

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

With passage of Assembly Bill 558, the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial will be added to 16 other veterans' memorials statutorily included on the state's highway map. State Sen. Dianne Hesselbein and State Rep.

continued on page 10

tricts. In the Mount Horeb Area School District, three people are running for two seats on the board of education. Incumbent school board supervisor James Myers, along with newcomers Sarah Sarbacker and Thomas Schlingen, are in a three-way race for a pair of seats on the board. Incumbent Rod Hise is not running for re-election. Learn about the candidates and their views starting on page 8.



PERSPECTIVE



GEIGER Counter

by Matt Geiger, Editor



Rules to (not) live by

Human life can pretty much be divided into two periods: There is the *yet* phase, followed by the *anymore* epoch. During the first part of your life, you can't do most of the things you want to do *yet*. During the second and final chapter, you can't do them *anymore*.

You can't drive a car yet. You can't use the stove yet. You can't drink beer yet. You can't watch a rated R movie yet. You can't stay up all night yet. This is pretty much the only thing children hear, all day.

Then, one day, they will wake up inexplicably old and discover they must now live purely on organic kale, probiotic supplements and nostalgia. You can't run past/climb/leap over most things anymore. You can't stay up all night anymore. You can't remember where you put your keys/glasses/hat/dog/child anymore. You can't drive a car anymore.

Some rare things, like diapers, make appearances in both phases of life. *You are not out of diapers yet*, will inevitably be followed by, *You cannot leave the house without diapers anymore*.

Sometimes, as you live out what you hope is your middle age, you find yourself mid-air, leaping from one to the next, with no solid ground beneath your feet - the brief time when

you can do all the things you want to do. We rarely do. Instead, we middle-aged people tend to complain, extra loudly, so the young people can hear us while they are on their phones, and so the old people can, well, hear us.

Hearing is another thing that falls into both categories. When you are young, you are always told you can't hear certain words and stories yet. The swears, along with conversations about heavy topics, are something grownups like to keep for themselves. Eventually, most old people simply cannot hear much of anything anymore.

Because of a severe neurological illness that damaged my brain and ability to hear, I have been deaf in one ear since I was a teenager. Along with not being able to hear, I also have a constant ringing in my right ear that, if I pay too much attention to it, prompts me to descend into the gaping maw of madness. And that's not all, folks! Luck, or whatever gave me encephalitis, threw in bouts of dizziness and vertigo, too, which many people with damaged hearing experience. The result is that I always walk like I'm doing an over-the-top impression of Jack Sparrow, or like I am a little drunk.

So being able to hear, sleep soundly, and not tip over are all things that quickly and unexpectedly moved from the yet phase of my life to the anymore one. It seemed like one day, I was a toddler who couldn't walk without falling down yet, and the next I was a 17-year-old who couldn't

stay upright anymore. The best thing to do with this affliction, and most afflictions, I assume, is to just ignore it. I sometimes yearn for a day when the ringing in my ear will be silenced, only to remember that will only happen when I die. I sometimes hope for the ability to hear a little better, only to realize that, with every passing day from now until I do perish, my hearing will probably get a little worse, and I will someday look back and yearn for the ability to hear as well as I can right now. "I can't hear like that anymore!" I'll say. Today, I will probably hear better than on any subsequent day of my existence. Today, to quote the late 20th century philosopher Ice Cube, *is a good day*.

There is no faster way to anger people in 2024 than to make this claim. That today is a good day. That we are lucky to be here, now. I never understood the roots of this malaise, which seems to be felt most deeply by the most privileged people in society, until I came across an incredible article written by the Belgian philosopher Maarten Boudry and published by the magazine Quillette. It's called "The Seven Laws of Pessimism: If Life is Better Than Ever Before, Why Does the World Seem So Depressing?" In it, he makes sense of our species' weakness for irrational pessimism.

Boudry, whose philosophical work often aims to dismantle pseudoscience, makes an array of inarguably true points about the fact that we live in one of the best times in human history, if not *the* best time in human history. And yet, people seem to spend most of their time weeping and gnashing their teeth.

Boudry points out that, according to research by Joe Hasell, Max Roser, Esteban Ortiz-Ospina and Pablo Arriagada, over the past 30 years, 130,000 people

have escaped extreme poverty every day. But hardly any media outlets or social media influencers ever talk about this. If one of those millions of people sees their home swept away in a flood or burned to a crisp in a wildfire, however, our media diets will be flooded with images of it.

He also points to the work of Steven Pinker, who has documented "the steady decrease in violence over the past centuries." However, as our species becomes so much safer, we constantly inflate our concepts of violence so that we eventually define any conflict - or even mild intellectual or emotional discomfort - as forms of violence today. Today, it is hard to find any category of thing or idea that someone has not labelled as "violence," which would probably be a confusing trend for someone who was actually being crucified, burned at the stake or drawn and quartered not all that long ago.

Another reason, I suspect, is that people tend to conflate misery and pessimism with brooding intelligence. People think depressing pessimists must just be cracking under the weight of all their wisdom, while anyone who dares smile or laugh is some kind of Quixotic fool. In truth, however, there is much to be happy about. There is wonderful news all around us; however, it is not as flashy as its macabre counterparts.

"Have we just lived through one of the best years in human history? As we look at 2023 through the rearview mirror, I think that's a defensible claim," writes Boudry. "In fact, the same thing could have been said at the end of pretty much every year since the beginning of the millennium (with the exception of the disastrous pandemic years of 2020 and 2021). Never before have so many people lived in affluence, safety, and good health."

"And yet, it doesn't feel that way," he admits. "There's so much horror and misery in the

world—look at the situations in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and Yemen alone—that it is hard to believe that, on average, this past year was probably the best year ever. So, if life is better than ever before, why does the world seem so depressing?"

One culprit, he says, is media. Ever since the invention of "the news," everyone has known that, "If it bleeds, it leads." The news outlets

and influences who focus on horrifying and negative things make more money than ones that publish positive or uplifting content.

Boudry offers a wonderful list, the aforementioned "Seven Laws of Pessimism."

"Hopefully, this list will work as an antidote whenever excessive news consumption makes you feel despondent," he writes.

I contacted Boudry and he was kind enough to say he doesn't mind if I share his seven laws with you. If you want to fully understand them, of course, it's easy enough to read the full article on quillette.com.

1. The Law of the Invisibility of Good News: Progress happens gradually and imperceptibly, while regress happens all at once and immediately grabs our attention. "Breaking news is often quite literally about things breaking down or being broken," he points out.

2. The Law of The Velocity of Bad News: Nothing travels faster than the speed of light, except bad news. "No matter how much progress the world achieves, there will always be enough catastrophes to fill the evening news," he writes. "If you rummage through a large enough haystack, you're bound to find a few needles. And because our brains rely on the availability heuristic—i.e., we tend to estimate the probability of an event based on how easy it is to bring similar events to mind—we massively overestimate the occurrence rates of car-jackings, terrorist attacks, brutal murders, shark attacks, and pretty much every catastrophe. For a more realistic perspective, Johan Norberg recommends only following local news, in order to shrink your frame of reference back down to the size it would have been before the age of telecommunication: "Since they only cover a very small geographical area, it is more difficult for them to find horrible stories."

3. The Law of Rubbernecking: The more gruesome the news, the more we lap it up. "It's not that we're perverts or sadists; it's just that we have been programmed by evolution to pay attention to really bad things, especially if they invoke what psychologists call "dread risk," because they affect large numbers of people at the same time (examples include plane crashes and terrorist attacks)," Boudry writes.

4. The Law of Conservation of Outrage: No matter how much progress the world is achieving, the total amount of outrage remains constant. "As societies become safer and more prosperous, we demand more of them, and gradually raise the bar for what is considered 'safe' or 'prosperous,'" he explains. "As a result, even though fewer disasters are happening than ever before, people still have the impression that the world is going downhill."

5. The Law of Awful Attraction: If you don't find bad news, bad news will find you. "In real life, if you pay attention to cute puppies while taking a walk, you will not be followed by hordes of cute puppies on your next walk," he writes. "If you can't resist rubbernecking a horrible car accident, you will not go on to see more horrible car accidents further down the road. But this is exactly what happens on social media when your attention is drawn to either cute puppies or horrific accidents."

6. The Law of Self-Effacing Solutions: Once a solution has been achieved, people forget about the original problem (and only see further problems). "As Eliezer Yudkowsky has pointed out, progress has a way of rendering itself invisible: we simply raise our standards to accommodate the new normal," he writes.

7. The Law of Disinfecting Sunlight: The freer a society, the more ugly things will surface. "People like to bite the hand that feeds them, provided it will not slap back—and in a free and tolerant society, it won't," he adds. "As the Dutch-Somali writer Ayaan Hirsi Ali told journalist Avi Lewis in a 2007 interview: 'You grew up in freedom, and you can spit on freedom because you don't know what it is not to have freedom.'"

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Mount Horeb School District is implementing an early reading revamp

How a new state law (Act 20) is changing the way literacy is taught

By Sarah Straka
Mt. Horeb Area School Dist.

Think back to your days as an early reader in elementary or as a maturing reader in middle school. When you came up against an unknown word, how were you taught to read the word correctly? Maybe the teacher encouraged you to skip the unknown word, read the rest of the sentence, and then figure out the word based on the context of the sentence? Or, if illustrations were available on the page, maybe you were encouraged to look at the pictures in order to guess the correct word? In some instances, these approaches may have worked, but for students who struggle to identify unfamiliar words, being dependent on context clues or pictures is not an effective way to learn how to read.

Last summer, the Wisconsin State Legislature put into effect Act 20, which defines

what early reading instruction should sound and look like. With Act 20, classroom instruction is expected to revert from the three-cueing strategy to decode a word (as described above) and shift to science-based early reading instruction, which places more emphasis on the explicit teaching of phonics skills.

Because of this, school districts across the state are shifting into high gear to meet the new law's requirements. During the 2021/22 school year, even prior to discussions at the state legislature, the Mount Horeb Area School District enacted a number of measures to ensure better implementation of research-proven reading strategies.

Initial Steps

An elementary literacy committee came together for shared learning around the science of reading. In order to lead the work, staff partic-

ipated in two book studies, completed (or are currently completing) early literacy training, and reviewed various literacy programs and materials.

Early Literacy Professional Development

Even before Act 20 and prior to making any curricular material changes, the elementary literacy committee determined they wanted more training around effective early literacy instruction and materials. During the 2022/23 school year, all kindergarten teachers, elementary reading specialists, and elementary special education teachers participated in "Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling" (LETRS) training. LETRS teaches the skills needed for students to master the foundation and fundamentals areas of reading—phonological awareness, phonics, fluency,

vocabulary, comprehension, and written language. During this current school year, all teachers in grades one through three and elementary principals are participating in LETRS training. By the end of this school year, all elementary teachers of literacy in grades K-3 will have completed 40-50+ hours of training rooted in the science of reading. This has been a heavy lift for staff with extra time dedicated outside of the workday to online modules and readings, but we are far ahead of the requirements of Act 20.

Reading Instructional Materials

Once our learning began, elementary literacy committee members were in a bet-

ter position to review and determine literacy materials and instructional teaching changes. After a curriculum review process, the elementary literacy team determined the need to incorporate two new programs to better build student early literacy skills. They are being implemented over a two-year period.

Future Work

Over the next 12-15 months, MHASD teachers will experience additional shifts and requirements—a new reading readiness screener, diagnostic reading assessments, reading plan requirements, and family notification timelines. District staff are planning for these changes and look forward to sharing the continued work

and increased student outcomes with staff, families, and the community.

If you are interested in learning more about this important work or wish to offer your feedback and/or suggestions, please reach out to me.

-Straka is Director of Instruction for MHASD

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Easter Sunday Worship Service
March 31 ~ 9am



MAUNDAY THURSDAY
March 28 - 6:00 pm
Dinner Worship Fellowship Hall

GOOD FRIDAY
March 29 - 1:00 pm
Ecumenical Service



EASTER SUNDAY
March 31
Sunrise Service - 6:30 am
(outside - weather permitting)

Easter Breakfast
7:30 - 8:30 am

Easter Worship - 9:00 am
In-person & Online Worship

Easter Egg Hunt
Immediately after Worship
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Mountaineers give to children’s hospital



The Mounts View Mountaineers 4-H Club applied and received a grant from the Dane County 4-H Leaders Endowment Committee. The 4-H Club purchased and filled 36 plastic storage boxes with rainbow scratch notes, play doh, card games, crayons, markers, color books, foam airplanes, puzzles and special caring notes to the child. Each box is decorated and filled for a specific age and gender. The caring boxes are given to children in the hospital to give them a special fun diversion while receiving medical treatment at the American Family Children’s Hospital in Madison. Photo contributed.

Local league wraps up another pickleball season

Another successful indoor pickleball season is over.

“The League played on Sunday’s 10 -noon at the Middle School,” said Sandy Strommen, Indoor Pickleball Coordinator. “We want to thank the following for coordinating the schedule, the Recreation Department, Building Coordinator, Custodial Staff, Public Services Director, Athletic Director, Teachers, and Office Staff. The League enjoyed meeting new players, the competitive play, and the comradery with everyone. Until next year!”



Concert packs MoHo library

Musicians April Verch and Joe Newberry played for a packed library March 5. The internationally touring artists shared beautiful tunes and incredible step dances from Ottawa Valley, the Ozarks and more. The concert drew so many attendees that the library had to bring out every chair in the house. Photo by Melissa Roelli.

Good News Spotlight from the Mount Horeb Area School District



Pictured above are Katie Haack, Amy Koehler, Ann Wyss, Angie Brinkmann and Tanya Droessler.

By AUBREE HANKS
Mt. Horeb Area School Dist.

We are thrilled to celebrate the great work of our Primary Center paraprofessional team as nominated by Principal Rachael Johnson at our Board meeting last week. This team is extremely passionate and dedicated to helping all of our students be the very best they can be during the most unpredictable and unstructured parts of the day.

“It has been an absolute honor watching each of our PC paraprofessional team members embrace the importance of forging extremely strong, positive

connections with our students,” said Principal Rachael Johnson. “They have fully invested their time in students, owning their decisions directly to them, in tandem with strengthening their relationship and connections with students. I so appreciate the shadowing strategy they use when helping students correct their behavior or as they explicitly teach a lagging skill. From the playground to the lunchroom and everywhere in between, our students and staff are so lucky to have such an amazingly reliable and talented team of colleagues surrounding them throughout the day.”

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Gleanings

By Barb Johnson
Mount Horeb Mail

130 Years Ago- March 29, 1894

The town caucus was held at the Opera Hall last Tuesday, was well represented and passed of very good nature. 82 votes were cast.

Mat Domini Jr. is now behind the counter at Dahle Bros. Store. Mat will make a bright and obliging clerk. This firm has been in need of a German speaking clerk and we believe their selection was a good. one.

Jas. Gesme has bought out the interest of Elef Syverson in the furniture store building.

120 Years Ago- March 24, 1904

Leo Sutter and family are now located in their new home on pleasant ridge.

Furniture dealer, Thore Fosshage, received two carloads of stock consisting of all kinds of furniture. Unloaded same last week and is now at work assembling and displaying.

I. E. Kittleson's friends will be pleased to read the announcement, and we join in endorsing his candidacy, and believe Mr. Kittleson to be the most logical candidate for the sheriff's office of the many who have been mentioned throughout the county for this position. Mr. Kittleson is 40 years of age, was born in town of Perry, has a good education and considerable business experience, comes from sturdy Norwegian ancestry, and will fill the office with dignity.

All interested in the sugar beet should turn out next Saturday, March 26, at 1 o'clock p.m. at the new Village Hall, where an experienced man will lecture on the subject.

Rev. Carver enjoys the distinction of having entertained the largest society meeting at Mount Horeb, Wednesday of last week. People from all directions came to swell the receipts, which amounted to over \$24.

Rev. Valdal, who left here for Norway last fall, writes back, that, although they are all well, they found they were more Americanized than they knew, and have experienced a feeling of strangers in a strange land, and adding, besides this it gives such a painful feeling of emptiness, this being ones best age without occupation in life.

Grand Millinery opening at the store of

Mrs. I. Arneson, Blue Mounds, will be held Saturday, April 2nd. A large and complete line of the latest styles of hats and trimmings will be shown and all the ladies of Blue Mounds and vicinity are invited to attend.

Herman Hankel met with an accident caused by a hayfork breaking loose and striking him on the head and shoulders.

110 Years Ago- March 19, 1914

The price of radium is a matter of some concern, but lots more people are concerned about the price of eggs.

August Gerke was a pleasant caller at our office Tuesday. He said the problem on the farm now was the question of hired help, and would like to get a man for the summer.

It has been demonstrated that a silo makes a first class icehouse on the farm. Many farmers have two silos, thus one becomes empty soon enough at close of winter to admit a supply of ice being stored away for summer use, and again ready to receive the ensilage in the late fall when ice is not needed.

Marshall Rue has had many over night lodgers of late. This class of pedestrians are due at any time and Pete must be at their service whenever they come. He sleeps them but he does not feed them and the first thing on their program in the morning is to hike out in different directions throughout the village looking for a handout.

Villberg & Punswik is the newly formed partnership in the real estate and insurance business, located on the second floor of the new mercantile building. We wish them success.

The daily paper, with its large news service and quicker facilities may, in some instances, overshadow the weekly, but the weekly home paper fills a place in the hearts of the people that a daily cannot fill. It comes to your home as an old and tired friend while the daily enters as a stranger.

Otto Dahle and family are now occupying their new and palatial residence on West Grove Street. Our wish is that they may there live to enjoy their beautiful home and fine surrounding.

100 Years Ago- March 25, 1924

The village caucus passed off quietly with 210 votes being cast at the highest ballot.

There was no opposition to village president Dr. Sholtz everyone being apparently satisfied with the way he has filled that position.

George Olday had the misfortune to getting his left hand crushed Thursday while holding a chisel which Jack Marty was hitting with a sledge in order to make a hole in a concrete wall. Jack's judgement of distance failed and the sledge descended on George's hand.

90 Years Ago- March 22, 1934

The Rev. E.R. Anderson, who for the past six weeks has been confined to his bed suffering from rheumatism, made his first trip up town Tuesday afternoon after his illness and made our office a friendly call.

Glen Johnson had the misfortune to cut off a finger while chopping wood.

Special Saturday at Berg's Bakery: Raisin Whole Wheat Bread 7¢ a loaf.

Selma Hegland and Julian Martinson were married Saturday, March 17 at the Perry Lutheran parsonage by the Rev. I.A. Lavik.

80 Years Ago- March 23, 1944

Commencing Sunday, March 26, 1944, postal rates will be increased. Local letters will require 3¢ postage instead of 2 cents.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Midthun received a telegram from the War Department informing them that their son, Sgt. Tenney was wounded in action in Italy on Feb. 20 and has been rewarded the Purple Heart.

Adolph Olaus Holum passed away at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Erick Holum, Thursday, March 16, 1944 at the age of 49 years, 11 months and 19 days.

Aviation Cadet John A. Dahler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Dahler, Rt. 1, Mount Horeb was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces. He now becomes one of the army's "triple threat" men.

60 Years Ago- March 26, 1964

All five units of the Mount Horeb Fire Department, the Mount Horeb Police squad car and hundreds of Mount Horeb citizens lined the streets to extend a wailing, arm-waving, horn blowing, shouting tribute to the eight mile long caravan carrying delirious Dodgeville fans on their way back home after winning the W.I.A.A. State Basketball Tournament in Madison.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Vogel will observe

their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Steinhauer, and Bill, Jr. will leave Friday for Washington D.C., to meet Irvin Steinhauer who is returning home from a six-month tour with the International Farmers Youth Exchange Program in Africa.

Miss Nora Evans, 81, lifetime resident of Mount Horeb, died at a Madison hospital, Monday, March 23, 1964. She was the daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. Evans, long-time physician in Mount Horeb.

50 Years Ago- March 21, 1974

Randy Severson, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Severson, suffered a rifle bullet wound in his upper left arm, while with three friends inside a walk-in pigeon coop in a neighbor's backyard. An 11-year old boy admitted firing the shot because he thought someone was trying to steal the pigeons.

John Topper, 76, Mount Horeb passed away at a Madison hospital Wednesday, March 13, 1974 after a long illness.

A son, Michael Kent, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Moll, Blue Mounds, Thursday, March 7, at Madison General Hospital.

40 Years Ago- March 22, 1984

Clara Holloway, 83, of Mount Horeb died on March 13, 1984. She managed Olson's Restaurant from 1934 to 1957. Three husbands preceded her in death.

Burglars struck again in Mount Horeb with two daytime break-ins occurring this last week. The residences at 313 S. Second St. and 504 S. Fifth were broken into. Nothing was taken leading the police to speculate they were looking for cash.

A daughter, Nicole Rosemary, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Scheele on Thursday, March 15 at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison.

30 Years Ago- March 24, 1994

Members of the congregation of Mount Horeb's Evangelical Free Church celebrated a special day Sunday, March 13, breaking ground for their new church. The new church will be constructed just inside the village limits on County JG South.

A son, Kasey Alton was born to Tim and Liz Hoffmaster on Thursday, March 17, 1984 at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison.

More than 80 people attend annual seed swap event



DSP co-founder and owner of Blue Mounds-based Back Home Farm, Doug Butikofer (right), mans his always-popular table of personally-harvested seed.

Mount Horeb's Driftless Historium and the Driftless Seed Project (DSP) hosted their 3rd Annual Seed Swap on Saturday, March 9. Over 80 growers and aspiring green-thumbers stopped in to browse an impressive assortment of vegetable, herb,

fruit, flower and native seeds - all donated by entities including local favorite Jada's Garden and internationally-recognized Seed Savers Exchange, or painstakingly harvested and shared by generous individuals. And all offered at no cost. DSP

volunteers organized this seed bounty into convenient categories and were on hand to answer questions about seed starting and saving, garden planning and maintenance.

Couldn't make it to the 2024 Swap? A wide variety



DSP Volunteer Charlotte-Ann Chenery (right) helps a Seed Swap attendee make their choice from a table strewn with donated seeds.

of unclaimed seeds are still available for free in the DSP seed cabinet at the Driftless Historium (100 S 2nd St) during the museum's regular hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday through Tuesday. DSP is a partner program of the Mount

Horeb Area Historical Society, Back Home Farm (Blue Mounds), Mount Horeb Area Community Garden and naturalist/author Catherine Young. This consortium hosts educational programs about seed collecting, horticulture and sustainable prac-

tices, and seeks to identify and share locally cultivated seeds and their stories from the Driftless area of Southwest Wisconsin.

For more information, call 608-437-6486 or email mthorebahs@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highway construction resumes

Roadwork on US 18/151 between Town Hall Road in Mt. Horeb and Fitchrona Road in Verona in Dane County, resumed on Monday, March 18. Final improvements include median grading and cable barrier adjustments. Motorists can expect to encounter inside lane closures.

Construction is currently scheduled for completion in June 2024. The construction schedule is based on favorable weather conditions and construction status.

FFA Banquet

The Mt. Horeb FFA will be recognizing student accomplishments at the 83rd Annual FFA Banquet to be held Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. in the High School Gym. Family members, neighbors, alumni and all friends of the FFA are invited to attend. A meal consisting of ham, corn, potatoes, cheese, and rolls will be served, followed by an

awards program and short presentations highlighting FFA activities. The evening will conclude with door prizes. The Mt. Horeb FFA Banquet is free and no reservations are needed.

Garden club program

On Tuesday, April 2 the Mound Vue Garden Club meeting program will feature speaker Dr. Brian Hudelson, a professor with UW Plant Pathology and Director of the UW Plant Diseases Diagnostic Clinic. His presentation, “Confessions of a Black Thumb” will provide lessons on what to do to make your plants thrive and what not to do unless you hope to harm or kill your plants. It should be a humorous and lively presentation.

The club meets monthly, every first Tuesday, 6:45 p.m., at Wisconsin Surplus, Mt Horeb, 2600 Rte 78 South, in the Violet Room. The building is located on the west side of the village of Mt Horeb (at the second exit heading west off

18/151). Refreshments at 6:45, presentation starts at 7:00, and the club business meeting begins at 8.

Members of the general public are welcome to attend the program free of charge. The program will be followed by a business meeting of the Mound Vue Garden Club. If you are interested in gardening and local community service and outreach, contact Gloria Davies at jrdgrdquilt@mhtc.net about club membership.

No Mow May to help pollinators

A local No Mow May (NMM) Campaign was organized by the Mound Vue Garden Club in 2023 to help address and raise awareness of pollinator concerns. The committee sought approval of the Mt Horeb Village Board of Trustees. In April, the Board unanimously approved a Proclamation related to observance of No Mow May. The Proclamation lists twelve reasons to observe No Mow May in Mt Horeb, and ultimately provides two resolutions (or guidelines) for our village (to see entire proclamation see Village website):

The Mount Horeb Village Board proclaimed May as “No Mow May” month in our village, and encouraged all residents, businesses and property owners to refrain from mowing their property to promote pollinator-friendly habitat

and awareness.

They also encouraged all residents, businesses and property owners to grow a variety of native plants that bloom across the season – early spring through fall – so that food resources are always available to pollinators; leave the leaves in yards through winter to help provide ground nesting sites for bees; and refrain from using lawn or plant pesticides and herbicides that can harm or kill pollinators.

Enter the second annual No Mow May campaign in the Village of Mt Horeb. Supported financially by Duluth Trading Company, the No Mow May Committee was able to engage close to 150 participants last year and has high hopes that many more yards will be sporting No Mow May signs this year.

Time to nominate local alumni

The Mount Horeb High School Distinguished Alumni Committee is now accepting applications for the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Mount Horeb High School Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes the achievements of Mount Horeb High School alumni. These alumni serve as motivation for current students to excel, remind faculty of the potential each student has to make the community better, reconnect alumni to

the school, and bring pride to the community as the achievements of these individuals are recognized.

Past recipients have included Judy Steinhauer in 2014, Dr. Jeffrey Post and Col. Timothy Cullen in 2015, Fred Alley and Jeff Herbst in 2016, Nancy Caldwell, John Schwenn, and Randy Swiggum in 2017, and Jeff Grundahl, Steve Grundahl, and Rick Tvedt in 2018 to name just a few.

Nominees must be graduates of Mount Horeb High School who must have graduated prior to 2004. Individuals who have had a significant impact on their individual professionals and personal communities are sought for this remarkable honor.

To nominate an individual for the Distinguished Alumni Award, an application can be found on the Mount Horeb School District website (www.mhasd.k12.wi.us). Forms should be printed out, completed and mailed to the address indicated on the forms prior to May 1, 2024. Winners will be notified by June 2, 2024 and announced to the general public soon after.

Winners will be recognized and celebrated during the 2024 Mount Horeb High School homecoming festivities. Each winner will be introduced at the school’s pep rally in the afternoon, appear in the parade, and be introduced during halftime of the football game on Friday, Oc-

tober 4th. Each winner will be given a plaque recognizing his/her selection and an identical one will be placed in the auditorium lobby of the high school.

If you need further information, please contact one of the Mount Horeb High School faculty listed on the application form.

Students head to Alliant

Students from Mount Horeb High School will be participating in the 51st annual SkillsUSA Wisconsin State Leadership and Skills Conference to be held in Madison on Tues., April 9 through Wed., April 10 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. In addition, competitive events will also be held at Madison Area Technical College on April 10.

The students will be among the more than 1,500 middle, high school, and college/post-secondary students, over 200 teachers, and more than 300 industry volunteers working in more than 80 competitions. Often comprising a few team members, students will work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in competitions in a wide array of skill sets.

Helping each student excel and be a solution to shrinking the skills gap, SkillsUSA is a national non-profit organization serving teachers and students.

COMMUNITY
CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Mt. Horeb Seniors Lunch Outing to Jason's Deli, Madison. Bus leaves at 10:15 am

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Closet open 9:00 to 10:30am (Seniors Preferred) ; All shoppers - 3:00-6:00pm. 102 E. Lincoln Street

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food and Clothes Closet open 10:00-11:30am, 102 E. Lincoln Street

Celebrating Wisconsin's Centennial through stamps now showing in the Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Gallery at the Driftless Historium through Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Tai Chi, 1:00pm. Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Ageless Grace, 2:00pm, Mt. Horeb Senior Center

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Foot Clinic, 8:30am-3:30pm, Call 608-437-6902 for appt. Mt. Horeb Senior Center

Fink's Cafe, serving senior meals, 11:00am-1:00pm

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

Little Free Pantries are located at: New Hope Evangelical Free Church, 639 S. 8th St., Mt. Horeb; Immanuel Lutheran Church, 310 W. Main St. Mt. Horeb and Zwingli UCC, Hwy 92, Mt. Vernon. Nonperishable food and other necessities available 24 hours a day. "Take what you need, share what you can."

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.

Recreation Notes

Summer Registration is NOW OPEN! Our Summer Activity Guide is packed full of activities sure to keep your summer active and fun! Summer registration includes swim lessons, pool passes, t-ball, soccer, flag football, art camps, fly fishing, tree climbing, and so much more!

Now Hiring – If you are looking for a fun summer job, look no further than the Recreation Department! We are currently seeking individuals for the following positions:

- Summer Office Assistant (min age 17)
- Pool Staff Attendant (min age 14)
- Kids Camp Coordinator (min age 17)
- Kids Camp Assistant (min

age 14)

NEW this summer – **Water Aerobics!** Have you been looking for a class that is easy on your joints? This class is designed to improve flexibility, range of motion, strength, muscle tone and cardiovascular endurance while using the resistance of the water to cushion the feet, knees and back. Exercises are performed to music and are easy to follow. Water Aerobics will take place indoors at Grand Stay Hotel Pool on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:00 PM from June 5 through August 28 (no program on July 3). There will be a lifeguard present at each class. Resident fee is \$100 and non-resident fee is \$110. Registration deadline is May 29.

Back by popular demand – **Disc Golf!** Learn how to play disc golf from a 20 year professional disc golf pro. Instructor will teach driving, approaching, and putting techniques in a fun and exciting atmosphere. The final class will be a short, simulated round of disc golf at Grundahl Park. Please wear closed toe shoes with good traction and bring a water bottle. Disc Golf will take place Monday through Thursday, June 17 through 20 from 1:00-3:00 PM for 9 years old and up. The program will be held at Sunrise Park, except the final day will be at Grundahl Park. Resident fee is \$100 and non-resident fee is \$110. Registration deadline is June 10.

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

Spring Martial Arts (3/28)
Spring Taekwondo – Little Lions (3/30)

Little Folk Art Studio (4/1)

Track and Field Decathlon (4/2)

COMMUNITY

Rotary Club News



Ella Fager is March Student Rotarian

Ella Fager, a senior at Mount Horeb High School, is the Student Rotarian for March. Ella just finished her senior season with the Mount Horeb girls' basketball team, where she played for four years and served as co-captain this season. She's also a four-year member of the girls' golf, winning Most Valuable Player honors for three of those years, and being named to first team all-conference. She's also a four-year member of the soccer team.

Her other school activities include two years on the National Honor Society and serving as a member of the Link Crew, which mentors incoming freshmen. Outside of school, she volunteers at the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry and clothes closet, and at basketball camps.

Ella is the daughter of Roger and Dana Fager, and the younger sister of Keegan, Kyler, and Kasen. Her plans after graduation include studying biology with the goal of eventually becoming a physical therapist.

Chamber of Commerce hosts special Spring Election Session



The Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce's Business Advocacy Committee sponsored a special Spring Elections Session of Good Morning, Mount Horeb on Wednesday, March 6. Attendees enjoyed networking with fellow business people and residents and then heard from Alyssa Gaffney, village clerk, who share important information about voting in the spring election. Then candidates for local office were given the chance to introduce themselves to attendees and share what drove them to seek office. Tim White, an incumbent who is running unopposed for village board, shared some of the projects he has been a part of during his current term and what he looks forward to working on during his coming term. Jim Myers and Thomas Schlimgen are both running against Sarah Sarbacker for two Mount Horeb Area School Board seats. Myers, the incumbent, talked about his past contributions to the school board and what lead him to run for reelection, as well as what he hopes to continue working on should he be elected for another term. Schlimgen also introduced himself and shared that he feels the current board has been moving the district in the right direction and would love the opportunity to contribute to that good work. The chamber thanks these candidates for taking time to connect with the local business community! Marc Schelpfeffer, who is also running for village board unopposed, was out of town and couldn't make the event. Sarah Sarbacker, running in the contested school board race, had a work conflict and could not attend. Photo contributed.

Obituary

Gary Don Mittelstaedt

June 24, 1955 -
March 13, 2024



MADISON - Gary Don Mittelstaedt, age 68, of Madison, passed away on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at St. Mary's Hospital. He was born on June 24, 1955, in Richland Center, the son of Herbert and Carol (Hopkins) Mittelstaedt.

Gary was a graduate of Mount Horeb High School. He found his calling early on as a baker, a craft he honed with love and preci-

sion. Gary's career began at Gobles in Mount Horeb, where his talent for creating delicious pastries quickly became evident. He went on to share his culinary delights at Webers in Cross Plains, Cub Foods in Madison, and finally, HyVee in Madison, where his baked goods were not just food, but a way to connect with others.

Gary's passion for baking was matched only by his love for music and the outdoors. An avid fisherman, he found peace and solitude in nature and the thrill of the catch. His musical talents shone brightly during jam sessions, where he played and sang with a joy that was infectious.

Gary is survived by his siblings, Lynn (Frederick) Coates, Avis Cull, Alan (Sheila) Mittelstaedt, Victor (Mary) Mittelstaedt, Lois (Brian) Schneider; nieces and nephews, Deanna Hinderman, Roger Coates, Jesse and David Cull, Erik Mittelstaedt and Noah Schneider; and many cousins and

second cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert and Carol Mittelstaedt; Carol's companion of over 30 years, Roy Downing; maternal and paternal grandparents; aunts and uncles; and a nephew and great-nephew.

A celebration of life gathering will be held at GUNDERSON CAMACHO MOUNT HOREB FUNERAL AND CREMATION CARE, 500 N. Eighth St., Mount Horeb, from 12 noon until 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2024. Burial at Richland Center Cemetery will take place at a later date.

A special thank you to SSM Health Hospital and Clinics staff and doctors.

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

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

CHURCH NOTES

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

Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church – ELC
www.elcmthoreb.org
315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012
5 pm Saturday Worship
9 am Sunday Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Spring Election

Get to know the school board candidates

Biographies:

Sarah Sarbacker: Originally from the New Glarus area, I have lived in Mount



Sarah Sarbacker:

Horeb for the past 20 years. I am the mother of two wonderful children. My son graduated from Mount Horeb High School in 2023, and my daughter is currently a freshman. I am the Director of Communications and Marketing for FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative which is based out of Madison. I have served previously on the PFLAG Mount Horeb board of directors as well as the board for TUGS, which is a non-profit organization out of Monroe, WI that is dedicated to mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

Tom Schlimgen: I currently reside in Primrose township with my wife and



Tom Schlimgen

daughter and have been a resident of Mount Horeb my whole life. I have seven brothers and sisters who went through the school district with many of their children graduating from Mt.

Horeb as well. I have countless friends' children that have attended, or are attending Mt. Horeb. I personally graduated from MHHS in 1996 and UW Platteville in 2000. I work in Verona in a quality control lab specializing in animal reproduction. I live a busy life with full time employment and running a small farming operation focusing on cropland and some cattle. I absolutely love kids and want to see them all succeed in life and have fun along the way; just ask anyone that has attended one of my Halloween, Easter or Summer "field day" kid events at our home.

Jim Myers: Myers has been with First Business Bank eight years and has



Jim Myers

more than 20 years of experience as a Financial Advisor. At First Business Bank, he is the Vice President – Company Retirement Plans. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Madison with a Bachelor of Science degree in Personal Finance. He works very closely with the employees who participate in their company-sponsored retirement plans. With an emphasis on education and financial wellness, Jim partners with clients to provide long term investment strategies, allowing participants to develop a financial plan to obtain their retirement goals and objectives.

Jim, his wife and their three kids, live here in Springdale Township. He has served on the Mount

Horeb Area School District School Board since 2021 and has held the Treasurer position for the last two years. Jim currently holds a board position on another local non-profit organization and has held the president position on others in the past. Along with officiating basketball at both the high school and collegiate levels Jim enjoys coaching various youth sports year-round.

Reasons for running:

Sarbacker: I believe that a strong and effective education system is essential for a thriving community, and I am passionate about fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment where each and every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Collaboration between parents, teachers and community members in an objective manner is essential for our district to continue to provide high-quality education. I am a firm believer that our educators and district staff are the foundation for the academic success and personal development of our students, and I have the utmost respect for what they do. In turn, we need to make sure that they are supported. I have always felt that this district has served my children well, and I would like to return the favor by serving the district and community on the Board of Education.

Schlimgen: I have several reasons for running for school board at this time. I have a young daughter in the district and want to do anything that I can to make sure the school system in Mount Horeb keeps to a high standard of education. Recently, I had a sister run and was elected to a school board in a different district and we have spoken often how she has enjoyed the challenge

of being on the board and the rewarding feeling that she has gotten from serving her community. I think I am ready for the same challenge in the community I have called home my whole life. Finally, I think it is very important that the district makes sound financial choices as this affects everyone in the school district no matter if they have children in the school system or not as costs for everyone continue to escalate.

Myers: Over the last three years, I have found serving on the MHASD School Board to be incredibly rewarding and an effective way to make a positive impact on our community. It has been during this time, that I have been exposed to just how amazing the youth of this community are. I have enjoyed working collaboratively with my colleagues and I believe that I play a valuable part of the success we have shared.

Actively participating on the Finance Committee and serving as the Treasurer of the Board the last two years has allowed me to play a role in being good stewards of taxpayers' money. As an example, we have pre-paid \$2.1 million of debt over the last two years while setting ourselves up for additional opportunities to pay more off in the near future.

On the Buildings, Grounds and Transportation committee, we have gotten back on track with our established bus replacement schedule. We have made necessary updates to our school facilities as well as ensuring staff are compensated competitively. We have also made significant enhancements such as added security to protect our students. The pickleball courts and softball lights are two examples of how we have successfully collaborated with local boards, clubs and the district to add

improvements.

I have found one of the best parts of being on the board is the opportunity to serve as the board liaison at the Intermediate Center. Through monthly direct interactions I have been able to observe and participate in a variety of classrooms, lunch, recess, and spent time with custodial staff. This has provided me invaluable insight into the resource needs for students, teachers, administration, and support staff.

No doubt there will be challenges, but I believe my experience, background, and knowledge of the district will help navigate what is ahead. I am running again because I know I have made a positive impact, but I am just getting started. We cannot do this alone though – we need the support of the entire community. It truly "takes a Village to raise a child!"

What are the three most important issues currently facing the district, and how should the board of education address them?

Sarbacker: The Early Learning Center is one of the most important issues currently, as it is in dire need of updates and/or replacement. I recently attended the planning forum meeting for the public on this issue, and was surprised at just how large of an issue this actually is. As of right now, the estimated cost to either try to fix the main issues with the building versus building new are about the same, so we need to continue to evaluate the options and move forward with a plan that makes the most sense to address this.

Secondly, we need to ensure that we are not only attracting, but retaining qualified educators and staff. The foundation of a good education stands on high-quality educators. We need to ensure that our teachers are being heard,

and that there is a good dialogue between teachers and the board of education to ensure that their concerns are appropriately heard and addressed. Communication between the board, teachers and staff, and administration is key.

Lastly, funding is something that will always be one of the main issues to address for any public school district. Continuing to closely look at the budget and prioritize district needs as appropriate is essential to ensure that our dollars are being utilized strategically and appropriately.

Schlimgen: Difficult decisions are looming regarding the ELC and its long term use in the district. Is it worth spending money on a building that has numerous problems and causes issues with the use of staff split between two facilities? The board is currently making plans for a possible referendum this fall regarding this issue. The board needs to continue to work with the public on possible solutions including a plan where the ELC continues to be a part of the district if that is the wishes of the voters.

There currently seems to be a divide between the administration and the teachers regarding what the teachers' compensation is based off of. We need to come to an agreement regarding this starting point that our teaching staff finds acceptable. I believe more open and honest discussions need to take place between the teachers and administration so going

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ELECTION

continued from page 8

forward there is a foundation of trust built where the focus can be put on the education of the students in the district.

Improve enrollment in the district. We need to attract new families that will trust our district and teachers with educating their children. We also need to keep parents of children that are in our educational system from wanting to move their children to other districts. Mt. Horeb can accomplish this goal. We need to continually maintain and upgrade facilities when needed to fit the needs of the children and the faculty teaching them. We need to focus on hiring and keeping the best teachers so our children are learning from the best. Finally we need to maintain the highest level of communication between the community and the schools so everyone is on the same page. Our goal should be graduating students that will have a leg up on life and the ability to fulfill their own personal goals and dreams after graduation.

Myers: Facilities – The most pressing issue is to come together with the community on a resolution to our aging Early Learning Center (Kindergarten Building) building. Due to many extenuating circumstances, we are behind other districts with our facilities. Although recent capital referendums have helped, there is much work to be done.

Attracting and Retaining Administration and Staff – In my term on this board, we have done a fantastic job in creating competitive wages. We need to keep this momentum going and keep our quality staff. We finally have some stability within our building principals, administration and leadership teams. Now the goal needs to shift to keep what we have. As a testament to our great Administration and Staff – opportunities to advance will arise. Keeping these talents in Mount Horeb will be an issue to address.

Advocating for a predictable funding model for all public schools. Currently,

schools are being asked to do more with less. We are in a reactionary mode due to a lot of factors out of our control such as current property values and the state legislature bi-annual budget process. This prohibits us from planning more than a year or two out. We need to focus on ways to proactively plan.

While academics are important, so is mental health. However, the latter can be much harder to measure. What can/should local schools do to help all students feel safe, secure and supported in the district? How can the district find ways to know if its mental health work is actually helping the student population?

Sarbacker: We have a diverse student body and we need to continue to respect each student for who they are, and ensure that they feel that they are represented in curriculum. Our district has done a great job with diversity, equity and inclusion programming, and we need to continue to build upon this. Our partnership with Oregon Mental Health is a vital piece in ensuring that students have access to mental health care right at school, and this program should continue as well. We need to ensure that we are using appropriate metrics to evaluate how methods are working for our students in the form of data collection (surveys, assessments, screenings), and pre- and post-intervention evaluations. I think it's important to not only prioritize the mental health of students, but to also include the mental health and wellness of teachers and staff as well.

Schlimgen: I think our schools can make policies addressing the needs of the students and implement those policies. Schools can have more special aids that could help children that need extra support. I think to measure the success of what we are doing in the district we could look outside our district and see what other districts have in place. Doing this would give us an opportunity to see how oth-

ers are measuring mental health. We could ask how it is working? And how can we improve their program if we were to adopt a similar way of monitoring mental health. The bottom line is it is a difficult issue and one that is not going away. So as a district we have to be able to adjust and continually learn ways to help the students just as we ask our students to continually learn.

Myers: There is not a definitive measure to assess mental health and this work from MHASD is never ending and never complete. We MUST keep this at the forefront and protect our students. We are fortunate to have several surveys through the Dane County Youth Assessment survey and the Youth Risk Behavior survey. These two separate surveys are given in middle school and high school years. Students are very candid about their needs which allows the district to align the appropriate resources. As a district it is our responsibility to engage our young people about their thoughts and needs as much as possible. This will no doubt lead to outcomes we aspire regarding mental health, but we must never lose sight of the issues and pressures that students of today face.

The Mount Horeb Area School District's latest referendum was approved by local voters in 2022. Through it, the district receives an additional \$4.8 million annually on top of its regular revenue. Prior to that, local voters approved \$38.5 in additional spending for capital projects in the district in 2017. Now, school district leadership has been testing the waters regarding another referendum, this time for capital spending. Is the time right to pursue another ballot initiative? Why or why not?

Schlimgen: First off, I would say there is never a good time for asking for more tax dollars from the community. I pay taxes just like everyone else in the district and I think it is safe to

say we all saw a substantial increase very recently. Also, probably like most, I don't really enjoy paying those taxes and also like everyone else I don't really enjoy my taxes being increased. But, I try to understand what those taxes go towards and what they are paying for. I don't believe the board asks for these funds without just cause. In all likelihood this fall there will be a referendum to add on the primary center and move the kindergarten children under one roof with the first and second graders. I have been attending meetings to understand why this is being proposed. Based on what I have learned so far I would be in favor of such a move. Now there is a chance I would change my mind as I would learn more about the financial details and more of the details of a potential addition. With that being said the ELC has a number of issues that need to be addressed including roof work, no air conditioning, real issues for handicapped students getting around the school, and no secure entry to just name a few. These are issues that are going to have to be addressed regardless of a referendum. It also causes some staffing issues as staff is shared between the two schools. During the tour at the last meeting the staff members also showed participants that you had to pass through classrooms to enter other classrooms which is not ideal for learning. The big question community members, myself included, will have to decide is do they want to spend money on an aging facility that just does not seem to fill the needs of the district anymore? Or do we spend money on an addition to the primary center that will make better use of staff in the district, improve safety for the kids, and in the end hopefully improve the education the children receive and the community can be proud of.

Sarbacker: The capital spending needs right now largely involve the Early Learning Center facility, which is in dire need of improvements. The current HVAC system is still the

original system from 1968, the roof needs replacing, and the classrooms are approximately half the square footage that is now standard for kindergarten classrooms. From a safety standpoint, with the layout of the building, it is not feasible to have a safety entrance put in place as we have implemented in the other school buildings. These are just a few of the issues with the building, and we have been putting "band-aids" on facility issues there for quite some time. I don't feel that it is a question of timing in regards to proposing a ballot initiative - rather, it is something that is likely essential for the safety and well-being of students and staff.

Myers: YES – the time is now. We cannot wait any longer. As a district we have a facilities plan, but that is with our current buildings. I would like to see the District and Community come together and put together a long-term facilities plan. As the buildings age together, they will need to be replaced together. If we don't do anything right now, we will be forced to fix a larger situation later. One by one, we need to put together a long-term plan for each building. It is critical to view this an investment in the future.

Revenues in the approved 2023-2024 Mount Horeb Area School District budget were \$33.3 million. What should the school board's primary goals and methodology be when going through the budget process each year?

Sarbacker: The school board's goals and methodology should align with the strategic plan. This needs to include ensuring financial stability of the district while allocating resources for educational priorities an student success. Looking at the budget not only short-term, but from a long-term perspective and evaluating needs from an efficiency and cost-effectiveness standpoint is essential.

Schlimgen: I think the goal of the board every year should be to prioritize where funding is needed. I would

assume that a lot of the costs (80 percent are more) are tied up in main areas of the district. Salaries, utilities, food costs, fuel would be examples of items that may fluctuate but are mainstays in the budget. The rest of the budget is where the difficult decisions would be. Would funding be used to repair buildings, buy new computers or tablets, create new classes and opportunities for students, create new salaried positions, improve or upgrade athletic facilities/playgrounds, pay off debt? These are examples of many avenues the budget can be used for. The board will need to lean on administration, principles, teachers, facilities maintenance staff and the public to get information on items that need funding. The board will then have to discuss and prioritize based on need which items will receive funding and which items will not any given year.

Myers: In our recent strategic planning survey, the community told us their number one priority is to attract and retain the very best staff. For example, thanks to the community's generosity, the board added a 15 percent increase in teacher wages to that budgetary line in this past school year. Providing a cost-of-living wage increase is just the beginning as we go forward. Attracting and retaining talent means rewarding and recognizing all staff for a job well done.

Local teachers received two raises last year (one was retroactive for the prior year), and union representatives said they were appreciative of them. However, they also expressed some concerns about the way the school board has
continued on page 15



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The Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 2021. Pictured, top right, are Mount Horeb veterans Jeff Anderson and Don Hartman, flanked by Sen. Dianne Hesselbein and Rep. Mike Bare.



MEMORIAL

continued from page 1

Mike Bare issued a statement applauding the work of the Mount Horeb VFW Post 9511, Mount Horeb American Legion Post 113 and the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter IV and thanked them for their work on the memorial and the bill.

“It all started when Cathy Scott, one of our village trustees, asked why our memorial was not on the

state map, so I looked into it and found out it takes the passage of a law,” said Jeff Anderson, chairman of the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Association Board of Directors. “I contacted both Rep. Bare and Sen. Hesselbein and they met us out at the memorial, and I think they were both impressed by it. They both agreed to introduce bills.”

While the cumbersome machinery of state government can move at a slug-

gish pace, in this instance lawmakers acted swiftly to make sure Mount Horeb’s memorial was included.

“They really took this and ran with it, because we were right up against the wall on the last day (to get Mount Horeb added to the bill), and but for their aggressive hard work to get it through committee and approved, it would not have happened,” said Anderson. “The members of our board of directors are really appreciative of their hard work, and Cathy Scott for bringing it to our attention.”

“Now we’re waiting for the governor to sign it,” he

said.

Hesselbein (D-Middleton) and Bare (D-Verona) last week hailed passage of a bill to recognize the Mount Horeb Area Veterans who worked to build one of the most impressive Veterans’ Memorials in the state.

The legislators heard from area veterans seeking to have the memorial officially added to the state’s highway map and worked together to draft a bill and get it through both houses of the Legislature, culminating in passage without opposition in the State Senate today.

The inspiring memorial resulted from fundraising

and hard work by a dedicated group of Mount Horeb Veterans and was recently honored by a visit from Denis McDonough, Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

“We were honored to have this opportunity come through for this remarkable group of veterans and the memorial they created in Mount Horeb,” said Hesselbein. “We didn’t know legislation was needed to get this on the map, but we’re very happy to see this bill passed for them. I don’t know about you, but I know I’m going to have a paper copy of the next state map

in my vehicle from now on.”

“This is a well-deserved recognition for the veterans of the Mount Horeb area,” said Bare. “It’s a touching memorial and I’m pleased it will get more visits and attention.”

Don Hartman, VFW 9511 post commander, was one of the driving forces behind the memorial and “has always understood how powerful that map can be.”

“We’re finally on the level where everyone in the state is going to have access to this information, and they are going to see it, and when they see it I think are going to come,” he said. “This is like Field of Dreams.”

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Pawsome Pets

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Extraordinary Bonds Between a Human and an Animal

Remembering Anna, and all the joy she brought us

By Joe Block
Finger Publishing

Every once in a while, a message goes out from my boss for stories for this particular section in the paper—Pawsome Pets. It goes without saying that my fellow editors and I are busy to begin with taking care of our individual newspapers. Any additional writing responsibilities are a further increase to an already considerable load. But each time the call goes out, my fellow world-weary editors who have “seen it all” suddenly turn into bright eyed children and excitedly write and research things like bugs as pets, and other unorthodox and entertaining subjects.

In my time here—six years—choosing as topic has been easy, as my trusty 16-year-old beagle named Anna is in so many ways the focus of my gaze. Each time I’ve been called upon to contribute to Pawsome Pets, Anna has taken the

stage front and center as the subject of my article. The articles span some of the best times in her life, as a dog set in life and thriving.

But in the past year certain signs slipped through. An article about pee-pad training your dog, tongue-in-cheek and full of poop jokes, revealed a dog who could no longer make it through the night. It’s no longer “places to travel with your dog” and instead “frequent walks mean less accidents.”

So the call came out recently and immediately a topic came to mind. Something else came with that thought: the knowledge that I would probably be writing my last article about Anna. What I didn’t entirely suspect, but perhaps subconsciously knew, was that Anna would pass away even before I got a chance to write that final article.

The past few months of her life had signaled a change which I strongly suspected was senility. In

those few months I had tried many things and adapted and found what worked and discarded what didn’t. I had a lot of experience for a dog in her final stages of life.

What I’m realizing now, however, is that the suspected senility was actually my companion becoming aware of her impending death and simply consciously winding her life down. In retrospect I see that 2024 came in with her slowly ebbing away. She knew. I was a little more clueless. It was in her final week that our minds met again and I knew she was ready—and she knew I was ready. On her final day we comforted each other. She would have it no other way.

On the last day of her life, she finally gave in to me. Throughout her life, Anna her absolutely and resolutely refused to allow herself to be picked up. Of course she was a small dog and there were times throughout her life where she had to be picked up. She would squirm and wiggle and spasm every time. But that last morning I carried her outside and she didn’t

complain. Tired, weak, wobbly, standing in the cold rain under a bitter sky, she did her business dutifully as she had for years that morning and I carried her back in. Later that day I would carry from my car to the vet’s office and she would lean in under my jacket against the rain.

Anna was not an easy dog to live with at times. She was anxious quite frequently, although the last few months of her life were blissfully calm. When I got her 14 years ago she was attached to my hip and couldn’t be left alone for a single moment, but by the end of her life she was a fiercely independent single lady. My bedroom was “her room” during the daytime and her growls would remind me that was the case. I was only a visitor. Every few hours she would do a loop of the apartment, trotting with a little bounce, her nails tat-tatting on the hardwood floor. Then back to sleep. That would continue through the evening, as I watched TV or played on the computer. She would do her loop and seek out



Anna the Beagle’s smile radiates pure joy, capturing the hearts of all with canine happiness.

scratches, then back to bed. Then I would eventually fall asleep to the sound of her gently snoring from the bed at the foot of my bed.

For 14 years I’ve heard her sounds and seen her out of the corner of my eyes. In the less than 24 hours since she’s passed, I keep seeing and hearing her. As I slept last night I heard her snore and the remnants of her bad dream. As I pass my bedroom door—her room—I

look to her bed, but she’s not there. I miss her.

Inevitably I will write more of these columns. And I can see a world where one of these future columns concerns Anna. But this is her goodbye column. Anna lived out large on the pages of Pawsome Pets for many years. It’s fitting that her goodbye occurs in one.

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Bettas are Beautiful Companions

In the right environment and with the correct diet they can live for years

By Linda Schwanke
Finger Publishing

One of the most beautiful fish breeds is also believed to be the first domesticated. The Siamese fighting fish, properly the Betta, was first domesticated about 1,000 years ago in their native southwest Asia in the area formerly known as Siam and were brought to western civilizations during the 19th century. There are over 70 different types of bettas that have been selectively bred for specific traits.

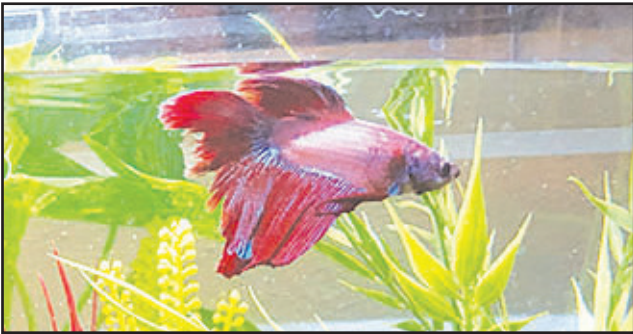
Bettas are considered one of the most aggressive freshwater fish because males are very territorial, thus their common name. Males have been bred for organized fights, much like cockfights, but they primarily have been bred for their beautifully colored long flowing fins.

Bettas have been kept in

tiny bowls and cups, even in potted plants, but these conditions don’t begin to meet the needs of these carnivorous little fish.

Southwestern Asia is known for its warm waters which is an important factor in keeping bettas. Males can’t be kept together but females, in odd numbers, can.

Betta fish tanks of 10 gallons or more are designed to keep water at the idea temperature for bettas. Tanks environments should include plants, rocks, even caves, to give the fish room to explore and thrive. They also allow the fish to breathe air directly from the surface. Bettas have a respiratory organ that allows them to breathe air directly, an important factor since they come from areas with low-oxygen waters. Water should be soft,



Siamese fighting fish, or more properly Bettas, are friendly little fish that swim up to the side of their tank when a person comes along to see there are going to be treats. (Photo by Gwen Schwanke)

warm and slightly acidic. A water change of 10 percent of the water in the tank weekly is strongly advised to keep them healthy.

Bettas eat insects and insect larvae in the wild and their diet needs to be high in protein. They have an upturned mouth that allows them to snatch insects off the surface of the water. That means live food is ideal for

bettas. However, flake and frozen or freeze dried foods like brine shrimp, daphnia, plankton, tubifex and glassworms are good options. Live food should be fed as a supplement whenever possible.

With the right care, bettas can live to be two to three years old. Do your research before making the decision to bring one home.

PAWSOME PETS

Dog Grooming Basics for Owners

Grooming and keeping your dogs feeling fresh can lead to longer, happier lives



Suds and smiles for this dog. Bath time can be a joy for some of our furry friends.



Glamour on the grooming table. Getting those coats of fur looking and feeling fresh.



Pearly whites aren't just for humans, brushing dog's teeth have all the same benefits that it does for humans.

By KATIE PEDERSON
Finger Publishing

We all love our dogs (they are widely known as man’s best friend, after all) and want to give them the best care that we can provide. Along with feeding a high-quality diet that follows the World Small Animal Veterinary Association’s (WSAVA) Global Nutrition Guidelines (<https://wsava.org/global-guidelines/global-nutrition-guidelines>), daily exercise and regular visits to your trusted veterinarian, providing our dogs with good care includes basic grooming.

Bathing

Every dog needs a bath. How often you bathe your dog depends on a number of factors such as coat type, coat length and lifestyle. A lap-dog type dog will often need less bathing than an adventurous dog that spends their days hiking. Some hairless breeds actually require more frequent bathing due to their skin type. Generally speaking, a large to medium size dog could be bathed every four to six weeks, according to the American Kennel Club

(AKC). Use a gentle, dog-specific shampoo and a conditioner if you wish. When your buddy is squeaky clean make sure to dry them thoroughly, paying close attention to the area in and around their ears. You can bathe them at home, or, in many communities there are dog washing stations so that you can keep the mess out of your house. There are also many waterless options available on the market for quick clean ups. Many pet grooming salons also offer the option of a bath-only visit.

Brushing

Between baths you will want to brush your dog several times a week (daily brushing is a must for long haired dogs and Poodle mixes). Regular brushing allows you to keep an eye on your dog’s coat condition and may help with shedding, which means less vacuuming and sweeping for you. There are several different brush and comb types to consider, from pin brushes to stainless steel combs and bristle brushes. Brushing often also means that you can make sure your best friend doesn’t have any cuts or scrapes that may need attention and any burrs and mats can be removed before they become an issue.

Nail Trims

Making sure your dog’s nails don’t get too long will help their feet remain healthy. If the nails are allowed to grow too long this can affect the dog’s gait, which could make walking painful for them. To shorten your dog’s nails you can use a nail clipper specially designed for dogs, of which there are three basic types: guillotine style, scissors style, and pliers style. You could also employ a Dremel-type grinding tool, which some dogs are more comfortable with. A nail will bleed if you cut it too short. A good addition to your nail clipping kit is a styptic powder – however, flour or cornstarch can be used in a pinch. After you’re finished clipping nails, check your dog’s foot pads to make sure they’re not cracked or torn in any way, and check between their toes for debris or injuries. If you’re not confident enough to clip your dog’s nails, both veterinarians and pet groomers offer this service.

Teeth Brushing

Dogs need dental care, too! Tartar forms within a few days on tooth surfaces that are not kept clean. Brushing your dog’s teeth a few times per week with a dog-specific toothpaste (never human toothpaste) and toothbrush will slow the formation of tartar. A list of products accepted by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) is available on their website at <https://vohc.org/accepted-products/#dogs>. Products with the VOHC seal have a proven record for better oral care and are backed by clinical trials. Your veterinarian may also suggest a dental cleaning for your dog. During a cleaning by your veterinarian they will conduct a thorough examination, including the use of x-rays, teeth cleaning and polishing, and possible extractions. These procedures are done under general anesthesia.

Eyes and Ears

Keep the fur around your dog’s eyes trimmed short if it grows to cover their eyes, and wipe daily with a damp washcloth if you notice any build up forming in the corner of their eyes. If you do notice a build up, and there is an odor or odd color to it, this should be checked by your veterinarian for signs of infection or clogged tear ducts. Any redness, discharge, debris, swelling or bad odor emanating from your dog’s ears requires veterinary attention. You can keep their ears clean by gently wiping them with a moist cloth on a weekly basis, taking care not to enter the ear canal. Do not use any cleaners in the ears without speaking to your veterinarian first.

Fleas and Ticks

There are several methods to prevent flea and ticks on your dog including topical drops, collars and oral medications. Your veterinarian will know which products work best in the area in which you live. Keeping your dog free of ticks will help prevent them from contracting tick-borne diseases such as Lyme Disease, Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Babesiosis, Bartonella, Hepatozoonosis, Tularemia, Tick Paralysis and Anaplasmosis. Fleas are the most common external parasite seen on dogs, according to the Cornell Collage of Veterinary Medicine, and can cause intense uncomfortable itching, hair loss or skin infections in addition to carrying diseases that can affect dogs and their humans, such as tapeworms. Taking these simple steps to keep your dog clean and healthy can contribute to a longer life and a much happier companion.

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PAWSOME PETS

Wellness By Intention in Mount Horeb

Sitting down with Joan Pape, owner of Wellness By Intention

By MATT GEIGER
Finger Publishing

We recently talked to Joan Pape, owner of Wellness By Intention in Mount Horeb. She offers an eclectic range of services for pets and their owners, from canine and equine massage to “animal communication.” She also works with a Madison-based non-profit that helps people work through the grieving process when they lose their non-human loved ones.

Tell us a little about yourself. How did you end up in Mount Horeb?

Pape: I’m originally from Roxbury, near Sauk City. I moved around a lot when I was a single mom raising two girls, but eventually ended up in Madison. That’s where I opened my metaphysical store, “New Moon Rising” in 1998. That is also when I started offering and teaching Reiki Energy Healing. Reiki is a non-invasive, hands-on energy healing modality that works with the body’s energy system. All living creatures have various vibrational frequencies within their energy system and their energy centers, commonly referred to as “chakras”. Reiki works with that energy to create deep relaxation, while producing endorphins, the body’s natural pain fighters and calming mechanisms. Reiki is “holistic” in that it addresses issues on all levels; physical, emotional and mental.

When I opened the business in Madison, I had a dear friend who was a massage therapist and we would always talk about how fun it would be to be in business together. She had heard of a couple of retail spots that were open in Mount Horeb, so I did some exploring. I’m quite sensitive to energies and whenever I went to Mount Horeb I noticed how wonderful it felt to be here. There’s something about this community that feels charmed, almost magical. Maybe it’s troll magic, but seriously, it’s about the people that make up this community. There’s a warmth here that I’ve never felt anywhere else. It feels peaceful and it feels like “home”. So I moved the store to Mount Horeb in 2000 and stayed in the area.

When I closed the store in 2004, I maintained my Reiki practice from home for a while, but then found an office space in Barneveld and was there until the end of 2022 when I was finally able to find office space in Mount Horeb. I’m excited to share that as of May 1st, my office will be located in the Professional Building at 1406 Springdale Street in Suite 103 (many refer to it as the “H & R Block office building”). For me, being able to bring my business back to Mount Horeb truly felt like coming home.

You do canine massage, right? How did you get into that profession, and what does it entail?

Pape: Yes, I do provide canine Massage Therapy. Technically, my certification is in “Canine Myo-Manipulative Functional Therapy” which is the long version of canine massage! But it also entails so much more.

I got into that profession because I had been doing Reiki for animals for many years and felt like it was the perfect complement to energy work. I wanted to learn more about the physical aspect of the energy therapy I was doing. My goal was to create a synergistic healing environment that was more holistic, meaning it addresses physical, mental and emotional well-being.

My practice entails much more than just massage. The training I received also encompasses acupressure, Red Light and Cold Laser therapies. The Red Light I use is basically the size of a standard heating pad. It combines visible red light and near infrared light to penetrate skin and heal on a cellular level without overheating the skin. Cold Laser light therapy works much the same way except that the laser emits a higher wavelength of light, does not get warm, and penetrates deeper into tissue for accelerated healing. Having all of these “tools” at hand allows me to provide a more holistic approach to a dog’s ailment.

I also conduct classes from time to time to teach people some very basic fundamentals in canine massage. My goal is to help people strengthen their bond by connecting with their dog on a deeper level, more rooted from the heart. I have taught these classes at Mayhem to Manners Dog Training in Dodgeville and offer them at my office and/or in one-on-one settings.



Joan Pape, owner of Wellness By Intention in Mount Horeb. Photo by Matt Geiger

And it’s not just dogs, right?

Pape: Indeed, it’s not just dogs! I’ve done Reiki and energy healing with cats, birds, ferrets, cows and horses! I even send Reiki to birds that fly into our windows at home and get stunned. The beautiful thing about Reiki is that since you are working with energy, you don’t have to have your hands physically on the animal for it to be effective. I have many clients who have me do “Remote Reiki” which is sending the Reiki long distance. I work from a photo and send distance Reiki at a scheduled date and time.

I also go to boarding stables and private farms to work with horses. Many times people will want Reiki done on their horses. As an animal communicator, I can integrate the Reiki with a reading and help the horse and their human understand each other better. I have found that horses usually have a lot to say and are very appreciative of the opportunity to be heard.

You referred to yourself as an “animal communicator.” What exactly is that?

Pape: As an animal communicator I connect with animals through direct telepathic communication. When we look at the roots of the word “telepathy” we find that it means “feeling across a distance”. Animals are, by their very nature, telepathic creatures. They will share their feelings, intentions, thoughts and emotions through images, impressions, pure knowing and their inner voices. We are all born telepathic creatures, it’s just that in our culture that ability is not typically nurtured. Animals are able to connect with humans that are open to a telepathic connection and who have developed the ability to stay centered in that space. It takes a lot of practice and inner growth work to open that communication door. You also need to cultivate and maintain the ability to get out of your own head and just be open to the messages an animal is sending to you. I’ve been connecting with animals all of my life. In the more than 14 years I’ve been a professional animal communicator, I have connected with hundreds of animals, both living and those who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge. I typically provide readings via phone working from a photo of the pet. I’ve worked with clients from all over the country.

In many cases, there are behavioral issues that people are trying to figure out. If physical causes have been eliminated, we know the root of the issue is emotional and/or mental. So often, once an animal feels they have been heard and their human understands them better, the relationship is enhanced immensely. One example that comes to mind are cats that suddenly start urinating in the wrong places. I always recommend that people check with their veterinarian to rule out a physical cause for the behavior. Cats usually only do that if they are sick or upset! If we can rule out that they are sick, we can get to the bottom of what is troubling the cat and come to a peaceful solution.

Animal communication is also very helpful for rescue animals. They often have unknown histories and some will have behavioral idiosyncrasies that are better understood

continued on next page



Joan Pape showing us the animal communicator. Photo by Matt Geiger

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PAWSOME PETS

continued from previous page

when we can find out what happened in their past. Sometimes our animals are mirroring something that we ourselves need to look at in our lives. My goal and my passion is to be that bridge of communication between an animal and their person so that they can experience the most loving and joyful relationship possible.

I often hear back from people that behaviors have improved or relationships have deepened and that just makes my heart sing!

I have been talking to animals since I was a child growing up on a farm. It's just that when I was a kid, I figured all the dialogue was coming from me! The farm animals were my play mates, and I spent the majority of my time hanging out with them in our barns.

You also work with the Madison-based non-profit, Pet Loss Resource Center. Can you explain what that organization does?

Pape: Yes, I'm on the Board of Directors for the Pet Loss Resource Center. It is a wonderful resource for people who are navigating the grieving process after the loss of a pet. The PLRC offers free support groups that meet in person and via Zoom as well as one-on-one counseling at reduced prices. Our Executive Director Linda Colletti, is an amazing person who has many years of experience in grief support. More information can be found on the PLRC website.

Many people don't understand how devastating losing a pet can be. Having a safe and supportive way to work through that loss can be life changing for some folks. For many, the pain of losing a pet goes much deeper than when we lose a human loved one.

What makes non-human animals special to you? Why do you think the bond between people and other species is so important?

Pape: Non-human animals are special to me for so many reasons. Ever since I was a child, I've always felt a strong connection with all sorts of animals. One of the things that is so precious to me is the unconditional love that animals express toward people. Every time I meet an animal, I feel my heart warm up. Animals don't dwell on the past and they don't worry about the future. They are the most present creatures on the planet.

I feel it is important to strive for being present in our lives and animals demonstrate that for us. Sure, there will be days when we don't want to acknowledge the importance of being present or we feel a need to hold our thoughts about something in the past or the future. We are human after all! But at the end of the day, dwelling on the past or worrying about the future really don't accomplish anything other than wasting precious energy we could be putting into something that nurtures and sustains us.

Animals have a rather unobstructed view of life. They are never pretentious. They don't come into our lives with expectations. Their role in our lives is unique in that our relationship with them is pure, and uninhibited by human ways of interaction. We connect on a soul level. Regardless of your beliefs, you cannot deny that we all are living, breathing beings. We have a life force. Our animals' life force connects to our life force in ways that aren't

possible with another human being. Humans have expectations in relationships that animals simply do not have.

I feel there is nothing more beautiful in life than the relationship we have with our pets for they are a window to our soul. The relationship we share with our animals shows our capacity and our willingness to give and receive love. Those relationships give us the opportunity to choose joy – every day - to celebrate and live our lives to the fullest.

Anything else?

Pape: I work with people, too! I offer Reiki and Craniosacral Therapy healing sessions for people and have small classes and workshops from time to time. I teach Reiki and am offering a couple of fun classes this spring.

One class is called, "Animal Chakra Awareness" where we explore the chakras (energy centers) of animals, learn how to recognize imbalances and learn how to remedy those imbalances.

For people who are Reiki practitioners, I am offering a class called "Reiki for Fur Babies" which explores giving Reiki to animals in a way that is most comfortable for them. It is always important that we respect the animal and let them lead.

Prepping For a Change

Gearing up to bring another dog home

By ALEC FINGER
Finger Publishing

Growing up, my family was always blessed with two delightful dogs. Through my childhood and into my college years, our dynamic duo consisted of a sweet Jack Russell Terrier and a loving Brittany Spaniel. Fast forward to 2021, and our family welcomed a spirited Jack Russell Terrier named Emma. She's become the heart of our home, displaying a protectiveness and a vibrant personality.

Emma, with her big personality, is a bit selective in her affection. She can be somewhat rude with new faces, and sometimes continuously barks. But her love for our family knows no bounds. Spoiled with affection, Emma has filled our lives with joy and warmth. However, we've felt a void since the absence of a second furry companion, and the time has come to fill that.

In the upcoming months, a new member of the family will join us—a Brittany Spaniel. There is a lot of ex-



Emma-Brit, turning three next month, is a Jack Russell Terrier. Known for her high energy, and protectiveness.

citement around the house, though we're not yet settled on a name for our upcoming furry friend (I recommended Aggie). What we unanimously agree on is that this new addition will be cherished, pampered, and adored in her new home.

Welcoming a new dog inevitably raises concerns, especially regarding how Emma will react to her new furry sibling. Emma, known for being a charismatic

leader during her weekly doggy day care escapades, has never had to share her home territory. The prospect of having a new companion might shake up her one-dog-show routine. Yet, from past interactions with other dogs, we've witnessed Emma's playful and enthusiastic nature. I'm optimistic that Emma will embrace the company, relishing having a new playmate.

As I looked into some helpful information regarding the introduction of a second dog into a household, a key point that surfaced was the importance of providing individualized "me time" for each dog. This ensures that both dogs receive dedicated attention and love, eliminating the risk of favoritism. Whether it's separate play sessions, walks, or meal times, the goal is to create an environment where both Emma and the new pup feel equally valued.

My family is excited and has been preparing for this new arrival. Prepping a nice area for the new puppy, getting new toys, leashes, and bowls. We made sure to get a couple more Kong toys for the new puppy as it is Emma's favorite. The adventure of adding a new furry friend to our family promises to be a journey filled with laughter, joy, and an abundance of doggy love.



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ELECTION

continued from page 9

been negotiating with its teachers, saying the current process is flawed and creates tension between the two sides. How should the board negotiate with its workforce?

Sarbacker: I have spoken with union representatives on this issue. We do need to ensure that there is active dialogue between the board and the union, and that the board actively converses with union representatives during negotiation. We need to look at communication as a whole and find ways that we can improve transparency when appropriate and ensure that open and efficient lines of communication are in place.

Schlimgen: I feel the board needs to be upfront and honest with its workforce. If the compensation package the teachers desire can't be reached it needs to be clearly communicated why. I think a lot of the discontent relates to the "base" that all teachers' salaries are negotiated from currently and how negotiations are handled. The board needs to carefully review this with open discussion with the teachers and come to a compromise. I feel very strongly that the teachers are the backbone of any school district. They are the staff the children learn from, look up to, and confide in on a daily basis. We can't allow tension to continue between the two sides as it will only be to the detriment of Mount Horeb long term.

Myers: With the goal of attracting and retaining quality teachers and being competitive in the market, we did just go through a historic negotiation process. This process absolutely had its flaws but at the end of the day, teachers received a significant pay increase. For most, this was the largest pay increase in their

career. This would not be possible without the community support of the operational referendum that was passed in November of 2022 (Thank you!). With this just the second year of negotiations between the MHEA and the MHASD, I am confident both sides can improve. Like any process in its infancy, there will be flaws and there will be better ways to proceed. I believe that both MHEA and School Board each realize this and knows that TOGETHER we can get better. To get better together, communication will be key.

Departing school board member Rod Hise recently went on record expressing frustration about what he says is a recent trend – influenced by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards – toward groupthink on the school board rather than open and respectful discourse. Howard Zinn once called dissent “the highest form of patriotism” and President Eisenhower stated: “May we never confuse honest dissent with disloyal subversion.” Should school board members of differing viewpoints be encouraged to respectfully dissent when debating and voting on the issues they face? How would you balance free and independent thinking – and the value of each board member’s unique life experiences, values and skillsets - with the need to collaborate for the good of the district?

Sarbacker: I am a firm believer in open and transparent communication. Board members should be able to express their thoughts and ideas freely in an environment of respect and constructive dialogue. Diverse perspectives should be appreciated, the same as diversity of backgrounds, experiences, values and skillsets among board members. We promote this in our district - to value diver-

sity and different views - and we should do the same within the school board. As it relates to the good of the district - all opinions should be allowed to be voiced and discussed, while keeping in mind that the best interests of the district should always be prioritized above personal or individual interests.

Schlimgen: I for one fully believe that open discussion is key for any board. Any board member would have their own background and experiences to help them base their decisions. There is a reason there is a board and that a majority vote is needed to pass items. A majority not a unanimous vote. Obviously collaboration and compromise is needed as well. But I don't believe it should be frowned upon if there are items that don't have unanimous votes. It is ok, however in the end it would be the responsibility for the entire board to support whatever the majority passes to have a unified board when presenting items to the public.

Myers: I have a tremendous amount of respect for my colleague, and friend, Rod Hise. Rod has been a valuable piece to our Board of Education for the last six years and help navigate the Board of Education through some very difficult times. It is my belief that any successful board, organization, or group of people need to have disagreements yet the maturity to respect each other and their opinions. Having an open mind while seeing value in another's individual strengths only makes our board stronger. While many observe our School Board meetings, few see the work behind the scenes at the committee levels and the workshops that we hold throughout the school year. It is during these times, that much of our discussion occurs and most certainly a time for our voice to be heard.

What are the Mount Horeb Area School District’s greatest strengths?

Sarbacker: Our greatest strength is our teachers and staff and their dedication to providing quality education to our students.

Schlimgen: Mount Horeb is a strong community that fully supports its schools and students. Mount Horeb has an excellent staff, with a well rounded curriculum and a variety of extracurricular activities for all students to participate in. Overall, Mt Horeb has very good facilities that allow the students and teachers to focus on learning.

Myers: The students and the people of this community are definitely what makes Mount Horeb special. In my time on the Board of Education, I am continually impressed by the talents of our students. I am equally impressed by the support and generosity of the community.

One of the greatest strengths of this current board is our ability to work extremely well together. While respecting other's opinions, we all bring a unique perspective and background to share. In addition to working well together, the MHASD, Village and the Mount Horeb Chamber have done a great job of collaborating over the last two years. Together, we have held joint meetings which have allowed us to get a better understanding of the challenges each entity is facing and the great work that is being accomplished. We cannot do this alone!

What are its most significant challenges?

Sarbacker: In my opinion - the most significant challenges the district faces are funding, facility needs, the growing mental health crisis for students.

Schlimgen: Funding and how to spend those dollars has to be one of the biggest challenges. Every cost continues to go up. Maintenance, buildings, buses, staff. Plus there are con-

tinually new needs the district has to address that were not there in the past. It is a high wire act each and every year with no safety net to land on. Also the focus on mental health and how to address it is also high on the list as it is so individually driven and can be so hard to recognize when help is needed. Finally, I think one of the challenges that maybe people don't think about but is not new is the locations of our schools and how we are so landlocked related to facilities and the ability to do upgrades if needed.

Myers: With that said, I do worry about the level of experience on the board. As it stands right now, the majority of the board is in their first term, and I feel it is imperative to make sure we keep as much experience as possible. With your support, I believe my additional experience will continue to prove to be an asset to our community.

What unique skills can you bring to the school board?

Sarbacker: There is a need for improved communication between staff, the board and administration, and the community. I work in communications and have professional skills that I believe can be utilized to improve this issue. I have worked on various budgets in my career and am not a stranger to working strategically with limited funds. I have served as a director on boards of organizations in the past for organizations that address issues that are important to our district and students. I am also a mother that has dealt with various issues with both of my children in conjunction with the school district, and have a unique point of view on various issues that range from the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion, the value of special education needs, the necessity of mental health services for students to the importance of agricultural education and the value of the ag program that we have.

Schlimgen: I have the

ability to handle many different tasks at once and to be able to prioritize what items need immediate attention. Because I run a small business and have a career, I am able to manage a budget and make sound financial decisions by really prioritizing what and where funds can be spent while recognizing when it is a time to not spend funds.

Myers: Two unique skills I possess would be patience and listening skills. Patience and active listening are essential qualities for effective leadership and collaboration within a board. This has been evident as I have gained the respect of my colleagues not only within MHASD but also members of the Village Board, Mount Horeb Chamber and throughout the community. My experience will provide valuable insight, while my skills in communication, and conflict resolution will continue to enhance the MHASD board dynamics and decision-making processes. It takes a village to raise a child.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR VOTER ID?
Ahead of the Wisconsin Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds voters how to obtain identification, free of charge, that is valid for voting. Valid identification for voting purposes includes a driver license, identification card, military or student ID card, etc. There is no separate "voter ID." A federally compliant REAL ID card is not required for voting purposes. Anyone unsure if their identification meets the requirements should visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission website to check.

To obtain identification to show at the polls, begin online. A list of the required documents to bring to a DMV Customer Service Center is available at wisconsindmv.gov. If the required documents needed for an ID are not readily available, DMV has a process to obtain the necessary information. This process, available free of charge, may be used to quickly obtain a receipt valid to take to the polls for voting while the remaining documents or verifications are obtained.

Anyone with questions related to obtaining an ID that can be used to vote should call DMV's toll-free hotline at (844) 588-1069. Questions regarding voter eligibility, poll locations, voter registration information or other election information can be directed to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov. Start the application now at wisconsindmv.gov or at a local DMV Customer Service Center. To find a DMV, check hours, services and wait times, visit wisconsindmv.gov/centers.

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Sports Editor
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SPORTS

Vikings' trio named all-conference

Manchester, Vorwald earn first-team recognition

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's boys basketball team had a tremendous season, winning 21 games, finishing second in the Badger North Conference and reaching the WIAA Division2 sectional semifinals.

So it was no surprise the Vikings placed three players on the all-conference team.

Sophomore guard Josh Manchester was named first-team all-league and runner-up for conference Player of the Year honors. Senior forward Nick Vorwald was named first-team all-conference, and junior wing Zach Maguire was named second-team all-league.

Manchester averaged a whopping 24.6 points per game and is on pace to become the school's all-

continued on page 19



Mount Horeb sophomore Josh Manchester was named first-team all-Badger Small Conference. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

McKay will get her kicks at Nebraska

Mount Horeb soccer standout earns Division 1 scholarship

by DENNIS SEMRAU
Sports Reporter

When Anya McKay wasn't on a soccer pitch, the Mount Horeb senior spent a lot of time growing up on the ski slopes at Tyron Basin.

Eventually, though, McKay had to make a choice.

McKay eventually left the ski slopes, a decision that proved to be right on target when she recently accepted an offer to play soccer at the University of Nebraska.

"Around 13 and 14, when I quit ski racing, this is what I decided I wanted to do," McKay said of focusing on soccer full-time.

"I wanted to go farther with it, so I had to stop ski racing. A lot of girls were going out with knee injuries. I didn't want to risk that.

"I used to compete in giant slalom and slalom. My dad raced. He and my aunt both went to nationals when they were younger in snowboarding. I did ski racing. My dad was always involved with that and my mom, too. But my whole family has been super supportive of my decision."

Anya's father, Scott McKay also grew up on the slopes and played high school soccer at Mount Horeb.

"There is a lot of ski rac-

continued on page 20



Mount Horeb senior Anya McKay recently received a scholarship to play soccer at Nebraska. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Leonard, Maier named all-league

Mount Horeb wrestlers earn all-conference honors

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb had two wrestlers earn all-Badger Small Conference honors.

Freshman Eli Maier was named first-team all-league at 157 points, while sophomore Eli Leonard earned first-team all-conference honors at 165.

Maier cruised to the 157-pound championship at the Badger Conference meet.

After earning a first-round bye as a top seed, Maier won his first bout of the day by a 13-1 major decision over Stoughton’s Gage Nelson.

Maier then pinned DeForest’s Tucker Schmidt in 2 minutes, 52 seconds in a semifinal match before he earned an 11-2 major decision over Watertown’s Ryan Bergman in the finals.

“We’re looking for big things out of Eli,” Mount Horeb/Barneveld coach Tim Sarbacker said. “He is a freshman, but he’s pretty, experienced.”

Leonard, who was ranked fourth at the conference meet, claimed the 165-pound championship.

He also finished the day with three consecutive pins.

Leonard (37-1), who placed fifth at state as a freshman while competing for the Division 2 Sugar River co-op, notched his first Badger Conference championship.

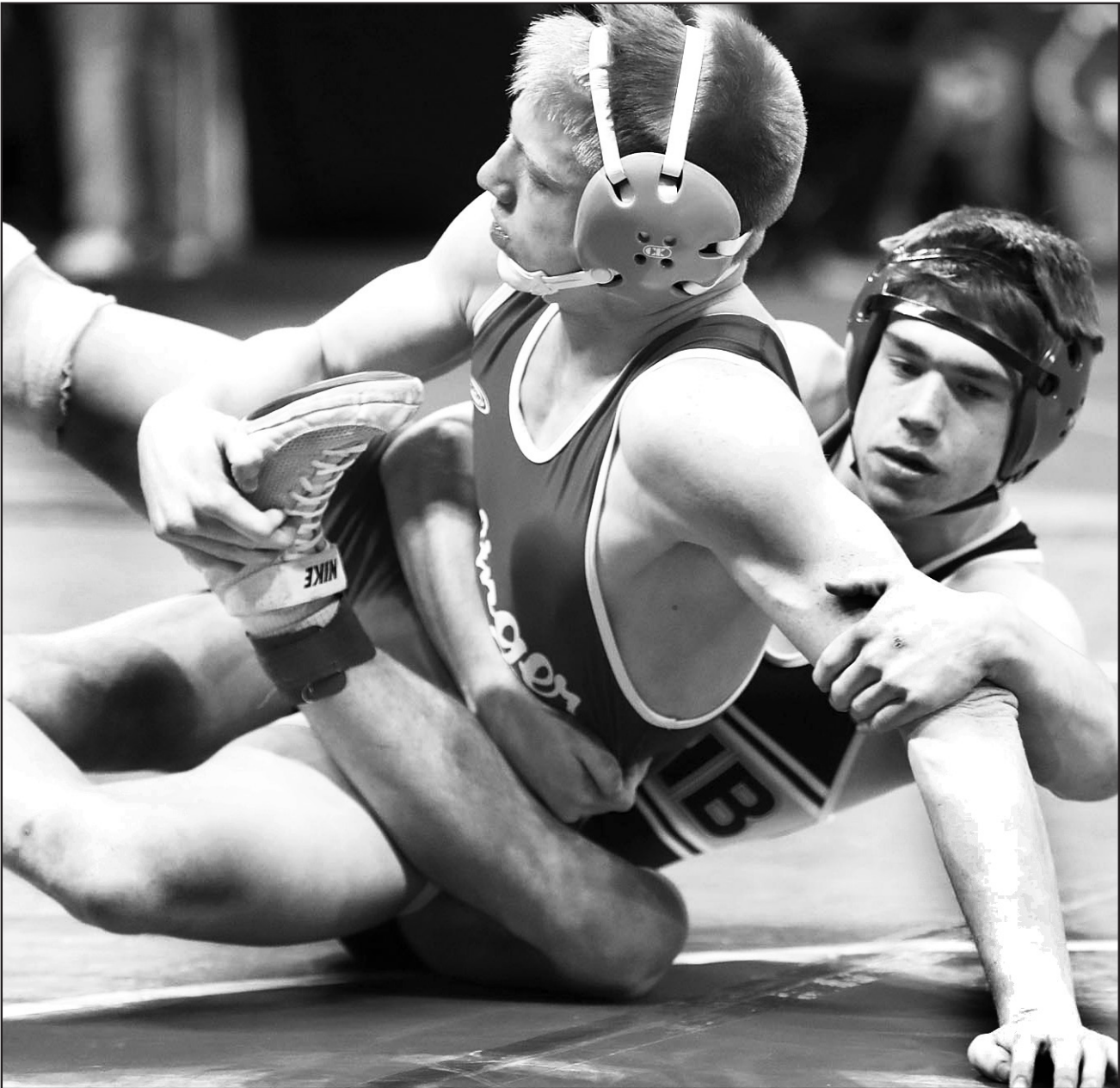
Leonard was in attack mode from start to finish. After receiving a first-round bye as a top seed, Leonard pinned Portage’s Tristan Brunt in 1:26 in the quarterfinals.

In a semifinal match, Leonard pinned Beaver Dam’s Landen Grow in 3:39.

Leonard then needed just 77 seconds to pin Watertown’s Logan Hespe for the 165-pound title.

Sarbacker said Leonard has the “complete package”.

“The biggest thing with Eli is he’s got all the ability in the world. He has a lot in his arsenal on his feet. It’s just again staying focused at the end and making sure we’re attacking,” Sarbacker said. “It’s really about amping it up and trying to peak here at tournament time.”



All-Badger Small Conference Wrestling

First Team

106: Dezmon Severson, Baraboo
113: Treynor Curtin, Reedsburg
120: Kade Parrish, Reedsburg
126: Lucas Hartberg, Stoughton
132: Peyton Oberg, Baraboo
138: Colton Herritz, Reedsburg
144: Cole Sarbarker, Stoughton
150: Talon Pinchler, Baraboo
157: Eli Maier, Mount Horeb-Barneveld
165: Eli Leonard, Mount Horeb-Barneveld
175: Braylon Owen, Baraboo
190: Gatlin Empey, Stoughton
215: Jesus Gonzalez, Reedsburg
HWT: Brayden Klemp, Reedsburg

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR: Cole Sarbacker, Stoughton
COACH OF THE YEAR: Bob Empey/Dan Spilde, Stoughton

Second Team

106: Cole Beckett, Portage
113: Gabe Schneider, Stoughton
120: Kaleb Howarth, Fort Atkinson
126: Sam Timlin, Reedsburg
132: Hudson Jablonski, Reedsburg
138: Robert Wildenauer, Fort Atkinson
144: Nolan Owen, Baraboo
150: Will Hollister, Stoughton
157: Braxton Walter, Reedsburg
165: Austin Lankey, Sauk Prairie
175: Landon Heitmeier, Portage
190: Lane Albers, Sauk Prairie
215: Logan McIntyre, Sauk Prairie
HWT: Beckett Splide, Stoughton

DYNAMIC DUO
Mount Horeb wrestlers Eli Leonard (top) and Eli Maier (above) were both named first-team all-Badger Small Conference. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



QUITE THE START!
Mount Horeb's Abigail Sadler (left) won the 1,600-meter run at the Platteville Invite last Friday, while Owen Preimesberger finished fourth in the 55-meter dash. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Vikings are off and running

Track teams fare well at Platteville Invitational

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's girls track and field team opened the season with a third place finish at the 14-team Platteville Invite last Friday.

Wauakee won the team with 125 points, while Oregon (107), Mount Horeb (56), Prairie du Chien (42) and Janesville Craig (36) rounded out the top five.

The Vikings' boys finished eighth among 14 teams. Oregon won the team title with 113.50, while Mount Horeb had 31.50 points.

Here are the top finishers for Mount Horeb's boys and girls:

- GIRLS**
- Abigail Sadler won the 1,600-meter run, while Willa Vigliotta was third.
 - Isabel Munoz was fourth in the high jump,

- while Gabbe Bagstad was 10th and Sami Anderson was 15th.
- Sienna Feltz was fourth in the 55-meter hurdles.
 - Julia Zimmer was fourth in the long jump, while Vera Pernot was 12th.
 - Violet Statz was fourth in the triple jump.
 - Mount Horeb's 3,200-meter relay team of Kayman Sutter, Siobhan Mertz, Ava Newman and Lily Wahl was sixth.
 - Sienna Feltz was sixth in the pole vault.
 - Mount Horeb's 800-meter relay team of Julia Zimmer, Emerson Kroll, Ella Gaitan and Amelia Arigoni was eighth.
 - The Vikings' 1,600-meter relay team of Faith Droessler, Marisa Denu, Raelynn Adrian and Katherine Straka was ninth.
 - Katherine Straka was second in the 800-meter run, while Julia Straka was fourth and Emmy Bennin

- was ninth.
- Emily Maier was 16th in the shot put, while Mackenzie Fleck was 18th.
 - Vera Pernot was 17th in the 200-meter dash.
 - Sami Anderson was 17th in the 400-meter dash.

- BOYS**
- Kyle Frischmann was second in the 200-meter dash, while Colin Haag was 17th and Luke Young was 18th.
 - Owen Preimesberger was fourth in the 55-meter dash, while Tyrus Hastings

- was fifth.
- Jack Zwettler was fourth in the 3,200-meter run and Marc Stoddard was 11th.
 - Maxwell Grundahl was sixth in the high jump, while Colin Haag and Hastings tied for 17th.
 - Marc Pipp was seventh in the 800-meter run, while James Fountas was 17th.
 - Mount Horeb's 800-meter relay team of Mason Hurda, Kayden Baumgart, Naim Allen and Nick Vorwald was seventh.

- The Vikings' 3,200-meter relay team of Nicholai Solodin-Braun, Benjamin Brohn, James Zwettler and Thomas Dahl was seventh.
- Mount Horeb's 1,600-meter relay team of Maxwell Vrstal, Caden Thelen, Carlin Ramos and Cayden Slaney was eighth.
- Donovan McClellan was ninth in the pole vault and Pipp was 11th.
- Owen Aeschlimann was ninth in the 400-meter dash and Eli Maier was

- 15th.
- Landon Ellestad was 12th in the long jump, while Kyle Frischmann was 16th and Cayden Slaney was 17th.
 - Mason Hurda was 14th in the triple jump, while Young was 18th.
 - Jack Wilson was 18th in the shot put.

**TOWN OF VERMONT
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC TEST**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Test of the Optical Scan tabulating equipment to be used at the election on April 2, 2024 in the Town of Vermont will be conducted on Thursday March 28, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the Vermont Town Hall, 4017 County Road JJ, Black Earth, WI 53515.

Katie Zelle, Clerk
Town of Vermont

Publish: 3/21/24 **WNAXLP**

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF
CROSS PLAINS**

This is to give notice that the Office of Clerk for the Town of Cross Plains will conduct a public test of the DS200 and the Express Vote electronic voting equipment on March 28, 2024 at 5:45 p.m., at 3734 County Rd. P, the Community Center. This is in accordance with Section 5.84(1) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Nancy Meinholz, Clerk
Posted: 3/14/2024

Publish: 3/21/24 **WNAXLP**

**VILLAGE OF MOUNT
HOREB RESIDENTS
PUBLIC TESTING OF
VOTING EQUIPMENT**

Testing of the electronic voting equipment for the SPRING ELECTION AND P R E S I D E N T I A L PREFERENCE VOTE will be held on Wednesday, March 27th, 2024. The test will take place at 4:00pm at the Municipal Building in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. This test is open to the public.

Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk

Publish: 3/21/24 **WNAXLP**

**TOWN OF PERRY
PUBLIC TEST
VOTING EQUIPMENT**

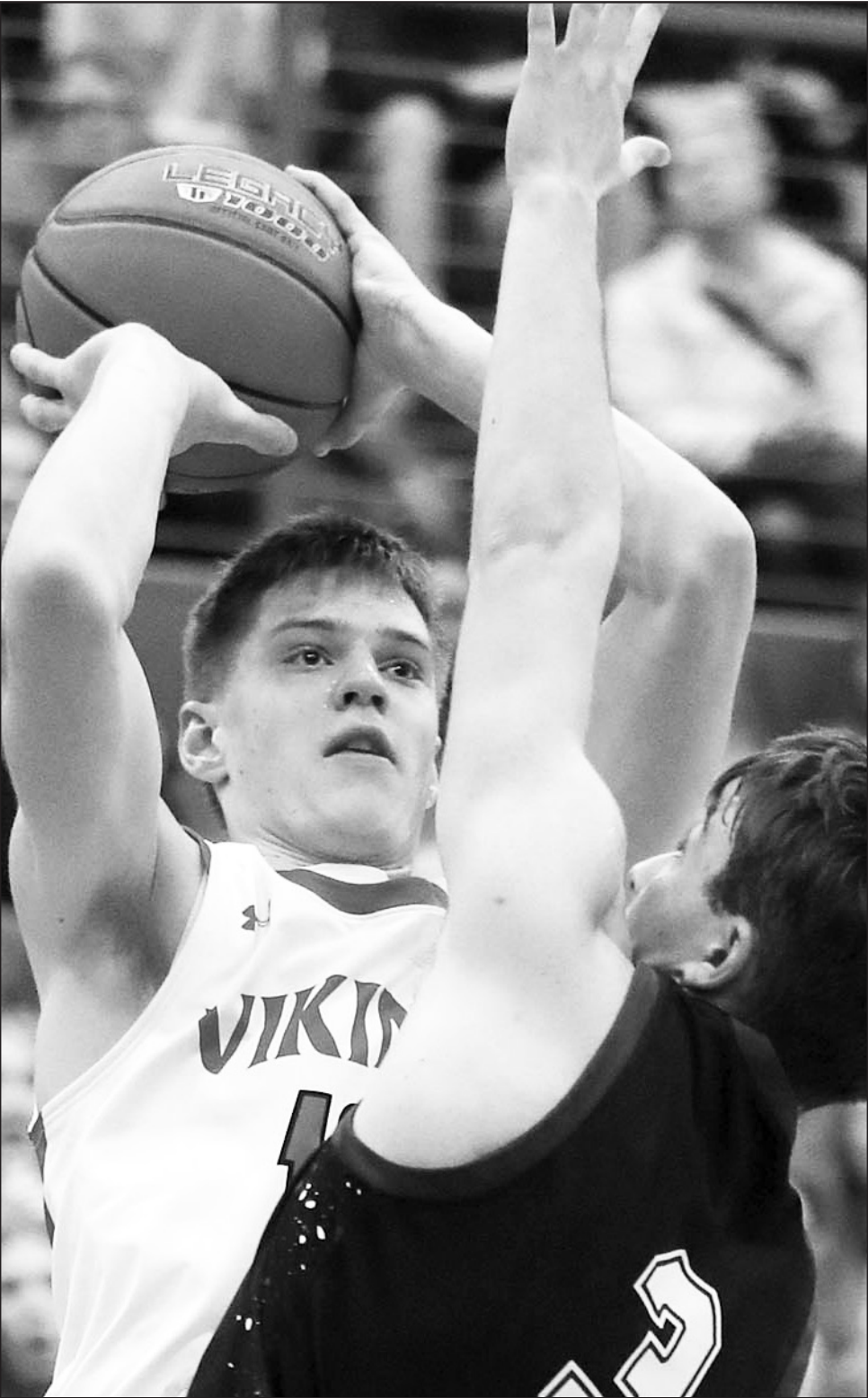
Town Hall
10084 CTH A
Monday, March 25, 2024
10:00 AM

The Town of Perry Chief Election Inspector and the Town Clerk will conduct tests of the DS200 and the Express Vote voting equipment on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 10:00AM at the Town Hall, 10084 CTH A, in accordance with Wisconsin Statute §5.84(1).

Mary L. Price, Town Clerk

Posted: March 21, 2024 – Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville sign post, Town website.

Publish: 3/21/24 **WNAXLP**



DYNAMIC DUO

Mount Horeb’s Nick Vorwald (above) was named first-team all-conference, while Zach Maguire (right) was named second-team all-league. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

BOYS BB

continued from page 16

time leading scorer in his junior season. Manchester knocked down 80 3-pointers, shot 79.8% from the free throw line, was the Vikings’ second-leading rebounder (5.0) and also finished second in steals (2.0).

Stoughton’s Ty Fernholz — who led his team to the conference title — won conference Player of the Year honors over Manchester. The rest of the first team included Stoughton’s Sawyer Schipper, Baraboo’s Ross Liegel and Vorwald. “Stoughton ended up winning the league and beating us twice in the

regular season, so Ty was deserving,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “I would expect Josh to be the favorite to win the player of the year in the league the next two years. “He’s a guard that can score at all three levels. He really put up some impressive numbers.” Vorwald was second on the team in scoring at 15.5 points per game, first in steals (2.1) and tied for second in rebounding (5.0). Vorwald knocked down 57 3-pointers, shot 82.5% from the line and will play at NCAA Division III UW-Platteville next season. “Nick’s game has really improved over the years,” Nesheim said. “He went

from an average shooter his sophomore year to an all-around offensive player. “He can score at all three levels. He has improved his strength and his body is college ready. He often guarded the other team’s best player and ... had a terrific season. He will be missed next season.” Maguire was third on the team with 9.0 points per contest and led the Vikings in rebounding (5.8). He was also third on the team in 3-pointers made (42) and first in blocks (0.6).

“I said at the start of the year that Zach will surprise people with his game,” Nesheim said. “He had a solid year last season and was also the benefactor of having Josh and Nick on the floor. “He had a good year from the arc and defended the other team’s best big generally. Next season, he will become the person that other teams try to take away — along with Josh — so he will need to improve his ability to get to the rim and score at all three levels.”

All-Badger
Small Conference
Boys Basketball

First Team

Name	School	Yr.
Ty Fernholz	Stoughton	12
Josh Manchester	Mount Horeb	10
Sawyer Schipper	Stoughton	12
Ross Liegel	Baraboo	12
Nick Vorwald	Mount Horeb	12

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Ty Fernholz, Stoughton
COACH OF THE YEAR: Nolan Weber, Stoughton

Second Team

Name	School	Yr.
Tristan Kerska	Sauk Prairie	12
Rex Lamb	Edgewood	12
Andrew Kelley	McFarland	12
Zach Maguire	Mount Horeb	11
Alex Hannagan	Baraboo	11

Honorable Mention

Baraboo: Toby Lefevre
Edgewood: Timmy West
Portage: Keagan Hooker, Elias Vera
Reedsburg: Danny Pickel
Sauk Prairie: Nic Keyser, Ben Henderson
Stoughton: Jacob Hibner, Carter Sullivan, Ben Harman

TOWN OF PERRY
INVITATION TO BID FOR ROAD REPAIRS

The Town of Perry will accept bids for sealcoating on certain Town roads in 2024. Contractors interested in bidding should contact Town Patrolman Mark Eastman at 608-444-6242 for more information.

Single Sealcoat:	
Sutter Rd. from Spring Valley Dr. to town line	1.79 mi.
Sutter Ln.	0.30 mi.
Dead End Rd.	0.61 mi.
Dead End Ln.	0.22 mi.
Lee Valley Rd. from Perry Center Rd. to CTH JG	1.96 mi.
Spring Valley Dr. from STH 78 to Sutter Rd.	1.27 mi.

Sealed bids should be mailed or delivered to the Town Deputy Clerk, Stephanie Zwettler, 9730 County Rd A, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572, to be received by 5:00 PM, Monday, April 8, 2024.

Bids will be opened at the regular Town Board meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, beginning at 7:30 PM. Accepted bids will be awarded at a special Town Board meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, convening at 7:00 PM.

The Town of Perry reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any technicality in any bid, and accept any bid deemed most advantageous to the Town of Perry.

Stephanie Zwettler, Deputy Clerk

Publish: 3/21/24, 3/28/24 WMAXLP

TOWN OF VERMONT
PLAN COMMISSION
MEETING

Monday, March 25, 2024
6:00 p.m.
4017 County Hwy JJ, Black Earth, WI 53515
See townofvermontwi.gov for meeting agenda.
Please note: You can sign up for emailed meeting agendas at www.townofvermontwi.gov

Publish: 3/21/24 WMAXLP

MCKAY

continued from page 16

ing in my family,” Scott McKay said. “My parents used to run Tyrol Basin, Sue and Don McKay. Anya grew up on the hills.”

But Scott McKay said once Anya began playing soccer — her favorite sport — year-round, it was time for a family discussion.

“She must have been about 12 when she started playing soccer year-round. That was with the Madison 56ers,” Scott McKay said. “Then it was ‘How much money do we have to be able to do this stuff? So, you have to decide which you want more.’

“So, she decided to stick with soccer and really push herself in that direction more.”

Anya’s mother, Heather, said it was a difficult decision to make.

“Once you get to a higher level the demands are greater and you have to make a choice,” Heather said. “Considering where she ended up, I think she made the right one.”

Like father, like daughter

Anya McKay started playing organized soccer when she was eight years old, beginning at the recreational level.

“I fell in love with it instantly,” she said. “My dad coached me for a little while, and then I moved to the 56ers for five years after that from U11 to U15. I’ve played club soccer for SC Wave out of Milwaukee for two years.”

McKay said she loves



Mount Horeb’s Anya McKay recently signed her letter of intent with Nebraska. McKay is a three-time all-Badger Conference first team selection and received Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association All-State mention as a junior last season. Photo submitted

how competitive soccer is and how much you can improve if you just keep working at it.

“I also like playing soccer because you get to share something you love with a lot of other people,” she said.

Scott McKay said Anya’s passion for the sport was something they could share.

“When she went through the Mount Horeb program, it was fun seeing her progress,” he said. “But it was more about her work ethic. She’s always had a drive and a love for the game.

Anya McKay said some of her favorite memories are from when she was playing from U11 to U15, and she and her dad would go an hour early to each practice and work on fundamentals.

“I attribute a lot of my growth early on to going early and working on those skills,” Anya McKay said.

Her father said even at a young age, it was apparent that Anya had a strong work ethic.

“We always had a running deal because doing all of that stuff is expensive,” Scott McKay said of playing club soccer. “I always told her that we’ll figure out a way to pay for it as

long as you keep working. She kept up her end of the deal.”

Rising star

From the beginning of Anya McKay’s high school soccer career, Vikings’ coach Mark Newman — who also coached Scott McKay in high school — said Anya was an impact player.

“Right from the start, she was a weapon on set pieces

for us,” Newman said of McKay. “Her first year, she just kind of came out of the blue. She had a game where she scored three goals on corner kicks.”

A center back for Mount Horeb, McKay scored 11 goals and had one assist her freshman season.

“While she plays defense for her club team, we moved her to play forward just because she breaks open games for us

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NOTICE TO ALL MOUNT HOREB WATER UTILITY CUSTOMERS

The Mount Horeb Water Utility will begin its Spring Hydrant Flushing beginning April 1st through April 26th. Should your water become discolored, let your tap run for approximately 5 to 10 minutes and it should clear up. Try to do your laundry in the evening hours if possible. Please be sure to keep your garbage/recycling carts off the street. Carts should be placed on the terrace or at the end of your driveway. If a nearby hydrant is being flushed, your carts could be washed away from the large amount of water flow. The water utility thanks you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,
Josh Hyndman, Water Superintendent

Publish: 3/14/24, 3/21/24, 3/28/24 WNAJLP

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LEGAL NOTICE DEADLINES

EFFECTIVE ON ALL LEGAL NOTICES PUBLISHED IN THESE PUBLICATIONS

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

Thank you in advance for getting your notices to us in a timely manner. Please email your notices to:

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: legals@fingerpub.com

NOTE: Legal notices submitted after deadline will be scheduled for the next available publication date. EARLY DEADLINES will apply for postal holiday weeks.

TOWN OF BLUE MOUNDS
10566 Blue Vista Rd., Blue Mounds, WI 53517

OPEN BOOK

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT **OPEN BOOK** for 2024 assessments is scheduled to be held at the Blue Mounds Town Hall, 10566 Blue Vista Rd., Blue Mounds, WI 53517, **Wednesday, April 10, from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**

BOARD OF REVIEW

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE **BOARD OF REVIEW** will meet on **Wednesday, May 1, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** Anyone wishing to address the Board regarding their property assessment may do so at this time. Make appointments in advance by calling the Clerk at 608-437-8722.

Amanda Burghy, Clerk

Publish: 3/21/24 WNAJLP

MCKAY

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and at midfield as well,” Newman said. “Right from the start, as a freshman, it was that weird, shortened COVID season where we played just 14 games, and she scored 11 goals playing almost exclusively as a center back. Most of those goals were off corner kicks and set pieces.”

A three-year starter, McKay is a three-time all-Badger Conference first team selection and received Wisconsin Soccer Coaches Association All-State mention as a junior.

A co-captain since her sophomore season, McKay has scored 48 goals with 10 assists in 48 career games. That includes 21 goals and five assists as a sophomore and 16 goals and four assists last season.

“She knows the game really, well,” Newman said of Anya. “She’s a leader. She is what you would think a Division I recruit would look like.”

Hard work pays off

Once she began playing club soccer, Anya McKay said her game improved by leaps and bounds.

“I’ve been playing club since U11 basically,” she said. “Once you start that, you have to start working more and more because you’re playing with a bunch of other top-level players. It keeps you motivated to stay at that level.”

To work on her game, McKay has been driving two hours one way for club practice in the Milwaukee area several times a week for three years running.

But it doesn’t end there. “When she gets home, she goes to the gym for another hour after every practice,” Scott McKay said. “She spends four hours going back and forth to Milwaukee, once she gets those four hours back and can put them into the gym, she will come a long way

pretty quickly.” Anya McKay said it is a long season, playing for her club team, but has been well worth the effort.

“We start in August and go mostly to June. We have a break during the high school season. But we still have one or two games during the high school season,” Anya McKay said. “When we practice indoors, we’re in Franklin, but outdoors we’re in Waukesha. In the winter, it’s twice a week, in the summer it’s three times.”

However, the beginning of the high school season on March 18 will bring a quick end to the club season.

“The WIAA says you can play up to two events 7-on-7 or 11-on-11 when we’re in season,” McKay said. “Last year, we had two games (during the prep season), and I was able to make both of those.”

McKay said when she began playing soccer, playing in college wasn’t even on her radar.

But as she progressed through her club and high school seasons, McKay improved to the point where she had to at least consider the possibility.

“If you would have told me that a few years ago, that would have been crazy. It’s been a crazy ride with a lot of ups and downs,” she said. “I really, want to thank my family and friends for supporting me through all of this, my coaches and teammates. This was a crazy process, and I couldn’t have done it without any of them.”

McKay said she wasn’t even considering playing soccer at a Midwestern university, preferring to head down south.

“It was pretty crazy because I had committed early to Tennessee Southern last April,” she said. “But I still went to many ID camps to get as many options as I could. At the time, I thought I knew

what I wanted so I made that commitment.”

McKay, though, decided she could play at a higher level and opted to reopen the recruiting process to other schools in December.

“I started reaching out to more schools again. Nebraska inserted itself,” she said. “I also got an offer from Radford in Virginia. I also talked to UW-Green Bay before I committed. I talked to them briefly when I thought about de-committing.”

But when McKay received a call from the Cornhuskers with an offer, it was a no-brainer.

“Coach gave me a call at school with the offer. I jumped at it,” she said. “I accepted it that night. It was hard to pass that one up.”

McKay — who will be joined at Nebraska by club teammate Maddy Osborne, a goalkeeper who also plays for Elkhorn High School — was participating in a Cornhuskers’ camp when she caught their eye.

“One of their assistants called, and we chatted for a while,” Newman said.

ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS
TOWN OF
BLUE MOUNDS

Notice is hereby given by the Town of Blue Mounds, Dane County, Wisconsin that they will receive bids for local lawn maintenance at the East Blue Mounds Cemetery. Located at 9588 Barton Rd., Mount Horeb, WI 53572. Please contact the Town Hall at 608-437-8722 or email townofbluemounds@gmail.com for the scope of work and requirements. The Town of Blue Mounds reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or accept the bid most advantageous to the Town. Thank you!

Amanda Burghy, Clerk

Publish: 3/21/24 WMAXLP

TOWN OF BLUE MOUNDS
SPRING ELECTION AND
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE VOTE
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

The Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The polling location for the Town of Blue Mounds is the Town Garage at 10566 Blue Vista Road, Blue Mounds, WI 53517.

The polling location will be open at 7:00 am and will close at 8:00 pm.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.

Amanda Burghy
10566 Blue Vista Road
608-437-8722

The Town of Blue Mounds polling place is accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

Please contact the clerk to request an absentee ballot.

TOWN OF BLUE MOUNDS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST OF EXPRESS VOTE
AND ELECTRONIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Test of the Express Vote and Automatic Tabulating Equipment to be used for the Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote will be conducted at the Town of Blue Mounds Town Hall located at 10566 Blue Vista Rd., Blue Mounds, WI, 53517 at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 27, 2024. This test is open to the public.

Amanda Burghy, Clerk

Publish: 3/21/24 WMAXLP

“She fit into what they were looking for.

“She is a strong academic student. She is consistent and dialed in for every practice. She’s a player who doesn’t come in with any sort of attitude. It’s not all about her. She wants the team to do really, well.”

On deck

Although Anya McKay enjoys playing soccer with her club team, the girls high school season is her favorite time of the year.

“I love how fun it is every year, and the team is so close,” she said. “I play with my best friends on that team. It’s fun all the activities that we do. I love the team camaraderie around it and getting to play with girls you go to school with.”

Mount Horeb, formerly the smallest school in Division 2, will compete in Division 3 in the postseason her senior season.

“I think we’re going to have a good year,” Anya McKay said. “We have a strong freshman class com-

ing in, and we only lost two starters.”

The newcomers in the program include McKay’s younger sister, Leci.

“I think for Senior Night, it would be cool to be able to play together, and mom would snap a few pictures,” Anya McKay said with a laugh. “We lost some good seniors, but the freshman class coming will be a good group. I’ve seen them at the contact practices and over the summer and in the winter. It looks like a really, good group.”

McKay, who has maintained a 3.8-plus grade-point-average in high school, said she plans to study Nutritional Sciences in college. She has also served as a volunteer coach for the Mount Horeb youth soccer recreational league the past two summers.

But Newman said he is

eagerly waiting to see what McKay can do for an encore her senior season.

“She’s become a leader on the team and more involved in trying to make the team better,” he said. “We ask a lot from her in terms of having to do a lot of things for us, being versatile and moving around the field.”

Newman said McKay’s athleticism and technique make it very difficult to defeat her one-on-one.

“She’s improved in terms of organizing the defense, more than just the physical aspect of it but the mental side of the game and just learning the game and being very vocal with that, too,” he said. “It’s more than just the defending aspect, but passing and keeping possession, all those things have improved year after year.”





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VILLAGE OF BLUE MOUNDS
LOCATION AND HOURS OF POLLING PLACE

At the Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary to be held on April 2, 2024, in the Village of Blue Mounds, the following polling place locations will be used for the wards indicated:

Location	Wards
Blue Mounds Village Hall 11011 Brigham Avenue	1

ALL POLLING PLACES WILL OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk.

Mary Jo Michek
11011 Brigham Avenue
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
608.437.5197 ext. 1

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closed Fridays

All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

ABSENTEE BALLOTING FOR THE APRIL 2, 2024,
SPRING ELECTION & PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

The Village Hall will be open and the clerk will be available for absentee voting Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Friday, March 29, 2024.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Village of Blue Mounds Residents, that the Public Test of the electronic voting equipment to be used at the Village of Blue Mounds Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary will be conducted on March 26, 2024, at noon. The testing will be held at the Village Office, located at 11011 Brigham Avenue, Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, 53517.

Notice of Meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers
At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors will convene as a joint meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers and the Municipal Board of Canvassers for the purpose of conducting the local and municipal canvasses pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§7.51 and 7.53(1). This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Publish: 3/21/24 WMAXLP



Thank You!

2024

SUPERBRUNCH SUNDAY





Our annual Superbrunch Sunday was a big success! The Optimist Club raised over \$10,000 and the Rotary raised nearly that much. Once again, our community showed up strong to eat brunch and bid on over 300 items and services. Thank you Mount Horeb Area School District for the use of the building and your kind staff. Thanks to the student musicians who brightened our morning and the students who helped serve breakfast.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED IN THIS TRUE COMMUNITY EVENT!

Paul Christiansen, president, Mount Horeb Rotary Club
Curt Garrity, president, Mount Horeb Optimist Club

A big Thank You to the following businesses and friends for your financial support and donations!

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Badger Home Improvement	Firefly Events & Decor	MoHo Fitness	Springdale Yoga & Meditation
Bakertilly Accounting	Forte Studio	Mound City Bank	Spring Garden
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Bergey Jewelry	Friend of Youth, Kellesvig Family	Mounds View Roasters	State Farm Insurance
Bistro 101	Friend of Youth, Mara Johnson	Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce	Steiny's
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Bohl Chiropractic	Gentle Breeze Honey	Mount Horeb Glass & Mirror	Summit Credit Union
Botham Vineyards	Grandstay Hotel & Suites	Mount Horeb Mail	Sunn Cafe
Bray Architects	Greenfield Farms	NAPA Auto Parts	Telsaan Tea
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Brunsell Lumber & Millwork	Hardscapes LLC	New Beginnings Chiropractic	The Salon at Mount Horeb
Buck & Honey's	Hart House Guitars	Norsk	The Shoe Box
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Cave of the Mounds	Hefty Construction	Olson's Flowers	Third Door
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Custom Auto	Icki Sticki	Peter J. Waltz, attorney at law	Trollway Liquors
Dairy Ridge Dog Run	Isaac's Antiques	Pizza Hut	TruStage
Dazzling Digits	Ivanwood CBD	Premier Building Solutions	Upland Hills Health
Deer Valley Golf	Jada's Garden Greenhouse	Premier Cooperative	Vike-Steinich Chiropractic
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NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 29th 2024 at 10am a public sale will be held to satisfy a landlord's lien on the following storage units; Cody Sherf, Jordyn Sarbacker, Charles Lindsay and Dennis Herren at www.storageauctions.com under Mount Horeb Self Storage, Units have household items. All sales as is. 608-636-9449

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- **RN Med/Surg Unit** – .75 FTE evening/night shift position. **\$3,750 Employment Bonus! eligible!**
- **RN ED Department** – .6 FTE premium pay weekender position! **\$3,000 Employment bonus eligible!**
- **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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- **Certified Nursing Assistants** – part-time positions available in our Nursing & Rehab Center day, evening and night shifts available, **\$3,000 Employment Bonus included!**
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To find out more detailed information about all open positions and to apply, go to our website at: www.uplandhillshealth.org.

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