of the second period to tie the game, 1-1. Then Harrington had an even strength goal with just 51 seconds left in the period to give Sauk Prairie a 2-1 edge.

Stoughton got the equalizer with just more than 5

minutes left in the game. But with 3:31 remaining, Harrington posted the game-winning goal and the Eagles prevailed.

William Anderson was outstanding in net for Sauk Prairie, posting 22 saves, a .909 save percentage and earning the win. Anderson is now 8-4 on the season.

• **On deck:** The Eagles were at Madison Edgewood Tuesday, then are off until traveling to Sun Prairie Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

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GYMNASTS

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plaque.”
Mount Horeb junior Athena Ouradnik was second in the all-around competition with a 35.075.

Ouradnik won the balance beam with a 9.10, while senior Tess Angle was fourth (8.60), junior Abbey Brummer was fifth (8.250) and junior Reece Olinger was sixth (8.225).

Ouradnik was third on the uneven bars (8.525), while sophomore Marit Barsness and sophomore Sylvia Seelinger tied for sixth (8.050), and Angle and Olinger tied for ninth (7.950).

Brummer was third on the floor exercise (9.050) and Ouradnik was fourth (9.0). Sophomore Carmen Oglesby was 11th (8.450) and Seelinger was 13th (8.150).

And Ouradnik was fifth on the vault (8.450), Brummer was 11th (8.175), freshman Harper Hen-

drickson was 14th (8.125) and senior Edie Balster was 16th (8.050).
“Several of our girls earned season-best scores, several earned individual medals for finishing in the top five,” Koller Faust said. “It’s very rewarding to see their hard work paying off.”
“We had our eyes on the Dodgeville Co-op team, as they had been scoring consistently in the 130s. Monona Grove was in the big school division and we were keeping tabs on them, too, because they are in our conference and our sectional.”
“Our competition was complete and Dodgeville Co-op still had to perform on the vault and we knew they needed to have an event total of 34.95 to tie us. It was nerve-racking to watch and calculate their total with each vaulter. It came down to the very last competitor’s score shown before we knew we had come out on top — and that was a terrific feeling!”



Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team (top) was all smiles after winning its own invite last Saturday. Above, Edie Balster goes airborne during her vault performance. Photos submitted

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(Opportunity for residents to provide input for the self-evaluation)

The District is currently conducting a self-evaluation of its status on pupil nondiscrimination. Residents of the school district have an opportunity to provide comments on the status of nondiscrimination and equality of educational opportunity in the following eight areas:

- School board policies and administrative procedures.
- Enrollment trends in classes and programs.
- Methods, practices, curriculum, and materials used in instruction, counseling, and pupil assessment and testing.
- Trends and patterns of disciplinary actions, including suspensions, expulsions, and handling of pupil harassment.
- Participation trends and patterns and school district support of athletic, extracurricular, and recreational activities.
- Trends and patterns in awarding scholarships and other forms of recognition and achievement provided or administered by the district.
- School district efforts to achieve equality of educational opportunity and nondiscrimination.
- School district technology, including electronic communications by school district staff.

The District has established a community-wide survey to solicit public comment. The survey can be found on the school district website or at <https://forms.gle/12c9uyfbpVWMfoVLR6>.

All are welcome to a Community Engagement Night on Wednesday, March 6 at 6:00 PM in the Mount Horeb High School Commons where initial survey results and other findings from the Pupil Nondiscrimination Self-Evaluation will be available.

The Mount Horeb Area School District does not discriminate against pupils in its educational programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, color, homelessness status, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status (including gender expression, gender identity, and gender nonconformity), physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, or any other status protected by state or federal law.

Additionally, comments on the status of pupil nondiscrimination in these areas can be sent prior to January 26, 2024 to strakasarah@mhasd.k12.wi.us or via mail at

Sarah Straka, Director of Instruction
Mount Horeb Area School District
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The agenda for this meeting
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Upland Hills® Health

Healthcare Employment Opportunities

- Dietitian/CDE – part time to full time day shift position. Up to a \$5,000 Employment Bonus available!
- Occupational & Physical Therapist – full or part-time positions, Up to a \$5,000 Employment Bonus, prorated based on FTE!
- Athletic Trainer – full time AT position
- Vice President of Clinic Operations – 1.0 FTE position
- Clinic CMA/LPN – .8 FTE position working in our OB/GYN clinics
- Clinics Referral Coordinator – 1.0 FTE day shift position
- Clinic Registration Specialist – .8 FTE day shift family practice clinic position
- Patient Benefit Specialist – 1.0 FTE day shift position
- Imaging/Lab Technologist (Clinics) – full-time day shift position working 4 - 10 hour day shifts
- MRI Technologist – .5 to a 1.0 FTE day shift position. Up to a \$5,000 Employment Bonus, prorated based on FTE!
- Imaging Technologist – day or night shift position in the hospital available. Up to a \$5,000 Employment Bonus, prorated based on FTE!
- Respiratory Therapist – part-time day or night position & a .6 FTE weekender position
- Med Tech/MLT or CLS – .9 FTE p.m. shift position and a .5 or .6 FTE Premium Pay Weekender Day shift position.
- Operating Room Tech – .8 FTE position. \$3,000 Employment Bonus eligible!
- Med/Surg Unit Clerk/CNA – .6 FTE day/evening shift.
- RN Skilled Nursing Care – .6 FTE p.m. shift position. \$3,000 Employment Bonus eligible!
- RN Float – .75 FTE p.m./night shift position. \$3,750 Employment Bonus eligible!
- RN Med/Surg Unit – .6 FTE day/evening shift position. \$3,000 Employment Bonus eligible!
- Grant Writing Coordinator – half time position
- Health Information Management Records Specialist – half time day shift position
- Certified Nursing Assistants – part-time positions available in our Nursing & Rehab Center day, evening and night shifts available, \$3,000 Employment Bonus included!
- Environmental Services – part-time to full-time evening and day shift positions. \$1,000 Employment Bonus!
- Culinary Aide – .5 FTE day shift positions available.

To find out more detailed information about all open positions and to apply, go to our website at: www.uplandhillshshealth.org.

800 Compassion Way, Dodgeville, WI 53533 • 608.930.8000

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Ad Council NHTSA

VILLAGE OF MT. HOREB RESIDENTS
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Horeb, Dane County, Wisconsin adopted the following ordinance amendment at the Village Board meeting on January 3, 2024.
Ordinance 2024-01 "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1.31 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND 17.17 HISTORIC PRESERVATION".
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that a copy of the ordinance is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the Village Clerk. It is also available on the village website at www.mounthorebwi.info.

Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk

Publish: 1/11/24 WNAXLP

VILLAGE OF MT. HOREB RESIDENTS
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mt. Horeb, Dane County, Wisconsin adopted the following ordinance amendment at the Village Board meeting on January 3, 2024.
Ordinance 2024-02 "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 9.18 TOBACCO PRODUCTS PROHIBITED".
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that a copy of the ordinance is on file and open for public inspection in the office of the Village Clerk. It is also available on the village website at www.mounthorebwi.info.

Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk

Publish: 1/11/24 WNAXLP

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