

Up in the air

Tearing it up at Tyrol

At right, Luke Bignall jumps down the slopes of Tyrol Basin. A Michigan native, he moved to Mount Horeb for a job in ecological restoration work. Tyrol's close proximity to the village is one of the things that Bignall considers a perk. In fact, he used to help train beginning snowboarders on these very slopes as a second job. Photo by Ron Lutz II.



For the birds

By KERRY BEHELER
Special to the Mail

The 35th Mount Horeb Area Christmas Bird Count was held on Sunday 31 December 2023. It was a relatively quiet birding day, with intermittent light to moderate snowfall all day, yet we counted 6905 individual

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A journey of faith

Rev. Becky Rokitowski joins United Methodist

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

Before she was a pastor, Rev. Becky Rokitowski worked for several years as a civil engineer.

"Going into a mathematical field, some people would think it would detract from

your faith, but my experience was the opposite," she explains. "It only increased my faith, from looking at the macro and micro, from quantum physics, the order of things deepened my faith."

Just as she saw God in engineering, she also sees the Deity in everyday life.

"I tend to lean toward the day-to-day," she says. "I think the cosmic can be found there."

And of course, she sees



Rev. Rokitowski

God in her fellow humans, as well.

"I believe every single person has sacred value and worth," she comments. "My greatest joy is letting people know that."

Mount Horeb United Methodist Church recently welcomed Rokitowski as its new pastor. She comes to Wisconsin from Tallahassee, Florida, where she was an associate pastor at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church. Up until she

arrived in the Troll Capital of the World - just as the first flakes of two massive blizzards began descending from the heavens - she had never lived outside of the balmy climes in which she was raised.

"We coasted in right before all the bad weather hit," she says. "The trucks were being unloaded right as the snow started to fall."

"It's been beautiful," she muses. "The beauty of it is

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Brewery turned county elections hub will be used this year... But only in a minimal capacity

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

A former brewery will begin its multi-stage transformation into a county elections center this year.

Dane County clerk Scott McDonell announced last year that the county intended to build its new, \$19 million "state-of-the-art" Dane County Elections Center in the building that formerly

housed the Ale Asylum brewery in Madison. Located near the airport, the 4.9-acre site was already on county-owned land and zoned as a suburban employment district. The full Dane County Board voted on the purchase at its Nov. 2 meeting.

We are committed to holding safe, secure and accessible elections, which the

current political situation and threats from election-outcome deniers have made increasingly difficult," says McDonell. "Most important of all, election workers are leaving for other jobs because they do not feel safe. Here in Dane County some have received death threats. This building represents the beginning of a safer environment

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A quirky celebration of winter: Scandihoovian festival is back

Thousands of people from Mount Horeb and beyond will once again don their red pointy hats as the area's goofiest family-friendly festival will be held for the thir-

teenth year.

The Scandihoovian Winter Festival will take place on Feb. 9-11, bringing neighbors together and

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Police Report

DECEMBER MONTHLY SUMMARY 2023

911 Disconnect – 9
911 Open Line Count – 1
Accidents – 5
Accident – 2
Hit & Run - 1
Property Damage – 1
Accident w/Injuries - 1
Adult Arrest – 2

Officers were dispatched to a report of a missing person. The reporting party stated that the subject was very intoxicated and he was worried for his safety due to the weather conditions. The subject was later found safe, but in an intoxicated state. Contact was made with the subject’s probation agent who requested that the subject be taken in to custody. The subject was transported to the Dane County Jail without incident.

Officers were dispatched to a residence for an individual who had a warrant for his arrest for a probation violation. Contact was made with the subject who was taken into custody. A search of the suspect yielded drug paraphernalia. The subject was transported to the Dane County Jail on a probation hold.

Alarm – 5
Animal Complaint Disturbance - 2
Animal Complaint Stray – 6

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Assist Citizen – 20
Assist DCSO – 12
Assist Fire/Police – 6
Attempt to Locate Person – 3

LaCrosse Police Department called for help in locating a missing and endangered female, who they believe is possibly in Mount Horeb. Mount Horeb Police officers were able to locate the missing female due to a vehicle description. The female stated that she was not in danger and that she left home on her own accord to be with her boyfriend. After talking with all parties involved, it was decided that the female would go to the police department and wait to be reunited with her father.

A traffic stop was conducted on a vehicle that was believed to have a suspect from a theft case from Iowa County. The suspect also had an active warrant out for his arrest from DOC. The warrant was confirmed by DATA and the suspect was arrested on the warrant. Due to the suspect having a prior medical concern, he was transported to a Madison hospital for clearance.

Officers were dispatched to assist in an attempt to locate for Iowa County Sheriff’s Department. The suspect had a probation warrant out for his arrest and is known to frequent Mount Horeb. The suspect was located, and taken into custody.

Check Person - 14
Check Property – 21
Death Investigation – 2
Officers were dispatched to the report of a pulseless, non-breather. Upon arrival, an officer started CCR. EMS arrived on scene and took over to no avail. It was learned that the deceased did have an extensive medical history. This case is considered inactive until the Medical Examiner’s report is received.

Officers were dispatched to a residence for a death investigation. Upon contact with staff, it was found the deceased had advanced cancer and death was expected. A funeral home was called to process the scene and the family was notified.

Disabled Vehicle - 2
Disturbance Call – 2

Police were dispatched to a residence for a report of a disturbance. Upon arrival, it was found that the disturbance was between a father and juvenile daughter who didn’t want to follow his rules. Both parties were counseled and encouraged to avoid each other for the night.

Officers were dispatched to a residence in the village for a report of a disturbance. Contact was made with the reporting party who stated that they could hear what they thought to be someone being slapped, yelling and crying. The reporting party did not know where the noise was coming from, just the general direction. Officers conducted a canvas of the area and did not locate anyone, and did not hear any signs of a disturbance.

Domestic/Family Trouble – 2

Officers were dispatched to a residence in the village for a domestic disturbance. Upon arrival, the parties were separated and statements were obtained. It was learned that the parties involved were arguing about various marital issues. Both parties were counseled and agreed to separate for the night. Alcohol was a contributing factor in this disturbance.

Officers were dispatched to a residence for the report of a domestic disturbance. Upon contact with all parties involved, it was found that there was nothing physical that took place, just verbal. Officers conducted a PBT on the male party in this incident, who was ultimately arrested for bail jumping due to violating a court order to not consume alcohol.

Drug Incident – 4

While conducting a routine traffic stop for operating a vehicle without registration lamps, the officer noted the odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. The operator of the vehicle gave consent for a search of the vehicle which yielded marijuana and paraphernalia. All items were seized and the driver was warned for the equipment violation, the possession of the marijuana and paraphernalia.

The manager of an apartment building made a complaint of the odor of marijuana coming from one of the apartments. Contact was made with the tenant who admitted to smoking in the apartment and agreed to not to smoke in the apartment again.

Officers made a traffic stop on a vehicle for driving without lights illuminated. Upon contact with the occupants, the odor of marijuana emitted from the vehicle. A consent search of the vehicle was conducted that yielded marijuana, paraphernalia, and a firearm. The owner of the firearm did have a permit. Written warnings were issued for driving violation and the possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

Officers made a traffic stop on a vehicle for speeding. Upon contact with the driver, the odor of marijuana emitted from the vehicle. A probable cause search of the vehicle yielded marijuana and paraphernalia. The driver received a citation for the possession of marijuana and warned for the paraphernalia and the traffic violation.

EMS Assist – 53
Found Property – 3
Fraud – 1

A resident came into the police department to report an identity fraud, where someone used her identity to open a credit card in her name. The victim was already in contact with her financial institution regarding this. At the time of this report, the victim is not out any money.

Harassment – 3
A resident of the village

reported unwanted contact from a former boyfriend who is currently in jail. It was reported that the unwanted contact has been happening for approximately 10 years, and the reporting party would like it to stop. Contact was made with jail staff and probation and parole to inform them of the situation, and to ask the subject to stop contact.

A resident called to report being harassed by his son-in-law, who was sitting across the street from his home, and constantly calling him asking for money. Officers arrived on scene and the individual had already left. The suspect in this case is currently homeless and does have a warrant out for his arrest.

A resident called to report that a prior harassment is still continuing. The resident has been receiving explicit messages and photographs. The resident was advised on how to obtain a restraining order if they chose to do so. Officers attempted contact with the suspect several times and left messages. This case is inactive until contact is made.

Information – 12
Juvenile Complaint – 1

A resident called to report his high school age daughter was missing, as she left school and did not return home. The female was listed as a runaway. Contact was made with a friend of the daughter, who stated the female was at her residence. The female did return home, and officers arrived at the residence to confirm that she was home and safe.

Local Ordinance Violation - 3
On Street Parking Complaint – 3
Parking Ticket Warning - 1

Parking Tickets – 51
Phone Call – 16
Pornography/Obscene Material – 1

ICAC CyberTip was received by the Mount Horeb Police Department. This case is considered active and currently being investigated.

Preserve the Peace – 3

A preserve the peace was set up for the removal of items out of a garage. There is a restraining order on the male party where he cannot have contact with resident at the property. No contact was made between the two on this day. The male will have to come back and load up more of his stuff, and will call prior to arriving.

Officer stood by for another preserve the peace while a male collected belongings from a garage. The male was unable to move all of his property at one time and would need to return. The male was told to contact police to set up a time for another preserve the peace in order to collect the remainder of his items. The occupant of the residence has a temporary restraining order against the male.

A final preserve the peace was requested in order for an individual to collect the rest of his property from a residence. The individual was advised that any property left on scene would be considered the resident’s. The individual stated he understood.

Private Property Parking Complaint – 1
Retail Theft – 1

Officers were dispatched to a retail theft in the village. Upon arrival, the suspect was already gone but staff at the business was able to get a license plate and video footage. The officer ran a record check on the license plate and the registered owner, who lives in Madison. Phone contact was made with the owner of the vehicle who stated that she wanted to speak with her lawyer regarding the incident. Citations for retail theft were mailed to the suspect for this incident and a prior incident.

School Related Incidents – 14

Assist Citizen – 1
Bullying / Harassment -1
Drug Offense - 1
Juvenile Complaint – 2
Special Events -1
Theft - 1

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A little about me: After living away from the area for almost 30 years, the Country Roads of Route 23, 18 and some changed roads brought me back to the area of my roots where I feel loved, welcomed, and surrounded by friends and family.

Supervisor calls process ‘a kick in the gut’

By STEVE MATYAS
Mount Horeb Mail

Heated words broke out at the town of Springdale board meeting on January 16, with Supervisor Richard Schwenn calling the board’s search for a new inspector without informing the current one a “kick in the gut.”

At issue was the interviewing of three prospective new firms to replace Johnson Inspection LLC, which had submitted a letter of resignation effective February 1st. Town Chairman John Rosenbaum referred to the interviews as “just doing business.” The bids presented by the three firms re-

flect a decrease in the town’s rates of four cents per square foot.

Tracy Johnson, representing Johnson Inspection, stated that the letter of resignation was sent due in large part to his firm’s not receiving a rate increase in four years. Citing the increased costs of fuel and employees, Johnson called matching the lower bids “not good business” and indicating his unwillingness to do so unless the board rescinded its current agreement to have ten percent of the fees to the town.

After debate on the possibility of having Johnson

re-bid on the contract or having it extended through April, Johnson affirmed his intention to stick to the letter of resignation. Supervisor Wayne Hefty had questioned the option of extending the contract, pointing out that Johnson’s letter had stated his position was final.

In answer to Schwenn’s concerns over the potential replacement firms’ lack of documentation regarding their expertise in omissions insurance and liquor inspections, Rosenbaum offered to meet further with the firms and called a special meeting for January 18.

In other business, the

board unanimously gave partial approval to town resident Josh Klein’s proposal to extend driveways on lots abutting North and South Kossuth Roads. The approval will allow removal of dirt fifty feet off the center line of the lots. The second part of Klein’s proposal was put on hold pending investigation of concerns raised by Supervisor Wayne Hefty related to the potential increase of traffic on South Kossuth.

Hefty’s email to residents concerning concrete driveways butting up to blacktop was examined, with Rosenbaum expressing concern

over the clarity of the message in regard to the plowing issues involved. Hefty pointed out that the necessary language was contained at the beginning of the email, but agreed to re-work it.

The patrolman’s report called the last two storms the worst in fifteen years, and informed the board of his need to hire outside help to finish drifts due to the volume of snow, issues with soft shoulders, and the breakdown of one town truck.

Broken and rotting trusses in the town hall building were addressed, with Rosenbaum detailing roof snow

removal efforts to this point and the need to bring in an outside contractor to complete the work.

The meeting agenda and minutes from the last meeting were approved unanimously. The proposal to pay bills was approved, with Rosenbaum abstaining on the grounds of not having yet reviewed them.

Treasurer Rebecca Boelhower-Santi announced her intention to resign at the end of May to return to school on a full-time basis.

She informed the board at this time to help insure the hiring and training of a new treasurer.

Not her first rodeo: Catching up with Trinity Dyreson

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

Mail readers last heard about Trinity Dyreson half a decade ago. The Mount Horeb teen, who was 15 at the time, was in the process of training a wild gray horse named Storm for the Mustang Challenge event at the Midwest Horse Fair.

The competition was designed to spotlight the iconic American wild horse. A total of 56 equine trainers — many from the Midwest, but some ranging from as far away as Canada, Florida and Texas — were matched with wild mustangs, which they trained for the competition. Despite her (and his) relative youth, Dyreson’s steady hand quickly taught Storm to master a vast array of tasks, displaying the ancient, primal human and equine bond. She ended up being one of the top finishers, coming in sixth.

Today, Dyreson is 20. She and her family moved from Mount Horeb to Marshall, a small town near Sun Prairie. Her life remains committed to horses, and, having aged out of the youth category, she is now competing with adults in the rodeo world.

As she glances at her 2024 schedule, she sees more than 20 rodeos and countless barrel races in which she will run. She loves those big shows, and she also finds peace and meaning in the more quiet, more private moments when she works in the barn with the horses she trains and cares for.

“I think for me, personally, it’s having a best



friend,” she says. “They all have their own personalities and they are fun to be around. I love horses that want to be around you and want to be your friend.”

“It was always harder in school to make friends,” she adds. “But horses have always been my best friends.”

And through those animals, she has forged many human bonds, as well.

“Barrel racing can be pretty intense, but the people make it fun,” she says. “The whole community of barrel racers. Yeah, they make it fun.”

But when it’s time to ride, it’s not about making friends. It’s about a horse and rider, running as quickly, and as cleanly, as

possible.

“I think for me, it’s the adrenaline rush,” Dyreson says. “Since I was a kid I have always loved to go fast. Even in a toy car in the driveway. That’s what drew me to it.”

She says she feels more excited than scared at the start of each race.

“I’ve always gotten knots in my stomach. Not because I’m nervous, but because I want to go,” she explains. “At a recent event in Oklahoma I rode a horse I trained, and I wanted it to go well. I guess I’d say it’s nerves but *good* nerves. If I know the horse I’m riding,



Trinity Dyreson continues to compete at rodeos and train horses. Left photo by Adrian Balzer Photography. Above photo by Charis Colson Photography.

it’s good nerves.”

Dyreson started taking riding lessons at Hylee Farm, somewhere between the ages of three and four. “I rode a lot of English before I got into barrel racing,” she says. “I love it, and it really taught me how to ride.”

She might have been desintined to ride well before that, because she comes from a long line of horsewomen.

In addition to riding, she continues working as a trainer.

She says horses will prob-

ably always be part of her life. Horses, and the people who love them.

“One is my mom,” she says. “She has definitely stepped up for me and helped me out. And my sister, who loves riding with me. And also a great community of barrel racers.”

Her mother says that working with horses has always come naturally to her daughter, that she has a natural way with the animals.

Trinity says it’s fairly simple. “My feeling is, I basically have to be more stubborn than they are,” she laughs.

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PERSPECTIVE

Letters to the Editor

School district’s work on LGBTQIA+ issues is ‘recognized and valued’

Dear editor,

On behalf of the PFLAG Mt. Horeb Executive Board, thank you Mt. Horeb Area School District Board and Administration for flying the Progress flag each June. It is critically important that our LGBTQIA+ kids and kids of color know that they are safe, included, and that their existence will not be denied or ignored. Know your leadership is recognized and valued.

Gratefully,
Sue Huntenburg
President,
PFLAG Mt. Horeb

Pride is not a zero sum game

In last week’s edition of the Pride Flag over the Schools drama, a writer to *The Mail* suggested people like me would be “outraged at the unfairness and inappropriateness” of flying a “heterosexual lifestyles” flag at the schools. This is

an untested assumption, at best, since to my knowledge there is no “heterosexual lifestyles” flag, so we can’t know how anyone would respond.

He goes on to say that in our unwillingness to “acknowledge the potential downside” of Pride flags at school—by which I take him to mean the harm he supposes Pride flags cause to straight kids—we are either blindly ideological or we’re just plain ole’ bullies. This is another untested and unfounded assumption made even less palatable by the name calling he inserts into his letter.

Here’s why this whole argument is so sad and unproductive.

Football is a zero sum game. The Packers won. The Cowboys lost. End of story till next year.

Life is not football. In life, relationships between and among people in society possess an inherent possibility for openness and generosity; for the acceptance and affirmation of each other across a wide range of differences without disparaging anybody. Life well lived is not a zero sum game. Straight kids are not harmed by the presence of Pride flags at school.

They may be harmed, however, by the adults in their lives who teach them they should be offended by rainbow flags, or they should be afraid of people

whose lives and identities are different from their own. They can be harmed by people who tell them their way of being in the world is the only right way to be.

But we don’t have to play at life as a zero sum game. We can do better. We can lift up and affirm our LGBTQ kids and kids of color—who have, in fact, been bullied and demeaned through much of our history, by flying the colors that send them that message. And we can, at the same time, teach our straight kids that acceptance of difference costs them nothing and is simply the right thing to do. No one loses when we treat each other with kindness and respect. Everyone loses when we don’t.

I want to live in a town that welcomes the beauty of diversity among all people; a town that stands with and for our friends who, in other times and places, have known way too much rejection and hatred. I want to live in a town that reflects the sort of kindness, openness and love I so regularly receive from my LGBTQ family of choice.

The Pride flags flying over our schools, and waving at us up and down our Main Street, tell me I’m in the right place.

Rev. Brad Brookins

Put the flag controversy to rest

Another letter to the editor in today’s Mt. Horeb Mail about flags at the school.

Seems to be some acrimony in the school district regarding PFLAG’s flag being flown at the schools.

So, I Googled what is the percentage of people in our high schools who identify as LGBTQ and found out the number is 25 percent, while 75 percent identify as heterosexual. I’m not aware of a heterosexual flag but maybe the teachers at the high school could assign a project to design a hetero flag of some sort. Then the LGBTQ flag could be flown on Mondays, the hetero flag on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and some other flag on Fridays. I think the POW-MIA flag would be non-controversial. Then maybe everybody will be happy and we can put this flag controversy behind us.

Mike Badger

All children deserve to feel safe

Dear Mr. Olson,

It is a terrifying time to be a parent, a relative or a friend to an LGBTQ+ child or adult. I am so grateful to Governor Evers, the schools and the churches in town for having the courage to fly the rainbow flag. Since the beginning of 2023 over 525 bills have been introduced in state legislatures (including WI) and over 70 of these bills have been signed into law. These bills ban discussion on gender identity and sexual orientation in K-12 classrooms, restrict bathroom use, restrict the use

of chosen pronouns and chosen names, limit sports participation for transgender females and ban medically recommended gender affirming care for children and in some cases adults. For the first time ever, the Human Rights Campaign has declared a “State of Emergency” for LGBTQ+ Americans.

All these conversations only serve to alienate children already feeling rejected by their peers/family members/society. According to The Trevor Project LGBTQ teens are four times more likely to make a suicide attempt, 70 percent of LGBTQ teens experienced symptoms of anxiety in the past year and 57 percent experienced symptoms of depression. LGBTQ youth are 3.5 times as likely to attempt suicide as their heterosexual peers, and trans teens are 5.7 times as likely.

In school, a place where ALL children deserve to feel safe, 10 percent of LGBTQ youth report being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property, 34 percent were bullied on school property, 28 percent experience cyberbullying, 23 percent experienced sexual dating violence and 18 percent experienced physical dating violence. As a result, LGBTQ youth were 140 percent more likely than their heterosexual peers to skip school at least one day during the 30 days prior to the surveys.

Research has consistently shown that support from parents and peers leads to better mental health, greater self-acceptance, and enhanced well-being among LGBTQ youth. Heterosexual youth see their lives affirmed every day, all day by their parents and their

peers and in the media that surrounds them. Given all of this, flying a flag for the estimated 10 percent of the population that is LGBTQ doesn’t seem like such a big ask.

So, do I have an ideology regarding the PRIDE flag? You bet I do – it is called keeping kids alive, keeping kids loved, keeping kids supported and keeping kids safe.

With respect,
Janice Edison

Thanking Mt. Horeb Community Foundation

Young Life of Dane County appreciates the continued financial support we receive from the Mt Horeb Community Foundation! This funding helps middle and high school students from Mt Horeb make it to summer camp, by reducing the registration fees that may otherwise be restrictive for them to attend. Every year we hear that camps are among the best weeks of student’s lives. After these life-changing weeks, teens bring their faith back to our community as they participate and lead in our weekly clubs during the school year. We’re excited for clubs to start up on January 22nd as we build relationships for camping adventures!

THANK YOU, Mt Horeb Community Foundation for recognizing the positive results of involving teens in our community!

Kassy McMillan
Dane County Young Life
Committee

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GEIGER

Counter

by Matt Geiger, Editor

Buckle Up...

In the United States, 39 percent of adults say they believe “we are living in the end times,” according to the Pew Research Center. Amberley Snyder is not one of them.

One January day, this 19-year-old girl was on her way to the Denver Stock Show and Rodeo. As she passed through Sinclair, Wyoming, she glanced down at her map, veered off course, then overcorrected. She hadn’t put on her seat-belt yet, and when her truck began rolling, she was thrown from the mangled carnage of shattered steel and glass. She slammed into a fencepost on the side of the road and broke her back. She sat helplessly and waited for someone to come along and find her.

After five hours of surgery, she was told she would never walk again.

A promising young barrel racer, Snyder could easily have succumbed to despair. She could have given up. She could have accurately inferred that the world is profoundly unfair and spent her remaining days complaining about it. She could have spent each morning posting videos of the hardships she faced, along with bitter commentary about the fact that she does not deserve this.

She didn’t.

While she has never regained the ability to use her legs, Snyder was back on her horse merely four months after her accident. With the ironic addition of a seatbelt on her saddle, she continued to compete in one of the most breathtaking – and terrifying - sports on the planet. Her own two legs cannot move, but the horse’s four legs churn up enough arena dirt for both of them.

All parents know that letting your nine-year-old kid pick the movie you watch as a family is a fraught endeavor. You could end up having to drink heavily to make it through a narrative arc that some adolescent screenwriter was asked to create around a toy or theme park ride. But two nights ago, my daughter selected one about Snyder. She had watched it with her friend and barrel racing teacher the day before, and she said she wanted to watch it again, with us, 24 hours later. She chattered away throughout the movie, offering a running commentary on all the ways she found this true story inspiring.

You see, pessimism is a luxury the unfortunate cannot afford. Only the most privileged people have the time or energy to waste away their finite lives complaining about every little (or big) thing that doesn’t go their way. Life deals each-and-every person a dynamic hand. Whether it’s good or bad, the game ends in death and you will experience many things along the way. How you perceive them depends largely on how willing you are to open your eyes to the world around you, and how honest you are willing to be about the fact that you are almost certainly not at the epicenter of whatever beautiful tragic mess this great mystery is.

After the movie, we went to Snyder’s YouTube channel and learned that she *does* post videos about the hardships she faces. She smiles as she explains them and the solutions she has come up with to solve them. One of the videos was about how difficult it is for someone with paralysis to put on cowboy boots, and the techniques that can make it easier.

Compare this to people who are really, really upset because it’s taking a while for their old trash bins to get picked up. Over the holi-

days, our village switched trash and recycling collection companies. We received our new bins on time but had to wait a few weeks for all the old ones to be hauled away, free of charge. You would have thought our community was being carpet-bombed, based on the trauma some people claimed to be experiencing. It was a calamity, they said, a *disaster*.

If a couple plastic bins sitting on the curb for a few days is the worst thing in your world, your life is a charmed one. If it’s the worst thing you can find to complain about, congratulations.

But that is who does the bulk of the complaining in human society: the privileged. They complain on behalf of themselves, and they even take it upon themselves to complain for other people. The fact is, many people who live in the nicest, safest, most beautiful places on the planet have decided things are simply not good enough for them, and that every aspect of existence that does not conform to their exact personal political, moral, or social sensibilities is a travesty. Until they are completely happy all the time, they will try their hardest to make sure no one else is happy, either. They are only a minor inconvenience to most of those with whom they share the planet. But they are a hazard to themselves, they are thieves of joy who steal only from their own pockets.

I’ve made these comments before, and complainers always have the same response: “It’s important to make people aware of problems so we can fix them!”

I have news for you. We already know. We ALL already know. You really don’t need to tell us again. I swear. Every single person walking this Earth is perpetually aware of injustice and famine and cruelty and yes, all those little, everyday annoyances that really get under your skin. If we knew how to fix all of it immediately, we would. But we don’t.

The fact that every single problem in the world isn’t being remedied immediately doesn’t stem from the fact that no one is aware there are problems. It’s because fixing things is complex, nuanced and difficult. Sometimes fixing one person’s problems creates a whole new set of problems for someone else. Sometimes all we can do is embrace each other, or lift each other up, while we suffer together. Sometimes you will never walk again, but that doesn’t mean you can’t ride like the wind.

Because if you are suffering, one thing is certain: You aren’t dead yet. Suffering is an affliction to which the dead have natural immunity. We, the living, do not.

I once spent a long time researching the Apocalypse. An old Greek word, it actually does not mean “the end of all things.” Rather, “apocalypse” translates to “the lifting of a veil.” It is supposed to be about seeing beyond the artifices that clog up our daily lives. As one reality ends, another reveals itself. Call it a forced consciousness expansion.

Someday, your world will end. Hopefully not today. There has always been war, and there always will be war. There have always been environmental catastrophes, and they will ride with us for as long as we are here. Some, like climate change, are the result of our actions. Others are completely out of our hands. Cormac McCarthy once said it is foolish to think we can improve upon human nature. We are the same hairless apes we have always been. That is both wonderful and terrible, because we are imperfect, and in our imperfection lies much of our beauty. Our lack of understanding of the world – the maddening mystery of it all - is the seed from which all our awe, all our stories and songs and “wow” moments grow into a forest of humanity.

My research regarding the End of the World showed ample evidence that

people tend to think they are living on the precipice of the Apocalypse because it makes them feel important. The last people are, by default, significant in our shared human narrative. Even if they are lazy or pessimistic or all-together boring, it makes them feel like they are part of something interesting.

But I think we are all important, whether we exist at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end. The world doesn’t have to explode tomorrow for us to feel that our time and place is an exciting one.

And worlds end all the time. There are 8 billion people on the planet, and every one of them will die (fairly soon in the grand scheme of things). That’s 8 billion times the world will end, the lights will be extinguished, all things will cease. And yet life goes on, for the complainers, and for those who discard unimportant grievances and try to make the most of the time they are given. Life goes on for everyone, until it doesn’t. And even then, it does.

A few nights ago, when the weather was hovering around six degrees, I gave my daughter and her friend a ride down to the horse barn. They clambered onto their animals, bundled up in winter coats and two layers of flannel pajamas, and rode bareback through the snow, through the darkness, their laughter and the snorting of the horses shattering the still night. The world was dark navy blue, some function of the snow and the moon, I suppose, and everything looked strange as

I watched their silhouettes rollick across the landscape. Everything was strange and wonderful. As if some veil had been lifted. Some false artifice unable to withstand their joy in the cold, uncaring night.

Life is all these things. You are born. The trash cans sit on the curb outside your warm, comfortable house for a couple weeks, then you die. Most people also know true misfortune. A loved one dies of cancer. A dream job slips away. A family falls apart. Some know war, and famine, and the profound and endless suffering of children. A car crash rips away the ability to walk, for instance. But there are spaces in between, places where the apocalypse happens, again and again. Places where we see things a little differently. It is in these that we are our best selves. The people we want to be. Brave and resilient and thankful for our joys and our suffering. It is in these moments that we buckle up and fly through life.

As Hunter S. Thompson once said: “Buy the ticket, take the ride...and if it occasionally gets a little heavier than what you had in mind, well...maybe chalk it up to forced consciousness expansion.”



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Mount Horeb Mail

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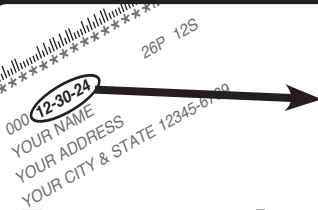
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire/EMS data released

Chief Jenny Minter has released the Mount Horeb Joint Fire and EMS numbers from 2023. Last year, local first responders completed 6413 hours of training. They responded to 1260 EMS calls and 584 fire calls. Average turnout per call was 8.77.

Solar power event Feb. 3

A solar informational event and celebration of the growth of solar technology in America will take place Saturday, February 3, from 1- 2:30 PM. The venue for the event is the Children’s Community School (CCS) located at 1175 Cox Drive in Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. The school was recently awarded Climate Champion status by the Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC). The school is a net zero facility, creating more energy than it uses.

Whether folks are considering solar installation for a home or business or just

want to learn more about the benefits of solar photovoltaic (PV) cells, everyone is invited to attend. This event will be a primer on solar energy. It will explore the process of harnessing the sun—from concept to installation. Thus, the name of the program, *Solar 101*.

Kathy Kuntz, Executive Director of OECC, will present the Dane County Climate Champion Award to CCS. A Glow Solar company representative will discuss the CCS solar installation from design to installation. Attendees will learn how solar energy is harvested via solar panels and can watch solar energy at work in real time.

Information will be presented about the tremendous savings available from the Federal Inflation Reduction Act and the Wisconsin Focus on Energy Program. Representatives from *Couillard Solar Foundation* and *Solar On Schools* will explain how their organizations are helping to fund solar opportunities for non-profits. Mount Horeb Utility Electrical Supervisor Jordan Schmitz will describe the village’s

streamlined permitting process and the advantages of cooperating with a public utility.

Attendees will gain an appreciation for how renewable energy can be a game changer for dealing with the climate crisis. On a personal level, they’ll learn whether a solar installation could be beneficial to them. Finally, sweet treats and special door prizes will be awarded to those who attend.

This event is sponsored by the Village of Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee. For more information, contact Trustee Tim White, tim.white@mounthorebwi.info.

Learn about lighthouses

Explore lighthouses throughout our state through beautiful photos and storytelling at the Mt. Horeb Public Library Monday, February 5 at 1pm. Barb and Ken Wardius, authors and photographers of the book *Wisconsin Lighthouses-A Photographic and Historical Guide* share stunning images and history of lighthouses. This afternoon features a combination of history, photographs, and music. There will be time for questions and comments following the program. The presentation covers one third of the lights in the state, including Cana Island Lighthouse, Wisconsin Point Light, Sand Island Light, Rockwell Lighthouse,

Rawley Point, Milwaukee North Point and many more. Barb and Ken Wardius are life-long Wisconsin residents. Lighthouse history and photography are their passion. Their books include: *Wisconsin Lighthouses*; *Cana Island Lighthouse*; *Wind Point Lighthouse*, and *North Point Milwaukee Lighthouse*. They are sought after lighthouse lecturers, lead lighthouse tours, and belong to organizations dedicated to lighthouse preservation. For more information about the Mt. Horeb Public Library, its programs and services, visit www.mhpl.org or call 608-4347-5021.

Hempel to speak at next PFLAG event

PFLAG Mt. Horeb’s February speaker is Jessi Hempel, author of “The Family Outing.” Jessi is joining the PFLAG meeting via Zoom from 6-7 PM. The remaining hour is reserved for sharing and support. If you would like to join us via Zoom, please RSVP on our website and we will send you a link to join us the day before the event. This is not a library sponsored event. You’ll find us in the meeting room to your left as you enter the library.

Jessi Hempel was raised in a seemingly picture-perfect, middle-class American family. But the truth was far from perfect. Her father was constantly away from home,

traveling for work, while her stay-at-home mother became increasingly lonely and erratic. Growing up, Jessi and her two siblings struggled to make sense of their family, their world, their changing bodies, and the emotional turmoil each was experiencing. And each, in their own way, was hiding their true self from the world.

By the time Jessi reached adulthood, everyone in her family had come out: Jessi as gay, her sister as bisexual, her father as gay, her brother as transgender, and her mother as a survivor of a traumatic experience with an alleged serial killer. Yet coming out was just the beginning, starting a chain reaction of other personal revelations and reckonings that caused each of them to question their place in the world in new and ultimately liberating ways. (Source: Harper Collins Publishing)

Student art on display

Mount Horeb’s downtown Driftless History (100 S 2nd St) is proud to host the 2024 Mount Horeb High School Art Show. This annual collaboration brightens up the dreary winter months with impactful artwork by talented young creators from your own community.

Dozens of works of art in a variety of mediums, all by Mount Horeb High School students, will be viewable in the Kalscheur Family Foun-

dation Community Gallery now through Tuesday, February 18, 2024 during the museum’s open hours (Friday to Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). This show is free and open to all.

Exhibiting students include Lily Beadle, Ellenore Braun, Abbey Brummer, Carson Brummer, Denali Campi, Clem Christian, Kelsie Cothren, Caid Danz, Maxx Danz, Kaitlin Farr, Sienna Feltz, Mackenzie Fleck, Emily Folco, Lucas Folco, Ella Gauger, Delilah Gasch, Chrayvion Green, Lizzy Helin, Campbell Johnston, Hannah Jones, Stella Jungels, Leah Kellesvig, Ava Kolb, Mareck Lambert-Conohan, Charles Lomack Jr, Freja Lutz, Lela Markhardt, Zelma Marohn, Jakoby Matz, Perri McMahan, Piper McMahan, Fisher Moldrem, JoJo Murray, Amina Ndiaye, Lance Newville, Charles Olson, Grace Osterholz, Caitlin Patrick, Neela Patterson, Caden Pulvermacher, Anja Rathje, Brinna Retzlaff, Sofia Sanchez, Sofia Serate, Jadyn Schellpfeffer, Aubrey Schlicht, Areyes Scoles, Aly Seibel, Brinley Steiner, Hayley Strother, Emerson Sutter, Kayman Sutter, Max Vrstal, Olivia Welsh, Maddie Yogerst and Cass Zygmunt

The show is made possible by an ongoing partnership between the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society and the MHHS Art Department, with integral participation from the MHHS National Art Honor Society.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

PFLAG Mt. Horeb meeting, 6:00pm, Mt. Horeb Public Library. Speaker, Jessi Hempel, author of “The Family Outing”. Not a library sponsored event.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

Ageless Grace, Senior Center 2:000pm, RSVP 608-437-6902

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SCANDIHOOVIAN WINTER FEST: FEB. 9-11, 2024 - CHECK OUT INFO FOR ALL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING February 11, 2024 - Rotary Club Super Brunch breakfast, 9:00am to 12:30pm. High School Commons.

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.

Sugar River Euchre

By Stan Hook
Sugar River Euchre

With all four Norsk Golf Bowl Prankster couples exceeding 100 points, the Pranksters easily took down the J&M Bar River Rats by 50. Laurel Grindle and Dave Hook made up 112 of the Pranksters’ total, while also holding River Rats Darrell and Mark Raders to a single point in the fourth round.

The Morgan Bar Express remained unbeaten when they rolled over the Red Mouse Uff-das by 71 points. Engineers Shawn Farrell and Opie Taylor, losing their second game to Tom Magnuson and Bruce Milestone, ended the night with this week’s high score of 118 points. Express con-

ductors John Scheidegger and Karen Miller took 116 tickets off team Uff-da. All four Express couples broke 100 points. Only Dan Meinholz and Mary Humphrey, with 112 points, were able to break this barrier for team Uff-da.

The Mt. Horeb fog of last Thursday night affected the Kleeman Hay Shakers differently than it did the Norsk Golf Bowl Cowboys. The Cowboys were able to shoot right through the thick stuff, but it was apparently too wet for the Hay Shakers to make hay. With a perfect first round, the Cowboys started the match with a 35 point lead and led by 76 points after five. Cowboys Don Field and Dean Disch recorded the team’s high at 113 to guide the team into

the sunset and a 54 point Cowboy win.

One would think that the Viking Trolls would be accustomed to gloomy weather, but with an 80 point win, it was the Shufflers that were able to deal their way out of the dense foggy mountain air. Red Mouse Shufflers Shane Kahl and Randy Skogen were first to break through the fog with 116 points followed by Dave Herfel and Steve Vogt with 110 points. Trolls Pat Baier and Erika Forseth found themselves completely fogged in with this week’s low score at just 73.

The Sportsman’s Bar Cheese Eaters ate a hole through the Morgan Pipe Benders handy work to defeat them by 1 point. Cheese Eaters Jeff Buesser and Giff

Hoesly did the most damage with 112 points.

Standings:
Express 4-0
Pranksters 3-1
Shufflers 3-1
Cheese Eaters 2-2
Cowboys 2-2
Kleeman’s 2-2
Uff-Da 2-2
Pipe Benders 1-3
J&M Bar 1-3
Trolls 0-4
Feb. 1 Schedule:
Cowboys @ Cheese Eaters (7:00)
Uff-Da @ Shufflers (7:00)
Hay Shakers @ Pranksters (7:30)
River Rats @ Express (7:00)
Pipe Benders @ Trolls (7:00)

COMMUNITY

Obituary

Shirley B. (Pope) Thompson

July 30, 1928 – Jan. 24, 2024

MOUNT HOREB - Shirley B. (Pope) Thompson, created a rich legacy by being a maverick for making the world a better place. She died peacefully at Agrace HospiceCare, on Jan. 24, 2024, at the age of 95.

Shirley B.'s memory will be cherished by her children: Mary Thompson (Larry Jenkins), Madison, Wis., Rodney (Jane) Thompson, Appleton, Wis., Janet Thompson, Madison, Wis., and Randall (Amy) Thompson, Mount Horeb, Wis.; grandchildren: Andrew Kratz (Melanie), Kaukauna, Wis., Ashley Thompson,



Milwaukee, Wis., Anthony Weber, Madison, Wis., Steven (Kate) Thompson, West Allis, Wis., Alexander Thompson, Oregon, Wis., and Sara Thompson, Mount Horeb, Wis., and her beloved granddog, CoCo; sister, Darlene P. A. Polzin, Des Moines, Iowa; sister-in-law, Sharryl Pope, Long Beach, Calif.; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her son, Thomas

Milford; son-in-law, Richard L. Haynes, Madison, Wis.; parents, Virgil and Dorothy (Canfield) Pope; siblings and in-laws: Mary Marxen (William) Tisdale, Saskatchewan, Canada, Jennie R. (Robert) Campbell, Alton, Ill., Dorothy J. (Wayne) Smith, Janesville, Wis., C. Donald Pope (Mary Ellen), Whitewater, Wis., V. Lindsay Pope, Long Beach, Calif.; Donald Polzin, Des Moines, Iowa; and the father of her children, Milford R. Thompson, Mount Horeb, Wis.

Shirley B. was born on July 30, 1928, in Tisdale, Saskatchewan, to Virgil and Dorothy (Canfield) Pope. Always a Canadian at heart, she moved to Janesville, Wis., the original home of her father, Virgil Pope. She made her mark at Clinton High School as one of the most popular girls in school

because everyone loved her accent and her Model A car. From there she attended Madison Technical College and launched her business career working for UW Hospitals and the Wisconsin Medical Society. She married Milford in 1948 and raised her four children on Maple Shade Farm, Mount Horeb, Wis., which she believed were some of the best years of her life. During that time, she was a leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mount Horeb, civic affairs and political activities--running multiple campaigns for office. Later she would become the director for Wisconsin Vocational Education Council, one of two women on the Wisconsin Power and Light (Alliant Energy) Board of Directors; and a director of the Henry Vilas Zoo.

Shirley B. was a proud

mother and grandmother and a pioneer for women everywhere—a woman far ahead of her time. She loved her family and delighted in entertaining them and friends. She was bright, creative, adventurous, a green thumb, poet and had friendships across the globe. She was a gifted athlete and enjoyed anything with a ball including a retirement filled with golf—including two holes-in-one at her home course of Cherokee Country Club. Oh, did she relish her victories over the men! She followed her beloved Packers, Brewers and Badgers and was an armchair quarterback with her sons. Her best friends from golf, bridge and coffee groups enriched her retirement and created many memories.

Special thanks to her medical professionals at UW Hospital and Clinics,

Madison, Wis., Mayo Clinic and Agrace Hospice but especially Dr. J.B. Chung and Dr. Alexis Eastman. Also, we have gratitude for the spiritual guidance from our Pastor John Twiton. Memorials for Shirley B. can be made to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mount Horeb or a charity of your choice.

A memorial service will be held at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mount Horeb followed by a celebration of life in the Fellowship Hall on Aug. 3, 2024.

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

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FAITH

continued from page 1

amazing. Maybe the novelty will wear off, but right now I just can't get over the beauty of it."

"Plus, I'm a cold weather person," she adds with a chuckle. "I spent my life in Florida complaining about the heat, so I'm glad to be here."

Rokitowski is a – mostly – lifelong United Methodist who grew up in Plant City, just east of Tampa.

"I grew up in the church, in the Methodist Church, so to some degree it was always ingrained in me," she says. "But I went through some pretty rebellious years when I was young, when I thought the Church was out to brainwash everyone and got really cynical."

Her cynicism crumbled, however, when she was teenager and says she experienced the presence of God.

"Nobody convinced me that God exists," she says. "It's been my real, lived experience. I had a vision of myself preaching, which at the time I thought was ludicrous, but I can honestly say that these years have been the most fulfilled and happiest ever."

First, she received her undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the University of South Florida, and she worked as a professional engineer for several years before deciding to pursue the call to ministry.

Rokitowski then attended Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando while working as the assistant pastor at Skycrest UMC in Clearwater. She then took a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education and worked briefly as a hospital chaplain before her first official appointment as a Provisional Elder at Riviera UMC in St. Petersburg. After



Rev. Rokitowski

four years there, Rokitowski became associate pastor at Saint Paul's UMC where she served for four and one-half years. She was ordained as an Elder in Full Connection in 2022.

A effervescent 42-year-old today, she cites Micah 6:8 as one of her favorite passages in the Bible.

"[A]nd what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" it reads.

Asked her favorite part of being a pastor, she replied: "I guess, loving people. There are a lot of people who feel unloved, and I get to extend God's love to people, to show them ways to receive it, and that's just such a powerful and transformative thing."

"We're all human," she adds. "We all want safety and love."

Leaders of communities of faith are charged with swimming in waters both divine and mundane, in grappling with questions both ethereal and temporal.

As Christians read the Bible's message of an immortal soul, they preside over marriages and divorces, over births and deaths, and all they entail.

"I think having this position helps with perspective," Rokitowski observes. "I did 21 funerals last year. They included a young man with a brain tumor. They included young children."

So why, people inevitably ask when things get tough, would a powerful God allow such suffering to gust upon the sails of the world?

"There are some schools of thought that God is really controlling," she says. "That's not mine. That's why we pray the Lord's prayer ["May your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven]."

"I don't think God created all the suffering in the world," she continues. "I think God became human to suffer with us; so we could suffer in solidarity with God."

Located at the corner of highways S and 78, Mount Horeb United Methodist Church has been serving Mount Horeb and the surrounding community for 170 years. As a Reconciling Congregation, MHUMC "celebrates the inclusive love of Christ and embraces the image of God in all humanity regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, race, sex, ability, ethnicity, education, faith tradition, family structure, political affiliation, social class, physical or mental health."

Methodism, an 18th-century movement founded by John Wesley that sought to reform the Church of England from within, soon evolved into an autonomous church.

Rokitowski is married to husband Ted, and has two children, Kaden (18) and Adam (13).

CHURCH NOTES

Good News Lutheran Church - WELS

NEW LOCATION:
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Sunday School and Bible Study 10:15 am
608-437-4646 visit
GoodNewsLC.org/location
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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](https://www.facebook.com/evangelical.lutheran.church.of.mt.horeb)
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www.mtvernonucc.org
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pastormtvernon@gmail.com
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www.newhopeefc.org
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Perry Lutheran Church ELCA

1057 Hwy 78 S, Mt. Horeb
608-437-5294
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Springdale Lutheran Church

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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

ELECTION

continued from page 1

ment for election officials in Wisconsin.”

In 2017, the federal Department of Homeland Security designated the institutions and processes for holding elections as “critical infrastructure.”

Four years later, the Dane County Board of Supervisors established an Election Security Review Committee

in March of 2021, which issued its report in July 2022. The committee focused on “the infrastructure of election administration, the safety of election officials and the physical security of election offices in Dane County.”

The report’s primary finding was that “the current physical infrastructure of election administration in Dane County and municipalities in Dane County

are inadequate for a function identified as ‘critical infrastructure.’” The report added: “Resolving this will require attention and resources.”

The report recommended Madison and Dane County clerks’ election administration be relocated into a dedicated facility with such updated functions as fire and water detection and prevention.

“The information we have

been gathering from expert sources underscores how housing election equipment, ballots and key infrastructure in an open facility like the City County Building, or spread in local offices throughout the county, also poses a risk,” McDonell said.

The Dane County already included \$19 million in its 2024 budget for the project, the extensive work that is being recommended will

take time and a completion date is not yet know. But the building will be used for the first time this year, as county officials gear up for a smattering of Primary elections on February 20 and a General Election on April 2.

“At this point we will be using it for some storage, but pretty limited,” said McDonell.

Once finished, the new climate-controlled facility will have covered loading

docks and secured storage that will protect the election equipment, as well as provide a secure delivery space for election workers delivering results. In addition to secure storage and loading, the new center will be used for testing the equipment. The building was constructed in 2011.

Requests for Proposals on the new project have not yet been issued.

BIRDS

continued from page 1

birds of 56 species. We have 35 years of continuous Mount Horeb Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data, with an average of 54 species recorded each year over the last 15 years! Local resident and proud Bird Nerd, yours truly Kerry Beheler, has been coordinating the Mount Horeb CBC since 2009 and maintains this extensive long term data set.

What is the CBC? It began in 1900 by ornithologist Frank Chapman, founder of the Audubon Society. Chapman and others started the CBC to promote conservation by counting, rather than hunting or killing, birds on Christmas Day. The CBC now takes place in over 20 countries in the western hemisphere. You can read more about the CBC history here <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count/history-christmas-bird-count>

How is the CBC conducted? It is a citizen science, early-winter bird census that happens over a 24-hour time period on one designated calendar day every year, any day from December 14 through January 5. Mount Horeb’s count day is traditionally held the first Sunday after Christmas Day. There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and each count is organized by a local coordinator. A “count circle” with a diameter of 15 miles (24 kilometers) is designated, and Mount Horeb’s count circle center is the

Kwik Trip roundabout on Springdale Street!

Count volunteers follow specified routes, or watch at their yard bird feeding stations, counting every bird they see. Both species and individual bird numbers are recorded, and this provides a “snapshot” of the total number of birds in the count circle on that specific day. The coordinator compiles and organizes the local results and sends this to the National Audubon Society. The CBC data is very useful for analytical population monitoring and for evaluating trends. Trends can reveal the impact of diseases, climate, environment, habitat changes, or other events.

Our beautiful Mount Horeb area can be a challenge for winter birding if there are icy or snowy roads on count day, yet we attempt to survey the entire circle every year. Our birders personal safety is paramount! The Mount Horeb count circle is divided into 20 unique field territories, with variation in territory size that accommodates a broad range of birders’ interests and abilities. Some birding landowners prefer to walk their own smaller properties on count day, some counters walk or snowshoe moderate sized territories, and other counters prefer to drive big areas. Many thanks go to local resident and birding expert Peter Gorman who adjusts the territory boundaries every year before count day using his Google territory mapping wizardry!

Tenacity describes the birds and those who count



A red-headed woodpecker, photographed by Eric Preston.

them during the Mt Horeb CBCs! We have tremendous coverage and excellent birder dedication. Weather conditions can vary considerably on count day, so the weather data we provide to the National Audubon Society reflects when we have less than ideal birding conditions. The CBC is a “point in time” bird count, and we do our best with the weather conditions. Some years we have delightful blue skies, abundant snow cover, moderate winter temperatures, and we find many birds. Other years, in 2011 for example, we look for birds with 0” of snow cover, temperatures of 25-30 F and sustained northwest winds of 20-30 mph! Our 35 year continuous data set is invaluable for finding trends and making comparisons.

What do we find on Mount Horeb CBC count days? In 2023, 20 field parties of 45 people found a low of 5 species, high of 32, for an average of 19 species per field party. Over 87 hours and 462 miles were driven and walked in 2023, and 5

hours were spent looking for owls. 17 feeder watchers found 29 species of 649 birds over 9 hours. A unique feeder species was a southern flying squirrel who loves to eat the berry and seed suet cakes! Although it does fly, we did not include it with our total count numbers.

We work hard to find birds, and while it was a relatively quiet 2023 count day, we had some very good finds! One bewildered meadowlark, 2 long eared owls and 1 short-eared owl were found on various The Prairie Enthusiast lands. Thank you for grassland habitat management Rich Henderson and all TPE stewards! 30 Eastern bluebirds total were counted in 2023, while we usually find only 7 to 15 each year.

Our highest number bird in 2023 was the little dark-eyed junco at 1168! The previous high count of 3205 juncos was in 2021. The next highest bird numbers in 2023 were European starling at 943, followed by American crow at 553. One group of counters in 2021 spotted 16 turkeys being stalked by 2 coyotes along a field edge. Everybody eats!

Winter feeding of birds has increased our Mount Horeb CBC count numbers. Several feeder watchers mentioned patrolling resident Cooper’s or sharp-shinned hawks were keeping their feeder bird numbers low in 2023. While not found only at feeders, these birds include blue jay, northern cardinal, black-capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches, brown creeper, purple, house, and American goldfinches. The most unusual Mount Horeb feeder species ever recorded was a Eurasian tree sparrow at our birding expert Peter Gorman’s feeder in 2019.

We usually find several raptor species including Bald eagle, red-tailed, rough-legged, Cooper’s and sharp-shinned hawks, and kestrels. Raptor numbers were low in 2023, as apparently they do not like flying during snow squalls! A golden eagle and a red-shouldered hawk were both observed in the Riley wetland area in 2022. A golden eagle was last recorded in 2012, and a red-shouldered hawk in 2017 in the Mount Horeb CBCs.

Although most of us are daytime birding, in 2023 we found a few Eastern screech, great horned, barred, long eared, and short-eared owls. Two snowy owls have been seen in the Mount Horeb CBC count area, yet a snowy owl has never been recorded on any count day in 35 years!

Woodpeckers as a group are typically well represented in the Mount Horeb CBC by red-bellied, downy, hairy, pileated, and Northern flicker. Numbers of most woodpeckers are consistent over the years, with the exception of red-headed woodpeckers. It is all about the habitat, as woodland management is essential for red-headed woodpeckers. Town of Vermont residents and expert birders Ken Wade and Pat Trochlell have been doing intensive oak woodland management. In the spring of 2022 they burned a record amount of oak woodland acreage, and 2023 was a very good autumn mast (acorn) crop year. They had their highest ever count of “property” red-headed woodpeckers with 31 adult and immature birds in 2023! Thank you Ken and Pat!

Other highlights over the Mount Horeb CBC years include a flyover flock of 154 tundra swans in 2017; a cackling goose in 2018,

a record first for the Mount Horeb CBC; a spotted towhee who was photographed and entered into the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology’s record books in 2017; and a varied thrush who wandered here from western states in 2012.

Although 2021 was a relatively cold birding day, we counted 11,547 individual birds of 55 different species, our highest number of birds in 35 years, as we counted 1348 sandhill cranes flying over! Our previous record number of flyover sandhill cranes was 56 birds in 2017. Wave after wave of crane flocks were reported by 12 different field parties and feeder counters throughout count day 2021. The flocks were most likely leaving the Wisconsin River areas to our immediate geographic west, induced to move due to the change in weather and ambient temperatures.

2021 was an interesting year to evaluate data and avoid over counting. After consulting with other long time Audubon bird count coordinators, a rough “flock flight line” of cranes traveling in time and direction from northwest to southeast was established to eliminate over counting. It was a calculated judgment call, and we likely missed more cranes than we counted. A brand new 2021 Mt Horeb CBC counter remarked “I saw 2 flocks of 75 cranes each. It was amazing to see them on a cold winter day against the bright blue sky.” To quote Forrest Gump, “My Mama always said ‘Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you’re gonna get.’ “. So it is for the annual Mount Horeb CBCs.

Sincere thanks to everyone for their Mount Horeb CBC involvement! More birders are always welcome. Count Day 2024 will be Sunday 29 December 2024. Please contact Kerry Beheler for more information. Here’s hoping 2024 brings health and happiness to all. All things change, and to learn more about birds and their habitats, please visit the National Audubon Society for current information about birds and climate change <http://climate.audubon.org/>

Happy New Year and Good Birding!

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Countryside News



A pair of Bald Eagles perch close to a permanent nest they are likely to begin using in early February.

By JERRY DAVIS
Countryside News
Nesting birds often share duties, maybe not evenly, when nests are built, eggs are incubated, young are fed

before fledging, and training young after fledging to find their own eats. Male and female Bald Eagles share nest building, of course fertile eggs are laid

by the larger female, and both birds incubate the eggs, which begins immediately after the first egg is laid. The male may bring food to an incubating female or cover

the eggs, while she travels for carrion, fish and catches live squirrels or bunnies. Growing nestlings are feed by the male and female, too.

Rec Notes

Does your child love video games and storytelling? Join our Coding for Kids class this spring to learn different video games and storytelling design techniques. Using Scratch®, they will code their own story and video games, write their own story and video game code, and be able to keep their stories and video games online. Spring session of Coding for Kids takes place at the Rec Dept Multipurpose Room from April 2 through May 7 on Tuesdays. Kindergarten through 2nd grade meet from 4:00-5:00 PM and 3rd-5th grade meet 5:10-6:10 PM. Registration fee for residents is \$80 and non-residents is \$90. Registration deadline is March 26th.

Are you looking for a program to help your child gain some confidence? Taekwondo – Little Lions is built for Taekwondo training with an emphasis on manners, following instructions and discipline. The instructor encourages goal setting and confidence. The material is present in a fun and exciting format that teaches respect, self-control and building self-esteem. Winter 2 Session begins February 15 and goes through March 21. Ages 3-4 years old meets from 5:00-5:45 PM and ages 5-6 years old meets 6:00-6:45 PM on Thursday evenings. Resident fee is \$40 and non-resident fee is \$50. Registration deadline is February 9th!

HOW TO REGISTER: There are multiple ways to register for programs and activities.

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

In-person at 105 N. Grove Street

Place completed form and payment in 24-hour drop box

Email completed form and payment to mhrec@mounthorebwi.info

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES
Cookie Decorating (2/2)
Painting Class – Puppy Love (2/5)
Adult Macrame Workshop – Plant Hanging (2/7)
Taekwondo – Winter 2 (2/9)



The Scandihoovian Winter Festival will take place on Feb. 9-11 in a variety of places around Mount Horeb, both inside and out. File photos.

FEST

continued from page 1
visitors to town, all with the goal of shaking off cabin fever and enjoying what winter in the Midwest has to offer. Outdoor and indoor activities ensure a good time no matter the weather. This year’s main events, organized by the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce, will keep you busy all day Saturday. Start off cheering on your favorite fat-tire bike racer at the Scandi-Fatty Bike Race at Norsk Golf Club at 9:00am. Next, make your way to

downtown Mount Horeb and watch as artists turn snow into beautiful works of art outside of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The artists will begin sculpting at 10 a.m. While you watch, the kids can learn some Norwegian games at *Barnespill*, hosted by our local Sons of Norway. At the Driftless Historium’s Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Education Room, you can watch the Norwegian delicacy *Krumkake* being made (you might even get a little taste)! Grab lunch somewhere in town and then head over to Martinson Hall at Buck

& Honey’s for the Community Spelling Bee at 1 p.m. Watch as Scandihoovians compete for the coveted title and special prize. For \$10, adults can register online or sign up at the event. After crowning the bee champion, head over to Garfield Park for a friendly game of Frozen Turkey Bowling. Free to participate, all are welcome to come and see how many pins you can knock down with a frozen turkey. The winner wins... well, a frozen turkey! (Not one of the ones being used as a bowling ball, though.) Wonder Cookie Food Truck will be on hand to make sure

you keep warm during this fun family event! Wonder Cookie will be stationed at the Mount Horeb Welcome Center from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m., and then at Frozen Turkey Bowling starting at 4 p.m. In addition to these chamber events, local businesses will host events that will get you into the Scandihoovian spirit! Details for all of these events and more can be found on the chamber’s Community Calendar at mounthorebchamber.com/events/calendar. The Scandihoovian Winter Festival wouldn’t be the same without the iconic red hats that flood the village all

weekend long. You can pick yours up at the Mount Horeb Welcome Center Gift Shop or order online at mounthorebchamber.com/store. Wear your red hat while you are out and about and enjoy special discounts or giveaways at local shops, restaurants, lodging properties, and attractions. Check out all the local red hat specials by visiting the Hot Deals page on the chamber’s website at mounthorebchamber.com/hotdeals. For more information about the festival, visit trollway.com/scandihoovian-winter-festival or contact the Mount Horeb Area Chamber

of Commerce at 608-437-5914 or info@trollway.com. The Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1923 in Mount Horeb, WI, and has been proudly serving the Mount Horeb area for more than 100 years. The mission of the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote the economic well-being of all member businesses as well as to enhance the image of Mount Horeb as a great place to live, work and visit. For more information, visit the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce at mounthorebchamber.com.



Former CP EMS director in court

By Kevin Murphy
Mount Horeb Mail

Cross Plains former Emergency Medical Service director made an initial court appearance Monday last week, on felony charges in connection with allegedly falsifying payroll records.

Erica J. Jensen, 38, town of Verona, and her attorney, Nathan Otis, waived the right to a preliminary hearing and agreed to the state's request for release on a signature bond with conditions.

Jensen agreed not to hold a job that involved handling money or financial documents.

Jensen was charged by complaint in late November with one count of forgery and two counts of theft by false representation.

She faces maximum penalties of 19 years in prison and \$35,000 in fines if convicted on all counts.

According to court documents: After serving as director of the Cross Plains Area Emergency Medical Service, Jensen resigned effective Dec. 31, 2022.

She held an exempt position with the department and wasn't eligible to receive overtime pay.

Jensen approved her and

EMS employee time sheets which were processed for payment by a North Carolina-based firm.

After she left the department, CP EMS board members began investigating Jensen's pay after her successor raised some questions about Jensen's records.

Jensen told two EMS board directors in March 2023 that she believed she qualified for overtime and family leave pay because she worked a 24-hour on and 48-hour off work schedule. Instead of using her accumulated sick leave, Jensen admitted to being

double paid for cashing it in. She also admitted that she wasn't eligible for the overtime pay, that it was a mistake to seek it and that she would reimburse the Cross Plains EMS District.

Jensen was paid \$44,934 for her final two pay periods in December 2022, and should have been paid \$7,600 as a salaried employee or \$13,054 as a shift worker.

At the salaried pay rate, Jensen was overpaid by \$37,334 or, \$31,880 as the shift employee rate. Those amounts don't include the \$2,320 Jensen received at

the chief's salary after she resigned.

The complaint doesn't state if Jensen reimbursed the EMS district.

After interviewing Jensen, Cross Plains Village President Jay Lengfeld report to Cross Plains police that Jensen cashed in more overtime, vacation time and sick leave than she was eligible to receive. Jensen also took more than more than 12 weeks of paid family leave instead of using it as uncompensated time off.

Jensen also allegedly increased her vacation benefit by changing her accrual pro-

file from six to 10 years of service and collected salary as chief from Dec. 16-31, 2022, while on limited-term employee status. Cross Plains Police obtained Jensen's payroll records which confirmed that Jensen received 150 hours of sick leave paid the Oct. 23-Nov. 5, 2022, pay period. That amount exceeded the allowed hours proscribed in the employee handbook, which Jensen updated in 2022. Jensen's case was assigned to Circuit Judge Mario White, who is scheduled to hold a status conference on Feb. 12.

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SCANDIHOOVIAN

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February 9-10-11

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Fiscal Facts:

As other states go dry, Wisconsin's water use plummets

Wisconsin seemingly swims in an abundance of fresh water. Unlike some western states that struggle with empty reservoirs and limits on growth imposed by water shortages, our municipal water supplies facing little threat, even during summer droughts.

Beyond our inheritance of abundant water resources, another explanation is that during the past generation, the state's water utility customers have steadily purchased fewer gallons. The volume of water sold by Wisconsin's water utilities has fallen to near its lowest level per person in at least a generation, and likely much longer.

State data show that 574 Wisconsin utilities sell more than 138 billion gallons of water annually for use in homes, businesses, factories, and, to a small extent, irrigation. Since 1997, the earliest available year in our data, statewide total water sales have fallen by 18 percent, or 30.4 billion gallons - about the same amount of water held in Madison's Lake Monona.

The record low for water usage was 134.6 billion gallons in 2019, but 2022 was not far behind, at 138.4 billion. This was down from a high of 175 billion in 1998. On a per capita basis, the drop is even more pronounced at 28.5 percent, from just over 33,400 gallons per person in 1998 to a near record low of 23,300 in 2022.

Of all categories (residential, commercial, and industrial) industrial usage has declined the most, dropping by more than 17.2 billion gallons, or 34 percent. Like other utility customers, industrial plants have grown more efficient over the decades in water use. Another impact was a decline in overall industrial activity, including papermaking and, at least in some communities, food production.

One important caveat: these data include only gallons sold by water utilities, not total withdrawals of water. It includes water use by business and residential customers who represent the vast majority of water consumers, yet excludes the biggest uses of water such as power generation and agricultural irrigation. To examine those trends, we also analyze data from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which tracks water withdrawals from all sources.

Overall withdrawals in 2021 were 6 percent lower than the annual average since 2012, and nearly 400 billion gallons less than the amount withdrawn in 2011. The drop was driven by a decrease in withdrawals by power plants, which are by far the biggest water users -- accounting for 73 percent of total withdrawals.

Though Wisconsin has plentiful water resources, reduced consumption has benefits including opportunities to serve new homes and factories more cheaply, lower energy use by water utilities to pump and treat water, less stress on sewer systems and sewage treatment plants, and fewer disruptions to aquatic ecosystems.

As the climate warms and drought becomes more likely across the country, stable access to clean water could make the state increasingly attractive to residents and businesses. Understanding these data can help policymakers monitor and tout this advantage.

This information is a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state's leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education. Learn more at wispoli-cyforum.org.

SATURDAY SIGNATURE EVENTS:

• Scandi-Fatty Bike Race, 9am-12pm, Norsk Golf Club

• Snow Sculptures & Barnespill Kids' Games, 10am-12pm, Evangelical Lutheran Church

• Norwegian Baking Demos, 10am-12pm, Driftless Historium

• Community Spelling Bee, 1pm, Martinson Hall at Buck & Honey's

• Frozen Turkey Bowling, Starts at 4pm, Garfield Park





There are many more events and activities taking place! Go to mounthorebchamber.com/events

Local stores and restaurants will also be offering specials. Go to mounthorebchamber.com/hotdeals

Please note, all outdoor events are weather-dependent. Please check our website for the most up-to-date information.

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Your Right To Know

Protect the rights of student journalists

By LARRY GALLUP
Your Right To Know

About a year ago, Simon Mehring came home from a high school journalism conference with an idea.

Mehring, now a junior at Stoughton High School, had learned about an Illinois law that protects student media from censorship. He also found out that Wisconsin doesn't have such a law.



So, armed with model legislation from the Student Press Law Center, he raised the issue with state legislators, in conversations that lasted through the school year and into the summer.

Mehring, in an interview, said he spoke several times with Rep. Dave Murphy (R-Greenville), who chairs the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities. This fall, Mehring was at school and "all of a sudden,

I got the news that they were going to introduce the bill."

The legislation, AB 551, was patterned off the model legislation. It's co-authored by Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) and Rep. Tom Michalski (R-Elm Grove), with cosponsors from both parties. It was introduced on Oct. 23 and had a hearing in Murphy's committee on Oct. 26. It passed a committee on Nov. 2 and five days later was voted on

by the full Assembly, where it passed unanimously.

"The biggest surprise is how fast it went," says Mehring, who, along with testifying at the Assembly hearing, submitted letters from other Wisconsin student journalists who have experienced censorship.

The bill as passed would do several things:

Establish that public-school journalists in grades 6-12 and student journalists at a UW System university or a technical college have "the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in school-sponsored media."

Let student journalists determine "the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media" and prohibit school officials from "exercising prior restraint of materials."

Preclude student journalists and their advisors from being disciplined for "for acting in accordance with the bill" and give the ability to enforce their rights in the courts.

Require school districts, the UW System and technical college boards to "adopt a policy related to student journalists exercising their freedom of speech and the press in school-sponsored media," including an appeal process for students.

The Student Law Press Center says 17 states have passed similar bills intended to offset a 1988 U.S. Supreme Court decision that muddled the issue of censorship of student media.

Some of the support for the Wisconsin bill comes from Republican legislators concerned about protect-

ing the free speech rights of conservative students on UW campuses. But the unanimous vote shows that the ideals it seeks to protect have deep bipartisan support.

The bill did draw criticism from Howard Schweber, a UW-Madison professor of American politics and political theory, who told the Badger Herald newspaper it might be a "disastrously bad idea" to give middle-school and high-school students the same press freedom as college students.

But Matthew Smith, a Fond du Lac journalism teacher, student journalism advisor and the president of the Wisconsin Journalism Education Association, said at the Oct. 26 hearing that he knows from experience the legislation will work at the high-school level, having

seen how students "follow the standards we talk about in class" — that is, to behave responsibly and "focus on truth."

The bill is now with a Senate committee and would need committee and full Senate approval before going to Gov. Tony Evers.

Mehring is hopeful about its chances — and stresses its importance. "Even though this bill is a niche issue," he says, "it affects a lot of people."

Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (wisfoic.org), a nonpartisan group dedicated to open government. Council member Larry Gallup is the audience growth editor for USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin. He can be reached at lgallup@gannett.com.

There's Nothing Bland About It

Bread pudding



Before I write this column, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

I thought I will start this year with something sweet. One of our family favorites is the infamous bread pudding. I don't even know if it is true but the word on the street is that the bread pudding first came into incep-

tion by 11th century cooks to repurpose stale bread. What I know is true is that a day-old bread indeed is the best bread for a delicious bread pudding. There are many versions of bread pudding, perhaps created differently by each chef. It can be topped with caramel, some use the cinnamon bread, or plain white bread with butter, although all versions have one thing in common: a delicious custard.

Here is my version of the bread pudding for you to enjoy!

Bread Pudding
12 slices Cinnamon bread, cut half diagonally
1 stick of butter, melted

3 cups whole milk
6 eggs
1 cup sugar

3 green cardamoms
1/2 cup sliced almonds

Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Butter the cinnamon bread slices and arrange them in a baking dish.

In a saucepan, pour the milk and add sugar. Open the green cardamoms and add the seeds. Discard the shells. Beat the eggs in a separate bowl. Add the eggs to the milk. Stir everything together to make sure all the ingredients are mixed well. Pour the mixture on top of the buttered bread. Place the dish in the oven. The bread pudding should be ready when the custard is set, 25-30 minutes. Sprinkle the sliced almonds on top. Serve warm with a dollop of ice cream or whipped cream.



POLICE

continued from page 2

Truancy – 7

Special Events/Community Relations – 3

Officers assisted Mount Horeb Fire with traffic control at an event at Grandma Fosters Park.

Multiple officers participated in Shop with a Cop at Target.

Library Staff requested the Police Department do a walk through before a community presentation took place. No issues were observed.

Stolen Auto – 1

A resident of the village called to report his vehicle stolen, and he believed his son-in-law to be the suspect. The vehicle was located in Middleton, where the oc-

cupants said they purchased the vehicle from someone they did not know. The vehicle was recovered and returned to the owner. A probation warrant was issued for the suspect, who was ultimately taken into custody for the warrant. Charges for the theft of the auto were referred to the Dane County District Attorney's Office.

Suspicious Person - 1

Suspicious Vehicle – 8 Theft – 1

Subject came into a local business and attempted to purchase food items. The subject swiped his card and began to walk out. The card was declined and the cashier stated he yelled at the subject, advising him of such. The cashier stated the subject stopped by the door, looked at him, then

left abruptly. Subject was described as being M/W approximately 5'6", 150 lbs., wearing black pants and black shirt with a gold chain, brown hair in a buzz cut. Subject also had mud/oil or possibly a birthmark on the right side of his face.

Towed Vehicle - 2

Traffic Arrests – 7

Traffic Incident – 10

Traffic Warning – 107

Unwanted Person – 1

A resident called to report that her ex was standing outside of her apartment and would not leave. Upon contact with the subject, he stated that due to the breakup he wanted to retrieve an item that he believed was in the residence. The subject was informed the item was not in the apartment and that he was not allowed back.

Wild winter weather causes blood shortage

Blood drive in Mount Horeb Friday at ELC

Dangerous winter weather intensifying emergency blood shortage

Road conditions, flight delays impacting Red Cross transport of lifesaving blood products

\$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email for those who come to give in February

The American Red Cross continues to experience an emergency blood shortage as severe winter weather has further impacted the ability to rebuild the blood supply. Blood and platelet donors are urged to give now to help ensure lifesaving

medical procedures are not delayed.

The national blood supply remains at critically low levels. Blood drives have been canceled in nearly every state where the Red Cross collects blood. As a result, nearly 15,000 blood and platelet donations have gone uncollected this month alone. In addition to dangerous road conditions, many Americans have dealt with flight and shipping delays, and the Red Cross is no different. Snow, ice and extreme temperatures have made it tougher to move

vital blood products across the Red Cross network, affecting deliveries to hospitals in some locations.

As much of the country warms up this week, individuals are urged to make an appointment now to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). As a thank-you, all those who come to give Feb. 1-29, 2024, will receive a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/Heart

for details.

The nation is currently facing the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. When fewer people donate blood, any disruption to blood donations – like recent weather systems – can have a huge effect on the availability of blood products and dramatic consequences for those in need of emergency blood transfusion. Generous blood donors are vital to ensuring those in need of transfusions have access to lifesaving care.

Since announcing an emergency blood shortage earlier this month, thou-

sands of donors across the country have answered the call to help. In appreciation for all those who take the time to help save lives, the Red Cross is pleased to launch an all-new Blood Donor Rewards program. This program offers a new way for the Red Cross to say thank-you for the generous donations that are critical to patients counting on lifesaving care. All donors will now earn points for their donations that accumulate each time they roll up a sleeve to give. Donors automatically started earning points on Jan. 1, 2024,

and they can redeem points any time of year to receive e-gift cards or save them to redeem and claim an exclusive Red Cross merchandise item in the next calendar year. For more information, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Rewards.

Upcoming blood donation:

**Mount Horeb
2/2/2024:
12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.,
Evangelical Lutheran
Church, 315 E Main**

Gleanings

By **BARR JOHNSON**
Mount Horeb Mail

130 Years Ago- Feb. 1, 1894

The Academy debating society meets on Friday evening. The question for debate is “Resolved, that every loyal citizen of America should belong to some temperance society.”

Wm. Briott is right in it with harnesses and everything else in his line. Give him a call.

Three of the children of S.K. Swiggum are suffering from scarlet fever.

Academy notes: Positively no flirting around the Academy.

Gilbert Ranyim is learning telegraphy at the depot.

An orchestra has been organized here with the following members: J.P. Moe, first violin, N.C. Evans, second violin, T.J. Dahle, cornet, G.G. Mandy, sliding trombone, Rob Heist, bass viol. These gentlemen are all thorough musicians and the people of Mt. Horeb will have the pleasure of hearing them in the near future.

120 Years Ago- Feb. 4, 1904

The westbound special freight was wrecked east of the Riley station Monday morning. Five cars were

thrown from the track, the accident being caused by a broken rail. Passenger trains were unable to pass until afternoon. No one was hurt.

Rev. Holte was called to Lancaster Friday of last week to baptize a pair of twin girls, late arrivals of the Register of Deeds.

Thomas Ayen sold his farm in Vermont Township to Thomas Lingard. Consideration was \$17,000, taking part payment in telephone stock.

Hoff’s store will be closed the entire day Saturday on account of the funeral of Carl Boeck.

All other stores in the village will close from 1 o’clock to 3 o’clock p.m.

Hear the Hardanger violin at the opera house next Saturday evening. Anders Odegardof

Nummedal, Norway will give a performance commencing a 8 o’clock.

Halsten Knudson is now the telephone rent collector in the village, authorized to do business for the Independent Telephone Company.

It isn’t how much cold cream a woman puts on her face but how much Rocky Mountain Tea she takes inside that brings out the real beauty.

Mr. Joseph Zimmerman and Miss Louisa Mickelson, both of Springdale, were married by Rev. Father Mueller at this place, Wednesday evening.

110 Years Ago- Jan. 30, 1914

Henry Witte has bought the old Farmers’ store building and will have it razed and utilize the lumber for another building. It is by far the oldest building here. We first remember it as a vacated church building located in the southwest cor-

ner of the Union cemetery. It was used as a dance hall on a 4th of July somewhere around 1872. When the railroad came it was moved to its present location where it has been used for a saloon, a print shop and store.

O.P. Berg is assisting at the electric light plant in overhauling the large engine to be in good condition when the 18-hour a day service will be given, from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight.

K.B. Skuldt and family have been rusticated on the farm the past week.

The Rexall store has been supplying customers with goldfish this week, and it rained.

The Opera House managers gave a free matinee to the grade school scholars and teachers on Wednesday after school, which was greatly appreciated and very much enjoyed. Many of the little tots saw moving pictures for the first time.

Peter Nace is building an ice house at his place on the farm and intends to put up several tons this winter. Mr. Nace tried the experiment last year and found that ice on the farm is indispensable and not expensive. Other farms should do likewise. Ice is cheap at Lake Park.

The street lights on Park Avenue, north side, were turned on Saturday evening after a long spell of darkness and it seems nice to again have a lighted street.

The second floor of the mercantile building is now finished and there will be four suites of elegant office rooms. J. Vilberg will occupy the first rooms near the entrance; Attorney Mickelson, the southwest rooms, and Dr. Thompson, the southeast suite. The entire building is heated by steam and nicely arranged throughout. A ladies waiting room is arranged with toilet

room and fixtures. The new building will be taken into use this week.

Ole Lee, accompanied by a number of gentlemen friends, enjoyed an auto ride through our streets last Sunday in Mr. Lee’s new car.

100 Years Ago- Jan. 29, 1924

Last Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Silas Lundy were pleasantly surprised when a host of friends and neighbors came to spend the day with them at their farm home. Good will, true friendship and God speed was the motto of the day. The self invited guests served the family and everyone present to a bounteous feast which included palatable dishes, even Romme-graut and lefse. After dinner the choir of Primrose enjoyed a good hour singing their favorite songs. After which an appropriate farewell program was rendered. The family are moving to Iowa in about a week.

Ole Myrland, well now citizen of Primrose, dropped dead of heart failure, at the farm institute at Mt. Vernon at 4 o’clock Wednesday afternoon. The speaker had completed his talk and asked if anyone in the audience would like to ask questions or make comments. Ole accepted the offer and spoke for a few minutes staggered and fell into the arms of his friends. A doctor was hurriedly summoned but he declared that death had been instantaneous.

The Grenwaldt, Lehr and Chaladek show plow is now ready for its initial try out and some time this afternoon (Tuesday) they expect to try it out on the roads west of town. The plow will have abnormal snow conditions so if it works now nothing in the line of ordinary snow storms will ever stop it.

90 Years Ago- Feb. 1, 1934

The Village Board voted to extend the time for payment of taxes without penalty to Feb. 28, 1934, at a meeting Monday night.

Peterson and Brannan’s truck was struck by a Madison car near the Murphy Bros. filling station Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Anna Bang is improving after breaking the bones in one of her ankles.

Dodgeville High School’s basketball team, after spotting Mount Horeb three points early in the initial period, came back in the next three quarters to administer one of the worst rubbings a Mount Horeb quintet has suffered in conference competition these recent years, and won by a 25-11 score.

Andrew Gesme purchased the 81-acre farm from Gilbert Gilbertson in the town of Blue Mounds, last Thursday. The farm was formerly known as the Richard Leitch farm.

60 Years Ago- Jan. 30, 1964

Julie Gilden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gilden, had the misfortune of closing the car door on her thumb last Sunday. On Friday, it was necessary to remove the nail.

Clement Field is a patient at Madison General Hospital where he was taken Monday afternoon after he sustained a head injury in a fall from a farm truck at the Wallace Field farm.

50 Years Ago- Jan. 31, 1974

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Scott, Rockford, Ill. have purchased the Clarence Schwenn home on East Main Street. Mrs. Schwenn has rented one of the Oswald Halverson apartments

on Ridge Drive, Mount Horeb, and will move in this weekend.

Beth Twiton, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Robert Twiton, has been named Barneveld’s ’73-74 Betty Crocker Family Leader of Tomorrow.

Gaye Scheidegger received the first place trophy for winning the Jaycees Women’s Bowling Tournament at Mt. Horeb Viking Bowl.

40 Years Ago- Feb. 2, 1984

In an action that has sent a shock wave through the schools, the Mount Horeb Board of Education began proceedings in its executive session to dismiss Primary School Principal Dr. Steve Ashmore.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Zahler, Verona, will observe their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 12 with a dinner for the immediate family.

20 Years Ago- Jan. 29, 2004

The State Bank of Cross Plains has hired Dale Hatfield as a personal banker for its Mount Horeb office. He comes here from San Diego, CA.

Dennis and Angie Sailing are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Nicholas Gerard. Nicholas arrived on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004 at Upland Hills Health Center.

Roger R. Way, 68, of Mt. Vernon, died on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2004 at the Don and Marilyn Anderson Hospice Center in Fitchburg.

Junior Kyle Curran and senior Shannon Buttchen, both members of the Mount Horeb High School cross-country team, have been awarded Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches’ Assoc. All-State awards.



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SPORTS

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Back on the right track

Vikings' girls basketball team wins a pair of games

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

The drought was brutal. Thirty five days, to be exact. Mount Horeb's girls basketball team had lost six straight games during a five-week span. But the Vikings ended that skid last week by winning a pair of games. Mount Horeb defeated Baraboo, 65-24, on Jan. 23. The Vikings then edged Wisconsin Heights, 38-32, last Saturday. "Our girls needed this after two tough losses the week before where we led

and gave up leads in the second half," Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said. Mount Horeb is now 6-11 overall and 4-5 in the Badger Small Conference. Here's a recap of the Vikings' week:

- **Mount Horeb 65, Baraboo 24** — Courtney Monroe led the Vikings to an easy win with 14 points. Hallie Klein and Rowan Johnson both added 10 points, while Ava Kolb had eight.

"We shot the ball better at Baraboo, which then led to good energy on the defense," Leibfried said.

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Mount Horeb girls basketball coach Bart Leibfried and his Vikings won a pair of games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

A week of highs and lows

Mount Horeb edged by Stoughton

by ADAM MERTZ
Sports Reporter

The Mount Horeb boys basketball team has a lot of the ingredients that can carry you deep into the postseason. There's a prolific scorer in sharpshooting sophomore Josh Manchester, a pair of assertive, two-way wings in Nick Vorwald and Zach Maguire, and an athletic supporting cast that buys into the patient offensive sets and pack-line defense the program hangs its hat on. But a big question looms: Who will step up down the stretch as the Vikings' fourth scoring option? With senior post player Austin Leibfried — an Indiana football offensive line recruit — sidelined indefinitely by injury, Mount Horeb has made a relatively smooth adjustment to a smaller lineup, demonstrating that against most opponents it can compensate for the loss of Leibfried's physical presence and athleticism inside.

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

Mount Horeb rebounds and tops Monroe

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

There was no time to wallow in self-pity. No opportunity to feel sorry for themselves. Just 40 hours after Mount Horeb's basketball team suffered a heartbreaking loss to Stoughton, the Vikings were back at. And Mount Horeb took out some of its frustrations on Monroe. Nick Vorwald scored 21 points and Josh Manchester added 20 as the Vikings rolled past the visiting Cheesemakers, 74-45, last Saturday afternoon. Mount Horeb improved to 11-4 overall and is 6-2 in the Badger Small Conference. "Huge win for us," Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. "I was worried about a letdown coming off the Stoughton loss, but our kids didn't let that happen." They sure didn't. The Vikings led by as many as 19 in the first half, pushed that advantage to 26 midway through the second half and cruised home. Monroe (10-4) is in first place in the Rock Valley Conference.

continued on page 17

Mount Horeb gymnasts cruise to win

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team rolled past Milton/Edgerton, 136.550-116.50, on Jan. 24.

The Vikings improved to 4-0 in the Badger Small Conference.

“Our team depth was evident,” Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. “In addition to several gymnasts placing in the top-5 on individual events, we had some personal-best scores earned. It’s always rewarding to see smiles on our girls’ faces.”

Mount Horeb’s Athena Ouradnik won the all-around competition with a 35.0 score.

Ouradnik and Sylviah Seelinger tied for first on the uneven bars with 8.40 scores. Reece Olinger was third (8.15) and Marit Barsness was fifth (7.90).

Seelinger was first on the beam with a 9.150, while Ouradnik was second (9.10), and Tess Angle

and Olinger tied for third (8.70).

Ouradnik was first on the floor (9.30), while Carmen Oglesby was second (8.875), Abbey Brummer was third (8.50) and Harper Hendrickson was sixth (8.250).

And on the vault, Seelinger was second (8.450), Hendrickson was third (8.250), Brummer was fourth (8.225) and Ouradnik was fifth (8.20).

“Team depth is key in this sport,” Koller Faust said. “With the top four scores out of five counting toward the event totals, it’s vital that we have at least four strong vaults/routines at any given meet.

“As consistency and confidence continue to improve, we are seeing higher scores earned from stronger performances. We’re on the right path as we enter the last couple weeks of the regular season.”

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb hosts Watertown Thursday at 6 p.m. for Senior Night.



Athena Ouradnik and Mount Horeb’s gymnastics team rolled past Milton/Edgerton on Jan. 24. Photo courtesy of Holly Stoenner

Wrestlers 5th at Rochester Invite

The Mount Horeb/Barneveld wrestlers finished in fifth place at the Rochester Invite last Saturday.

Simley (Ill.) won the 10-team tournament with 262.5 points. MH/B finished with 71.5 points.

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

127 — Timmy Kruse (15-16) placed 4th and scored 13.0 team points.

- Quarterfinal - Grant Marr (Forest Lake) 28-5 won by fall over Kruse (Fall 0:38)
- Cons. Round 1 - Kruse won by fall over Landon Kelly (Holmen) 1-4 (Fall 3:49)
- Cons. Semi - Kruse won by fall over Derek Buck (Simley) 13-8 (Fall 4:37)
- 3rd Place Match - Nade Ellingson (Rochester Century) 17-8 won by fall over Kruse (Fall 1:02)

139 — Marcus Sevilla (10-13) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.

- Prelim - William Penn (Ellsworth) 36-2 won

by fall over Sevilla 10-13 (Fall 1:52)

- Prelim - Gabrien Callies (Rochester Century) 7-6 won by fall over Sevilla (Fall 0:34)

152 — Ryan Errthum (10-12) place is unknown and scored 0.0 team points.

- Quarterfinal - Dayton Dale (Forest Lake) 17-13 won by fall over Errthum (Fall 4:30)
- Cons. Round 1 - Michael Nail (Rochester Century) 9-16 won by decision over Errthum (Dec 8-2)

160 — Eli Maier (25-5) placed 1st and scored 25.5 team points.

- Quarterfinal - Maier won by tech fall over Cooper Sheeran (Rochester Century) 11-14 (TF-1.5 4:37 (15-0)
- Semifinal - Maier won by fall over Jackson Hewitt (Stewartville) 11-12 (Fall 1:05)
- 1st Place Match - Maier won by fall over Judah Heeg (Simley) 24-12 (Fall 0:59)

172 — Eli Leonard (31-1) placed 1st and scored 25.0 team points.

- Quarterfinal - Leonard won by fall over Tommy Cubus (Forest Lake) 5-3 (Fall 0:40)
- Semifinal - Leonard won by major decision over Cole Sass (FCLMC) 12-5 (MD 18-5)
- 1st Place Match - Leonard won by fall over Tanner Elzen (Stewartville) 25-3 (Fall 1:11)

215 — Levi Maier (17-13) placed 2nd and scored 16.0 team points.

- Quarterfinal – Maier

won by decision over Anthony Nelson (Stewartville) 5-19 (Dec 3-1)

- Semifinal - Maier won by decision over Conner Degner (Holmen) 1-3 (Dec 2-0)
- 1st Place Match - Hunter Gruba (Forest Lake) 23-7 won by fall over Maier (Fall 4:17)

REEDSBURG 60, MH/B 21

Mount Horeb/Barneveld also fell to Reedsburg, 60-21, last Friday.

Here’s a recap of the Vikings’ performances:

138: Colton Herritz

(R) over Marcus Sevilla (MHB) (Fall 0:53)

144: Drew Purifoy (R) over Finn Herman (MHB) (Fall 0:44)

150: Ryan Errthum (MHB) over Skyler Hanke (R) (Fall 3:49)

157: Eli Maier (MHB) over Braxton Walter (R) (Fall 4:59)

165: Eli Leonard (MHB) over Christopher Denman (R) (Fall 0:28)

175: Bennett Rhodes (R) over (MHB) (For.)

190: Porter Redner (R) over (MHB) (For.)

215: Brayden Klemp (R)

over Dilyn Randle (MHB) (Fall 0:40)

285: Jesus Gonzalez (R) over Levi Maier (MHB) (Fall 1:43)

106: Chloe Roloff (R) over (MHB) (For.)

113: Treynor Curtin (R) over (MHB) (For.)

120: Kade Parrish (R) over Nick Bureson (MHB) (Fall 0:47)

126: Timothy Kruse (MHB) over Sam Timlin (R) (Dec 9-6)

132: Hudson Jablonski (R) over Colton Bell (MHB) (Fall 1:42)

TOWN OF PRIMROSE

The Town of Primrose Board of Supervisors meeting for February will be held on Monday, February 5th, 2024 at 8468 County Road A, Verona, WI beginning at 7:30pm. The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, and on the Town website. A summary of the agenda will be available on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

Publish: 2/1/24 **WNAXLP**

LEGAL NOTICE FOR SALE

Abandoned property by John Theobald from J.T. Storage of J.T. Properties, LLC. Contents of units available for viewing day of sale. Sale shall commence at 8:00 a.m. and end at 9:00 a.m. on February 15th, 2024 at J.T. Properties, 1100 Blackhawk Drive, Blue Mounds, WI 53517. **Unit #74.** Accepting sealed Bids.

Date Enacted: 1/24/2024

Publish: 2/1/24, 2/8/24 **WNAXLP**

PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DANE COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

The annual return of Martha and Innocent Butz Charitable Trust is available at the address noted below for inspection by any citizen who so requests within 180 days after publication of this notice of its availability.

Rev. Robert Butz
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(608) 437-5348

Publish: 1/25/24, 2/1/24 **WNAXLP**

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LOSS

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They’ve won four of five games without the stout 6-foot-5 senior, including an impressive 13-point Badger Challenge win over their second-place counterpart on the other side of the conference, Monona Grove.

Last Thursday’s conference title showdown with current arch-rival Stoughton demonstrated that Mount Horeb has all the tools to compete against other top Division 2 teams in the area. But it also served as a reminder the local Vikings have some areas to shore up if they’re going to get over the hump and return to the state tournament for the first time since their 2015 championship run.

Following the lead of sensational senior guard Ty Fernholz, third-ranked Stoughton (14-2, 8-0 Badger Small) scored the final eight points of the game to pull out the rug on an epic comeback by No. 7 Mount Horeb (11-4, 6-2), securing a 70-65 victory that put them in the driver’s seat for the title with six conference games remaining.

“To be that close after coming back from that far definitely hurts, but I think it shows a lot of positives about our will to win,” Vorwald said. “Despite that being a bad taste in our mouth, I think we can take a lot away from it.”

Vorwald overcame early foul trouble to lead Mount Horeb with 19 points — including a stretch of seven straight points in the second half that included a four-point play on a 3-pointer and foul, and an and-1 on a drive to the lane. Manchester battled through an uncharacteristically rough shooting night (7-of-19, 2-of-9 from 3) to finish with 18 on some big buckets late, and Maguire added 11.

The rest of the lineup contributed just 17 points over 91 minutes of playing time.

And while Stoughton was even more top-heavy — with Fernholz amassing 35 points and senior backcourt mate Sawyer Schipper contributing 21 — that imbalance can be attributed in part to the absence of injured sophomore standout Jacob Hibner.

“We’ve got to find a little bit more scoring with our other guys, other than Zach and Nick,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “Moments like this, you’ve got to have that fourth guy on the floor who can score.”

The three most likely possibilities are juniors Owen Aeschlimann and

Griffin Hannah or freshman Alex Chapman. Each made an impact in spurts against Stoughton, with Aeschlimann contributing five points and a lot of energy off the bench, Hannah making all three shots he attempted from the field to finish with six, and Chapman sinking a key 3-pointer during a 15-4 run early in the second half that got the Vikings back into the game.

Chapman’s play stood out beyond just that shot. He’s unusually well-built for a player his age, and with a capable handle and strong shooting touch, he’s a threat on the perimeter and as someone who can find his way into the lane.

“Alex might be my answer for that,” Nesheim said. “He moved pretty well out there and the moment wasn’t too big for him.”

The moment is never too big for Fernholz, an NCAA Division II Michigan Tech recruit who scored 20 of his 35 points in the first half as Stoughton powered to a 13-point lead behind a massive rebounding advantage on both ends of the floor. Then, he made two pivotal plays in the final 1 minute, 58 seconds after Mount Horeb had electrified the packed home gym by taking a 65-62 advantage behind a 3-pointer by Manchester, followed by a pair of his free throws.

“Stoughton couldn’t ask for a better leader,” Vorwald said.

“He’s just a really good basketball player — a really smart player,” Maguire added.

First, Fernholz — who had been kept relatively in check by the decision to face-guard him with junior Chris Kiel throughout the second half — saw a double-team coming at him from the elbow and spun to his right for a baseline layup to pull Stoughton within a point with 1:35 left.

Then, with Mount Horeb seeking to spread the court and draw a foul that would prompt a trip to the free-throw line, Fernholz caught Hannah off-guard by lunging at him near midcourt, drawing a touch of the ball just before substantial contact that went uncalled. His steal led to an uncontested fast-break layup that gave Stoughton a 66-65 lead with 1:08 remaining.

“Those are the two plays that are going to stick with me,” Nesheim said.

And yet, Mount Horeb had ample opportunity to demonstrate its own resilience.

On the next trip down the floor, the Vikings got exactly the look they wanted. Facing a 2-3 zone, Manchester dribbled to the right wing and fed Vorwald in

the corner. As a threat from 3, he drew the outside low defender. Meanwhile, Hannah set a back screen on the central defender, allowing Maguire to slip past unguarded on the baseline. Vorwald sent an entry pass and Maguire turned and had a clean look from 10 feet, but the ball rimmed out and Stoughton center Ben Harman grabbed the rebound.

“We run that play a lot in practice and I make that shot,” Maguire said. “Sucks that it didn’t go in today.”

With Fernholz maintaining possession upcourt, Mount Horeb was forced to foul with 35.5 seconds left, and he made both free throws for a three-point lead. On the other end, Maguire got a decent look on a 3-pointer on the move at the top of the key, but his shot hit the side of the rim and bounded away, with Schipper adding the final two points on free throws after being fouled.

The unfinished comeback was all too reminiscent of a season-ending loss in last year’s WIAA Division 2 regional final at Stoughton, where Mount Horeb nearly overcame a 14-point half-time deficit. Conversely, Stoughton erased a double-digit second-half lead in a 69-67 comeback win over visiting Mount Horeb earlier this year.

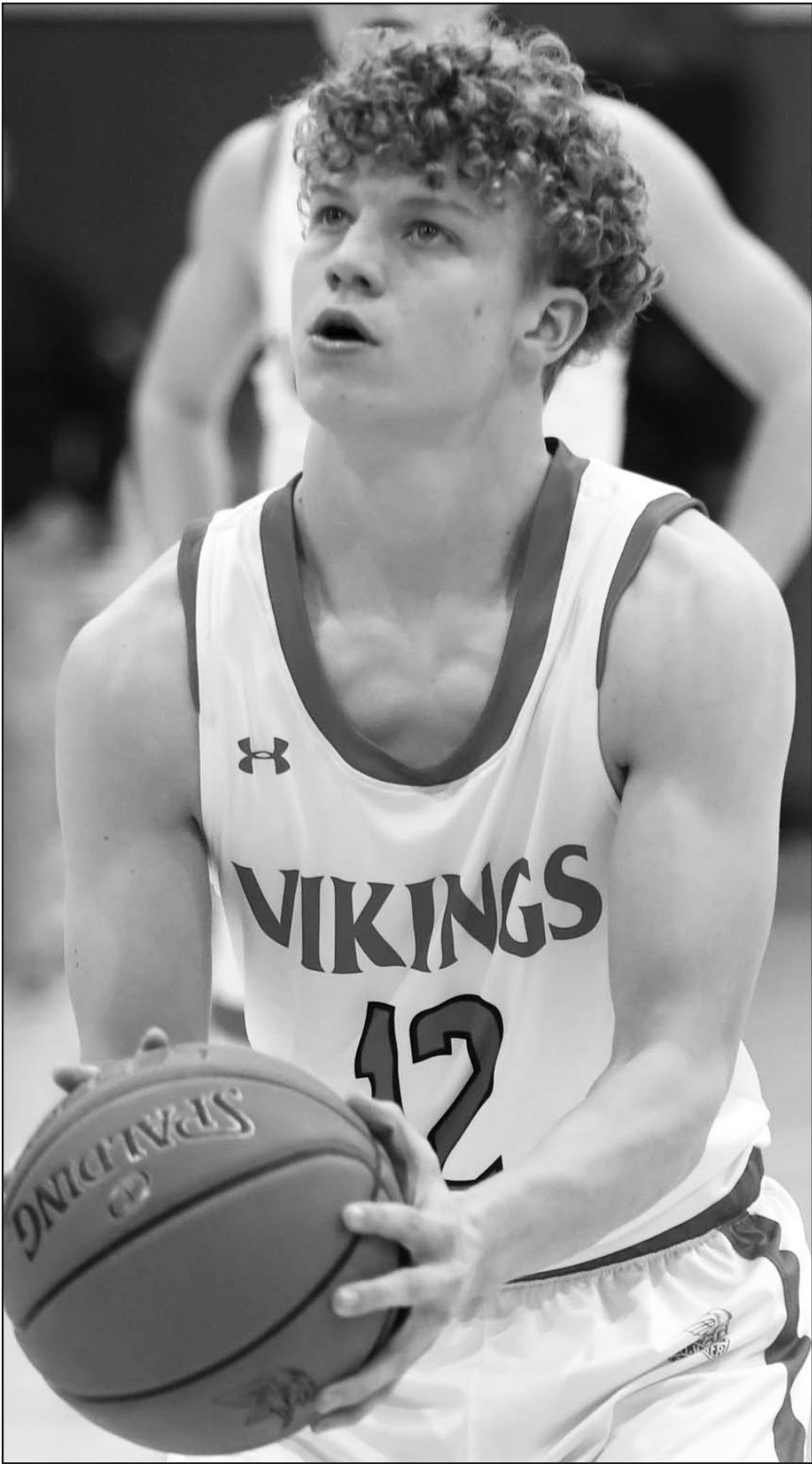
“There was so much energy, with the fans and the crowd. Everyone was on their feet. It just hurts that it slipped away, but it was a really awesome experience,” Maguire said. “This one and the regional finals at Stoughton last year are the two most intense games I’ve been a part of.”

Nesheim had hoped to save the face-guarding strategy against Fernholz until a potential playoff meeting, but the upside is Mount Horeb found a “formula” it can deploy should it run into Stoughton again in the playoffs.

With the conference title all but lost, Mount Horeb now turns its sights toward a strong finish over the final eight regular-season games, a stretch that includes contests against two opponents tied for third place in the league — at Baraboo (15-3, 5-3) on Thursday, and home against Sauk Prairie (9-6, 5-3) on Feb. 6.

“I don’t see a game that we shouldn’t win,” Manchester said. “Just got to win out and be hot coming into the playoffs, and we’ll see how it goes.”

Jan. 25	
Stoughton 70, Mount Horeb 65	
Stoughton 39 31 – 70	
Mount Horeb 26 39 – 65	
Stoughton: Ty Fernholz 12-21	
9-10 35, Sawyer Schipper 8-15 3-5	
21, Carter Sullivan 3-8 0-0 6, Jay	
Johnson 2-4 0-0 5, Benjamin Har-	



Landon Ellestad and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team lost a heartbreaker against Stoughton on Jan. 25. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

rison 1-2 0-2 2, Ethan Zywicki 0-1 1-2 1, Mason Richter 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 26-51 13-19 70.

Mount Horeb: Nick Vorwald 7-11 3-3 19, Josh Manchester 7-19 2-2 18, Zach Maguire 4-9 1-1 11, Griffin Hannah 3-3 0-0 6, Owen Aeschlimann 2-5 0-0 5, Chris Kiel 1-2 1-4 3, Alex Chapman 1-2 0-0 3, Hayden Anderson 0-0 0-0 12, Kam Nesheim 0-0 0-0 0, Landon Ellestad 0-2 0-0 0. Totals: 25-53 7-10 65.

Team stats

Three-pointers: S 5-14 (Fernholz 2-6, Schipper 2-4, Johnson 1-1, Zywicki 0-1, Sullivan 0-2), MH 8-25 (Manchester 2-9, Maguire 2-6, Vorwald 2-4, Aeschlimann 1-3, Chapman 1-2, Kiel 0-1).

Rebounds (off-def-total): S 11-19-30 (Fernholz 1-7-8, Harman 2-3-5, Johnson 2-2-4, Sullivan 0-3-3, Richter 1-2-3, Zywicki 2-1-3), MH 10-14-24 (Hannah 1-3-4, Maguire 1-2-3, Aeschlimann 2-1-3, Anderson 2-0-2, Chapman 1-1-2, Vorwald 1-1-2, Manchester 1-1-2).

Assists: S 9 (Fernholz 3, Sullivan 2, Schipper 2, Richter, Zywicki), MH 13 (Maguire 4, Vorwald 2, Anderson, Ellestad, Aeschlimann, Hannah, Chapman). Steals: S 6 (Fernholz 3, Zywicki 2, Schipper), MH 4 (Vorwald 2, Manchester, Hannah). Blocks: S 0, MH 4 (Maguire 3, Hannah). Turnovers: S 8, MH 10. Personal fouls: S 11, MH 15.

PUBLIC NOTICE • PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
DANE COUNTY
In The Matter of THE
ESTATE OF:
Dolores Sutter
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 24-PR-19
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 01/30/1932 and date of death 10/26/2023, was domiciled in Dane County, State of Wisconsin with a mailing address of 210 Golf View Drive, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 05/10/2024.
5. A claim may be filed at the Dane County Courthouse, 215 S. Hamilton St., Madison, Wisconsin 53703, Room 1005.

/s/ Benjamin Balk
Deputy Probate Registrar
January 22, 2024

Attorney Peter J. Waltz
205 E. Main Street, PO BOX 294
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572
(608) 437-5577
Bar No: 1008249

Publish: 2-1-24, 2-8-24, 2-15-24
WNAXLP

TOWN OF
SPRINGDALE
REQUEST FOR BIDS
TOWN HALL ROOF
REPAIR

The Town of Springdale is seeking bids for town hall roof and truss repair at 2379 Town Hall Rd., Mt. Horeb. Work includes removal of abandoned penetrations, repair of designated trusses, furnish/install new ridge vent and install new fasteners for metal roofing. Alternate bids will be received for replacing all metal roofing with new, incl. new fasteners. For full specs and to submit sealed bid, contact Dan Maki, Facility Engineering Inc., 2820 Walton Commons Lane, Suite 140, Madison, WI 53718. Bids must be received by 5 PM CST, 3/15/24 and include proof of insurance. Bid bond or certified check for 10% of bid is required. Mark envelope "TOS Roof Project." Bids will be opened publicly at the TB meeting on Tuesday, March 19.
Post: 1/19 Town Hall and springdalewi.gov

Jackie Arthur
Administrator/Clerk

Publish: 2/1/24, 2/8/24,
2/29/24, 3/7/24 **WNAXLP**

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The House on the Rock Resort, Spring Green, Wisconsin, has a Resort Operations Manager position available. This position works (hands-on) with the Team and with the public. Coordinates the daily activities of building maintenance, housekeeping/laundry and front desk. The manager maintains records, trouble shoots tech issues, manages inventory/supplies, handles banking responsibilities, works with subcontractors and vendors and hires, schedules and deploys Team Members.

This position ensures that Team Members are meeting guest needs and appropriately responding to any guest concerns. Manages the team which will address property condition, cleanliness and quality of product throughout the Resort. Coordinates activities with other revenue centers to ensure that services are provided in an efficient and timely manner. Ensures financial goals are met by managing labor costs, controlling expenses and maximizing room revenue. Ensures compliance with company policies and with federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Prefer two to 3 years of hotel experience and knowledge of property management software and computer proficiency. Knowledge of housekeeping department helpful. Strong attention to detail and excellent organizations skills. Ability to work effectively in fast-paced setting. Able to handle pressure with poise. Positive attitude.

Please send cover letter including salary history resume to The House on the Rock, Attention HR Director, 5754 Hwy 23, Spring Green, WI 53588. Or email to: information@thehouseontherock.com.

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- **Occupational & Physical Therapist** – full or part-time positions, **Up to a \$5,000 Employment Bonus, prorated based on FTE!**
- **Dietitian/CDE** – part time to full time day shift position. **Up to a \$5,000 Employment Bonus available!**
- **Vice President of Clinic Operations** – 1.0 FTE position
- **Director of Marketing** – full-time management 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
- **Operating Room Tech** – .8 FTE position. **\$3,000 Employment Bonus eligible!**
- **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!**
- **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!**
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- **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.
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Jada Matthews (left) and Maren Johnson (above) helped Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team win a pair of games last week. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

GIRLS BB

continued from page 14

sive end where we played really well,” Leibfried said. The Vikings held a 34-10 edge in points in the paint and shot 9-of-26 from 3-point land. Baraboo was also without its starting point guard, which allowed Mount Horeb to turn up its pressure. “We were able to pressure their other guards and create turnovers that led to scoring opportunities,” Leibfried said. • **Mount Horeb 38, Wisconsin Heights 32** — Courtney Monroe had 12 points to help power the Vikings past the Vanguard in a contest played at Just A Game Field-house. “We knew coming in we had a depth and quickness advantage but they did a nice job of negating that by sitting back in a 2-3 zone and forcing us to shoot from the outside,” Leibfried said. “Every time out and at half we emphasized that the ball had to touch the lane or short corner, but we couldn’t

make the adjustment mentally. “I don’t know if it was a late Saturday afternoon game in a different setting or what, but we didn’t play smart and didn’t do what we teach and want to do. Too many I.Q. mistakes in a game that we can’t have going down the stretch.” • **On deck:** The Vikings hosted Sauk Prairie Tuesday, then travel to Madison Edgewood Friday at 7:15. Mount Horeb then travels to Barneveld Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

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