

The Mount Horeb Mail welcomes new owner

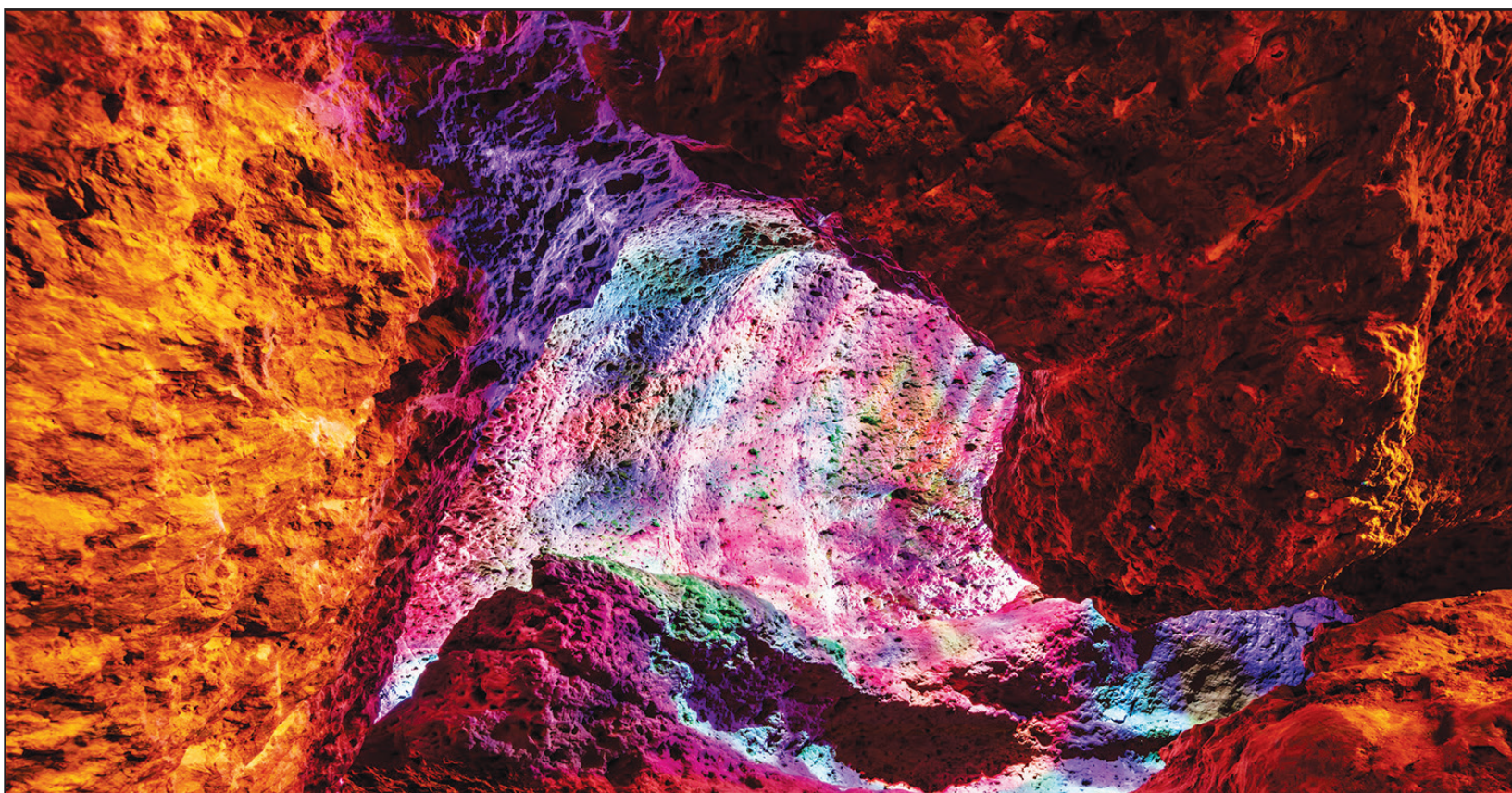
News Publishing Company is changing hands

You probably know your local newspaper by the name on the front of it. Behind that name is News Publishing Company, Inc., which has existed since January 3, 1978 when Curtis Witte bought a group of publications in western Dane County and Green County from Bill and Dolores Griffith.

The company has been a family-owned corporation from its inception and has been managed by publishers Dan and Mark Witte over the past 45 years. During that time, News Publishing has purchased and sold a number of publications and is now comprised of 14 weekly community newspapers and multiple shoppers that still serve the original communities in addition to the counties of Jackson, Trempealeau, Clark, Sauk, Marquette, Outagamie, and Allamakee, IA.

The Witte family decided earlier this year that it was time to fully retire and sell the newspaper company, but

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Home for the holidays

Festive scenes from the community you call home

As the days until Christmas of 2023 wound down, the village of Mount Horeb celebrated the season in its own, unique ways. Dubbed “The Troll-lidays,” visitors to town could begin at the local Chamber of Commerce. There, they could pick up a brochure containing a list of various events. A scavenger hunt to find the seasonal troll paintings took them on a tour of the town’s storefronts and attractions. The Chamber decorated Wallace Keller’s “Temple Lion” (top right) sculpture to fit the festivities. Nearby Cave of the Mounds (center) displayed an all new “celebration of lights” in a portion of this geological wonder. There was also a Saturday winter Farmers Market (bottom left) held at the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Merchants held a “Men’s Night Out” event (bottom right), staying open late to offer help in finding special gifts and wrapping them for their loved ones. These and other holiday-themed events help to make the village particularly festive. Photos by Ron Lutz II.

County Government

Parisi looks back as he prepares to step down

Dane County executive Joe Parisi announced his retirement in September and his last day will be May 1, 2024, marking 13 years in the elected position.

Parisi said that he has accomplished the things he set out to do and feels comfortable in his decision to retire.

One of the areas in which Parisi feels the county has made progress is the environment. Water cleanup has been a big part of environmental issues addressed by the county, including the Suck the Muck program that dredges phosphorus from streams entering the lakes and municipal runoff programs.

“The lake clean-up is something I feel really good about. The community wants and needs it,” he said.

Conservation of prairie and wetlands has been a priority and has included the county buying up large plots of land for park and conversation areas. One of those parcels is Acker Farm, located north of Pheasant Branch Conservancy.

The county is working to mitigate runoff from the property, which is close to Pheasant Branch Creek, and Parisi said has great potential for water quality improvement for the creek as well as alleviate flooding.

“It’s 160 acres that could have been developed into residences causing more runoff for the prairie wetlands,” he added.

He said the prairie is a great asset and a habitat for pollinators. “It also helps with Climate Change work and sequesters the same amount of carbon as a forest,” said Parisi, who said the county is continually a leader in Climate Change measures.

He said that the county’s acquisition of land is important as there is more demand for housing on the land. “We have to preserve it while we can,” stated Parisi. I am proud of the work we have been doing to combat climate change.”

Another innovative measure is the use of manure digesters, which separate nutrients and phosphorus from farm waste. The county’s two digesters prevent that manure from creating runoff that ends up in waterways. The process creates natural gas, which farmers can sell on the open market.

He said the county has also made great strides in reducing its carbon footprint. The city will become the first county in Wisconsin and the fourth in the nation to offset 100 percent of electricity. That includes making changes to buildings—about \$2 million/year—and erecting 17 solar arrays. The goal is to be carbon neutral by 2030.



Parisi

The county has also changed its fleet of vehicles to be electric or run on compressed natural gas. The gas is made by capturing methane from the landfill, extracting, cleaning and compressing the fuel.

Parisi said this also saves taxpayers dollars because the process only costs approximately \$1.50 per gallon for fuel compared to diesel, which is currently just over \$4 per gallon. They also produce enough fuel that they cannot use it all, so it is sold on the open market, bringing in more than \$1 million in revenue.

Parisi is proud of the “human piece” of the county’s work over the past decade plus. He added that that is an important responsibility of the county to watch out for the people of the county, especially the most vulnerable.

He said the county currently operates a Day Resource Center for homeless people to go during the day and utilize resources to get them back on their feet. The county is also working to build a men’s, overnight shelter on Madison’s east side. “It will have a similar purpose of providing a safe place for people to be.”

It will also provide resources for homeless services. One of the biggest barriers homeless people face is transportation, and the new shelter will be on the bus line.

The first shelter location site received a lot of push back from the community, but that was not the case with the current location on North Stoughton Road, just north of East Washington Street.

“No one wants to be homeless,” Parisi noted.

Food security is also a concern in the county and Parisi said it was never so apparent as during the COVID-19 Pandemic. He said that people needed help before resources started coming in, and farmers were losing their markets due to supply chain breakdowns. In response, the county implemented its Farm to Food Bank program, investing millions of dollars into Second Harvest and the food network.

The county also invested \$6 million in safety net programs during the pandemic. “None of us expected to live through a pandemic,” Parisi said. “I feel really good about the way people came together.”

He noted that Dane County had one of the lowest fatality rates during the COVID-19 Pandemic. “Neighbors watched out for people, and the government came through with help,” he said.

“It was a scary time and I’m honored to do my part in guiding the community through,” he included.

Behavioral health challenges have also been a

concern for Dane County and Parisi said, “Sometimes people need a helping hand in dealing with things.”

Building Bridges is one of the programs Parisi is proud of the partnership between schools, counties and Catholic charities. It aims to help students in the area with teams in place at local schools. What began as a pilot program a few years ago is now in place at many schools around the county. The program is funded 50/50 between counties and school districts.

The county has also started a Behavioral Health Resources Center that help residents navigate resources for help. A client is assigned a person who stays with them as they navigate the mental health care system.

Plans for a behavioral health triage center are also in the works. “It will be a place where people can present when in crisis,” Parisi explained. “We want to make it as clear and simple as possible to get help.”

Sometimes that help can be determined by 911 triage, and there are four crisis counselors at the 911 center.

As for the challenges Parisi has faced over the years he said the biggest is financing everything. “The biggest challenge is there is always more need than resources,” he said.

“I would also love to have more support for mental health. And I wish I could

flip a switch and make housing more affordable.”

He stated that he would like to make it easier for people to rent and own homes in the county and added that the county board has been working to reduce inflation.

“It’s really hard to see so much poverty out there,” he reflected. “I hope we are never okay with it and strive to do our best. If we watch out for one another, there’s always someone watching out for us.”

Parisi said he will work with new leadership for a smooth transition when he leaves office. The Dane County Board of Supervisors will appoint a temporary replacement and those hoping to hold the seat can run for election in November 2024.

He said that he hopes his successor will continue with the programs that the county has implemented over the last 13 years.

“Right now, I have no plans, but to be out of the public eye after 27 years. Since I’ve announced (retirement), I’ve had not even a twinge of regret,” said Parisi, who served as Dane County Clerk for eight years and in the Wisconsin State Assembly for a little more than six years.

“This is a position in which you can really make a difference. It’s really been an honor to do it,” he concluded.

Police Report

NOVEMBER	turbance - 2
911 Disconnect – 5	Animal Complaint Stray – 9
911 Open Line Count – 5	Assist Citizen – 19
Accidents – 4	Assist DCSO – 15
Accident – 2	Assist Fire/Police - 8
Hit and Run - 1	Check Person - 15
MV / Deer - 1	Check Property – 24
Alarm – 2	Civil Dispute – 1
Animal Complaint Bite – 1	A resident reported that she co-signed on a vehicle with her now deceased
Animal Complaint Dis-	

daughter-in-law. The resident’s granddaughter, who had access to the vehicle before her mother passed away, is now refusing to bring the vehicle back to the reporting party. The reporting party was informed that this was a civil issue due to the granddaughter having permission to drive the vehicle from her mother, who was one of the registered owners. Officers had a discussion with the reporting party about her options, and was provided with this case’s incident number

Damage Property Complaint – 3

Officers were dispatched

for a report of a hit and run. Upon arrival, the reporting party stated that sometime between 5:00 PM and 7:15 AM, her vehicle was struck. Upon viewing damage, there were 3 small, approximately 1-inch scratches above the rear right tire and the trunk. There was no other damage to her bumper or other parts of the vehicle. Photos were taken. Due to damage being less than \$1,000, instructions were given on how to self-report.

Officers were dispatched to a storage unit located in the village for the report of a theft. Officers observed

that the metal door slide and locks were missing from the door. Upon entering the storage unit, the metal door slide and lock were located inside. The owners of the storage units supplied officers with video footage. This case is still being actively investigated.

Officers responded to a possible damage to property / attempted car break in. Upon arrival, officers observed a wood stick on the top of the vehicle that likely fell from the tree that was above the vehicle where it was parked. The reporting party also observed some plastic near her front driver’s window to be misplaced and moved. There were no obvious signs of a break in or attempted break in, as there appeared to be no damage to the vehicle itself. The reporting party just wanted this to be documented with police in case it happens again. Pictures were taken of the vehicle and the alleged damage.

Disabled Vehicle - 1

Disturbance Call – 4

Officers responded to a report of a disturbance between two males. The suspect did admit to following the reporting party to his residence in his vehicle, and exchanging words with him. The suspect stated that he was trying to defend his aunt in regards to a domestic that had occurred, where the reporting party was arrested approximately two weeks prior. No physical contact was made by either party, which was confirmed by both reporting party and suspect.

Officers were dispatched to a residence in the village for a potential break in. The

continued on page 3

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Driftless Historium hosts Puppets on Parade

In celebration of the limited-run exhibit “Puppets on Holiday: The Whimsical Creations of Ken Vogel,” now showing in the Driftless Historium Community Gallery through January 15, 2024, MHAHS hosted a December 9th Puppet Show & Artist Reception. Stevens Point-based Puppeteer Pam Corcoran and her needle-felted marionettes presented the double-feature “Donkey Tales,” and featured artist Vogel discussed his puppet-making process and inspirations.

“Puppets on Holiday” features forty marionettes and hand puppets crafted by Vogel. Meet Bucky Badger, Robert and Belle LaFollette, Bob Cratchett, Jacob Marley, Tiny Tim, and dozens of other incredible papier-mâché creations. The exhibit is free and accessible during the museum’s open hours of Friday through Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All displayed puppets are available for sale, with a portion of the proceeds donated back to the museum. For more information call 608-437-6486 or email mthorebahs@gmail.com.



Accomplished Puppet maker Ken Vogel shared the finer points of he artistic trade, honed via decades of creative refinement and literally thousands of marionettes and hand puppets.



Museum visitors practice their puppeteer skills, under the watchful eye of Puppet Show Presenter Pam Corcoran.



Longtime MHAHS Volunteer and Sometime-Exhibit Designer Brian Bigler was surprised to find a miniature version of himself as he unpacked the Vogel puppets. His museum friends secretly commissioned Vogel to create the papier-mâché doppelganger, and were delighted with the results. Visit Little Brian in the “Puppets on Holiday” exhibit while you can!

POLICE

continued from page 2

reporting party stated someone was trying to open their doors and yelling profanities. Upon arrival, officers located an individual sitting outside, who stated that he did not know what he was doing. Officers noted the strong odor of alcohol emitted from the male. The male was cited for Disorderly Conduct.

A resident called 911 to report a disturbance. The reporting party stated that there were two people on her property who were refusing to leave. Upon arrival, all individuals were interviewed. It was determined that both the reporting party and the suspect would have charges referred to the Dane County District Attorneys office for Disorderly Conduct and Battery for their part in the disturbance.

Officers were dispatched to the Mount Horeb Middle School for the report of a parent “threatening” a referee at the basketball game. The parent was reported to be waiting for the referee in the parking lot. Upon arrival, the referee and parent were no longer on scene. There will be follow up with the athletic director later. This case is active.

Domestic/Family Trouble – 1

Officers were dispatched to a residence for the report of a domestic dispute. Upon arrival both of the parties were already separated. Upon interviewing both parties involved, it was found that no physical act of violence had occurred, and the incident was verbal. It was recommended that both

parties stay separated for the night.

EMS Assist – 57

Extortion – 1

A resident of the village called to report that her son was being extorted by an unknown male. Upon arrival at the residence, the messages and photos had already been deleted. This case is considered active and being investigated

Foot Patrol/Check Property - 3

Found Property – 6

Fraud – 1

A resident reported receiving a call from “U.S. Customs” telling him his identity had been stolen, and he now had multiple federal warrants out of Texas for charges including money laundering and drug trafficking. The resident was told to remove all of his money from his bank and convert it to Bit Coin. The resident was told that an officer would stop by his residence to give him new social security information and give him a traveler’s check with his money. The resident said he then received a call from someone claiming to be an assistant chief at Madison PD telling him that an officer was watching him, and that they have to follow orders from U.S. Customs. I advised the resident that this was a scam. The resident did

not give them any money or any of his personal information. Officers advised the resident to block the numbers that he received these calls from.

Harassment – 2

Officers responded to a report of a harassment. The reporting party stated she and her ex-boyfriend had previously been involved in a domestic disturbance where the boyfriend was arrested. Since then, the ex-boyfriend has been contacting her and showing up at her place of employment. Contact was made with the ex-boyfriend, who was warned to stop contacting the reporting party. The suspect in this case has also been banned from the business.

A resident of the village came in to the police department to report what she believed to be harassing text messages. After going through the text messages, it was found that both parties had engaged in the consensual texting. The reporting party was advised to avoid contact.

Information – 11

Local Ordinance Violation - 1

On Street Parking Complaint – 1

Parking Tickets – 20

Phone Call – 10

Preserve the Peace – 3

Officers were requested

to a preserve the peace at a residence. No issues were observed.

A resident requested a preserve the peace due to a restraining order that was in place. The resident allowed her ex-boyfriend on the property, while police were present in order to collect some of his belongings. No issues were observed.

Another preserve the peace was set up in order for the ex-boyfriend to come back to the property to collect more of his property. No issues were observed.

Private Property Parking Complaint – 1

Retail Theft – 2

Officers were dispatched to a business in the village for the report of a theft. Video footage of the theft was viewed by police and the suspect was identified. Contact was made with the suspect who ultimately admitted to stealing from the business. The suspect was issued a citation for retail theft.

A business owner called the police department to report a theft from their store. Surveillance camera footage was viewed showing the suspecting taking items and placing them in their backpack. The suspect has not been identified, and this case is inactive until more suspect information is obtained.

Safety Hazard – 6

School Related Incidents - 11

Battery - 1

Check Person - 1

Juvenile Complaint – 2

Special Events - 3

Theft - 2

Truancy – 2

Suspicious Person - 2

Suspicious Vehicle – 14

Theft – 1

A resident called and reported items missing from her residence after she asked a roommate to move out. The roommate was allowed in the residence to gather her personal belonging, and this is when the items were noticed to be missing. Officers are attempting to contact the roommate in order to get an interview.

Traffic Arrests – 2

Traffic Incident –12

Traffic Warning – 60

Unwanted Person – 1

A business in the village reported that an individual, who was recently terminated, was on the property. After speaking with staff, the terminated employee had never been told that he was not allowed on the property. The individual had used his employee key fob to get in the building. The

key fob was turned over to the business, and he was then told that he was no longer allowed on the property.

Violation of Court Order – 2

A resident called to report a violation of a restraining order, where the subject contacted her via her iPad. Due to this taking place in the county, Dane County Sheriff’s Office was notified. This is for documentation at this time.

Police took a phone call from an individual who was reporting that he may have violated a restraining order by inadvertently contacting his ex-girlfriend. At the time of this report, the ex-girlfriend had not reported contact. This report if for documentation.



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SILVER

Obituaries

Bruce Elliott Ferrin

June 27, 1949 -
December 4, 2023



Bruce Elliott Ferrin, age 74 of Platteville, WI passed away peacefully on December 4, 2023, in his home after a Packer victory sur-

rounded by love. He was born on June 27, 1949, to Robert Abbott Ferrin and Vera (White) Ferrin. He attended grade school at the Red School in Jenkinsville, WI and graduated from Belmont High School in 1967. After high school he worked alongside his father at Cassidy Farms in the rural Darlington, WI area. He later moved to Mount Horeb, WI in 1985, where he quickly became one of the most cherished and loved staff members of Mount Horeb High School. After 33 years of hard work and dedication he retired in 2018 from his position of Head Custodian.

Bruce had a heart as big as his smile. His laughter, sense of humor and overwhelming kindness will truly be missed but will never be forgotten. Bruce was an avid sports fan especially when it came to cheering for his favorite teams, the Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin Badgers. You would hear the cheers and see that smile from miles away, he never missed a game. There is nothing Bruce loved more than spending time with his family and friends. He was a devoted father, grandfather, brother, uncle, partner, and friend to so many.

Bruce is survived by his son Todd (Ji-Yeon) Ferrin of Barneveld WI; two grandsons Dylan and Ethan; his loving partner Linda Anderson (sons Derek and John

Diedrichs and family), sister Patricia (David) Davis; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert Abbott Ferrin and Vera Ferrin, two sisters Sylvia Brenden and Susan Ferrin, and his brother Robert (Porky) Ferrin.

The family would like to thank Upland Hills Hospice for their loving and devoted care given to Bruce during his final days.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, December 30, 2023 at Melby Funeral Home & Crematory, Platteville, WI with a memorial service at 3:00 PM. Visitation will be from Noon until time of the service. Reverend Gus Barnes will officiate. Online condolences may be made at www.melbyfh.com.

Barbara A. Conrad



Barbara A. Conrad, age 62, of Robbinsdale, Minn., formerly of Mount Horeb, WI, passed away recently. She is survived by her loving husband, Steve;

children, Andy (Annalisa) Conrad and Kelsey Conrad; grandson, James; sister, Kari (Dan) Hustad; sister-in-law, Jenny Conrad; brother-in-law, Scott Conrad; and many family and friends.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Dorothy and John Johnson; in-laws, Dorothy and Eugene Conrad; and brother-in-law, Jeff Conrad.

Because of early holiday deadlines service information for Barbara can be found on the funeral chapel website (www.gearty-delmore.com).

Memorials are preferred to the American Cancer Society.

Gearty-Delmore Funeral Chapel
Robbinsdale, Minn.
1-763-537-4511

Gleanings

By BARR JOHNSON
Mount Horeb Mail

130 Years Ago- Dec. 28, 1893

The hum of the sewing machine is silent over the printer's heads. The dress-makers are home on a vacation.

Saturday and Sunday were regular spring weather days, and the snow and ice dissolved into water and the water descended into the ground, leaving mother earth destitute of her Christmas attire.

If you are not feeling strong and healthy try Electric Bitters. If "La Grippe" has left you weak and weary, use Electric Bitters. This remedy acts directly on Liver, Stomach and Kidneys, gently aiding those organs to perform their functions. If you are afflicted with Sick Headache, you will find speedy and permanent relief by taking Electric Bitters. One trial will convince you that this is the remedy you need. Large bottles only 50 cents. Sold by Evans & Gill, Mt. Horeb.

Mr. Robert Heisig went to Darlington to spend Christmas, but the chances are good for him not returning soon as he journeyed thither in a sleigh and the snow is now nonexistent.

Henry Lunde had one of his horses badly injured in the wire while driving to Mount Horeb recently. Wire should always be laid aside and properly fastened down.

A couple of men from this place were drawing hay last week and the team ran away a couple of times in one day, neither men or horses were hurt, but the hay was more or less scattered.

Parties from Mt. Horeb have been interviewing William Huffman, of Middleton, in regard to the cost of building and running a flour

mill with a view of starting one in Mt. Horeb. He claims that the mill cost \$6,000 and the running expenses are \$10 a day.

The sale of Rasmus Lunde's carpenter tools was held last Tuesday, as advertised, and figured up to something over \$70. J. L. Malone was the auctioneer.

120 Years Ago- Dec. 31, 1903

Mischief-makers were at work Thursday morning at 2 o'clock, tying down the mill whistle, which made a continuous long blast, arousing our citizens, who suspected it to be a fire alarm. It may never be known who the perpetrators were.

Six miles is quite a ways to haul milk to the creamery, but this is what Lewis Rue of Primrose is doing everyday.

L. A. Anderson spoke very interestingly at the Lutheran Church Christmas tree festival here Christmas eve. Mr. Anderson is a young man of sterling character and is often heard at gatherings of this nature.

Business places will be open on Wednesday and Saturday evenings until 9 o'clock.

As 1904 is a Leap Year, look out for many weddings.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hauge, Vermont, a quiet home wedding was held yesterday. The contracting parties were their daughter, Mary, to Anton Mickelson, son of our townsman, Mike Mickelson. The young couple has thus formed companionship through life's uncertain journey, are well and favorably known, and are numbered among the respectable.

Quite a bit of snow fell Monday, which brought sleighs into service.

Say, girls, you want to

be getting your pop guns in order, as leap year is just around the corner.

Carl Boech has been quite feeble the past couple weeks and his folks fear he may not be long for this life. His own belief is that his hourglass is soon run out, and his hope is that he has not lived in vain and has accomplished some good in life.

Experts here are setting up the waterworks station. Engineer Kiechoffer is also here looking after his end of the job. We are told that in a few days it will be in readiness for the test.

It was amusing to see ex-sheriff Mickelson and his pacer race with the 9 o'clock train Saturday. He came up Main Street at a- we cannot say the time he made. The colt was as unconcerned as could be, looking at the sky and the houses, taking her owner to the depot with the train not over a block behind, but he "got there" in time.

110 Years Ago- Dec. 26, 1913

Among other reasons assigned to the high cost of living is the almost universal attempt to travel at a 60 horsepower gait on a 10 horsepower salary.

The public library was fumigated Monday, every book being partly opened and placed on edge to do a good job.

K. M. Stolen sold a four-acre tract off his farm to Andrew Disrud at \$200 per acre.

Dr. Thompson has ordered a phone installed in the Hendrickson house, where he with his family, expect to reside. The doctor has decided to locate here to practice his profession.

Atty. A. G. Mickelson received notice from the railroad commission that the Northwestern Railroad Company had been given an extension of time until April 1, to put in the viaduct on Sixth Street, for the reason

that a better job can then be performed and the grading done, which could not be done during the winter.

Clarence Finke has bought a fine residence lot of Otto Dahle on the Lake Park Drive and intends to erect thereon an up-to-date dwelling next year.

The fine roads have brought out a large number of automobiles, and a few 1914 models are on the streets nowadays.

100 Years Ago- Dec. 28, 1923

An independent telephone company is being organized by the people; the line will be built between Forward and Blanchardville.

Mrs. James Gesme was pleasantly surprised Sunday when her children and grandchildren in this area and a number of friends gathered at her home to help her celebrate her birthday.

At a recent meeting of directors of the Mt. Horeb Creamery Co., the price of sweet cream was fixed at seven cents over Chicago 92 score and 64 cents for butterfat for milk.

90 Years Ago- Dec. 28, 1933

Our former postmaster, J.A. Dyslander, has been appointed auditor with the U.S. Postal Department accounting division, Washington, D. C. will leave Sunday for Washington, but his family will remain here for some time.

Our fire department was called out Thursday evening to chimney fires at the Clarence Johnson residence in the village and at the A. M. Johnson farm, Vermont.

The Madison dramatic club of the Madison Vocational School is appearing at the Parkway in Mount Horeb Wednesday and Thursday night next week in a play entitled "Dad". Our former townsman, Carl Mickelson, takes the part

of Dad in the cast of nine people.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Hanna, New Glarus, announce the birth of a son Dec. 20.

80 Years Ago- Dec. 30, 1943

Miss Kristine Goli and Ilow Peterson, Perry, have been drawn as jurors for the January term of the Circuit Court and are ordered to appear at 9 am on January 17.

Dane County's 34,383 housewives could feed 9,990 soldiers for a year with the food wasted annually in homes of the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Swigum were informed by the War Department that their son, Quinten, serving with the U. S. Marines in the South Pacific, had been seriously injured in action.

Matt Marty has purchased the Hans Komplein home on Center Ave. and will take possession Jan. 1st.

40 Years Ago- Dec. 29, 1983

The A. Hoff Co. department store was broken into about midnight on Christmas Day. The burglars inadvertently recorded the time of the break-in when they opened the cash registers, which were empty.

Albert "Ap" Kahl, age 76, died on Monday, Dec. 26, 1983, in a Madison hospital where he had been a patient for several days. Mr. Kahl

had been in the grocery business for 56 years.

A son, David Patrick, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Krantz, Madison, on Saturday, Dec. 17, at St. Mary's Hospital.

20 Years Ago- Dec. 25, 2003

Sam Michael is the name chosen by Jaysin and Amy Raykowski of Mount Horeb for their first child born Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003 at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison.

Mount Horeb prep volleyball and softball coach Toby Parker has announced that he will resign from his coaching position following the 2003 school year. He has been a varsity volleyball coach for 14 years, as well as a varsity softball coach for six years.

Alex Slocum and Heather Kaaraka were grand prize-winners of Lord of the Rings month contest at the Mount Horeb High School Library.

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LOCATED IN MT. HOREB

Contact:
Mike 608-400-7094
or JT 980-333-1333

Springdale 4-H Club hosts annual awards banquet



Members present at the banquet gathered for a photo.

On November 7 Springdale 4H held their annual awards banquet. Several members were recognized for their achievements over the past year.

The Springdale 4-H club honored Sid Soltis and his Granddaughter Rowan Soltis. November 4th Sid was on the honor flight to Washington DC as he served in the Air Force for over 20 years. The club wanted to honor him by doing the club flag pledges with his granddaughter and was presented a letter to congratulate him for his service with all members of the club signing the letter to thank officers.

2023-2024
President – Ethan Fendrick
Vice President – Marc Stoddard
Treasurer – Liam Crolla
Reporter – Mathew Mahoney
Secretary _ Mackenzie Meinholz
Historian - -Gwen Mahoney
Sunshine – Leah Meinholz

Past Officers 2021-2022
President – Zelma Marohn
Vice President – Mathew Mahoney
Treasurer – Marc Stoddard
Secretary – Gwen Mahoney
Reporter – Mackenzie Meinholz
Historian – Liam Crolla
Sunshine – Alivia Shaffer

Dane County Fair Springdale club Awards 2023

Dairy (2- members) exhibitors - Blue Ribbon 1st place Clean Barns \$50.00
Swine 1st place small exhibitor group \$25.00
Beef 3rd place clean barn Club annual program (calendar for the club year) - Blue
Club newsletter (which is agenda for meeting completed by President)-Blue
Report on National 4-H week - Blue
Springdale History Club Display- Reserve Champion completed by Liam Crolla

County Club Awards
1st Place National 4-H Promotion week - \$75.00

Club Leader Certificate
Sid Soltis - New Springdale leader
Christa McGinnity - New Springdale leader
Melissa Shaffer -New Springdale leader
Jill Stevenson -New Springdale leader
Cindy Esser -New Springdale leader
Anna Healy – 5 Year Pin
Shoshanah Marohn – 5 Year Pin
Becky Meinholz – 5 Year Pin
Lisa Mahoney – 10 Year Pin
Florence Connors – 35 Year Pin

New Members 2023-2024 to Springdale 4-H:
Eirinn Carr
Certificate new mem-

ber to Springdale 4-H
Member in 4-H 9th year pin

Felt 4-H letter
Rowan Soltis
Certificate New member to Springdale 4-H
Finn Rothenber

Certificate new member to Springdale 4-H
Member in 4-H 7th year pin

Felt 4-H letter
Samuel McGinnity
Certificate new member to Springdale 4-H
Member in 4-H 9th Year pin

Felt 4-H letter
Sofia Serate-Rubio
Certificate new member to Springdale 4-H
Kate Stevens
New Member Cloverbud Certificate

First Year Completed 4-H Member:
Jackson Corrigan
Member in 4-H year pin – 1 year
Felt 4-H Letter
Carly Esser
Member in 4-H year pin – 1 year
Felt 4-H Letter
Tyler Esser
Member in 4-H year pin – 1 year
Felt 4-H Letter
Bjorn Opegard
Member in 4-H year Pin – 1 Year
Felt 4-H Letter
Annika Opegard
Member in 4-H year pin – 1 year
Felt 4-H Letter

Cloverbud Members 1st Year Completion:
Dalton Corrigan – Certificate of Cloverbud



Club secretary Mackenzie Meinholz presents Florence Connors with a 35 year pin, recognizing her for being a club leader for 35 years.

Preston Corrigan - Certificate of Cloverbud
Finn Judd - Certificate of Cloverbud
Club Certificate of Achievement
Silver 4-H Pin
Ethan Fendrick
Member in 4-H year Pin - 8 years
Club Certificate of Achievement
Zeme Franzmann-Sim-mer

Member in 4-H Year Pin - 5 Years
Ruah Franzmann-Sim-mer

Member in 4-H Year Pin - 5 Years
Henry Healy
Member in 4-H year Pin - 5 years
Jude Kalscheur
Member in 4-H year Pin – 2 years

Gwen Mahoney
Club Certificate of Achievement
Officer Pin – Secretary Pin
Member in 4-H year Pin - 10 years

Mathew Mahoney
Officer Pin – Vice President
Member in 4-H year Pin - 8 years

Katrina Meinholz
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 7 years
Secretary - Officer Pin
Leah Meinholz
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H Year Pin – 3 years

Member in 4-H year Pin - 6 years
Club Certificate of Achievement
Silver 4-H Pin

Ethan Fendrick
Member in 4-H year Pin - 8 years
Club Certificate of Achievement
Zeme Franzmann-Sim-mer

Member in 4-H Year Pin - 5 Years
Ruah Franzmann-Sim-mer
Member in 4-H Year Pin - 5 Years

Henry Healy
Member in 4-H year Pin - 5 years
Jude Kalscheur
Member in 4-H year Pin – 2 years

Gwen Mahoney
Club Certificate of Achievement
Officer Pin – Secretary Pin
Member in 4-H year Pin - 10 years

Mathew Mahoney
Officer Pin – Vice President
Member in 4-H year Pin - 8 years

Katrina Meinholz
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 7 years
Secretary - Officer Pin
Leah Meinholz
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H Year Pin – 3 years

Officer Pin- Sunshine
Mackenzie Meinholz
Club Certificate of Achievement
Record Book Pin
Officer Pin - Reporter
Member in 4-H year Pin - 6 years
· Intermediate Pin Animal & Vet Science
Zelma Marohn
Club Certificate of Achievement
Wrote the endowment application

Bat Houses
Record Book Pin
Officer Pin - President
Member in 4-H year Pin - 7 years
Senior Pin – Woodworking
Senior Pin – Self Determined

Emma Ringgenberg
Member in 4-H year Pin – 8 years
Alivia Shaffer
Member in 4-H year Pin – 5 years
Club Certificate of Achievement

Officer Pin - Sunshine
Joseph Stoddard
Member in 4-H year Pin - 10 years

Graduation from 4-H
Marc Stoddard
Club Certificate of Achievement
Record Book Pin
Officer Pin – Treasurer
Senior Pin – Self Determined
Member in 4-H year Pin - 7 year

Mount Horeb Mail

Letters to the Editor policy

We welcome letters to the editor and want to publish your thoughts and opinions. We are happy to publish your letters about politics, and your endorsements of political candidates.

Please submit all letters to the editor via email. You can email your letters to mgeiger@newspubinc.com

All letters must include the author's name, address and phone number. We won't publish your address and number, but we need to be able to verify who you are. Anonymous letters and letters written under pseudonyms will not be considered.

We prefer letters that are fewer than 600 words and take as their starting point an issue that is important to our community and our readers. To write a guest column of more than 600 words, contact the editor first.

Letters are edited for clarity, fact checked and sometimes trimmed to fit the space available in the newspaper. The opinions expressed are always the writer's own. The editor won't try to make you seem more (or less) intelligent than you really are, but may clean up some grammatical issues according to our style guide. We want your opinions, even when we don't agree with them. But this isn't the Internet, so you can't just say anything you want. Try to base your letters on reason and fact. We will not publish claims that are demonstrably false.

For additional information, contact mgeiger@newspubinc.com.

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Politics

Sen. Dianne Hesselbein Elected Senate Democratic Leader

“I am beyond honored to have earned the confidence of this inspirational, hard-working and talented group of Senators,” said Hesselbein. “I am proud to lead such a strong group the rest of this session and into the year ahead. Working together we have great opportunities ahead of us. As leader I will ensure that everyone has a voice. I pledge to make every member of our caucus – and the people we represent - a priority. I am proud to have the support of my colleagues to lead these efforts going forward and make our caucus even larger and more effective. It is an honor and I look forward to the challenge.”

Assistant Leader Senator Jeff Smith (D-Brunswick) issued the following statement: “Senator Hesselbein will provide us with solid leadership heading into a difficult and exciting year. We have a lot to do to continue the prep work needed to build a strong Senate Democratic Caucus and majority.”

“This is a time of great possibility for Wisconsin. I look forward to continuing my work as Assistant Leader alongside Senator Hesselbein and all of my Democratic colleagues,” Smith added.

Sen. Chris Larson also congratulated Hesselbein on her election.

“Today is an exciting day for the future of our Senate Democratic Caucus,” said Larson. “I want to congratulate Senator Dianne Hesselbein on her election as Senate Democratic Leader. I look forward to continuing to work with her in the struggles to come. For the first time in over a decade, the possibility of fairer legislative maps is near, and we will need a strong vision and capable hand to significantly grow our caucus toward the majority and ultimately deliver tangible results for the people of Wisconsin.”

“My sincere thanks to outgoing Leader Agard for her service and dedication to maintaining a strong opposition voice amid unprecedented challenges in a deeply divided legislature. It’s a thankless job, and she approached it with open eyes and vigorous effort. I also want to thank Senators Smith and Roys for being willing to serve in this capacity. Both of them bring a wealth of skills to the table and will continue to be essential voices in the Wisconsin State Senate,” Larson continued. “As we wind down business at the

Capitol for 2023 and prepare for a landmark year in 2024, I am proud to stand alongside Leader Hesselbein, Assistant Leader Smith, and all of my colleagues as we blaze this trail together. Our neighbors deserve a legislature that listens to them and fights tirelessly on their behalf. It’s time Wisconsin once again lived up to its motto: Forward!”

Hesselbein Issues Statement on Evers’ Veto of Bill 465

Senate Democratic Leader Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) released the following statement after Governor Tony Evers vetoed Assembly Bill 465, which would prohibit gender-affirming care for LGBTQ+ youth: “I am grateful to Governor Evers for his steadfast promise to veto any legislation that harmfully targets the ability of LGBTQ+ people and youth to live their lives authentically. Legislative Republicans tried to enact a dangerous law that would prohibit youth from receiving gender-affirming care and send a clear message of exclusion and discrimination. They tried to join the national trend of targeting the LGBTQ+ community and imposing the political machinations of politicians in a personal medical decision. And today their attempts were thwarted. This veto sends a message to the transgender and nonbinary people of Wisconsin that they are loved, they are seen, and they are respected.”

Hesselbein Calls Abortion Ruling a “Victory”

Hesselbein released the following statement after Dane County Circuit Court Judge Diane Schlipper ruled that Wisconsin’s 1849 abortion law does not ban consensual abortions: “This is an important victory for reproductive freedom in Wisconsin. Abortion is healthcare. Every single Wisconsinite deserves the right to consult their family, their faith, and their doctor to make a reproductive health decision that is right for them, free from partisan politicians and centuries-old bans. With this ruling, providers in Wisconsin will be able to resume abortion services without fear of prosecution. This is a critical step toward restoring access to abortion in our state.”

Senator Baldwin Statement on the Ongoing Israel-Hamas War

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin released the following statement on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war: “Hamas’s October 7th terrorist massacre has led to unbearable suffering in Israel, Gaza, and around

the world. As I have said before, I support Israel’s right to defend itself against Hamas, bring hostages back home, and end the terrorist organization’s threat – but it does not have the right to go to war against innocent Palestinian people. Eliminating the threat posed by Hamas and protecting civilians are not mutually exclusive aims.

“Unfortunately, the Netanyahu government’s indiscriminate bombing and military approach has led to unacceptable bloodshed in Gaza and does not appear to be moving us closer to our ultimate goals of removing Hamas from power and achieving a lasting peace in the region through a two-state solution. Preservation of innocent lives and civilian infrastructure is not just morally right, but also necessary to accomplish security, stability, and peace in the region moving forward.

“I support the resumption of a humanitarian ceasefire, in order to accelerate the delivery of humanitarian aid, protect innocent civilians and civilian sites, and negotiate the release of the hostages taken on October 7th. This is only possible if both Hamas and the Israeli government cooperate. As we look ahead, the United States needs to continue to do more to urge Israel to protect Palestinian civilians, facilitate humanitarian efforts, and play a more active role in helping create a two-state solution – something I have long supported – to ensure that both the Palestinian and Israeli people have the right to self-determination, safety, and security.”

In response to ongoing war and the growing humanitarian crisis, Senator Baldwin supports the following actions:

An immediate humanitarian ceasefire that ensures the unconditional release of all hostages and full humanitarian access to Gaza, agreed to by both Israel and Hamas.

Adherence to International Humanitarian Law by all parties and the protection of all civilians and civilian sites.

Increased humanitarian aid access to prevent starvation and an even more severe public health crisis, including maintaining the opening of the Kerem Shalom border crossing, and any other steps needed to allow the sustained delivery of the basic essentials in quantities sufficient to meet the current need.

The United States to provide immediate humanitarian aid to help those in Gaza.

Access to prompt medical attention for sick and wounded civilians, both within Gaza as well as

the option to evacuate to a neighboring country for medical care.

Hamas to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to have access to the hostages while the United States and Israel work to secure their release.

Ensure no Palestinians are forcibly removed from Gaza.

Sen. Johnson Joins Letter Urging Biden Administration to Enforce Iran Steel Sanctions

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) joined U.S. Sen. Katie Britt (R-Ala.), and 29 of their Senate GOP colleagues, in sending a letter to President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, urging the Administration to enforce existing sanctions on Iranian steel.

In the letter, the senators express the importance of “proactively and continuously” enforcing sanctions and the detrimental consequences of ineffective—or willfully negligent—enforcement. Iran is one of the largest steel producing countries in the world, with the industry generating significant export revenue.

“In 2020, the United States sanctioned Iran’s metals industries and steel producers, massively impacting their exports in 2021. The enforcement of these sanctions decreased Iranian steel exports from 9 million metric tons in 2020 to 4.2 million tons in 2021,” wrote the senators. “However, Iranian steel exports rebounded to 10 million tons in 2022. This correlates to the United States reengaging with Iran to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), along with a decrease in enforcement of existing sanctions by the Treasury Department.”

The senators warned relaxed sanctions enforcement only fuels the ability of Iranian-backed proxies to continue to fund and carry out terrorist attacks that further destabilize the region.

“In this instance, relaxing sanctions enforcement resulted in economic enrichment for the world’s largest state sponsor of terrorism,” the senators continued. “We urge your Administration to enforce all Iran-related sanctions at your disposal, to include secondary sanctions on other countries who seek economic engagement with Iran. We owe it to the innocent children, women, and men who were savagely beaten, raped, tortured, and killed on October 7, 2023.”

Sen. Johnson Urges Chairman Whitehouse to Prioritize Fiscal Climate

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) joined Senate Budget Committee Republicans in urging Chairman Shel-

don Whitehouse (D-R.I.) to convene a series of hearings focused on understanding and addressing the nation’s current fiscal challenges following warnings from credit agencies about the country’s deteriorating economic outlook. In a letter cosigned by all committee Republicans, the senators cite credit downgrades and independent analyses warning of the challenges presented by growing debt, deficit, and interest obligations.

“Under your chairmanship, the Senate Committee on the Budget has dedicated significant time and attention to climate issues, holding 12 separate hearings on climate change this year alone. We implore you to direct the Committee’s agenda to the impending budgetary and fiscal crisis facing our nation—issues at the heart of this committee’s jurisdiction. There’s no time to spare,” the senators wrote.

The letter comes after credit agencies Moody’s Investors Service and Fitch Ratings downgraded the United States’ economic outlook and credit rating scores pointing to rising interest payments and government debt and unaddressed fiscal challenges. A Penn Wharton Budget Model study also warned the window to take corrective fiscal action is closing rapidly, and once it closes, no amount of tax increases or spending cuts could avoid a govern-

ment default.

The senators propose initiating hearings with testimony from the Treasury secretary, Congressional Budget Office director and representatives from Fitch, Moody’s and S&P Global Ratings.

“Tough conversations on our nation’s fiscal health need to be had to preserve our nation’s economic strength. If we want to be the global leader in the economic marketplace, then we need to lead from the front with strong fiscal responsibility,” the senators continued.

Sen. Johnson Demands Changes to Rule “Endangering Safety and Wellbeing of Unaccompanied Children”

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), joined U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), and 38 of their Senate GOP colleagues in a letter calling on the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to overhaul its “harmful and deficient policies” governing the agency’s treatment of unaccompanied alien children in the United States. ORR’s Proposed Rule—parts of which the agency is already enforcing—allows ORR to place vulnerable children in the custody of poorly vetted, and potentially criminal, sponsors and obstructs whistleblowers from reporting abuse in the program to Congress.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Mt. Horeb Seniors shopping trip to Dodgeville Walmart, 9:30am. Call Kris at 608-444-7930

Trollway Diabetes, Senior Center, 12:00pm

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Pizza Party, Senior Center, 12:15

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Closet open 9:00 to 10:30am (Seniors); Others 3:00-4:30pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

MT. HOREB SENIOR CENTER CLOSED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

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

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

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

Community Foundation awards 2024 grants

Mt. Horeb Community Foundation Grants Awarded for 2024 Projects MH High School/Recognition Plaques for Distinguished Alumni/\$1,000 PFLAG Mt. Horeb/Education and Outreach/\$1,500 Immanuel Lutheran Church/Little Free Pantry/\$1,450 MH Veteran Memorial Assoc/Flag Replacement/\$1,500 Southwest Dane Outreach/Newsletter Project/\$1,500 Wednesday Night Live/Summer Concert Series/\$1,500 Friends MH Public Library/Adult Programming/\$1,500 Jr Achievement of Wisconsin/Student Empowerment/\$1,500	Trollway Diabetes/Prevent2 support for non-medicare participants/\$1,500 MH American Legion/Badger Boys and Girls State/\$1,500 Mound Vue Garden Club/Planters on Trollway/\$1,000 DNR Certified Peggy Popp/Wildlife Rehabilitation Supplies/\$800 Center Community Stewardship /Badger Project: MH Shared Revenue Journalism/\$1,400 MH Corner Kick Club/HUDL Video Package Purchase/\$1,500 Friends of Donald Park/Natural Areas Restoration Supplies/\$994 MH Area Arts Association/17th Annual	Spring Art Tour - Date Change/\$1,500 Evangelical Luth Church MH/ELCA Youth Gathering/\$1,500 MH Community Band/2024 Voices in our Community/\$800 VFW Post 9511/New Sign for Post Building/\$1,500 MH Landmarks Foundation/School Days Supplies/Newsletter/\$1,200 MH Area School District/Scholastic Book Fair Fund/\$600 MH Area School District / School Social Work Basic Needs Fund/\$1,000 Children's Community School /Outdoor Play Structures/\$1,500 MOHOP/Reconstruction of courts at Viking Park/\$5,000	Norsk Golf Club/Bowling Alley Seating and Pins/\$10,000 Young Life/Supplemental Summer Camp Funding/\$2,100 Neighbors Helping Neighbors/Other Relief Services/\$15,000 MH Area Historical Society/In Their Words: Song of Norway Oral History/\$4,250 SU31 MH Area Girl Scouts/Building Community - MH Area Girl Scouts/\$2,000 MH Area School District/2 High School Scholarships/\$3,000 MH Public Lirrary/Kindlund Bequest/\$5,000
Total Awards: \$76,094			

Christian school donates to food pantry; hosts concert

The Mount Horeb Christian School performed in a Christmas program with 234 people in attendance at Life Church on Sunday, Dec. 10. “What an unforgettable evening at Life Church!” said Bill Snyder. “[The] MHCS and ICA Christmas Program was a true delight, filled with heartwarming moments and a focus on Jesus. The children showcased their talents beautifully, with performances that included ‘This Little Light of Mine,’ ‘Joy to the World,’ ‘Silent Night,’ ‘Hark the Herald Angels Sing’ and many more!”

“A special shout-out to our young actors who brought the beloved Charlie Brown scenes to life with incredible skill and enthusiasm,” he continued. “Thank you to all the parents, families, and friends who joined us—your presence made the celebration even more memorable. As we carry the Joy of the Lord into the holiday season, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas!”

Also, kids at Mount Horeb Christian School (MHCS) have been collecting canned goods for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry. They raised more than 500 items, or 450 pounds of food.



Man arrested in Springdale for fifth OWI

Dane County Sheriff’s Deputies made two felony arrests for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) in the town of Springdale overnight on December 12-13.

The first call took place at approximately 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, when a caller reported a disabled vehicle in the traffic lane on Baltes Road, west of U.S. Highway 12. When a deputy arrived, she saw a person slumped over in the driver’s seat with a bottle of whiskey in his lap. After waking Ryan S. Wagner, age 34, of Waunakee, he was transported to a local hospital for evaluation and ultimately arrested for OWI – 4th offense.

The second stop occurred at 12:39 a.m. after several 911 callers reported an SUV traveling in the wrong direction on U.S. Highway 151 near Town Hall Road. Deputies were able to catch up to the Chevy Trailblazer and make a traffic stop on CTH F, where Ryan R. Gilman, age 42, of Madison, was put through field sobriety tests. He was arrested for OWI – 5th offense and issued several other traffic citations.

Both men were held in the Dane County Jail. Law Enforcement throughout Dane County are participating in the Drive Sober or Get Pulled over campaign and will put forth additional resources to stop impaired drivers this holiday season.

Dark Skies the topic at next garden club event

On Tuesday, January 9, 2024 a virtual educational program of the Mound Vue Garden Club will feature speaker John Heasley, an astronomy educator with the Driftless Stargazing LLC. John will be speaking on *Preserving and Enjoying Dark Skies*. His presentation will cover the importance of preserving dark skies and how one can assist in this effort at one’s home and in the community. He will also discuss the impact of light during the night on vegetation, wildlife, and other aspects of the environment.

The program is free and all are welcome to join us for this virtual presentation which begins at 7 pm on Zoom. To register for the program and to receive the link needed for the Zoom, please contact Sylvia Lowell before January 8th at: slowell844@gmail.com

This 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.

Anniversary



Hooks Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Stan and Patsy Hooks celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at the Verona American Legion in Verona on December 16, 2023.

Stan and the former Patsy Luchsinger were married at Salem United Church of Christ on December 15, 1973.

After living in England for seven years and many Air Force bases throughout the United States, they moved back to the Verona area once Stan retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1993. Stan worked another 21 years at the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and Patsy taught for 23 years at Sugar Creek Elementary School in Verona.

The Hooks have a daughter, Angela (Kenny) Beal and two grandsons, Tyvin and Kyan in Fall River, Wi and a son Jason (Becky) Hook in Madison.

CHURCH NOTES	
Good News Lutheran Church - WELS NEW LOCATION: 9975 Pepper Dr Pastor Jonathan Bauer Sunday Worship: 9:00 am (in person and online) Sunday School and Bible Study 10:15 am 608-437-4646 visit GoodNewsLC.org/location for details & directions	Immanuel Lutheran Church www.immanuelmh.org Sunday 10:00 service 310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb
Mt Horeb Evangelical Lutheran 315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012 www.elcmthoreb.org Facebook: evangelical.lutheran.church.of.mt.horeb 8am morning devotions M-F 9am in-person Sunday Worship Pre-Recorded online worship/also available via telephone call 1-855-514-2017	Perry Lutheran Church ELCA 1057 Hwy 78 S, Mt. Horeb 608-437-5294 Sunday Worship 9:00 am www.perrylutheranchurchelca.org
Mt. Horeb United Methodist Corner of Hwy. S & Hwy. 78 Sunday Worship: 9am online and in person umcmh.org Celebrating God's Inclusive Love	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
Mt Vernon United Church of Christ 693 Highway 92 in Mt Vernon 608-832-6677 www.mtvernonucc.org Sunday Worship, in-person and on Facebook Live, 10:15 am Email: pastormtvernon@gmail.com We are an Open and Affirming Congregation	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
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	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

Jada’s Garden decorates for Gov. Evers



Jada Hooks, the owner of Jada’s Garden in Blue Mounds, was chosen to decorate the Governor’s Mansion for the holidays this year. This was Hooks’ second year in a row decorating the executive residence. Pictured above at Governor Tony Evers’ home on December 19 are (from left to right) Jane Knutson, Sara Van Pee, First Lady Kathy Evers, Jada Hooks and Cindy Schwierske. Photo contributed.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the Crew at Helwig Auto Clinic!

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K&K Manufacturing
Loger Construction
Longview Mechanical
Lovelace Pump Co Inc
MacArthur Co
Maple Lawn Cabinets
Menards

Metallic Building Company
Midwest Concrete LLC
Monson Septic
Moore Surveying
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OWNER

continued from page 1

they wanted to make sure it stayed intact and continued their vision of community journalism, which is to provide unbiased local coverage in each of our communities. We are excited to announce that our papers will continue to provide the best coverage of local news and events and an advertising medium that works for our local customers. The Wittes decided the best way to continue that vision was to sell the company to Tom Finger, who has been their Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the past 25 years. “The Witte family wishes

to thank all the employees over the decades as well as a special thank you to all our subscribers and advertisers,” said News Publishing CEO Mark Witte.

The new corporation behind the papers will be Finger Publishing, Inc. The readers and recipients of our papers and shoppers will not be impacted by the sale. All employees will be retained and continue in their current roles. Finger Publishing, Inc. will continue to run the publishing, printing, and delivery operation out of the Black Earth, WI location.

“We are thankful to the entire Witte family for their support and unwavering commitment to the role of community journalism over the years,” said Managing Editor Matt Geiger. “And we are both excited and comforted to know the publications we care so deeply about will be in the hands of a new owner who has vast experience overseeing the newspapers that chronicle the communities we call home. We know we will flourish under Tom’s leadership.”

“We are dedicated to continuing the vision of community journalism the Witte family strived to achieve,” said Tom Finger. “Community papers are vitally important to the communities they serve. As times change, we will adapt to those changes, but these papers will continue to serve our communities for the foreseeable future.”

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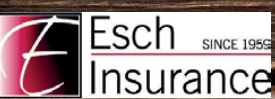




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Happy holidays

Mount Horeb's boys basketball team heads to break with two big wins

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

When it comes to the state rankings, Mount Horeb's boys basketball team is currently on the outside looking in. If the Vikings keep playing like they have of late, that will almost certainly change in the near future. Mount Horeb enjoyed a terrific week, defeating previously unbeaten Baraboo, 80-60, on Dec. 19. The Vikings followed that with a 72-43 thumping of McFarland on Dec. 22.

Mount Horeb is now 5-1 overall and 4-1 in the Badger Small Conference. Here's a recap of the Vikings' two games:

- **Mount Horeb 80, Baraboo 60** — Super sophomore Josh Manchester exploded for 34 points to power the Vikings past the Thunderbirds. Nick Vorwald added 18 points, Zach Maguire chipped in 10 and Kam Nesheim added seven.

"This was one of those wins that seemed hard," Mount Horeb coach Todd continued on page 11



Josh Manchester and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team defeated both Baraboo and McFarland last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb's best of 2023

Vikings' year had a bevy of highs



Conference championships. State tournament appearances — and titles. And memories to last the rest of their lives. Mount Horeb athletics had it all in the past year. And that meant one highlight after another. We'll look at No. 6-10 this week at No. 1-5 next week.

6. Boys swimmers make a splash

Shock. Mount Horeb senior swimmer Alex Gundrum used the word first. Junior Angus Best chose the same term himself. The Vikings — a group of just six swimmers competing as an independent school for the first time ever — made a remarkable splash at the WIAA Division



Angus Best and Mount Horeb's boys swimming team finished in 14th place at the WIAA Division 2 state meet in February. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

2 state meet held at Waukesha South High School. Mount Horeb sent all six of its swimmers to the state meet, then finished in 14th place as a team. The Vikings — the 'Little Engine That Could' if there ever was one — capped their

first season as an independent in grand fashion. And afterwards, Mount Horeb's 'Super Six' was surprised, to say the least. "I can only speak for myself, but this was a shock," Gundrum said. "I have to agree with

Alex," Best said. "Definitely a shock." Perhaps the only one that wasn't stunned was Mount Horeb coach Bryce Hoppe, who believed from day one his talented and dedicated group was capable of big things.

"Overall, every guy on the team was happy how the season went," Hoppe said. "It was very tough at times, but we pushed through. This is a great group of young men who are willing to put in the work and get good results from it."

Mount Horeb and Verona had enjoyed a co-op that seemed to benefit both sides for several seasons. But the Big Eight Conference voted down an extension of that partnership after last season, putting Mount Horeb's continued on page 12

Gymnasts roll past Waunakee/DeForest

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

It will be a happy holiday for Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team.

The Vikings notched a season-high point total and toppled Waunakee/DeForest, 133.475-124.70 on Dec. 21.

“Scoring our season-high total just before winter break is a really good feeling and we believe that we’re capable of more,” Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. “Contributing to our highest score thus far were season-high totals on vault, bars and floor.”

Athena Ouradnik was second in the all-around competition with a 34.475, while Sylvia Seeliger was third (32.95).

Ouradnik was first on the bars with an 8.15, while Seeliger was second (8.1). The Vikings also counted scored from Tess Angle (7.875), while Marit Barsness and Harper Hendrickson tied with a 7.725.

Ouradnik was second on the vault (8.875) and Balster was third (8.85). Hendrickson posted an 8.30, while Abbey Brummer and Seeliger notched 8.175s.

Ouradnik was also sec-

MOUNT HOREB ROUNDUP

ond on the beam (8.50) and Seeliger was third (8.425). Mount Horeb also counted an 8.25 from Hendrickson and a 7.85 from Avena Meyers.

And on the floor exercise, Ouradnik was second (8.95) and Brummer was third (8.75). The Vikings also counted an 8.45 from Oglesby and a 7.95 from Hendrickson.

“The Badger Conference is very competitive conference,” said Koller Faust, whose team is now 2-0 in the league. “The Waunakee/DeForest co-op team has about twice as many girls on their team which can be intimidating, but our gymnasts didn’t let that get to them. I’m proud of the strong efforts tonight put forth by our girls.”

• **On deck:** The 37th annual Mount Horeb Invitational will take place Jan. 6 at 10 a.m. in the high school auxiliary gym.

Fourteen teams will be competing, including: Dodgeville/Highland/

Iowa-Grant/Mineral Point, Jefferson/Cambridge, Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau/Cochrane/Fountain City/Melrose-Mindoro, Madison East/Madison LaFollette, Madison West, Middleton, Monona Grove, Mt. Horeb, Platteville/Belmont/Lancaster, Prairie du Chien/Fennimore, Sun Prairie West/East, Verona Area/Edgewood, Waunakee/DeForest and Westby/Cashton/DeSoto/Viroqua.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Vikings split a pair of games last week.

Mount Horeb defeated Portage, 69-30, on Dec. 19. The Vikings then fell to Lake Mills, 47-33, on Dec. 21.

Mount Horeb is now 4-6 overall and 3-3 in the Badger Small Conference.

Morgan Monroe led the Vikings with 19 points in their win over Portage. Rowan Johnson added 17 points and Maren Johnson chipped in with seven.

In the Vikings’ loss to Lake Mills, Maren Johnson led the way with seven points, while Rowan Johnson scored six.

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb is at Mineral Point on Dec. 28 at 7 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

Mount Horeb’s boys swimming team — which consists of just five swimmers — fell to Sauk Prairie, 114-43, in a dual meet on Dec. 19.

The Vikings’ foursome of Charlie Olson, Carter Craven, John Malin and Angus Best won the 200-yard freestyle.

Among the individual highlights:

• Best won the 200-yard IM and the 100-yard breaststroke.

• Olson won the 100-yard butterfly.

• Olson was second in the 50-yard freestyle and Malin was fourth.

• Craven was third in the 200-yard freestyle and third in the 100-yard breaststroke.

• Caden Sadkovich was fourth in the 100-yard freestyle and fourth in the 100-yard backstroke.

• Malin was fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke.



Abbey Brummer and Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team defeated Waunakee/DeForest on Dec. 21. Photo submitted

BOYS BB

continued from page 10

Nesheim said. “Even though it was a 20-point win, it never felt like that.

“Baraboo will be a team that will likely finish in the upper echelon of our conference, so getting a win like that is good. We ended up securing 58% of the rebounds and shot a good percentage. When you can do those two things, winning is much easier.”

Baraboo jumped to a 12-5 lead just 5 minutes into the game. But the Vikings went on a 22-2 run, grabbed a 27-14 lead and took control of the game.

Kam Nesheim came off the bench and provided a spark defensively. And after not playing in a week, the Vikings began to show some life.

“Baraboo was leaking guys out in transition off of defensive rebounds, so we tried to make an adjustment with sending a guy back,” Todd Nesheim said. “They also were face guarding Josh and we made a few tweaks with how to handle that.”

The Vikings, who led 36-26 at half, focused on not allowing the Thunderbirds back into the game.

Mission accomplished.

Mount Horeb outscored Baraboo, 27-20, the first 9

minutes of the second half and stretched its lead to 63-46. Manchester had 18 of his 34 points in the second half as the Vikings continued to pull away.

“Josh Manchester once again helped that surge,” Todd Nesheim said. “Baraboo tried to take him out of the game by face guarding him, but to his credit, he stayed within himself and didn’t try to force things. He scored from inside, outside, and in transition.”

• **Mount Horeb 72, McFarland 43** — The Vikings raced to a 43-17 half-time lead and never looked back during an easy win over the visiting Spartans last Friday.

Josh Manchester led Mount Horeb with 22 points, while Nick Vorwald and Zach Maguire both added 11.

“What a great way to go into winter break,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said.

The Vikings led, 13-8, midway through the first half, then closed the first 18 minutes on a 30-9 run.

Mount Horeb had five 3-pointers in that stretch — two from both Manchester and Maguire and another from sophomore guard Kam Nesheim. The Vikings also forced 15 first half turnovers.

“Just as impressive was



Nick Vorwald and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team improved to 5-1 last week . Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

the defense we were playing,” Todd Nesheim said. “We really got after them with ball pressure and switches on their dribble weave and on ball action preventing them from getting much penetration.”

“We had them frustrated. I felt like this was how the game could possibly go, but you never know until you play it. I was extremely happy with our defensive

execution. About the only thing that didn’t go great was rebounding.”

The second half was much of the same as Mount Horeb opened the half with a 22-10 run and stretched its lead to 65-27. The Vikings eventually pushed their lead to 40 points, which started a running clock for the final 11 minutes.

In that time, senior

Colton Martin knocked down a 3-pointer, while sophomore Hayden Anderson and freshman Alex Chapman both had baskets.

“Our starters were out of the game for the last 11 minutes of the game giving way to the reserves,” Todd Nesheim said.

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb faces Racine St. Catherine’s Thursday at 1:45 p.m. during the Wiscon-

sin Basketball Yearbook Shootout held at Concordia University.

The Vikings then meet Franklin in the WBY Shootout Friday at 1:45 p.m.

“This team will find out more about themselves in the next couple weeks,” Todd Nesheim said. “Things won’t be easy, but these are the tests we want.”

MOUNT HOREB’S BEST OF 2023

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swimmers in limbo.

Because Mount Horeb doesn’t have a pool, Vikings athletic director Kolleen Nesheim coordinated a schedule with the Verona Aquatics manager that allowed the swimmers to practice at the Verona Aquatics Center or the Natatorium.

“It was quite the scheduling process,” Nesheim said.

Hoppe was also forced to be creative with workouts, which included designated morning time in the Mount Horeb weight room with parent volunteers.

Early on, Mount Horeb’s swimmers weren’t optimistic things would go, err, swimmingly.

“I knew going into this season that things were going to be different, and I was a bit pessimistic on our potential,” Gundrum said. “Very quickly though, these thoughts disappeared.

“Bryce is a coach that is incredibly knowledgeable in his field, and made sure that our practices were tailored specifically to our success. He capitalized on our lack of pool time in our schedule by having our limited time in the pool be very intensive, and showed us how to healthily recover from such workouts.

“Bryce has been the glue that kept our team together, and our team noticed that during our time under him, our motivation to succeed was greatly increased. And with his decade of swimming experience he directed our motivation toward success through his practices and routines.”

Best quickly noticed the same thing.

“After this year, I personally have learned many things about swimming and sports in general,” Best said. “What worked for us this year was very different from how it has been in the past, at least for me, and I believe that our coach Bryce really knew what he was doing. Not only did he keep us on track with a hectic schedule, but he made more than the most of it.”

That was evident at the state meet, where the Vikings held their own against Wisconsin’s finest.

The Vikings started the day with a sixth place finish from their 200-yard medley relay team of junior Charles Olson, Gundrum, Best and senior Dane Sickler. The top six finishers earn a place on the podium, and that’s just where Mount Horeb’s quartet landed.

The Vikings were seeded seventh in the 200-yard medley relay after posting a

time of 1:41.29 at sectionals. But Mount Horeb dropped nearly a full second at state and finished in 1:40.46.

“I was very excited to start the meet off with a great relay and end up dropping almost a full second,” Hoppe said.

The Vikings were just as giddy.

“We were just ecstatic after the medley relay,” Best said. “Being on the podium is really all we could ever ask for especially having a brand new team. And even though we were limited with our swimmer options, we had no one swimmer that fell short.”

Gundrum echoed those sentiments.

“I really enjoyed this race because the Mount Horeb swim team got to place at state, and we did it as a team,” Gundrum said. “Winning always feels good, but winning with your teammates and friends always feels great.”

Best then finished in 10th place in the 100-yard freestyle. Best swam that race in 49.66 seconds at sectionals, then dropped nearly a full second at state and finished in 48.80.

“I am very proud of him,” Hoppe said.

Mount Horeb’s foursome of senior George Rothamer, Sickler, sophomore Carter Craven and Best then placed 12th in the 200-yard freestyle. The Vikings’ quartet swam the race in 1:34.32, which was more than a second faster than their sectional time (1:35.50).

Gundrum then finished his high school career with an 11th place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke. Gundrum’s time of 1:02.03 was 0.61 seconds faster than his time at sectionals (1:02.64).

“I definitely thought one top-16 finish was possible this year, but it is great to see that every single event we raced this year was top-16,” Hoppe said. “I am still ecstatic that we were able to send the entire team to state.”

The Vikings were on cloud nine themselves as they exited Waukesha.

“Throughout the season, we were constantly just a family and we were constantly showing our best times,” Best said. “This really kept us motivated to put our all into every single swim we did.”

7. Girls swimmers shine at state

Ava Newman admits she was skeptical.

Newman, a junior on Mount Horeb’s girls swimming team, wasn’t sure how things would operate when the Vikings separated from continued on page 13



On top, Carter Craven helped Mount Horeb’s boys swimming team finish in 14th place at the WIAA Division 2 state meet. Emmy Bennin (middle) and Siobhan Mertz (above) helped Mount Horeb’s girls place 17th at the WIAA Division 2 state meet. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MOUNT HOREB’S BEST OF 2023

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continued from page 12
Verona and established independence in 2022.

“The team becoming an independent program definitely was a change of pace,” Newman said.

Two years into the new arrangement, this change of pace is working out quite nicely.

The Vikings went to the WIAA Division 2 state meet held at Waukesha South High School on Nov. 10 and excelled.

Mount Horeb posted 43 points and finished in 17th place overall. A year ago, the Vikings scored 24 points and finished 24th.

Rhinelanders won this year’s state title with 308 points, while Whitefish Bay (221), Madison Edgewood (208), Ashwaubenon (152) and Jefferson/Cambridge (114) rounded out the top five.

“I am so proud of how our team did at state,” Mount Horeb first-year coach Jalen Butteris said. “We nearly doubled our points scored from last year’s state appearance. We had a chance to get a medal or two, but missed out by only a couple seconds.”

Newman agreed. “The team finishing 17th was definitely a huge accomplishment,” Newman said. “We placed much higher than we did last year and I’m very proud of how well we did.”

With good reason. The Vikings had just 13 swimmers in the program this year. And without a pool at Mount Horeb High School, the Vikings were typically beggars — not choosers — when it came to finding practice time elsewhere.

Much like the 2022 season, though, Mount Horeb proved to be the little engine that could and exceeded any and all expectations.

Newman had the Vikings’ top finish with a seventh place showing in the 500-yard freestyle. Newman’s time of 5:25.32 was more than one second better than her seed time from sectionals (5:26.42).

“I went into that event fairly confident and with a positive mindset because the 500 is my favorite race,” Newman said. “I didn’t place and go what I had hoped for, but I have plenty of training to do before my senior season.”

Mount Horeb sophomore Caitlin Patrick-Stern added an 11th place finish in the 500 free, as her time of 5:29.55 was more than six seconds faster than her seed time (5:35.91).

Newman was also 12th in

the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:00.86.

“I went into (the 200) with a good mindset and the time that came out of it was just what I had hoped for,” Newman said.

Senior Emmy Bennin made her final races with the Vikings memorable ones.

Bennin was 10th in the 50-yard freestyle (25.07) and 12th in the 100-yard freestyle (55.23).

Mount Horeb also qualified two relay teams and both performed well.

The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Patrick-Stern, junior Siobhan Mertz, Newman and Bennin finished in 14th place at 3:54.06. And that same foursome combined to place 16th in the 200-yard freestyle relay (1:47.15).

“When it comes to competing at such a high level like this, you never know exactly how other teams are going to perform,” Butteris said. “But I know that Ava, Caitlin, Siobhan, and Emmy gave their all, and that’s all I can ask for.”

The Vikings gave Butteris all she could have asked for during her first season.

Mount Horeb won the first dual meets since breaking away from Verona. The Vikings were competitive at countless invites and throughout the postseason.

And Mount Horeb’s performance at state was both impressive — and encouraging for the future.

“This has been such an amazing first season as a coach, and I can’t wait to see how we can improve next season,” Butteris said.

Newman agreed, noting how pleased she is the Vikings have proven more than capable of standing — err, swimming — on their own.

“I feel as an independent program we have more time to receive advice from the coach, and there is more attention on all the swimmers on the team,” Newman said. “Today I would say I am very happy with the independent program, and I hope it continues to grow next year and even after I graduate.”

8. Softball Vikings enjoy stellar season

Mount Horeb went 17-9 overall. The Vikings earned a No. 1 seed in the postseason and won a regional title.

But their dreams of a first-ever trip to state died when they fell to West Salem, 15-14, in 10 innings in a WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinal.

“Being able to see my teammates day in and day

continued on page 14



Taylor Mueller (top) and Mount Horeb’s girls softball team (above) enjoyed another stellar season. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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MOUNT HOREB’S BEST OF 2023

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out is something I will never forget,” said Mount Horeb Taylor Mueller said. “Most of us are close outside of softball, but softball gives me a few months out of the year I can be with my closest friends almost nonstop.”

Senior Evelyn Dahlgren said she will always be thankful for what Mount Horeb softball has done for her.

“The support of your teammates and the coaches keeping me going is something I will always be grateful for,” Dahlgren said. “Being able to play with my best friends is a huge thing for me.”

Mount Horeb struggled early in the year and was 5-5 midway through the season.

The Vikings got hot down the stretch, though, won six of seven heading into the postseason and earned the No. 1 seed in their half of the sectional.

“We got the number one seed for the third street year, which is a nice accomplishment for the girls,” Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman said.

The Vikings opened the postseason with a 16-5 win over Sauk Prairie.

Mount Horeb then topped Reedsburg, 11-6, in a regional final. The Vikings improved to 18-8 on the season, giving them the most wins in school history.

“It feels amazing to be a part of the team with the most wins in school history, but I am just one part of it,” Mueller. “Just being a little part of something great is really cool. We are not done yet, though, and have no plans of being done any time soon.”

Sophomore Jayse Holman hurled a gem against Reedsburg, picking up the win and striking out six.

“Knowing my teammates are behind me was a big key to my success on the mound tonight,” Jayse Holman said. “Knowing their defense is so strong and the amount of support they give leads me to have a lot of trust in them.”

The Vikings then jumped to a 12-0 lead in the sectional semifinals over West Salem.

But West Salem rallied back to force extra innings, and eventually pulled out a 15-14 win.

Despite the loss, manager Jeramie Holman was thrilled with the year.

“This year’s team set a ton of records, including school wins and hits,” Jeramie Holman said. “I am very thankful I have had the opportunity to coach these girls.”

Holman also said the future is very bright for Mount Horeb softball, as the Vikings lost just two seniors to graduation.

“All the team has to do is put in work in the off-season, and the results will definitely show when next season gets underway,” Jeramie Holman said. “The sky is the limit, and the team can only get better from here.”

9. Wittmann comes up aces

Ethan Wittmann did everything he could.

Four birdies. Six pars. And big shot after big shot.

But when you’re playing in arguably the state’s toughest sectional, you need to be good and lucky — and Wittmann was just one of the two.

Wittmann, a senior standout inside Mount Horeb’s boys golf program, shot a sizzling 4-over-par, 76, at the Waunakee Sectional on May 30.

The top three individuals from non-qualifying teams advanced to the state tournament. Unfortunately for Wittmann, despite his brilliant round, he missed qualifying for state by one shot.

“Ethan’s performance (at sectionals) was phenomenal,” Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz said. “We play in arguably the most competitive sectional in the state which made Ethan’s performance even more remarkable as he finished ahead of a number of the best players in the state.”

Waunakee won its own sectional with a 310, while Holmen and Middleton tied for second with a 317. Holmen then edged the Cardinals in a playoff and earned the second and final state berth.

The top three individuals from non-qualifying teams were Onalaska’s Colin Comeau (73), Madison West’s Finn Jackson (74) and Middleton’s Dain Johnson (75). That left Wittmann one shot away from earning a state berth.

“This was Ethan’s second appearance at sectionals and he certainly looked more comfortable this year than last year in finishing with his best score ever in relation to par,” Krentz said.



Mount Horeb golfer Ethan Wittman missed qualifying for the state meet by one shot. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Wittmann certainly had a round to remember.

Wittmann carded a 2-over-par, 38, on the front nine thanks to consecutive birdies on No. 6 and 7. He also made pars at No. 2, 4 and 8, hit six greens in regulation and sat in seventh place individually at the turn.

“Ethan was able to make long putts for birdie on hole 6 and for par on hole 8, which were key in shooting such a good score

on the front nine,” Krentz said. “After nine holes, he put himself in great position to advance to state with a good back nine.”

Wittmann hit only three greens in regulation on the back nine, but did a remarkable job scrambling and carded another 38.

Wittmann birdied both No. 10 and 14 and made pars at No. 11, 12, and 18. He also capped his career in style by getting up and

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MOUNT HOREB’S BEST OF 2023

2023

continued from page 14

down for par from 80 yards out at No. 18.

“He made another long putt for birdie on the 14th hole and despite finding trouble of the tee on a few holes on the back nine, was able to get himself back in position and finish with no worse than a bogey each time,” Krentz said.

Wittmann finished sixth overall out of 47 golfers and saved his best performance for last — even if it fell narrowly short.

“Ethan had a terrific senior season earning our team’s medalist honors for the third consecutive season, as well as second-team all-conference in the Badger West,” Krentz said. “He always represented our program well on and off the course, and we wish him the best in the future.”

10. Leibfried chooses Indiana

Mount Horeb-Barneveld has produced its share of college football players through the year.

It’s rare, though, when the Vikings have a player that is coveted by Division 1 schools.

That changed this year, as standout offensive lineman Austin Leibfried had interest from nearly a dozen schools including Indiana, Wyoming, Coastal Carolina, and Syracuse.

“It picked up very quickly this spring,” said the 6-foot-6, 285-pound Leibfried. “There were lots of schools coming in, but it has also been very exciting seeing schools I watched growing up come to talk to me.”

Leibfried eventually chose Indiana, and signed his national letter of intent on Dec. 20 to play for the Hoosiers.

“It feels great to see all of my work pay off,” he said. “I was someone who never thought this would happen, but it happened so quick. Now I am where I am.”

MH-B coach Bret St. Arnauld said Leibfried is a terrific role model, and the Hoosiers were getting a terrific player and person.

“When you think about people putting others before themselves, Austin possesses that characteristic,” St. Arnauld said. “The way that Austin is able to lead on and off the field, as well as holding people accountable when they need to be held accountable, is



Mount Horeb’s Austin Leibfried will play for Indiana University next season. File photo

something that you do not typically see in kids his age.”

St. Arnauld added that Leibfried also has a laid-back element to his personality.

“He is cool, calm and collected,” St. Arnauld said. “I never have seen him rattled on the football field, so when you have that kind of composure, both on and off the field, that always spells good things. When things are going nuts, you need to be able to keep your composure, and Austin is able to do just that.”

Leibfried had a tremendous fall, earning Badger Small Conference Offensive Lineman of the Year

honors. He was also named all-region and earned high honorable-mention all-state honors from the Associated Press.

Leibfried’s dominant play helped the Vikings win their third straight conference title, go 11-1 overall and reach Level 3 of the WIAA Division 3 postseason.

Mount Horeb High School principal Cody Lundquist — and entire community — took pride in Leibfried’s achievements.

“Austin is definitely a leader in the building. You can easily see it on

the football field, but it is seen everywhere here in the high school as well,” Lundquist said. “A lot of students look up to Austin.

“He is a great representation of Mount Horeb, and he is the type of player I tell recruiters, ‘He is who you want on your team. He is going to connect with anyone on the team and that is something you do not see often nowadays.’”

TOWN OF CROSS PLAINS

Please take notice that on December 14, 2023 the Town of Cross Plains Town Supervisors adopted an amendment to Ordinance 130 to Establish and regulate ATV/UTV routes. The full text of the ordinances may be obtained at the Town Clerk’s office, 3734 County Road P, Cross Plains or through the Town’s website. For additional information contact Clerk, Nancy Meinholz at 798-0189.

Publish: 12/28/23 WNAJLP

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REQUEST FOR BIDS
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VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

The Village of Mount Horeb Public Services Department is seeking bids for a two-year contract (2024 and 2025) with optional two-year extension for mowing and trimming of public land along the Springdale Street corridor between Perimeter Rd. and Hwy. 18-151. For details, maps and more information, contact Jeff Gorman, Public Services Director, at (608) 437-3351 or jeff.gorman@mounthorebwi.info.

Bids are due at noon, Friday, January 12.

Publish: 12/27/23 **WNAXLP**

NOTICE OF VILLAGE CAUCUS
VILLAGE OF BLUE MOUNDS
JANUARY 10, 2024
6:15 P.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the electors of the Village of Blue Mounds, in Dane County, State of Wisconsin, that a Caucus for said Village will be held at the Village Hall at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Nominations for candidates will be taken for two village trustees. In order to be qualified to be nominated, candidates must be village residents. A qualified elector of the Village is authorized to make nominations at the caucus. All offices will be voted on at the spring election to be held Tuesday, April 2, 2024.

Posted: 12/28/2023

Mary Jo Michek, Village Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: 12/28/23 **WNAXLP**

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- Clinic CMA/LPN – .8 FTE position working in our OB/GYN clinics
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- Respiratory Therapist – part-time day or night position & a .6 FTE weekender position
- Med Tech/MLT or CLS – .9 FTE p.m. shift position and a .5 or .6 FTE Premium Pay Weekender Day shift position.
- Operating Room Tech – .8 FTE position. \$3,000 Employment Bonus eligible!
- Med/Surg Unit Clerk/CNA – .6 FTE day/evening shift.
- RN Skilled Nursing Care – .6 FTE p.m. shift position. \$3,000 Employment Bonus eligible!
- RN Float – .75FTE p.m./night shift position. \$33,750 Employment Bonus eligible!
- RN Med/Surg Unit – .6 FTE day/evening shift position. \$3,000 Employment Bonus eligible!
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- Environmental Services – part-time to full-time evening and day shift positions. \$1,000 Employment Bonus!
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Home News.....	10 am Thursday, the week prior to publication
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