



Let it snow!

Two big blizzards and temperatures that plummeted to -15 degrees couldn't keep the citizens of Mount Horeb from getting out and having fun last week. Pictured above, Eoin, Ian and Dawn Mullarney enjoyed some snowboarding at Liberty Park on Tuesday's snow day. At right, Matthew and Grayson Nankee strapped on snowshoes and made their way to Kwik Trip for provisions on Friday. Fire and EMS chief Jenny Minter reminded citizens to clear a path to hydrants so emergency crews can access them if needed. Blue Mounds chief of police reported "typical slide-offs" and no major injuries. Then, on Tuesday of this week, the MHASD school bus tanks froze, causing classes to be canceled and giving families one more chance to spend a little extra time together. Photos by Matt Geiger.

Operation Christmas provided hope and a helping hand

Preparation for Operation Christmas began back in October. Food Closet Coordinators Ann Szalkowski and Lee Ann Dillis; Clothing Closet Coordinator, Amy Gordon and The Mount Horeb Giving Tree Coordinator, Jessica Killingbeck began preparing and check-

ing their lists.

It is estimated these coordinators and their "army of elves" logged roughly 500 hours checking their lists, and completing the many tasks of ensuring the Food Closet and the Giving Tree Programs were ready to meet the needs of the families they serve. The goal: Every family must have the ingredients to prepare

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Village welcomes two new police officers

By ERIN HERNDON
Mount Horeb Mail

In their January 3 meeting, the Village Board welcomed two new village police officers, approved the creation of a standalone Historic Preservation Commission, awarded a planning contract to Vandewalle Associates, added vapor products to Section 9.18 Tobacco Products Prohibited, and shared their support for the addition of the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial to state highway maps.

Recognition of New Village Police Officers

Chief Doug Vierck introduced Board members to the Mt. Horeb Police Department's two newest officers: Officer Braden Folbrecht and Officer Kyle Dix.

"Braden is from a small town in Southwest Wisconsin. He played football in college and is coming to us after working for an insurance company," Chief Vierck said. "Kyle comes to us from the Rock County area. He served

in the Marines for 10 years and then returned to serve as a corrections officer for a year or more."

Officers Folbrecht and Dix were selected from a pool of 15 applicants and underwent a rigorous screening process and background investigation. The two officers were sworn in and are set to start their upcoming academy training soon.

"Today, we welcome two honorable men into the law enforcement

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Immanuel Lutheran aims to help solve childcare shortage



Pastor Jared Parmley says First Steps Childcare will open in the spring. Photo by Matt Geiger.

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

A local church is stepping up to help remedy the community's well-documented childcare shortage.

Pastor Jared Parmley says Immanuel Lutheran Church hopes to open First Steps Childcare, a fully licensed daycare facility at 310 West Main Street. The facility will be in the spacious lower floor that had been utilized

for community functions and Sunday school but had mostly sat vacant until now. Church leaders have been hard at work preparing the physical space, getting ready to hire experienced staff, and making sure they meet all the legal requirements laid out by state statute. They have acquired cubbies, painted walls, installed sinks, put in carpets, ripped out walls, laid

new tiles, stacked toys and books, filled out an array of forms and are now awaiting the requisite architectural review. It is all being done with a single goal: to give local families a safe, vibrant place where their children, spanning from newborns to those on the brink of starting school, can spend some of their most formative years.

Asked what the most im-

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Legislation Authored by Hesselbein to ‘Increase College Accessibility’



The Assembly Committee on Ways and Means recommended Assembly Bill 793 (AB 793) for passage. AB 793 is bipartisan legislation authored by Representative Amy Binsfeld (R - Sheboygan), Representative Alex Joers (D-Middleton), Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R - Appleton), and Senator Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton, pictured above at center).

AB 793 would make three important changes: (1) increase the tax-free dollar amount a person can save for a child’s future higher education on an annual basis—and allow the amount to adjust for inflation over time; (3) codify federal changes into state law that allow the programs to be used for other limited expenses, including apprenticeships; and (3) increase the benefit to businesses that choose to invest in our state’s future learners and leaders.

Senator Hesselbein and Representative Joers released the following statement:

“As parents, we both recognize the financial challenges that families and individuals face when pursuing their career paths after high school. We are proud to put forward legislation that eases that cost burden and encourages our young people to chase their dreams.

“This bipartisan legislation makes simple, necessary changes to increase the accessibility and affordability of college and apprenticeship programs. Enhancing opportunities and alleviating costs associated with advanced learning opportunities are common-sense solutions to support working families and bolster Wisconsin’s workforce.”



From left to right: MHHS Activities Director and Associate Principal Kolleen Nesheim, Principal Cody Lundquist, Dr. Steve Salerno, guest of honor Laurel Helland, proud sister Sofia, Mrs. Nicole Helland, Board President and liaison to the high school Jessica Arrigoni, and Assistant Principal Talisa Corcoran.

School board recognizes Laurel Helland for leadership, kindness, academics and more

The Mount Horeb Area School District is excited to celebrate Laurel Helland, an 11th-grade student, with the January student spotlight. Helland is involved in many clubs, activities and sports. She does all of this while maintaining over a 3.9 GPA and being in multiple AP courses.

“Laurel is a kind and intelligent student who always puts forth her best effort. She leads by example in a quiet yet powerful manner, inspiring those around her through her consistent dedication, unwavering work ethic, and thoughtful decision-making,” said Adam Brager, social studies teacher.

“Laurel brought a positive attitude every day to practice and meets. Some practices were in the pouring rain and others were in 90 degrees. No matter the weather Laurel had a smile on her face and could be found laughing with her friends,” added Piper Atnip, English-learner teacher and cross country

coach.

“Laurel is an incredibly bright and dedicated student. Even though she was unable to be in French class this semester due to a scheduling conflict, she sought me out last year to do an independent study of French to keep on track with the class and be able to come back “at speed” next semester,” added Cole Estrem, French teacher.

“As her coach on the cross country team, I was amazed at how many different activities, clubs, and organizations she was involved in. But even with that full plate, she always managed to show and make the most of her time on the team. Laurel is fun to be around and her teammates listen to her and look to her as a leader,” commented Dave Chancellor, cross country coach.

“Laurel is a super insightful student who has learned the art of wrestling with new concepts and asking prob-

ing questions. Laurel also knows how to make learning fun by encouraging classmates to extend their own thinking and understanding,” added Kristen Clark, chemistry and AP biology teacher.

Math teacher Heidi Lemke stated: “Laurel is involved in their learning and many school activities. I love how Laurel is just a sincere person. Laurel is just a pleasure to have in class.”

“Laurel is such a joy to work with. In drama club, Laurel had such a fun, positive outlook and brought so much to rehearsals and her roles on stage. As a member of DECA, her time was often split, but she never let that become a barrier to giving drama club her full attention. Laurel is a great friend to those around her and helps others feel welcome and included,” concluded Theresa Buechner, social studies teacher and drama club leader.

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MoHo DECA racks up more than 100 awards



On Saturday, Jan. 6 nearly 90 Mount Horeb DECA students participated in the Wisconsin DECA District Three competition held at DeForest Area High School. Students showcased their business, marketing, finance, and entrepreneurship knowledge by completing a test on business and marketing concepts and engaging in two business case study role plays in an area of personal interest. Ultimately, Mount Horeb DECA members received more than 100 award recognitions and seventeen members qualified to attend the Wisconsin DECA State Career Development Conference in February. An additional 12 students will also be eligible to attend based on their leadership in DECA during the 2024-2024 school year. DECA is a Career and Technical Student Organization which prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

Districts Champions (1st place)
Laurel Helland, Entrepreneurship
Ava Murphy, Hotel & Lodging Management
Dylan Mckillips, Restaurant & Food Service Management
Sydney Almquist, Food Marketing
Eleanor Guenther, Prin-

ciples of Finance
Second Place
Laurel Aquino, Food Marketing
Sophia Nelson, Quick Serve Restaurant Management
Delaney Chronister, Business Services Marketing
Emma Olsen, Retail Merchandising
Dani Kleman, Principles of Finance
Third Place
Alexa Vesely, Automotive Services Marketing
Lexi Druid, Apparel & Accessories Marketing
Manon Gilles, Economics Exam
Raniah Hubbard & Jackson Schultek, Hospitality Services Team Decision

Making
Eileen Herrera-Carballo & Jasper Rothenberg, Financial Services Team Decision Making
Honorable Mention
Elysia Mckillips, Principles of Hospitality & Tourism
Aminata Ndiaye, Retail Merchandising
Ava Gee, Principles of Marketing
Zephyr Stanek, Apparel & Accessories Marketing
Erin Wagner-Leek, Principles of Hospitality & Tourism
Jordan Betzle, Restaurant & Food Service Management
Jack Wilson, Food Marketing
Kayden Baumgart / Aidan

Students shine at District 3 competition in DeForest



Clockwise from top left: Eleanor Guenther, first place, and Dani Kleman, second place, in Principles of Finance; Sydney Almquist, first place, and Laurel Aquino, second place, in Food Marketing; Dylan Mckillips, first place in Restaurant & Food Service Management.

Gage, Marketing Management Team Decision Making
Molly McCue, Principles of Business Management & Administration
Riley Murray, Quick Serve Restaurant Management
Ben Brohn, Principles of Finance
Ethan Gage, Principles of Finance
Hayden Herritz, Retail Merchandising
Kayden Baumgart & Aidan Gage, Marketing Management Team Decision Making
Abigail Sadler & Sophia Sadler, Financial Services Team Decision Making
Nicolas Baden & Owen

Fawcett, Sports & Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making
Individual Medal Winners
Margret Szabo, Business Services Marketing
Maeve True, Principles of Business Management & Administration
Tate Boatman, Sports & Entertainment Marketing
Gabe Walden, Principles of Marketing
Kian Spowart, Food Marketing
Eli Dinh, Principles of Finance
Angust Best, Entrepreneurship
Andrew Jones, Principles of Hospitality & Tourism

Emma Strother, Principles of Business Management & Administration
Ayden Green & Kait Green, Business Law & Ethics Team Decision Making.

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PERSPECTIVE

GEIGER Counter



by Matt Geiger, Editor



Future you

Sometimes, you have to be mean to your kid. You have to say “no.” You have to tell them they are wrong. What they want and what they need are not always the same thing, and it’s your job, as their temporary caretaker, to provide for all their needs and only some of their desires.

Whenever my daughter asks why I am bullying her in this way, for that is how children see any parenting that doesn’t involve ice cream, I always say that I am being hard on Hadley right now because I do not only love the current version of her. I DO love the little girl standing in front of me in this moment, but I also love the teenager, and later the woman, she will become. I love her eternally, not only for a second or an hour or a day. And if you give someone everything they ever want, and never what they

need, you are only caring for the them who is happy right now, while you are neglecting the well-being of the person they will become.

“Why can’t I stay up all night?” she asks.

“Because I love *tomorrow* you,” I answer.

“Why do I have to learn how to do all these things for myself?” she says during a lesson.

“Because I love the you who will walk the Earth when you are grown up and I’m dead,” I say. “That’s how much I love you. Forever.”

The short answer to this question, no matter the particulars in which it is asked of me, is that I love future Hadley just as much as I adore the current one, and if I raised her to be helpless or self-pitying or miserable or entitled, I would be harming someone who means the entire world to me.

Speaking of the world, extreme global poverty is at its lowest point in history, according to new United Nations estimates. So is child mortality. A baby born today

has a greater chance than any child ever of growing to see adulthood. Polio, which used to cause so much irreversible paralysis and death, is nearing complete eradication. Oh, and nearly anyone, anywhere can access the complete works of Shakespeare, and every other piece of art ever created, in which all meaning is held to the light, 24 hours per day.

I mostly didn’t see social or corporate media over the holidays as I spent time with my loved ones. When I did tune back in, I was reminded that good news, even when it’s true, is not profitable for the large companies whose algorithms determine what most people see and what most people therefore feel. Heartache, tribalism and outrage are far easier ways to make a buck. And so, the chorus at the end of 2023 and the start of 2024 was, as usual, “Last year sucked and we all hope next year sucks slightly less. We are doomed and profoundly unlucky to be here. Here is my personal top 10 list of ways the world has not catered to my every whim!”

I would strongly suggest to anyone who thinks they are special and unfortunate enough to live in “the worst time ever” to put down your phone and pick up any actual history book. The most unfortunate soul in 2024 has

comfort and entertainment and scientific knowledge that no queen, king, jarl or emperor ever knew.

But most of us are convinced that we are special, and believing we live in the End of Times is an easy, lazy, unfalsifiable way to pretend we matter more than all the other people who came before, and the billions that will follow.

The truth is, there are really three options when it comes to a worldview. The first is to believe that the world despises people. The second, is to think that it loves them. The third, is to believe that it does not care one way or another about us; that we are not important enough to draw its attention.

We live in a time of profound egomania, an era when people think that if anyone they don’t like gets elected it is an intentional cosmic attack on them personally, that you can’t enjoy a sandwich unless someone you like is in the White House, so the first idea – that the world is cruel – is the most popular, at least online, among about half the people all the time. But terrible things are not happening more today than they were 100 years ago. They are just more visible, and they are more visible because they are actually happening less. Bad things are incredibly obvious to

us simply because they are far less frequent than good things. They are rare. The more rare a thing gets, the more clearly we see it. The more it sticks in our eyes. If you saw a pterodactyl gliding over the roof of your house, you would notice it, and you would remember it forever, specifically because it is rare. But if you saw a robin, you probably wouldn’t notice it, or would at least forget it soon after it was gone. You probably wouldn’t even mention it to anyone else. We are programmed to clearly see things that are abnormal, and that is why, despite the fact that all the data shows we live in the best, safest time in human history, that we live nearly twice as long as our great grandparents, that most people are increasingly obsessed with the suffering that does still occur. We have cures and treatments for most of the diseases that used to be death sentences. (If you love someone with diabetes, and you probably do, remember that this is the only point in human history in which they get to be alive.) But we see the bad because we are supposed to see it. Because if you were walking around 50,000 years ago and you saw a lion near the watering hole, noticing it was the best way to avoid getting eaten.

Telling your friends about it was a good way to help them not get eaten, too.

The second possibility, that the world actively feels some affection for us, is espoused by a few people. I see some evidence for this, but I suspect it is simply a product of my human urge to feel like I’m the center of the universe. It’s something I want to believe, but I’m not sure I really do.

The third, and final theory is that the world does not care, one way or another, about us. We haven’t lived here in this universe very long, and the universe will be here long after we are gone. The cosmos is likely completely indifferent to us. It probably hasn’t noticed us yet. It does not love us, nor does it hate us. It doesn’t owe us anything. But its apathy is a profound gift. Because, one thing we forget when we are being too self-centered, is that we ARE the universe. We ARE creation. We aren’t all of it, but we are part of it. We are not outside of it; we are in it, and it is in us. Each, and every one of us. Anything we do, the universe does. It is up to us to love ourselves or hate ourselves. It is up to us to love one other or hate one another. It is up to us to care for us, today, tomorrow, and as far into the future as our minds can imagine.

A Bird in the Bush

Lost in Space

By William Robichaud

A Bird in the Bush

I have a confession. This forager and wildlife conservationist is distinguished by having the worst sense of direction of anyone I have ever known (at least among those for whom I have a sense of their sense of direction). The navigational part of my brain seems to have gone missing at birth, and I am so far to the left on the bell curve of direction finding ability that I risk bumbling off the edge of the earth. Nearly everyone can find their way back



to camp, or to the post office in town, better than I can.

Indeed, this is an odd deficiency and something of a handicap for a hunter and forager, and someone whose day job is to search for rare animals in the forests of Southeast Asia. It’s also a bit odd for the son of navigator – my father served in World War II as navigator on a B-29 long-range bomber over the Pacific, and as far as I know never got his plane lost. Maybe the ability skips a generation (or in my case, *leaps* over one). In any case, this apple fell pretty far from my father’s navigational tree.

I was recently reminded yet again of my deficiency while in the woods near the house with my new housemate, Grant, searching for a deer I had wounded late in the afternoon. To be fair, dark had fallen and we were probing the woods with flashlights. But this corner of the woods covers only about 30 acres, and starts

30 yards behind the house. I have hunted it and searched it for morels and tapped its maple trees for the more than ten years I’ve lived here. In contrast, Grant had never been in this patch of the woods. At one point, I felt I was leading us away from a familiar landmark, a tower of sandstone just several minutes’ walk from the house. To my surprise, we soon came upon another tower of rock... Er, no, it was the same one – we had been walking toward it from the other side, not away from it. Half an hour later, after reorienting from the rock and marching confidently on, I announced to Grant that I was looping us back toward the house. “Um”, he said, pointing in the opposite direction, “Isn’t the house this way?” “No, I don’t think so,” I replied, with a bravery of voice that masked a creeping, familiar queasiness. Grant consulted his phone, found reception and a navigation app,

and sure enough, we had to turn around and walk nearly 180 degrees opposite from where I was about to take us.

This is typical. It’s as if my brain’s navigational apparatus isn’t exactly missing, but its poles are reversed. I know the way, but I am invariably wrong. If I say camp is “thatta way,” turn around, walk in the opposite direction, and you’ll soon be enjoying a cup of something warm by the campfire.

In my early twenties I lost my way metaphorically and spiritually, and took a break from the University of Wisconsin. Some months later I found myself in the backcountry of Idaho, on a three-week training course for professional hunting guides (this was the pre-GPS era, when life was map, compass and moss on the north side of a tree). At the conclusion of the course we graduates were offered fall placements with local outfitters. But the three weeks had confirmed in me enough about my

wilderness navigation skills (none) to impart the good sense to decline any job offers. I saw no point, nor any anticipated pleasure, in getting wealthy hunters from Chicago lost in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness (instead I returned home and finished school - where I sometimes had trouble finding my classrooms, and not just on the first day...).

In the film “The Edge,” Anthony Hopkins’s character, who is lost in Alaska with two others, observes, “Most people lost in the wilds, they die of shame.” I knew exactly the meaning of that line when I first heard it. More than once I had experienced the shame of my inability to keep my bearings in the woods, a shame that can then stimulate a rushed response to get unlost as quickly as possible – with the predictable result of getting lost even further. As Hopkins’s character knew, the shame and frustration of getting lost can rush us into

poor decisions, or cause us to give up in resignation and defeat – and neither is the one response that can best help: thinking calmly on a solution.

Another film that, unfortunately, often comes to mind when I start to feel disoriented on what I thought was familiar ground, especially as dusk is falling in the woods, is “The Blair Witch Project.” It’s a most creepy one, where you’re right, you shouldn’t be lost, but an unseen, malevolent force is screwing with you and leading you further and further astray. Good luck thinking your way out of that one. That film did for getting lost in the woods what “Jaws” did for swimming.

Perhaps all this explains, at least in part, my deep resonance with stream trout fishing. A stream is a one dimensional landscape, just upstream or downstream, and so it’s nearly impossible to get lost. As long as I can

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Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

130 Years Ago- Jan. 18, 1894

The shooting match last Tuesday was a lively affair. J. Birrenkott took eight of the winged and F. Stary of Barneveld bagged three with small expense.

“After the Ball” is all the rage now.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Hoff who have previously occupied rooms above their store have moved over to their father’s Mr. C. Bosch, who became alone in that house at the time of his wife’s death.

Turkeys 8 cents, Chickens 6 cents, Ducks 7 cents, Geese 7 cents, Dahle Brothers Co.

120 Years Ago- Jan. 21, 1904

The old mill well on the village lot has been put to test. A small gasoline engine is now at work. The well yields about six barrels per hour.

We have for sale 50 cows and heifers, all for factory purposes, also one full-blooded Hereford bull. Benson Brothers.

The concert and dance Monday evening was one of the most enjoyable times Mt. Horeb has had in a long time. The music was extra good. T. Johnson served a swell supper and those who braved the stormy night were well repaid.

110 Years Ago- Jan. 16, 1914

The new Daleyville church is ready for the finishers, plastering being finished last Monday, says the “Doings.”

This Friday evening the opening game will be played at the opera house, Mt. Horeb H.S. vs. Madison H.S. Come and help our boys win. A girls’ preliminary will also be played.

The Dane County Fair Association have decided to change the time of holding fair, commencing Aug. 25, just so as to have good weather for a change.

Pick out 20 young men and not more than five of them are making an effort to save money. The indications are that the poor house of the future will have to be six stories.

Many are making trips to Lake Park these days to see the newly constructed ski slide and all who see it are astounded at its dizzy height and express doubt that any man can make a descent without tumbling.

100 Years Ago- Jan. 15, 1924

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Mt. Horeb Bank held Monday 523 shares of stock was represented out of 700. The main question to be decided was the building of a new bank building in 1924. A vote resulted in only 15 against. Work will start early in the spring and soon a fine modern, fireproof financial institution will grace the corner now occupied by the building housing Garfoot’s restaurant, the most sightly location in the village.

The Middleton and Mt. Horde high school basketball teams fought an 11 to 11 draw Friday night. The game was rough at times and fouls were numerous.

Otto B. Dahle, the capable manager of Dahle’s big store, left Mt. Horeb Monday afternoon for Milwaukee where he will speak before the Retail Dry Goods Dealers Convention on the subject “From Credit to Cash.” The cash system adopted by our big stores last June surely has given Mt. Horeb and the men who are at the head of these stores a lot of food publicity as well as saving Mt. Horeb people many dollars on their purchases.

80 Years Ago- Jan. 20, 1944

Specials at the Kroger Store here this weekend are: 24-oz loaf bred, 10¢; 8-oz package Wheaties, 11¢; and Kroger coffee, 3 lbs. for 39¢

Many a fellow who thought he was a big cheese turned out to be only a ham.

Fred Scheidegger, cheesemaker in the Sand Rock factory, passed away suddenly Saturday, Jan. 15, at the age of 59 years.

The Strand Theatre is offering a full admission next week Thursday to everybody signing an application in the lobby to purchase a 4th War Loan bond. All you will be required to do is to buy a bond at either the post office or bank before the drive closes, Feb. 15.

70 Years Ago- Jan. 21, 1954

The Mount Horeb Café, formerly operated by Phil Intravia, opened for business Monday evening, Jan. 18, with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Friedli and son, as new proprietors.

The local department was called to extinguish a fire call on Thursday at the Grade A Pure Milk Association, and to a chimney fire at the Edwin Christopher home in Blue Mounds Saturday evening.

D. A. Kobs, Chairman of the Christmas Seals, reports a collection of \$585.68 from the people of Mount Horeb and vicinity.

Harland Swiggum came on Tuesday last week to spend several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Swiggum, and returned to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. on Saturday.

The Floyd Westphal farm, formerly known as the Knute Stolen farm in the Village of Mount Horeb, has been sold to Jerome Skindrud, Verona, who will take possession March 1. Ray Bakken made the deal.

60 Years Ago- Jan. 16, 1964

Carl Punswick, 39, of Verona suffered a possible skull fracture and broken ribs when he fell into a dry well. He is reported in serious condition, but responding fairly well to the treatment.

Two Mount Horeb men, Wallace Bohle and Glen Bohn, Sr., have formed a new company. Bohle and Bohn are the manufacture of portable ice sleds for ice fishing.

Milford R. Thompson, Route 2, Mount Horeb, was reelected president of District 10 of Pure Milk Association at the districts annual meeting. This will be his tenth term.

50 Years Ago- Jan. 17, 1974

Twenty-two applicants have been received since the Village of Mount Horeb began advertising for someone to become Mount Horeb’s first village administrator.

Wesley Bakken, age 56, rural Mount Horeb, was found dead in the haymow in his barn Sunday morning, Jan. 13, after suffering a heart attack. It is believed he died on Friday, Jan. 11.

School crossing guard, Alice Sutter, add-

ed a flashlight to her equipment as the winter morning dawn is dark during the daylight savings time. The temperature had already climbed to a 5 degree below zero mark.

A daughter, Michelle Lee, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Mlsna, Thursday, Jan. 10, at Madison General Hospital.

The Mount Horeb Volunteer Fire Department responded quickly to an early morning barn fire in Klevenville Saturday morning. The barn was owned by Emery Fink.

40 Years Ago- Jan. 19, 1984

Area residents near Blue Mounds Rd., south of Mount Horeb, are concerned for the safety of a man who likes after-dark strolls. At least three people have nearly driven their autos into the night walker and residents are afraid he will soon be hit as he walks down the middle of the road. Area residents would appreciate this man walking on the side of the road with reflective strips on his parka and carrying a flashlight.

At the annual meeting of the Mount Horeb Farmers’ Coop, a red Cenex jacket was presented to Lizzy Henderson, Mount Horeb, oldest known stockholder. She will celebrate her 99th birthday May 5.

30 Years Ago- Jan. 20, 1994

The big story locally and throughout the Midwest this week has been the weather. As workers prepared for the public open house Sunday at the new \$4.8 million dollar middle school, a pipe leading to the water heater burst, spilling water to the gym floor below. The open house and dedication scheduled for Sunday were cancelled and rescheduled for Jan. 30.

Pastor Larry Neil Skalet, age 43, Madison died on Sunday, Jan. 16, 1994, after a long illness with multiple sclerosis.

A daughter, Cassandra Mae, was born to Don and Dawn Cleary, Mount Horeb, on Thursday, Jan. 13, at St. Mary’s Hospital, Madison.Tara Opsal of Blue Mounds was given a “Younger Member Recognition Award” at the recent 1994 Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention held in Fond du Lac.

LOST

continued from page 4

walk perpendicularly from the road where I’ve parked to the stream, and back again, I’ll be fine, and even I can usually do that. Or, just park and start fishing at a bridge over the stream; not even a Blair Witch could readily muddle that up. My direction-finding deficiency might also figure into my affinity for the Driftless Area, given that hilly regions hold an ever-available solution when lost: simply walk downhill, since all slopes eventually lead down to streams, and all streams lead to roads.

In any case, we can be quite sure that I did not pass one of my former lives as a homing pigeon. Nor as a member of the Guugu Yimithirr tribe of northeastern Australia (note: I almost typed, in my abiding confusion, ‘northwestern Australia’). Guugu Yimithirr people use a system of ori-

entation based entirely on compass directions, to the extent that, remarkably, their language has no expressions for ‘left’, ‘right’, ‘front’ or ‘behind’. A Guugu Yimithirr person would not – could not – say, ‘Please pass me that cup, the cup to your left’, but would say ‘the cup to the south.’ Nor would they shout, ‘Watch out, snake behind you!’, but ‘Watch out, snake to the east!’.

As you can imagine, Guugu Yimithirr children learn early, as a second nature, to be ever-aware of their position in relation to the world, not independent of it, and how the world surrounds them. A Guugu Yimithirr person always knows which way is north. In contrast, for native speakers of English (or German, French, Spanish, Italian, etc.) whether something is to the left, right, behind or in front of me depends only on my orientation, independent of the world. It’s all about me

– which seems a bit lonely, truth be told. It can also be woefully unhelpful. If I’ve lost track of where I am in the woods, knowing which way is left or right will not be particularly beneficial.

There is, I think, a parallel in our emotional or spiritual lives (choose the adjective that best suits you). We can feel lost when we rely overly on ourselves, or insist

that the world orient to us. In fact, I can’t know where I am – or where to go – by just looking in the mirror.

And so my New Year’s resolution is to be more Guugu Yimithirr-like. To be *in* the world, and pay more attention, with head up, as I move through it. And if (er, when) I do get lost, in the woods or in my soul, I can at least try to find calm and acceptance

there. That, like finding home by walking downhill, is always available.

“Folk School Classes” at www.folklorevillage.org.

You can join Bill on Saturday, March 9, for a one-day workshop on making maple syrup (and he promises to not get the class lost in the maple woods). The event is offered through Folklore Village, and details and registration are available under

Bill (“Bird”) Robichaud is an award-winning conservation biologist who lives on a farm north of Barneveld, on ancestral Ho-Chunk land. He hasn’t grocery shopped for a meal in four years, and chronicles the experience at www.birdinthebush.net.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

School bus fuel tanks freeze

After a pair of snow days last week, local students got another day off on Tuesday of this week. District families received the following message from superintendent Dr. Steve Salerno Tuesday morning: “As buses were starting this morning, fuel tanks were getting gelled up leaving our busses stranded. Each winter we make sure to use additives to our fuel lines. Despite our efforts, we can not recover this morning. We will need to cancel school for the day, today. We are deeply apologetic for what this has

caused our families.” Snowmobile trails open

Dane County Snowmobile Trails in all regions opened Friday, January 12, 2024. Conditions were reported as good. Users are reminded to watch for groomers. Within Dane County, there are over 500 miles of snowmobile trails including Badger, Glacial Drumlin and the Military Ridge State Trails. For trails to be open, there must be at least six inches of snow and steady below freezing temperatures. A State Snowmobile Trail Pass is required to ride on the snowmobile trail system.

“With the trails opening, snowmobile enthusiasts are eager to take their first ride of the season,” said Mark Stephens, President of the Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs. “This is the first time that we’ve had adequate snow conditions to open the trails. We want to remind riders to use caution and watch for changing conditions, as there will likely be uneven terrain, snow covered icy sections and the potential for open water in the marshes and waterways.”

According to Sergeant Kyle McNally, from the Dane County Sheriff’s Office – Marine and Trail Enforcement Bureau, “The majority of snowmobile trails are on private lands throughout Dane County. Riders should not deviate from designated trails. Snowmobile trails are for snowmobiles only unless otherwise designated, so please obey trail signs.” Sergeant McNally reminds snowmobilers to drive safely, not drink and drive and to review all snowmobile regulations before venturing out on the trails.

To receive up-to-date information on trail openings and closing, visit the Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs’ website, Facebook page, or call

the Snowmobile Trails Hotline at (608) 242-4576. For up-to-date information on Dane County Parks trail closures and conditions, visit the Dane County Parks Closures & Trail Conditions webpage.

First farmers market of the new year

The Mt. Horeb Farmers Market will be holding its first indoor market of the new year this Saturday, January 20, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 315 E. Main Street between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. There will be plenty of parking both on Main St. and in the large parking lot behind the church. Enter the building from either the front or the back and follow the signs.

For more information contact the market at mthorebfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Top baby names announced

Upland Hills Health Hospital released its top baby names for 2023. The top baby boy names for 2023 were Jack, Baylor and James. Ella, Evelyn and Everly were tied for the most popular name for a girl.

There were 226 babies born between January 2 and December 28, 2023 at the Dodgeville hospital.

All about water

We drink it, fish in it, clean with it, swim in it and travel across it. Water has always been critical for our survival. The Great Lakes region is home to one of the largest freshwater resources on the planet. That water shaped the landscape, history and communities of our state. Explore this history at the Mt. Horeb Public Library, now through February 5 through the Wisconsin Historical Society’s “Great Lakes Small Streams: How Water Shapes Wisconsin” traveling exhibit. This 16-panel display tells the story 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!

Dems named in lawmaker map lawsuit

In December, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that the maps the State Legislature currently governs under are unconstitutional. With the Supreme Court requiring new maps be adopted before the 2024 elections, the Court set a January 12 deadline for parties to file remedial maps.

Senator Tim Carpenter (Milwaukee), Senator Chris Larson (Milwaukee), Senator Mark Spreitzer (Beloit), Senator Dianne Hesselbein (Middleton), and Senator Jeff Smith (Brunswick)—the five Senate Democrats named in the lawsuit—filed their proposed remedial map and released the following statement:

“For too long the will of the majority was stifled due to highly partisan, gerrymandered legislative maps that were recently ruled unconstitutional by the state’s highest court. Policy preferences that are widely popular throughout the state, like BadgerCare expansion, reproductive freedom, and cannabis legalization, have been easily ignored by Republican legislators, operating with unfettered power and a complete lack of accountability.”

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Mt. Horeb Seniors lunch outing, Mt. Vernon. 10:00am, RSVP, 608-4902

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

Farmers’ Winter Market, 9:00am-1:00pm, Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church, 315 E. Main Street

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

Seasonal Card Making, 11:30am, RSVP - 608-279-6108 by Jan. 18

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

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@fingerpub.com. We reserve the right to edit for length.

By Stan Hook
Sugar River Euchre

Effective immediately, the Express and the Pipe Benders will once again play their home matches at Morgan’s Bar & Grill.

It was a tough night for the Shufflers once the Express fired up their engines and pushed on the throttle. The Shufflers were up by 7 after the first frame, but continually lost ground until they found themselves down by 41 at the end of the seventh frame. Reducing the difference by 13 points in the eighth frame just wasn’t enough. The Shufflers were seated firmly in the caboose on this trip, losing by 28 points. All four Express couples broke 100.

Able to play at their home bar once again, the Morgan Pipe Benders found themselves in a tight match against the Red Mouse Uff-das. Halfway through the match, the Pipe Benders were down by 24. But in the eighth frame, after 3 of the 4 tables had re-

ported their scores, the Pipe Benders were up by 3. The match was now in the hands of Pipe Benders, Jerome Krantz and Tracy Beutel and Uff-das John Baumgartner and Bruce Milestone. If Bruce and John held Tracy and Jerome to 11 points or less, then team Uff-da would win. But if Jerome and Tracy scored 13 or more then the match belonged to the Pipe Benders. John and Bruce won the game but lost the match. With 13 points, Tracy and Jerome secured a 1 point victory for the Pipe Benders.

Even in this cold weather, the Kleeman Hay Shakers bailed up a 27 point win over the Viking Trolls. Fred Ryser and part timer Scott Austin led the way for the Hay Shakers scoring 113 points, this week’s high score. Trolls Scott Hook and Kevin Ollendick gave it their best recording 112 points for the Trolls.

At Fort Norsk, Cowboys Marvin Thompson and Dean Disch implemented

a strong defense against the J&M River Rats losing just two games to finish the battle with 112 direct hits. Whereas River Rats Jack Gehin and Honker (Dan) Palmer found it necessary to re-evaluate their attack plan after scoring just one hit in each of their first two games. As horrific as Honker and Jack started out the night, they scored 10 more hits than did fellow teammates Jimmy Gehin and Erine Sarbacker. Jimmy and Erine scored just 73 hits all night, barely avoiding this week’s low score. The Cowboy’s barricaded in a well-fortified defense held off the River Rats inflicting 51 more hits than the Rats.

It was Cheese Eaters Jeff Buesser and Keith Wenger that took the honor of recording this week’s low score of 72 points against the Norsk Pranksters. All four Prankster couples broke 100 with Corey O’Hearn and Laurel Grindle stuffing 112 points into their hat of tricks. Teammates Rodney

Latham and Dave Hook stuffed another 111 points into the hat for the Pranksters. As a bonus the Pranksters returned home with 92 lbs. of cheese taken from the Cheese Eaters’ stores.

Standings:

Express 2-0
Kleeman’s 2-0
Cowboys 1-1
J&M Bar 1-1
Pipe Benders 1-1
Pranksters 1-1
Shufflers 1-1
Uff-Da 1-1
Cheese Eaters 0-2
Trolls 0-2

Jan. 18

Schedule:

Trolls @ Uff-da (7:00)
Shufflers @ Hay Shakers (7:00)
Pipe Benders @ Pranksters (7:30)
Cowboys @ Express (7:00)
Cheese Eaters @ River Rats (8:00)

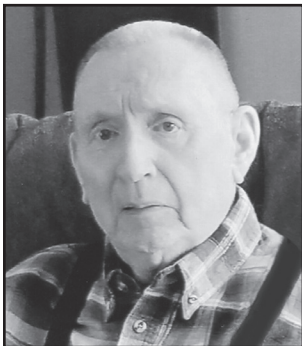
Sugar River Euchre

COMMUNITY

Obituary

Robert Raymond Gentz

Dec. 16, 1935 -
Jan. 3, 2024



FITCHBURG / MOUNT HOREB - Robert Raymond Gentz, age 88, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024, at Badger Prairie Health Care Center, Verona, Wis.

Robert was born on Dec. 16, 1935, in Madison, the son of Raymond and Melissa (Raisbeck) Gentz. He attended school in Mount Horeb and then married his childhood sweetheart, Barbara Peterson, on Nov. 8, 1952.

He provided for his family by working in the dairy industry and driving school bus for many years. In his free time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and simply being outdoors.

Robert is survived by his

children, Mary Ellen (Richard) Tremelling of Fitchburg, Robert Jeffrey (Ok Soon) Gentz of Deming, N.M., and Margie (Phillip) Price of Lake in the Hills, Ill.; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brother, Howard (Patty) Gentz; and sister, Ruth (Roger) Schmitz. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara, in May 2023, and also by his parents.

A memorial service was held at SPRINGDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 2752 Town Hall Road, Mount Horeb, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024. Burial at Springdale Lutheran Cemetery followed the service on Saturday.

Memorials may be made in Robert's honor to the Agrace Foundation, 5395 Cheryl Parkway, Fitchburg, WI 53711. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

Gunderson Camacho
Mount Horeb
Funeral & Cremation Care
500 N. Eighth St.
(608) 437-5077

Local students named to UW dean's list

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction.

To view an online listing, visit registrar.wisc.edu/deanslist. Use the data display dashboard to find students from your circulation area who have received this honor. For questions or concerns about eligibility, please contact deanslist-registrar@em.wisc.edu

Blue Mounds:

Maja Hastings, School of Education, Dean's List

Lena Komar, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Samuel Mrochek, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List

Braden Schleip, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Taylor Zenz, School of Nursing, Dean's Honor List

Mount Horeb:

Camryn Anderson, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List

Hannah Ball, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Lukas Bennin, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Natalie Broderick, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Lexi Connors, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Marin Danz, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Kate Donaldson, School

of Business, Dean's List

Cree Faber, School of Education, Dean's List

Caralyn Felcyn, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Sara Fritz, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's Lis

Carter Gilkes, School of Human Ecology, Dean's Honor List

Margaret Harvey, School of Nursing, Dean's Honor Lis

Mary Harvey, School of Nursing, Dean's Honor List

Genevieve Helin, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List

Kaitlyn Israngkun Na Ayuthia, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Carson Jochimsen, School of Business, Dean's List

Erin Kelley, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Maggie Kelley, School of Education, Dean's List

TOLA Klabough, Col of

Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List

Garrison Lindley, School of Education, Dean's List

KATIE Manchester, School of Education, Dean's List

Ireland McMahan, School of Pharmacy, Honor Roll

Tegan Quinn, School of Pharmacy, High Honor Roll

Quentin Rosborough, College of Engineering, Dean's Honor List

Marissa Rumler, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List

Christopher Sailing, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List

Adam Shumate, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List

Taya Sutter, School of Human Ecology, Dean's Honor List

Ridgeway:

Laurel Statz, School of Human Ecology, Dean's Honor List

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) invites individuals with a passion for promoting agriculture to apply to be the 77th Alice in Dairyland through January 31, 2024.

Applicants must also be female, Wisconsin residents, and at least 21 years old.

This one-year, full-time, contractual position starts July 8, 2024. The chosen candidate will travel extensively and be required to be in-person at the DATCP's Madison office each week. The annual salary for Alice in Dairyland is \$45,000 and includes holiday, vacation, and sick leave, and

use of a state vehicle while on official business. Reimbursement is provided for an individual health insurance premium up to \$450 a month and professional travel expenses.

To apply, provide a cover letter, completed application form, resume, and contact information for three

professional references to DATCPAlice@wisconsin.gov or PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911 by 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2024. Application materials are available on the Alice in Dairyland website.

Qualified applicants will have a preliminary interview on February 24.

BOARD

continued from page 1

profession," Chief Vierck said. "In a time where fewer and fewer are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement, Braden and Kyle stepped up and answered the call."

Consideration of Historic Preservation Commission

The Village Board discussed and ultimately unanimously approved Ordinance 2024-01: creating the standalone Historic Preservation Commission. The vote follows a December 20 public hearing at which the Plan Commission recommended that the Village Board make the reinstatement.

"I think some of the things that maybe people want to do with a standalone committee, they could have done with the joint committee, but maybe this change will

be a little bit of a spur," Village Trustee Ben Jones said. "Even if it wasn't necessary for those efforts, maybe it will make it a little easier and start the ball rolling."

Village Trustee Marc Schellpfeffer remarked on the commission's value in planning for developments within the downtown area but stated that a holistic approach should be utilized when determining the historic significance of Mount Horeb's older buildings.

"It's not looking at something in a vacuum and saying that it's historic because it's old. Let's talk about why it's historic, and what it brings of value to downtown," Trustee Schellpfeffer said. "I think it's great that we're separating it. The key is getting people that have some professionalism in it and understand the reasoning behind it."

The public is encour-

aged to complete the citizen nomination form for the five members who will make up the Commission. Commission members will ultimately be appointed by Village President Ryan Czyzewski and confirmed by the Board.

In Other News

Some other items of discussion included the Board's decision to award Vandewalle Associates a contract for ongoing planning services for the Village, while tabling the rewriting of a zoning code. Through Ordinance 2024-02, Village Board trustees also voted

"yes" to amend Section 9.18 Tobacco Products Prohibited to now include vapor products. Finally, the Board announced their support for Resolution 2024-01: the Addition of Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial to State Highway Maps.

The next Village Board meeting will be a joint meeting with the Board of Education and the Chamber of Commerce. It takes place on Monday, January 29 at the Senior Center (107 N Grove Street) at 5:30 p.m. Prior to the meeting, supper will be served at 5:00 p.m.

CHURCH NOTES

Good News Lutheran Church - WELS

NEW LOCATION:
9975 Pepper Dr
Pastor Jonathan Bauer
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
(in person and online)
Sunday School and Bible Study 10:15 am
608-437-4646 visit
GoodNewsLC.org/location
for details & directions

Immanuel Lutheran Church
www.immanuelmh.org
Sunday 10:00 service
310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb

Immanuel Lutheran Church
www.immanuelmh.org
Sunday 10:00 service
310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb

Mt Horeb Evangelical Lutheran
315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012
www.elcmthoreb.org
Facebook: evangelical
lutheran church of mt. horeb
8am morning devotions M-F
9am in-person Sunday Worship
Pre-Recorded online worship/
also available via telephone call
1-855-514-2017

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

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ
693 Highway 92 in Mt Vernon
608-832-6677
www.mtvernonuucc.org
Sunday Worship, in-person and
on Facebook Live, 10:15 am
Email:
pastormtvernon@gmail.com
We are an Open and Affirming
Congregation

New Hope Evangelical Free Church

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

Perry Lutheran Church ELCA

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

Springdale Lutheran Church
2752 Town Hall Rd. 608-437-3493

Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th
Sundays of the month at 10am
twosteeple.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

Students visit Hauge Church on unique field trip



Pictured in the glow of the red light used to maintain night vision in the dark is David, shown setting up one of the telescopes used for the field trip.

Madison Magazine awarded the Town of Perry’s Hauge Historic District Park “Best Place To Watch A Sunset in Dane County.” But Mary Lorenz, a teacher at the Clark Street Community School in the Middleton Cross Plains School District, had another idea. The park closes after sunset. But Mary asked the Town of Perry Supervisors if she could bring her class to the park after dark for an astronomy field trip to watch

the stars, not the sun. The Clark Street Community School teaches interdisciplinary seminars. The students were in a Space Math class where they were learning algebra and precalculus concepts in the context of studying astronomy. This was not the first time she brought her students to the park. Students from that class came out to the park for stargazing in 2019 and 2022 as well. But this time Mary’s husband David had a

new treat for them. An even bigger telescope. One that could peer even deeper into the reaches of outer space. The Supervisors approved Mary’s request to hold the astronomy class in the park after closing hours, and the students were not disappointed. That is because the Town of Perry has an unusually dark sky which reveals many more celestial objects. In July of 2014, the Town of Perry passed a Dark Sky Ordinance enthusiastically

supported by Town residents. It requires all new and replacement outdoor lighting to use “dark sky approved” light fixtures, also known as “down lights.” Down lights are commonly seen along roads and parking areas in Mount Horeb and many other communities. The International Dark Sky Association maintains a list of approved outdoor lighting fixtures that shield light, preventing it from shining up into the sky or

sideways into neighbors’ homes. After passage of the Dark Sky Ordinance, the Association presented an award to the Town of Perry for preserving the night sky. The effect of light pollution on the night sky was dramatically illustrated in a widely acclaimed video called “Lost In Light – A Short Film.” It shows what the faint Milky Way looks like from urban areas where there are lots of outdoor lights. Then it compares what it actually looks like when outdoor lights are shielded, turned off, or there are none at all: a spectacular and brilliant horizon to horizon painting in the heavens that most of us will never see. The amazing video can be found by searching for the film’s title on YouTube. Sky Quality Meter devices measure sky darkness in “magnitudes per arc second square.” A “magnitude” is a measure of brightness. In geometry, angles are measured in degrees, minutes and seconds. An “arc second” is the tiniest angle (second) spread out in the sky. A “square arc second” covers an area approximately the size of a dime seen from two-and one-half miles away. A “mags per arc second square” number towards 16-17 means the sky is very light polluted. A number near 21 means the sky is very dark. The highest number for a perfect dark sky is 22. During the students’ visit to the Town’s Historic District park, the night sky

measured 21. The park’s high vantage point has spectacular 360-degree views of the night sky. Satellites and even the International Space Station can easily be viewed from the park. Just before the students stepped out of their school bus, a long row of Star Link Satellites slowly arced through the dark sky from horizon to horizon like a string of pearls on a necklace. An amazing sight. But one filled with concern among astronomers because the sky is becoming filled with thousands of orbiting satellites that are interfering with research telescopes around the world. As the students stepped out of the bus, they looked up into the night sky and expressed their surprise at being able to see the entire Milky Way with the naked eye. The new large telescope treated the students to views of the Andromeda Galaxy and a satellite galaxy orbiting it. Jupiter’s moons were also visible, as were Saturn’s rings. The class theme this year was the physics of gravity and orbits, so the views of planetary moons, rings and a galaxy orbiting another one were all perfect. The students also saw the Ring Nebula, the Lagoon Nebula and the Pleiades and M11 star clusters, all billions of miles away. A galaxy is a huge collection of billions of stars and their solar systems. A nebula is an enormous cloud of dust and gas occupying the space between stars acting as a nursery for new stars. A star cluster is a large group of stars that have a common origin and are gravitationally bound together.

After the students’ field trip was over, Mary summarized their experience in three words: “They loved it.”

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(608) 437-5555

Business News



Chamber welcomes new Olson's owner

The new owner of Olson's Flowers & Gifts, Kristen Dresen, along with her friends, family, chamber ambassadors, and members of the business community, celebrated the retail shop's updates and brand refresh with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on November 28, 2023.

Dresen is committed to carrying forward the Olson's tradition of quality, full-service floral and is expanding the retail shop's gift selection with more home and seasonal decor. The interior and exterior of the historic building have enjoyed a refresh, and Dresen is eager to welcome in community members to the updated space, which is located at 214 E Main Street, Mount Horeb.

You can learn more about Olson's Flowers & Gifts by visiting www.olsonsflores.net, by calling 608-437-3017 or by stopping in during business hours.



Mark It celebrates move to Blue Mounds

Mark It, Mt. Horeb's screen print, embroidery and custom promotional products company, has a new home in Blue Mounds, WI. Bob Thompson, owner of Mark It has partnered with Steve Grundahl to expand their facilities in the Blue Mounds Industrial Park. This shared facility has more than 19,000 square feet of space. Mark It occupies 10,500 square feet plus a 1,400 square feet mezzanine.

The new construction comes complete with a reception area, sample room, conference room, private offices and an employee break room. The embroidery department is located in a dedicated climate control space. The screen print area has a sectioned screen reclaim area for pre and post fulfillment. The direct to film department utilizes the mezzanine which is also climate controlled. The building also has a shared dock for shipping and receiving that will offer a more efficient experience for drivers and customers.

"We were very fortunate to partner with Steve and Suzi Grundahl on this project. Steve has been instrumental in helping Mark It find a new home as the company expands," said Bob Thompson. "We are also really excited for our employees to have a new facility that offers more space to build in better efficiencies and brand new accommodations." It's been a long journey with three previous moves as we've continued to grow but we're excited to finally have a long-term home to kick off the new year."

Mark It celebrated the move with an Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, December 22.

The Electrician, Inc. Announces Promotion of Cole McCloskey to CEO



The Electrician, Inc. announces the promotion of Cole McCloskey to CEO. Cole started his tenure with The Electrician, Inc. in 2011 and quickly worked his way into being selected for the ABC of Wisconsin apprenticeship program starting in the fall of 2012. Cole then worked his way quickly into a leadership role and was ultimately selected as a Shareholder and COO of the company in April 2019. Since then, Cole has worked hand-in-hand with Brent Yauchler to manage the company, and has played a major role in the company's continued growth and success. Brent Yauchler founded The Electrician, Inc. in 2004 and has been CEO and President of the company since. Under Brent's leadership, the company has experienced significant growth and success over the past two decades. Brent will continue to be a Shareholder, and as of January 1st, 2024, he will assume both the title of Chief Strategy Officer and Chairman of our advisory committee. He will be advising Cole and other key company leaders regularly and working with them to strategize, plan, and improve the company's operations and continued mission to better serve our customers. Cole, along with the management and field team, will be solely responsible for overseeing the Company's day-to-day operations.





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Countryside News



By JERRY DAVIS
Countryside News

Wisconsin is home to three “rabbit” species but two of the three are really hares, rabbit-like animals with larger ears, larger hind legs and a touch larger than cottontail rabbits. The other two, snowshoe hare and white-tailed rabbit are both hares. Jack-rabbits (hares) were introduced into Wisconsin in the early 1900s, but began disappearing about 1950. They are now a rare and protected species. Most people have never seen a jack-rabbit in Wisconsin. Snowshoe hares are common in Northern Wisconsin, and may be hunted year-round. Cottontails are a small game species with a long season ending February 29. All three bunny-like males are called bucks and the others are does. Female hares are a bit larger than males, which is an odd trait for mammals.

Service Club News

HEATH DAVIS IS “SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW”

Heath Davis is “Someone You Should Know.” Heath was chosen as the Optimist Club’s high school recipient of the “Someone You Should Know” award for outstanding community service for the month of November. Heath is a senior at Mt. Horeb High School. He has been an active member of the music and performing arts, portraying Flounder in “The Little Mermaid,” Hugo in “Bye Bye Birdie,” and most recently, Lucas Beineke in “the Addams Family.” Heath sings in Madrigal and Troubadours, and is serving as Choir Board President this year. He is also in Jazz Band, Marching Band, and is on the Band Board. Heath was the manager for the Varsity Boys

Soccer Team. In the spring, Heath volunteers as a student director for the Middle School musicals. Beyond extracurricular activities at Mt. Horeb High School, Heath has attended summer camp at Frogwarts Drama Camp and in recent years was asked to assist as a prefect, leading student groups. He also helps to set-up and clean-up the camp every year. Heath shares his musical talent playing guitar and singing for the residents of BeeHive Homes. Heath Davis was honored at the November meeting of the Optimist Club. He received a certificate and \$50.00. The Optimist Club of Mt. Horeb is proud to name Heath Davis as “Someone You Should Know.”



Kristin, Heath, and Andy Davis.

OWEN WRIGHT IS “SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW”

The following is Wright’s college submission essay, which he shared with the Mount Horeb Optimist Club: I stand up and bow as a few claps ring through the room. I look up and see some smiling faces and some blank stares. Sitting down, I feel a finger tap my shoulder. I turn and see an elderly man in a wheelchair, red and brown spots on his wrinkly skin. I immediately feel awkward and out of place. Interacting with strangers, especially the elderly, does not come naturally to me. The man asks me how long I have been playing piano. I shyly respond and tell him how I have been playing piano since third grade, and before I know it, he is telling me about his time as a young teenager growing up in the 1950s. I can barely understand his frail voice, but I sit there and nod, listening quietly to his many

stories. Before long, it’s time for me to leave. I tell the man that I will be back next month to continue our conversation and play more music for him and the other residents at the assisted living home. I walk out the door feeling warm inside, knowing I made the day better for this one. Helping the one has been a theme throughout my growing years. A big part of my teenage years were spent participating in and leading various service activities with my local church and my family. Some of these included preparing meals for residents of the Ronald McDonald House, cleaning and landscaping backyards of the elderly, delivering meals on wheels, and bell ringing for the Salvation Army. These activities have made me a more open and independent person, bringing me out of my comfort zone and teaching me how

to interact with others no matter their age, color, or economic status. These lessons have been important in my maturity and growth as a person. Planning and coordinating various service activities has taught me how to take a position of leadership which does not come naturally to me. Not all of the acts of service I have done have involved me interacting with the one. For example, my family and I fill shoe boxes with toys, clothes, and other necessities for children in developing countries every Christmas. I don’t get to see these children in person, but I can imagine their excitement when they open their boxes. I don’t get to see the smiles on Veterans faces when they open a card I wrote to them, but I can imagine that smile. I definitely can’t interact with the owners of the gravestones I’m taking photos of for Bil-



Jeremy, Owen and Erica Wright.

lionGraves, but I know it’s a service to their descendants to be able to locate their graves. My desire is to study healthcare at The University of Minnesota Twin Cities. I can’t imagine a better way to continue my service to

the one than in this profession. I will use the lessons I have learned in a service-oriented life as I continue in the next stage of my development. The desire to give to my community has been instilled in me; now I need the knowledge and

skills that will increase my capacity to perform that giving. Whether it’s a seen or an unseen one, all service, all giving, makes a difference, and maybe the biggest difference it will make is in this one, me.

CHRISTMAS

continued from page 1

a Christmas meal, and that every child in a low-income family home, along with disabled adults and seniors, will have gifts under their tree on Christmas morning.

Due to many large-scale factors, such as the end of pandemic-era increased foodshare dollars, ongoing inflation at the grocery store, lack of affordable housing, and increased fuel cost, the demand for NHN Food/Clothing Programs is up 51 percent since December of 2022, with the number of senior citizens utilizing the Food Closet program, increasing 41 percent, largely due to the decrease in their food share dollars.

The increased need is also seen by programs like the Mount Horeb Giving Tree. In 2018, the Giving Tree served 280 children, seniors, and adults with disabilities. This year, the Giving Tree served 418 children, seniors and adults with disabilities.

Jessica Killingbeck, Giving Tree Coordinator,

shared, “We are thankful to live in such a giving and loving community. Each year, we see a rise in gift requests, and each year, the community takes more tags and donates more gifts for those less fortunate. It really encompasses the true meaning of Christmas: love your neighbor.”

Operation Christmas reached its peak the week of December 10th. Christmas gifts, along with personal hygiene items and winter gear, were collected throughout the community and by the Intermediate Center, and blankets were collected by the local faith communities. The Giving Tree elves distributed gifts to 124 Seniors, most of which reside at Ingleside or participate in Senior Center activities, and to 57 disabled adults, 45 who frequent MARC in town. On December 15th, gifts were distributed to 94 families, for a total of 237 children at the United Methodist Church.

Operation Christmas was still in full force on-site at NHN as the Food Closet Co-



In 2023, Neighbors Helping Neighbors served 294 children, 477 adults ages 18-59, and 164 adults 60-plus.

ordinators began staging for the distribution of Christmas Baskets. Ann Szalkowski, Food Closet Co-Coordinator, said, “we are going to do things a little differently this year. Rather than giving families a pre-package bag or box of food for their Christmas meal, we thought

it would be nice to let them choose the foods their family would like to prepare.” The NHN Food Storage/Recovery area was reworked slightly to give families an area to shop for a variety of foods, for their Christmas meals. Families were able to choose from a ham

donated by Ruby’s Pantry at New Hope Church, or a turkey, along with choices of carrots, squash, canned veggies, canned fruit, mac & cheese, yams or potatoes, biscuits, pistachios, fresh pineapple, and for dessert families could choose to receive a cherry or blueberry

pie. Christmas Basket distribution took place during open hours, December 21-23rd and 110 families received a Christmas meal through this program.

In 2023, Neighbors Helping Neighbors served more than: 353 Unique Households (178 of these households are new this year). These households are made up of 294 children, 477 adults ages 18-59, and 164 adults 60-plus. Distributing 489,165 pounds of food, which is the equivalent of 407,638 meals on the tables of our neighbors in need, in the MHASD and surrounding rural communities.

If you would like to learn more about our many programs that provide hope and a helping hand to our neighbors in need, volunteering, or making a donation in support of our ongoing work in our community, please visit our website at: <https://www.mthorebneighbors.org/>. Donations can also be sent to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, PO BOX 196, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572.

CARE

continued from page 1

portant aspect of the school will be, Parmley was quick to respond.

“That they are loved. And they are. They need to hear that,” he said. “They will be loved, and cared for, and safe.”

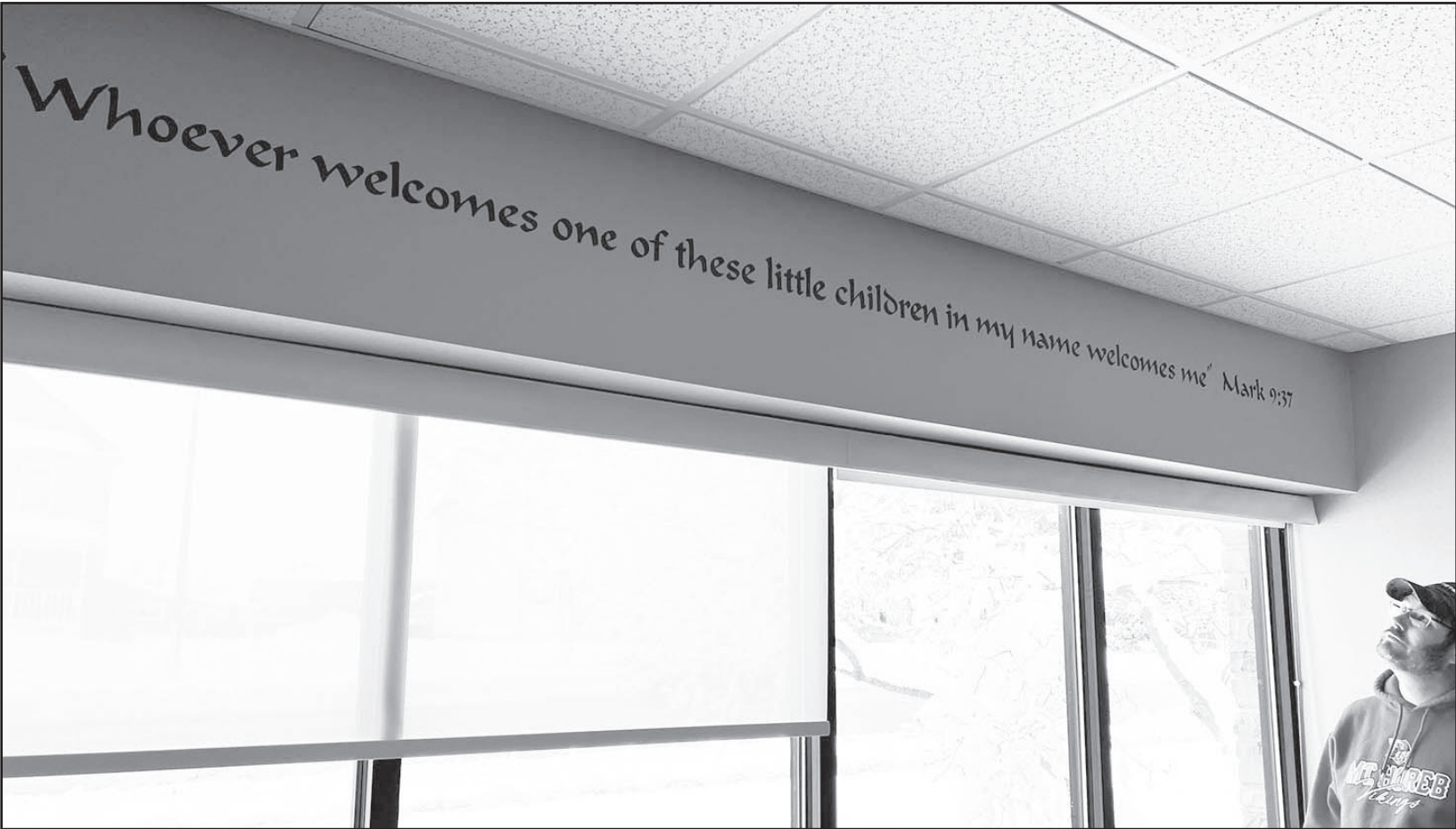
Village leaders in Mount Horeb last year said the dearth of childcare options locally had gotten so bad that they needed to launch an ambitious program to encourage people to open at least a dozen new in-home providers. Parmley and other members of Immanuel’s church council saw an article about the need in the *Mount Horeb Mail*, but they had already been mulling the possibility for years. In fact, the church was considering offering childcare prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The village’s discussion only added fuel to the fire, inspiring members of the church to push forward and begin filling the need as soon as possible. The release of the most recent census figures only reinforced how serious the shortage is.

Sipping his morning coffee and walking between rows and rows of cubbies, Parmley explains that First Steps will be able to take approximately 100 children.

“This was our Sunday school space, but during the week it mostly sits empty, which I think is a shame,” he said.

To members of this Lutheran congregation, the new endeavor offers the opportunity for faith and service to come together.

“Our mission statement is to know Christ and to make



“This is part of our ministry,” says Pastor Jared Parmley. Photo by Matt Geiger.

Christ known,” said Parmley. “That’s it. We feel very passionate about Christian education. This center will meet a desperate need and allow lots of contact with young families, which will give us the opportunity to teach kindness and how to be a good neighbor. It will allow us to live out our mission statement in a tangible way.”

“For me, personally, just to have children around all the time brings such a wonderful energy,” he added. “To know we are providing a safe place for them.”

Parmley said one thing he has never questioned is the need for what they will offer. The only unknowns have been regarding various details. They have been

addressing those as they figure out the breadth of what First Steps offers. The space has actually been used for childcare before – two other daycares, Little Vikings and A Place to Grow actually started at Immanuel before moving to their own quarters – so they knew the space could work. They have a kitchen, plenty of rooms, a playground and a location in the village’s downtown.

The church council will oversee both the church and the daycare under a 501c3 license, but the center will operate as a separate entity to some degree.

“We’ve also established an advisory committee,” said Parmley.

It will start with seven employees.

“We’re finding very good local people; very good candidates,” he said.

Parmley said First Steps will be committed not only to children, but also its workers.

“We want this daycare to focus less on the bottom line and more on providing a service for our community, and providing a living wage for employees,” he said. “We’re willing to make less of a profit to make sure that happens. I think that’s part of why the church was willing to do it, and I don’t think it’s the role of churches to come up with the most profitable businesses.”

There has been a learning curve as the church transitions into a relatively new realm.

“I’m not a daycare entrepreneur, so I’ve been a little surprised by all the hoops we had to jump through,” said Parmley. “But I completely understand, of course.”

“We had faith that if it was meant to be it would all fall into place, and it has,” he added.

Throughout the process, members of Immanuel have reached out to anyone who might be able to guide them toward their destination. In their own congregation, they asked for advice from people who were previously involved in starting Agape, which now operates out of Evangelical Lutheran Church just a few blocks away. One of the most helpful sources has been the daycare center at Vortex Optics

in Barneveld.

“We have not contacted any daycare that hasn’t been helpful. They all understand the need, and nobody has been territorial or anything,” Parmley said.

Asked what the most important message about First Steps is, Parmley referenced Proverbs: “Teach children in the right way, and when they are old they will not stray.”

He said it truly will be part of the larger Immanuel community.

“This is not another entity just renting our space,” Parmley said. “This is us. This is part of our ministry.”

To learn more, email Director@immanuelmh.org or call 608-218-4425.

Sports Editor
Rob Reischel
robreischel@gmail.com

SPORTS

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Vikings fall in Badger Challenge

DeForest tops Mount Horeb

by DENNIS SEMRAU
Sports Reporter

Ella Fager has enjoyed being a three-sport athlete at Mount Horeb High School.

While she has had more success on the soccer pitch and golf course, Fager said she is still enjoying her senior basketball season.

“I love how much everybody pushes each other, and we all stick together,” said Fager, one of the Vikings’ four co-captains. “Even when things are going bad, we’re hyping each other up. We just keep fighting through it.”

Monday night was one of those nights where the host Vikings (4-9 overall, 3-4 Badger Small Conference) had to tread through some difficult waters.

DeForest used a full-court press to grab an early lead and cruise to a 72-39

continued on page 15



Maren Johnson and Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team fell to DeForest Monday night. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Perfectly positioned

Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team in second place at midway point of the conference season

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

They’ve hit the halfway point.

And they remain in perfect position to check off one of their goals.

Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team defeated Reedsburg, 54-41, on Jan. 11 and stayed in the hunt for the Badger Small Conference title.

The Vikings reached the midway point in the conference season with a 6-1 record and are one game behind league-leading Stoughton (7-0, 11-2). Mount Horeb is also 8-3 overall.

“That is pretty good work,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said

of the Vikings’ first half. “We have set ourselves up for a battle with Stoughton on Jan 25 to try and get a share of the conference lead before facing the rest of the teams again.”

Josh Manchester led the Vikings with 16 points, while Nick Vorwald added 13. Zach Maguire had eight points, while Griffin Hannah chipped in with six.

The Vikings played without senior post Austin Leibfried, who missed the game with an abdominal injury.

The Vikings jumped to an 11-5 lead midway through the first half.

Maguire had a pair of baskets to start the game.

continued on page 14



Zach Maguire and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team defeated Reedsburg on Jan. 11. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



Birdies and brains

The Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin (GCAW) announced that (clockwise from top) Delaina Nicewander, Ella Fager and Emma Olsen of Mount Horeb High School were selected as a 2023 Academic-All State honorees. Lainy Hesseling (not pictured) was also honored.

Students are submitted by GCAW coaches based on the following criteria:

- 1) The student-athlete has a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher.
- 2) The student-athlete participated in at least 75% of their team’s varsity matches during the previous season.
- 3) The student-athlete is a sophomore, junior, or senior.

Fager, Nicewander, Olsen and Hesseling are student-athletes that set a great example for others, proving that athletic and academic successes are not mutually exclusive.

The GCAW announced that 434 students from 106 different high schools have been honored this year. In fact, the average GPA of these students is an exceptional 3.824.

The GCAW was formed by high school golf coaches in 1986 to help build and enhance Wisconsin’s reputation for developing quality junior players by promoting golf in our schools and communities.

TOWN OF VERMONT PLAN COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 22, 2024
4017 County Hwy JJ, Black Earth, WI 53515
See townofvermontwi.gov for meeting agenda.
Please note: You can sign up for emailed meeting agendas at www.townofvermontwi.gov
Publish: 1/18/24 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PRIMROSE

The Town of Primrose will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, January 18th, 2024 beginning at 7:30pm to review the proposed changes to the Primrose Land Use Plan. Notice of this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, on the Town website and on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

Publish: 1/18/24 **WNAXLP**

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Adams Friendship Times-Reporter.....	Noon Wednesday, the week prior to publication
Post Messenger Recorder.....	11 am Thursday, the week prior to publication
Star News.....	Noon Thursday, the week prior to publication
Mount Horeb Mail.....	1 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication
Times-Tribune.....	2 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication
Home News.....	10 am Friday, the week prior to publication
Marquette County Tribune.....	10 am Friday, the week prior to publication
Reedsburg Independent.....	10 am Friday, the week prior to publication

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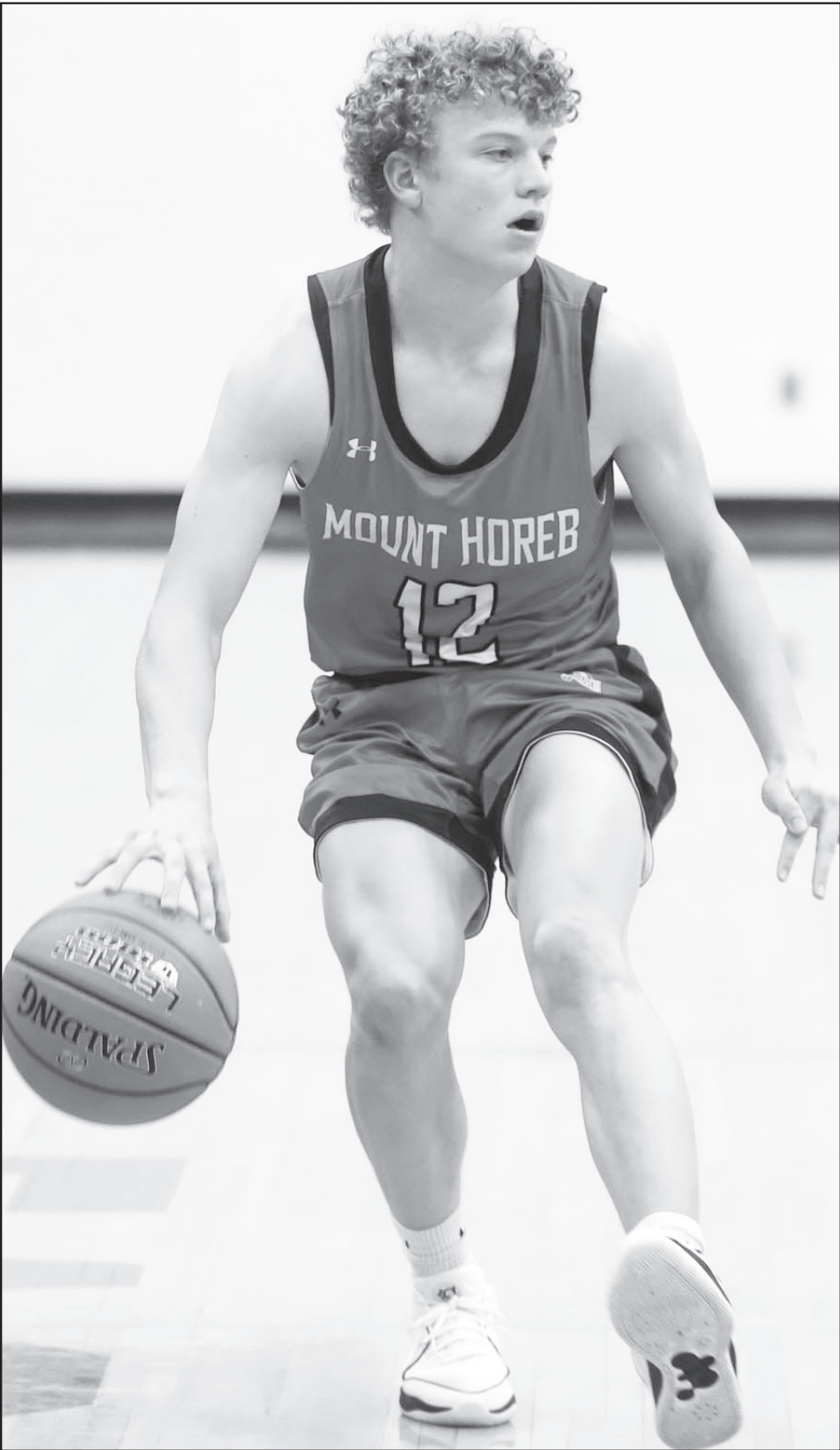
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Todd Nesheim (above), Landon Ellestad (right) and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team improved to 6-1 in the Badger Small Conference last week. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



BOYS BB

continued from page 12

Manchester then had five straight points — including a 3-pointer — as Mount Horeb grabbed early control.

The Vikings struggled to pull away, though, largely because they made just 1-of-13 3-pointers in the first half. Fortunately for Mount Horeb, its defense was sublime as it forced 13 first half turnovers and led, 25-17, at the break.

“Our focus this week has been on getting the ball swung a bit and not taking so many early shots,” Nesheim said. “In this game, we took a lot of wide open early shots and missed.

“We challenged our guys to work the ball a bit more to see what happens. We will need to be able to do this against the better teams on our schedule. Against Franklin and Onalaska (both losses), we didn’t do this.”

Mount Horeb opened the second half on a 21-7 burst, though, and took control of the game.

Vorwald did some damage in that stretch with eight points in the first nine minutes of the second half. Hannah also drilled a three pointer as the Vikings pushed their lead to 46-24.

“We had four side-top-side passes (reversals) and scored on three of them in the early going,” Nesheim said. “So, that is just one ball reversal before a shot, which is more than we were getting recently. Look for us to improve on this as we get deeper into the season.”

Nesheim cleared his bench in the final minutes, making the final score look more respectable. In all, it was a solid road win that kept the Vikings in the hunt for a league title.

“Reedsburg was able to close the gap as we had some turnovers and missed shots with this group (of reserves),” Nesheim said.

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb

BADGER CHALLENGE
FRIDAY
5:45 p.m. (#8 seeds)
Portage vs. Watertown
7:20 p.m. (#7 seeds)
Reedsburg vs. DeForest

SATURDAY
11 a.m. (#6 seeds)
Madison Edgewood vs. Fort Atkinson
12:40 p.m. (#5 seeds)
McFarland vs. Oregon
2:20 p.m. (#4 seeds)
Baraboo vs. Milton
4 p.m. (#3 seeds)
Sauk Prairie vs. Beaver Dam
5:40 p.m. (#2 seeds)
Mount Horeb vs. Monona Grove
7:20 p.m. (#1 seeds)
Stoughton vs. Waunakee

— all games at Oregon

hosted Lodi Tuesday, then faces Monona Grove in the Badger Challenge Saturday at 5:40 p.m. at Oregon High School.

“We will get some solid non-conference games yet

with Lodi, Platteville, (Beloit) Turner and Monroe — in addition to the (No.) 2 seed game in the Badger Challenge,” Nesheim said.

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GIRLS BB

continued from page 12

victory over Mount Horeb in a Badger Challenge matchup of fifth-place teams in their respective conferences that was re-scheduled from Jan. 13 due to inclement weather.

Senior guards Jada Kelliher and Rylan Oberg proved to be a deadly one-two punch, combining for 47 points, including five 3-pointers for the Norskies (10-5, 3-4 Badger Large), who used a 20-3 run in the first half to take command and never looked back.

Kelliher scored seven of her game-high 29 points, while Oberg contributed 10 of her 18 points during the surge when the Norskies turned seven turnovers created by their pressing defense into easy scores.

“There were so many turnovers on the press. We were just out of character,” Mount Horeb second-year head coach Bart Leibfried said. “We’d worked on it. We knew it was coming. We had three days off, they did too because of the snow, so that’s no excuse.

“But we kind of panicked and didn’t make good decisions with the ball. We’re not big, and they’re long and athletic and got a lot of tips that we couldn’t handle.”

DeForest capped its opening surge when Derlein sank a pair of free throws for a 23-9 lead with 9 minutes, 46 seconds left before halftime.

Reserve freshman guard Courtney Monroe, who led Mount Horeb with 13 points, ended a nearly 4-minute scoring drought with a driving layup 71 seconds later.

Fager’s traditional three-point play then ended a nearly 7-minute drought without a field goal with just over 2 minutes before halftime.

DeForest head coach Jerry Schwenn said while the Vikings were able to get some open looks from the outside, the Norskies did a good job of limiting second chances off offensive rebounds.

“They’re a rising team overall,” Schwenn said of Mount Horeb. “I knew they were a scrappy team, and they weren’t afraid to shoot the ball either, which sometimes creates some long rebounds.

“But I thought we hit the boards on both ends well. That was a key and contributed to the outcome.”

After the Norskies extended their margin to 40-18 at halftime, they were poised to end the game with a running clock. “We did a nice job not

only applying ball pressure, but we rotated well on the back end of the press, too, which helps us stay in it a bit longer and help turn it over,” Schwenn said.

Leibfried, though, said he liked the way the Vikings made several second-half runs.

That bodes well for Mount Horeb as it begins the second half of its Badger Small Conference season on Thursday against Stoughton.

“Last summer, DeForest beat us pretty bad, but I said that’s the team we want to beat,” Leibfried said. “I like what Jerry Schwenn has done with his program We want to play that style.

“In the second half, we did a better job, but we’ve just got to keep working. We’re looking to get that four, five seed in our sectional. Monona Grove and McFarland will be the top two seeds.

“I like that we didn’t quit in the second half. We got down and could have caved in and let them beat us by 40, but the kids kept playing hard. We tried to make some corrections at halftime. We just have to keep fighting. It’s a process. It doesn’t happen overnight.”

Courtney Monroe’s 3-pointer pulled Mount Horeb within 47-29 with 11 minutes remaining. That was as close as the Vikings could, though, get the rest of the way.

Fager admitted that the offense was a work in progress as the Vikings adjusted to a new scheme this season.

“We don’t have a lot of height. Before, we were trying to set a lot of ball screens and that didn’t work for us because we’re small,” Fager said. “So, we do a lot more dribble hand-offs, a lot more things on the perimeter to get open shots instead of trying to go inside.

“We like shooting 3s, yeah, we’re not shy. We’ve got the green light on that.”

Senior guard Rowan Johnson added 12 points for Mount Horeb, all on 3-pointers. Courtney Monroe came off the bench to sink three of the Vikings’ eight 3-pointers.

“They doubled inside so we had to shoot outside shots,” Rowan Johnson said. “We couldn’t match their size inside. We’re so short.”

Added Leibfried: “We had to get out in transition, shoot the ball, attack the basket. We have to; that’s the only way we’re going to score and get buckets. We’ve got to stick in



Bart Leibfried and Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team are hoping for a strong second half of the season. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

there.”

Leibfried said freshmen Courtney Monroe and Maren Johnson are welcome additions to the rotation, which includes senior starter Jada Mathews, junior starter Hallie Klein and senior reserves Ava Kolb and Katie Smith.

“They’ve adapted to the physicality and speed of the game,” Leibfried said of Courtney Monroe and Maren Johnson. “They’re averaging about 20 minutes a game.”

However, DeForest held Mount Horeb junior starter Morgan Monroe, who was the team’s leading scorer at 11.4 points per game, to just one second-half field goal and two points.

“They weren’t totally face guarding her, but they weren’t letting her get the ball,” Fager said. “They do have some size and she gets a lot of her buckets inside. They were just playing tough defense.”

Leibfried said the Vikings have been playing

with a lot more energy, which makes him optimistic of a strong finish.

“The kids are buying into the process and the system,” he said. “We made a change in the offense. We had all summer to work on it, but when coaches scout, they take away the first option and the second option and we’re trying to figure out the third and fourth options.

“It’s taken a little longer for us to get there but we are getting there. Everybody is healthy again. This half of the schedule, I think we can pick up some wins and get on a roll.”

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb hosts Stoughton in a Badger Small Conference game on Thursday at 7:15 p.m. The Vikings then play a non-conference game at Sun Prairie East on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. Mount Horeb returns to conference action on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at Baraboo at 7:15 p.m.

Jan. 15
DEFOREST 72,
MOUNT HOREB 39
DeForest 40 32 — 72
Mount Horeb 18 21 — 39
DEFOREST (fg ft-fta pts) —
Jordyn Derlein 1 3-4 5, Elyse Snortum 0 0-0 0, Marit Manske 1 0-0 2, Jada Kelliher 11 2-4 29, Della Hoffman 1 0-0 3, Emmy Hardiman 0 0-0 0, Brinley Goninen 0 2-2 2, Linea Roed 0 0-0 0, Addyson Heuer 0 0-0 0, Ava Schwenn 2 0-0 4, Rylan Oberg 6 6-9 18, Alexis Accuardi 3 1-2 7, Lana Haynie 0 0-0 0, Mylee Kuipers 1 0-0 2. Totals 26 14-21 72.
MOUNT HOREB — Ava Kolb 1 0-0 2, Hallie Klein 0 0-2 0, Katie Smith 0 0-0 0, Ella Fager 2 2-3 0, Maren Johnson 0 3-5 3, Jada

Mathews 0 0-0 0, Morgan Monroe 1 0-0 2, Courtney Monroe 5 0-0 13, Rowan Johnson 4 0-0 12. Totals 13 5-10 39.
3-point goals: D 6 (Kelliher 5, Hoffman 1), MH 8 (Fager 1, C. Johnson 4, Monroe 3). Total fouls: D 14, MH 16.

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