

ELECTION NEWS

A first look at the candidates for Mount Horeb Village Board



Stephen Sopcak

continued on page 12

After months of debate, board votes 4-3 not to rezone for Langhús

A young woman in a marching band uniform, smiling and holding a trumpet. The uniform is red and white with 'M' and 'H' on the front. She is wearing a white hat with a red band and a silver emblem. Other band members are visible in the background.

London invasion!

A total of 135 local music students headed to London from December 27 through January 3 for an unforgettable trip that included performing in the iconic New Year's Parade. See more on page 8. Pictured above, senior Clem Christian marches in the parade. Photo contributed.

Farm Toy show draws a big crowd at high school



The Mt. Horeb FFA Alumni held its 33rd Annual Toy Show on Sunday, January 11. The show ran from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the High School Main Gym and Commons. Vendors sold and displayed toy farm machinery, construction equipment, NASCAR items and more. The show also featured a free pedal tractor pull competition for children. Proceeds fund graduating FFA member scholarships. Clockwise from top left: Brock Pelton, of Lyndon Station, with his assortment of hats and toys; Tom Magnuson, of Mount Horeb, with a custom-built pedal tractor; a miniature barn scene; FFA students greeting attendees at the door. Photos by Matt Geiger.



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Letters to the Editor

Vote not to rezone was ‘shameful’

The 4-3 vote on Wednesday night by the Village of Mount Horeb board to reject the Langhus on Main project proposal was shameful. In spite of the specific objectives contained in the Village Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Development Plan and Downtown

Tax Incremental Financing Plan the board caved to the well-organized opposition campaign of self-interested downtown neighbors.

The message sent to potential developers, future business prospects and existing Mount Horeb businesses is that our Village is not interested in building our downtown into a sustainable, vibrant area. The well-respected local developer over the last year has made significant improve-

ments to the proposed plan in response to the Plan Commission and public comments. The cost and time committed to this process has been huge. The cost to Mount Horeb’s future is even greater. The results of the Village Board vote is a blighted hole in our downtown landscape and a blemish on our reputation not able to be ignored by anyone who may have considered Mount Horeb for development or a business location.

As we face decisions on who will be elected to our Village Board in the coming months, I hope Mount Horeb residents will think about this shameful vote and elect thoughtful representatives who will preserve our unique Village character and build our residential and commercial tax base for current and future residents.

Brad Murphy
Mount Horeb

Pfister is no ‘villain’

In response to last week’s letter: Mr. Grundahl, if you wanted your letter to present even a smidgen of believability, you sure picked the wrong person to declare the “villain” of your story.

Alex Pfister has been an absolute pillar of this community for his entire existence. At every opportunity,

he has given of his time, shared his expertise and supported worthy causes. He owns numerous village properties which are all beautifully and pridefully maintained.

He is much loved and is most worthy of our respect.

Joy Martinson
Mount Horeb

Obituaries

Susan Kay Speth



October 6, 1946 –
January 2, 2026

CAMBRIDGE - Susan Kay Speth, age 79, of Cambridge, Wis., passed away suddenly on Friday, January 2, 2026, at her home.

Born October 6, 1946, in Madison, Wis., she was the daughter of Frances (Gent) Greve and Russell Greve. She graduated from Mount Horeb High School and worked at Madison Area Technical College in a variety of roles for her entire career. She cared deeply for her extended family and was always there with a helping hand.

Sue enjoyed creating and caring for her extensive gardens, finding the perfect gifts for family and friends, and was an avid quilter. In her later years, Sue collected Pickard china and produced the Pickard china newsletter which was distributed nationwide. She loved to feed her little bird friends, including the five-foot-tall Sandhill cranes that returned to her backyard bird feeder year after year. Every summer she waited with bated breath to see how her daylilies would bloom.

She was a devoted mother to Robert Speth and life partner to Fred Brown. She is survived by her life partner, Fred Brown; brother, Steve Greve; son, Robert (Kristen) Speth; and grandchildren, Jacqueline Speth and Russell Speth. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frances and Russell Greve; and sister, Elizabeth

Julson.

A visitation and service were held at GUNDERSON CAMACHO MOUNT HOREB FUNERAL AND CREMATION CARE, 500 N. Eighth St., Mount Horeb, on Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., followed by a light lunch at the Stone Porch Alehouse, 950 Kimball Lane, Verona, Wis. Burial was at LIBERTY CORNERS CEMETERY, Town of Salem, Wis., at 3 p.m. on Saturday.

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

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Ruth D. Haglund



September 6, 1941 –
January 8, 2026

MOUNT HOREB - Ruth D. (Howery) Haglund, 84, of Mount Horeb, passed away on Thursday January 8, 2026, after complications with chemotherapy treatment. She was born on September 6, 1941, the eldest of five children born to Ervin and Martha (Evenson) Howery of Cross Plains Township and was raised on the family farm.

Ruth graduated from Black Earth High School in 1959, and married Gerald “Jerry” Haglund on January 13, 1962. Their seven-year marriage produced two sons. Ruth worked as a legal secretary for multiple firms for many years while raising

her boys, eventually retiring and taking on part-time secretarial duties for the Mount Horeb Mail until her recent cancer diagnosis. She was also involved in the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Legal Secretaries.

Ruth liked 19th century American expansionist history, particularly regarding her Norwegian heritage. She was instrumental in transforming the Black Earth train depot into the Black Earth Historical Society and volunteered there for several years. She also researched her family’s genealogical records as far back as two centuries before they arrived in America, and kept a database of milestones, stories, and contact information for all the descendants of her great-grandparents on both sides. In her earlier years she also enjoyed crafting, sewing, quilting and baking (especially Norwegian pastries). She also enjoyed tending to her flower garden and collecting many things, of which antique dolls were her favorite.

Ruth is survived by her sons, Todd (Lisa) Haglund of Mount Horeb and Trygve (Rebecca) Haglund of Oregon; step grandson, Patric Conner of Livingston, Wis.; and granddaughter, Anneka Haglund of Lake Forest, Ill.; She is further survived by siblings, LeRoy Howery of Ellensburg, Wash., Jerry (Joyce) Howery on the family, now century old farm, Mount Horeb, and Karen (Holly) Howery of Halifax, Nova Scotia; brother-in-law, Leland Danz of Black Earth, many nieces and nephews and their children, and a database full of cousins. Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, Ervin and Martha; sister, Shirley Danz of Black Earth; and nephew, Jason Howery of Mount Horeb.

A funeral service will be held at IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb, at 11 a.m. on Friday, January

16, 2026, with Pastor Jared Parmley presiding. Burial will take place at Valley Home Cemetery. Visitation will be held at GUNDERSON CAMACHO MOUNT HOREB FUNERAL AND CREMATION CARE, 500 N. Eighth St., Mount Horeb, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and also at the church from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Friday.

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

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Delores Colleen Robb Esser



June 16, 1932 –
January 4, 2026

MOUNT HOREB - Delores Colleen Robb Esser was born on June 16, 1932, to Millie C. Halverson and Milo C. Robb. She was the only daughter growing up with her three brothers, Franklin, Myron and Harlow. She married Philip P. Esser on February 6, 1954, in Mount Horeb, Wis. They had three children, Debra Kay, Kevin Douglas and Marla Jean.

Delores had never lived on a farm until she got married. After 12 ½ months, her husband, Phil was drafted into the U.S. Army. She stayed on the farm with the help of a hired man until she got him out on a hardship discharge after 15 months.

They farmed until March 1995, when they rented the land out, building a new home on Erb Road in 1996, where they resided until they moved to Noel Manor in March of 2017.

Delores worked off the farm as a bookkeeper, and later as a caregiver and nanny. Her one joy was babies. She retired when her husband, Philip, got dementia. Delores liked to sew, refinish furniture and bake. One of her spectacular assets was making cinnamon rolls. Every time an occasion came about she was asked to make her cinnamon rolls. And when she had made her double batch, she would kindly give her children the extras which they loved immensely.

She was a member of the Saint Ignatius Catholic Church since 1954. She taught religion classes there for a few years and was also a member of the Altar Society for a few years. She was on the outreach board of the Senior Center in Mount Horeb for 16 years.

Delores is survived by her children, Deb (Alvin) Jefferson, Kevin (friend Joy) and Marla Esser; grandchildren, Tia Gibson (James), Jeremy Jefferson (significant other Jess) and Sage and Sierra Signor, San Diego, Calif.; great-grandchildren, Shawn Galway, Phinley Johnson and Parker Johnson, Zaiden,

Quinlin and Sage Gibson; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins from both sides of the family. She is also survived by her in-laws, Fay (Bill) Skews, Lola Robb, Jim (Esther) Esser, Eugene Esser and Doris Zweifel.

Delores will be laid to rest next to her husband, Phillip, at St. Ignatius Cemetery in Mount Horeb. A celebration of life will be held early this summer, with more details to follow. Many thanks to Kerri, Lisa and staff at Four Winds Manor for all the care, love and support that was provided.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Agrace HospiceCare would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

Mom, grandma, great-grandma - we love you.

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WNA praises bill for enhancing transparency

By Matt Geiger
Mount Horeb Mail

On Tuesday, December 9, Governor Tony Evers signed Senate Bill 440 relating to the how government and court notices that appear in newspapers are published. The change, championed by Representative Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) ensures the continued integrity and print quality of important government information known as legal notices, said supporters.

An important premise upon which the principle of democracy is based is that information about government activities must be accessible for people to make informed decisions. For more than two hundred years, newspapers have served as the critically important independent third-party oversight between units of government and the public via the publication of legal notices. The publication of legal notices in newspapers creates a record verifying that government officially informed the public about actions that may affect their rights, such as zoning changes, tax sales, public hearings, or new regulations.

The legislation authored by Representative Novak allows newspapers to address the changes in technology used in the production and printing of vitally important public information. The Wisconsin Newspaper Association on behalf of this



Governor Tony Evers signed Senate Bill 440, relating to the how government and court notices that appear in newspapers are published on Tuesday, December 9 of 2025.

newspaper and the Wisconsin newspaper industry applaud Representative Novak for his work to support the continued newspaper publication of legal notices that allow citizens and journalists to remain informed and to monitor the actions of our government.

In her testimony support-

ing the bill, Beth Bennett, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, touted it as a needed change that enhances the cause of government transparency and independent journalism.

“Every legal notice published by a newspaper is uploaded in real time each day

or week by the publishing newspaper,” said Bennett.

WisconsinPublicNotices.org is maintained by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association on behalf of the newspaper industry at no additional cost to government. All legal notices appearing on WisconsinPublicNotices.org are searchable and avail-

able to the public at no cost.

“The mandated use of the Arial typeface became law in 2011 following an agreement between the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and the Department of Administration to streamline the newspaper certification process,” Bennett explained. “Prior to

2011 there was no required typeface for the publication of notices. Every two years each newspaper seeking certification would provide the Department of Administration with the typeface that it intended to use for the publication of legal notices. The Department would calculate the rate that the newspaper could charge for a legal notice based on the space occupied by the typeface and a calculation involving the cost of newsprint and labor used to produce the newspaper.”

The thinking at the time, she said, was that eliminating the need to calculate various typefaces would streamline the certification process.

“Fast forward to today and what has been working well for the past 14 years has hit a snag. Unfortunately, some newspapers are now struggling to meet the Arial requirement because of the layout and design platform that they use. The Arial typeface in some instances is no longer available to the newspaper,” she continued. “The Wisconsin Newspaper Association alerted the Department of Administration to this problem. In discussing how to address the situation it was agreed by the DOA and the WNA that the newspaper industry would seek a legislative change to return the statute to pre-2011 status by requiring no set typeface for the publication of legal notices.”

Women’s euchre league celebrates, readies for new season

The Mount Horeb Women’s Euchre League celebrated the end of its fall season with a holiday party.

The fall champions were The Crazy Heifers, Jessica Peterson and Susan Lampert Smith, aided by substitute Lynn Judd, who also plays with the professionals at the Sugar River Euchre League. Second place was a four way tie between The Beer Snobs, Cherie Rosseter and Kate Skogen, as well as Euchre? I Hardly Know Her, Maggie Stack and Emily Hansel; Teachers Turning Tricks, Melissa Piscitelli and Staci Meister; and The Left Bowers, Jen Mullen-dore and Cheri Janssen.

The card players presented a check for \$229.58 to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry.

The money comes from dues plus a kitty that grows each time a team is “euchred.” Since each euchre costs 25 cents a player, the final total is a mystery. Did someone run out of quarters or just dump their purse into the kitty? This fun-loving



group meets Tuesday evenings in winter at Norsk Golf Bowl.

The next season runs from Jan. 20 to March 24. There’s still room for teams of two, or women who would like to be on the substitute list. There is a \$40 per team entry donation. For more information, email Jessica Peterson jess_pete@yahoo.com.

Above: A white elephant gift exchange and a “draw for a partner” card game were highlights of the Mount Horeb Women’s Euchre League holiday party.

At right: Tammy Zander accepts a check from the euchre players for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry.



Sugar River Euchre

Sugar River Euchre
– by Stan Hook

The Kurniki’s Pipe Benders twisted their way to a 14 point lead by the end of the first round. The Red Mouse Shufflers discovered that if they shuffled the cards one extra shuffle, the cards turned in their favor and by the end of the second round, the Shufflers had a 9 point lead. They continued with this strategy throughout the remainder of the match, creating 31 major leaks in the Pipe Benders’ plumbing.

It was not looking good for the Norsk Pranksters when they lost all 4 games in the third round, giving up 39 points to Kurniki’s Express. Pranksters Chris and Jolene Hook absorbed the blunt of this punishment when Opie Taylor and Tracy Haag held them to a single point in that round. In the fifth round, Pranksters Larry Losenegger and Dave Hook were held to 5 points by engineers Jim Boland and Shawn Farrell. Not only was this the only game Jim and Shawn won all night, but it was also the only one Larry and Dave lost. Engineers Karen Miller and John Scheidegger also pulled into the station with 110 points. The Pranksters hung on to win by 28 points.

The Norsk Cowboys, winners of the first half, arrested and charged the Viking Trolls with leaving 40 points under the bridge.

The almost get out of jail moment for the Trolls came in the fourth round when all four couples scored 15 points for a perfect round. By doing so, they picked up 33 points leaving them just 10 points behind the Cowboys. It was at this point that the Cowboys pulled out the big guns, shoving aside all hopes by the Trolls that they could climb the hill to victory.

Although Kohl Wenger and Larry Disch devoured 110 lbs. of cheese for the Sportsman’s Bar Cheese Eaters, that wasn’t enough to cover the low appetites of teammates Brett and Giff Hoesly who consumed no more than 70 lbs. of cheese, this week’s low score. After being down the entire match, the Red Mouse Uff-das barely pulled this one out by picking up 10 points in the eighth round to win by 5 points.

The much larger rodents, the J&M Bar River Rats, were able to pull just enough cheese from the Kleeman Hay Shakers’ stores to win this one. Down in the match through the first five rounds, the Hay Shakers got it together in the sixth round, scoring 60 points to take a 15 point lead. That lead was short lived however, as they found themselves down by 4 after the seventh round. Even with Al Zimmerman and Barb Judd scoring 112 points for the Hay Shakers, they still were not able sew

Standings
J&M Bar River Rats 1-0
Norsk Cowboys 1-0
Norsk Pranksters 1-0
Red Mouse Shufflers 1-0
Red Mouse Uff-Da 1-0
Kleeman’s Hay Shakers 0-1
Kurniki’s Express 0-1
Kurniki’s Pipe Benders 0-1
Sportsman’s Cheese Eaters 0-1
Viking Trolls 0-1

Schedule for Jan 15
Shufflers at Express (7:00)
Pipe Benders at Uff-Da (7:00)
Cowboys at River Rats (7:30)
Cheese Eaters at Pranksters (7:00)
Trolls at Hay Shakers (7:00)

up a victory. I don’t believe they even found the needle in the haystack. The Hay Shakers lost by 8 points. This was largely due in part to the 114 points collected by River Rats Don Boley and Jack Gehin, this week’s high score.

Free half-hour history at the Historium

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society’s *Half-Hour History* program is a once-a-month midday speaker series featuring engaging presentations on local and regional history. These FREE programs are open to all and take place at the Driftless Historium at 1:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

Join us for the next installment in this series, “Dating Your Historic Family Photographs” presented by historian Arlo Paust on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. Do you have family photographs stashed in

a drawer or box at home, perhaps passed down from a relative or rescued from a family estate—but you don’t know who the people are or when the photos were taken? Arlo will provide tips and strategies to help date and identify these mystery photos. Attendees are encouraged to bring photos that they may have questions about or just want to share with fellow history enthusiasts.

A librarian and local historian, Paust’s research focuses on Norwegian American genealogy. He has volunteered with the

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society for eight years, identifying photographs and supporting research on several exhibits, including “History in 3D: A Stereoview Sensation.” A skilled graphic designer, Paust also serves as editor of the popular MHAHS newsletter, *Past Times*.

For more information call 608-437-6486 or email moverland@mthorebhistory.org. Up next: “Beneath Our Feet: The Past and Present of Cave of the Mounds” presented by COM Assistant General Manager Tate Phillips on February 18.

Cabin Fever Reliever in Vermont

Everyone is welcome to attend a “Cabin Fever Reliever” on Sunday, January 25th at 6:30 pm in the Gathering Place for a discussion of Is it time to get an Electric Car? Learn about

the development of electric cars and their expanding sales, the current worldwide manufacture and use of electric cars as well as the environmental impact and related considerations. As a

bonus, there will be a discussion of “Robo-taxis” and other self-driving vehicles. Vermont Church is located at 9886 Vermont Church Road just west of Highway 78.



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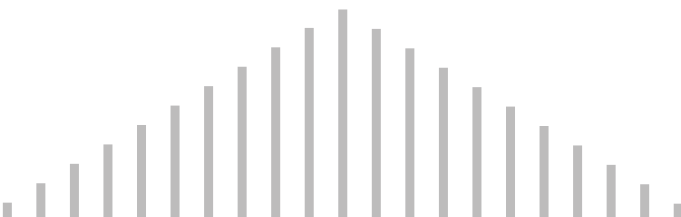
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Recreation Notes

2026 facility reservations are now open! Create an account with our new CivicRec software and book your event online or at the Rec. office today. The new software change will provide a more user-friendly experience, improve mobile access, and allow our customers to register for programs and events while also renting a Facility or Park Shelter within the same transaction.

NEW PROGRAM! Learn the essential techniques of **Doll and Toy Restoration** in this hands-on workshop. Learn how to: detangle and restyle doll hair, remove marks, stains, and grime, soften plush for faux fur, and prevent future wear and damage. Each participant will be provided with a doll and all necessary restoration supplies. This class is on Thursday, January 29th, from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The registration deadline is January 21st; the cost is \$40 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents.

Does your child enjoy LEGOS? Sign them up for **Extreme STEM: Copters & Spy Planes!** Students in K-3rd grade will build a helicopter, eggbeater, paddle boat, and spy plane with LEGO bricks and challenge themselves to problem-solve and innovate. This class runs Mondays from 5:15 pm to 6:15 pm, January 26th through March 2nd. The registration deadline is January 19th. \$90 for residents and \$100 for nonresidents.

Learn babysitting 101! Our **Babysitting Class** will provide youth ages 10 to 15, who are planning to babysit, with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and responsibly give care for infants and children. This training will help participants to develop leadership skills, learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe, and help children behave. Session 1 is January 31st from 9 am to 3 pm (30-minute lunch break). The cost is \$95 for residents and \$105

for non-residents. Register by January 26th!

HOW TO REGISTER: There are multiple ways to register for programs and activities.
Online (go to <https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mhrd>)
In-person at 105 N. Grove Street

Place completed registration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment in 24-hour drop box
Email completed registration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment to mhrec@mounthorebwi.info

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES:
1/19, YEL Extreme Stem
1/21, Doll & Toy Restoration
1/26, Babysitting Class Sess. 1
2/2, Cookie Decorating Class
2/2, Early Release Painting Class Sess. 2

Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

**140 Years Ago-
Jan. 20, 1886**

We are happy to mention the fact that not a single death occurred in Mount Horeb last year.

J.P. Moe has been engaged by a theatrical troupe at Black Earth to execute some of his artistic ability.

Herman Dahle received fifteen carloads of ice and is now filling his refrigerator at this place. John Pieh is also falling in line with two carloads.

The Masquerade and dance given by Lange & Thompson at the rink on the evening of January 15th, was a complete success. We venture to assert that a more orderly or well-conducted entertainment has never been given in our town. About 275 were in attendance. Miss Bertha Berg was awarded first prize; John C. Cowie, second; K. T. Lee, third. Seventy-six numbers were sold for the dance, which followed, holding until daylight.

**130 Years Ago-
Jan. 16, 1896**

Moses Lowe reports a boy at his house who came to take up his permanent resi-

dence last Monday. Those anti-button busting suspenders manufactured by Lewis Martin are selling, “selling like sixty.” Call.

Pete Nace disposed of his fine gray team, beauties they were, although 120 dollars was all that was realized for those two noble steeds.

The board of directors of the Blue Mounds Fire and Lightning Insurance Company offers a reward of \$200.00 to anyone who will bring to justice the culprit who maliciously put fire to K. K. Syvrud’s barn, on the night of Jan. 2d, 1896.

A new partnership in the stock buying business has been formed between Andrew Bratrud and Chas. Bowers, the latter purchasing half interest in the tobacco warehouse and the feed business. Mr. Bower has bought the Lowe property on Second street where he will take upon residence in the spring.

**120 Years Ago-
Jan. 18, 1906**

Skating on the ice has been a novelty for Mt. Horeb. A couple of weeks’ sport of this kind was greatly enjoyed by our young people near the railroad bridge on smooth ice forming after

the rain two weeks ago. Knut Granum will be the new manager of the farmers’ store at this place, taking possession of the management the first of next month. There is considerable talk among stockholders of this organization of putting up a new store building, as is not large enough nor suitably arranged to show goods.

**100 Years Ago-
Jan. 19, 1926**

Mt. Horeb will be the location of the third cooperative marketing institute for foreign cheese in America on February 10-11-12. The program is being arranged which will cover the various phases of the cheese industry from the cow to the consumer, economic and marketing discussions predominating.

From the Parkway Theatre: Monday night is family night. The whole family admitted for 25 cents. We will have to discontinue Monday night shows unless we have better attendance. The pictures we are showing are good as we can buy and we would like to see a full house on family nights. The interior of City Hall is being redecorated. For sale: International Correspondent school course. Your choice of subjects. Circumstances present owner for using same. Exceptionally good chance for someone to gain a liberal correspondence education at a small cost. Inquire at this office.

**110 Years Ago-
Jan 21, 1916**

Interstate Ski Tournament at Mount Horeb, Saturday, Jan. 22. Admission 25 and 50 cents, teams free.

John Wittwer is still making cheese as the Lukken factory runs right along and is now receiving about 3,000 lb. per day, patrons from other factory districts are hauling their milk to Mr. Wittwer.

An unusual number of tramps have been seeking shelter at the marshal’s tramp quarters these cold nights. We notice by the Madison papers that tramps are treated as criminals and are arrested, as there is plenty of work to be had cutting ice, but we are afraid this law will not cut much ice with many of them.

W.H. Witt of town of Middleton brought his parents a good load of wood ready for the stove Wednesday. It speaks well for the son that remembers his folks in this way although they may not be needy.

Mt. Horeb. L.W. Garfoot recently installed Baroness water cup on the farms of Mrs. Christ Dagenhart and Ed. Offerdahl.

There will be a good lunch served at the Mt. Horeb House the night of the Masquerade.

**90 Years Ago-
Jan. 16, 1936**

Ted Lingard, Springdale, was dismissed in Superior court Tuesday from the charge of operating a car without a driver’s license.

John P. Connors, Klevenville, deceased, left assets of \$11,000, liabilities, \$1,000.

William Kittleson, Perry, is serving as juror in Judge Timerman’s court.

Dr. E.J. Mithus, who has been confined to his home the past two weeks by a leg injury suffered in a fall, is able to attend to his professional duties at this time.

**60 Years Ago-
Jan. 20, 1966**

Parents-do you want to understand the new mathematics the children are taking? You can accomplish this by taking modern math for parents on Thursday night at 7:00 pm.

A compact and lightweight electrical battery for vehicle propulsion that could help alleviate the nation’s air pollution problem is under joint development by the Edison Electric Institute and General Dynamics. The battery system would be charged simply by plugging it into any electrical outlet.

The Rev. Bill Redman officiated at the 7:30 pm service Wednesday, Dec.

29, 1965 in the Springdale Lutheran Church for the wedding of Judith Messerschmidt and Charles LeMond Sowl.

**50 Years Ago-
Jan. 15, 1976**

Vandals left nothing untouched in the 124-year-old Hauge Log Church near Daleyville. The pulpit, pews, communion railing, early everything in the small church was broken.

Specials at Vasen’s Ben Franklin: Pillow Cases to Embroider, 1 pr., \$1.59; Nylon Chiffon Scarves, 79¢; Bridge Size Playing Cards, 29¢.

The Mount Horeb Board of Education hired Ellen Wehrs as remedial reading teacher and Daniel Gronli as sixth grade reading teacher.

Henry Luhman, Jr. age 50, died unexpectedly Monday, Jan. 12 at this home in rural Mount Horeb. He had been a farmer in the Mount Horeb area all of his life.

**20 Years Ago-
Jan. 19, 2006**

Ruby B. Fink, 76, of Mount Horeb passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006 with her family present.

Greg and Traci Jones of Mount Horeb proudly announce the birth of their son, Jack Gregory, born Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006 at Meriter Hospital, Madison.

Garrison Lindley and Tammie Lynch are winners from the first week of the Winter Weigh In at the Public Library. Patrons who check out at least two pounds of materials may enter to win.

Thank you to our 2025 Mt. Horeb Public Library Donors!

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ATTENTION FARMERS: Crop insurance rebate deadline approaching

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) reminds producers to apply for crop insurance premium rebates. The rebate application is web-based and is available on DATCP’s website until January 31, 2026, or until program funding is exhausted. For more information on conservation programming, visit DATCP’s website or sign up for email updates.

All are welcome to a free meal

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Music students make memories across the pond



Students, teachers and chaperones left Saturday, December 27 and arrived back Saturday, January 3. There were more than 135 students performing and a full group size of about 210. “The experience was once-in-a-lifetime for our students; performing for streets full of people in one of the world’s greatest cities was electric,” said band teacher Kellen Dorner. “Our students did a great job bringing their excitement and enthusiasm to the London crowds, and it showed in the happy faces singing along to our tunes as we marched past.”

SCANDIHOOVIAN Winter Fest!

Join in the fun and enter our SCANDIHOOVIAN RED HAT DECORATING CONTEST

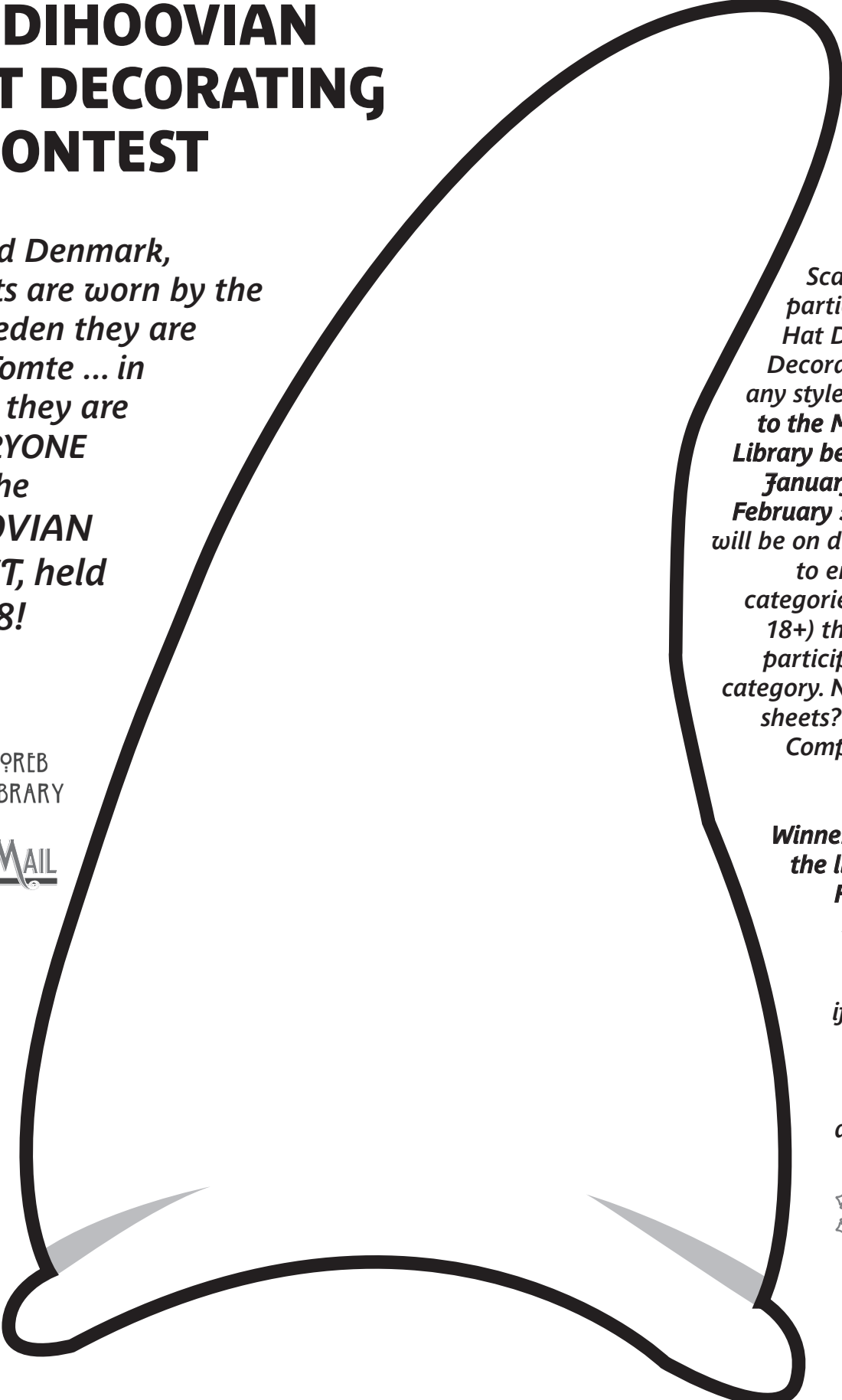
In Norway and Denmark, pointy red hats are worn by the Nisse ... in Sweden they are worn by the Tomte ... in Mount Horeb, they are worn by EVERYONE to celebrate the SCANDIHOOVIAN WINTER FEST, held February 6–8!

Sponsored by the



Show your Scandinavian spirit by participating in the Red Hat Decorating Contest! Decorate your Red Hat in any style you'd like. Bring it to the Mount Horeb Public Library between Wednesday, January 14 and Thursday, February 5 at 4 pm. The hats will be on display for everyone to enjoy! With four age categories (3-6, 7-10, 11-17, 18+) the entire family can participate! Prizes in each category. Need extra coloring sheets? Stop in the library. Complete rules listed on the coloring sheet.

Winners will be posted at the library on Saturday, February 7 at 9 am. Artists need not be present to win (but it's more fun if you are!). Winners will have their photos in the Mount Horeb Mail and receive a prize!



Name: _____ Age Group: ☐ 3-6 ☐ 7-11 ☐ 12-17 ☐ 18+ (Adults are encouraged to participate!)

ENTRY FORM: *(This portion will be removed before being displayed.)*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone/Email: _____

WINNERS WILL BE POSTED AT THE LIBRARY ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT 9 AM.
Artists need not be present to win (but it's more fun if you are!) – Winners will have their photos in the Mount Horeb Mail and receive a prize!

CONTEST RULES:

- One entry per person.
- Entries become the property of the Mount Horeb Public Library if not picked up by February 14.
- Hats will be judged on originality and creativity.
- Mail or hand-deliver your entry to the Mount Horeb Public Library, 105 Perimeter Road, Mount Horeb, WI 53572 by Thursday, February 5, 2026, 4 pm.
- Extra red hat coloring contest sheets are available at the Mount Horeb Public Library.
- If you win and would like your photo in the Mount Horeb Mail, you must have your photo taken at the library by February 14th.
- Prizes must be picked up at the Library

DENIED

continued from page 1

as a request for Tax Increment Funding (TIF) from Jeff Grundahl to be discussed for consideration in a closed meeting following the board meeting. Bryan Kleinmaier, Village attorney, explained the TIF is a separate issue, and a voting member can vote differently for that than his/her vote on the GDP.

Jones referred to sections of Village Ordinance 17.49 (6) as his basis for his motion.

Ordinance 17.49 (6): Criteria for approval. As a basis for determining the acceptability of a Planned Development District petition, the following criteria shall be applied with specific consideration as to whether or not the general development plan for the proposed district is consistent with the spirit and intent of this chapter and has been prepared

By the Numbers

- Public Comments – 20
- Those in favor of the project – 6
- Opposed to the project – 14
- Those who registered in favor (but did not speak) – 10
- Those who registered opposed – 29
- Shortest meeting regarding project – 3 ½ hours vs two running 5 ½ hours

with competent professional advice and guidance.

(a) Character and intensity of land use. In a Planned Development District, the uses proposed and their intensity and arrangement on the site shall be of a visual and functional character, which:

1. Is compatible with the physical nature of the site with particular concern for preservation of natural features and open space.

4. Will not create a traffic or parking demand incompatible with the existing or proposed facilities to serve it.

(b) Economic feasibility and impact. The petitioner shall provide evidence satisfactory to the Village Board that the proposed development is economically feasible, that the developer has adequate available financing, and that the development will not adversely affect the economic prosperity of the Village or the values of surrounding properties.

Before voting, Kleinmaier explained to the board if they were in favor of the project, to cast a nay vote and if against the project, cast a yay vote, recognizing it is reverse of the norm. Interestingly, a motion to deny an item at the November 19 Plan Commission meeting was made and Czyzewski said he is not in favor of negative motions saying, “I want to point out that it is better to make a motion that takes action rather than a motion that denies action.” Questioned if it was a law, he continued “it is just best practices and supported by legal.”

Kleinmaier explained it was optional to vote on the CSM since the GDP was denied. The CSM was to approve the three lots at 208, 214 and 220 E. Main being combined to one lot. Jeff Grundahl was asked his

opinion on the CSM vote and he clarified with Kleinmaier that if the CSM is approved it would not require the papers to be filed with the County, to which Kleinmaier agreed, the papers did not need to be filed. With that, Grundahl suggested the Board continue with the vote. All board members voted in favor of the CSM.

The third and final consideration for Langhus on Main was the SIP, approving all the external project details, such as building materials, windows, etc. All board members, less Fendrick, voted to approve. Fendrick said he voted nay to be consistent with his GDP vote.

Staff and Applicant input

Nic Owen, Village Administrator, Ben Rohr, Village planner, Rob Wright, Village engineer, Jenny Minter, Fire Chief and Doug Vierck, Police Chief all provided written or in person comments on the final presentation.

Rohr’s written and public comments reiterated how the project compares with the existing Mixed Use Plan Development zoning codes in a Central Business District and those in draft form for the zoning code rewrite. Although many facets of the project meet the Village Standards, he advised the exceptions to the code requirements, such as lack of open space, dwelling units as an accessory to commercial space and a reduction in parking stalls from 66 to 55.

Wright reviewed the traffic impact using the revised project reduction in dwelling units and stated there should not be any additional impact

to traffic with the project. His opinion mirrors those of a prior traffic study completed by a third-party firm hired by Grundahl, as well as a local study completed by the Police Department.

Both Minter and Vierck were included in the review of the project throughout the various changes and have no concern relating to their professional responsibilities.

Grundahl and Steve Shulfer, CEO/Partner of Sketchworks Architecture, reviewed the history of the project, the six iterations of the building made due to feedback from Plan Commission members and public meeting comments. The building was reduced from four to three stories, the number of units decreased from 64 to 44, increasing the commercial space from approximately 6500 sq ft to over 9000 sq ft, increasing the parking ratio to 1.25 spaces per unit, and increasing bike parking stalls from 10 to 44. Grundahl said the Plan Commission approved the project with a 4-3 vote and recommended approval of it to the Village Board

Approval of a new Police Officer, Sunn Café alcohol licensing and recognition of World Migratory Bird Day

Samuel Erickson was sworn in as a new officer, starting the Police Academy on January 12. He was one of twelve applicants narrowed to six finalists for the position. Erickson graduated from Madison College and with support of family and friends cheering him on, took the Oath of Honor given by Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk.

An Alcohol Beverage license was issued to Rokit, LLC, DBA Sunn Café with the appointment of Taddeus

Rockitowski as the agent for Rokit, LLC.

The Sustainability and Natural Resources (SNR) Committee recommended a Resolution for Mount Horeb to become a member of Bird City. Committee member Kerry Beheler prepared the application, noting the Village has met the criteria for applying to join the group. The annual fee for membership is paid through the Committee’s budget.

Final Comments

All board members during their respective committee reports or discussion of Langhus on Main mentioned they appreciated the public’s attendance and feedback on the development project. Best encouraged people to “stay engaged,” Fendrick opined it is important to look beyond today when projects come before the board for consideration.

Czyzewski said, “when chairing a meeting I try to keep the meeting informative, effective and legal.” He appreciated Kleinmaier’s assistance during the meeting tonight. He reminded the board of the January 26 zoning code rewrite draft review followed by a strategic meeting at the high school, including the Village Board, Chamber, and the School Board. He said more information would follow.

Owen reported his goals for 2026 include proposals for the Lukken property housing development, which are due February 16. Approximately six developers attended the initial meeting in person or via Zoom to learn of the project parameters from both he and Kristen Fish-Peterson, the Village Economic Development Consultant. He also reported there is active interest from a potential buyer for the Artemis building on E. Main Street. He is assisting the prospective owners with a grant application. Lastly, Owen said his primary goal is to continue to move forward to securing land for a Business Park.

Gaffney reported there will be a Primary vote on February 17 for six candidates for Village Trustee for two seats and a County Circuit Court position as there are three candidates for one seat. Absentee voting will begin on February 3.



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Board of Education Members ‘Immerse Themselves in the Heart of Learning’ at Mount Horeb Area School District

By **AUBREE HANKS**
Mt. Horeb Area School Dist.

The Mount Horeb Area School District Board of Education has continued to deepen its commitment to staying closely connected to the daily life of its schools. Responding to Board President Adam Mertz’s call to action, Board members have been encouraged to continue their liaison roles by regularly visiting their partner schools—stepping into classrooms, attending staff meetings, and building authentic relationships with the students and educators they serve.

Board members have embraced this directive with enthusiasm and care. Director Tom Schlimgen and Vice President Carly Fisher recently shared reflections during Board meetings about the time they spent at the Intermediate Center and the future Elementary School. Director Tom Schlimgen, Vice President Carly Fisher, and Clerk Leah Lipska recently vol-

unteered at the Intermediate Center’s all-day student retreat focused on kindness. The Board of Education’s engagement underscores the time, energy, and genuine dedication the Board pours into understanding and supporting the learning experience in the District.

It is within this spirit of service and community that Board Director Sarah Sarbacher’s recent visit to Mount Horeb High School took place. Her full-day immersion offered another powerful example of the Board’s dedication to understanding the work happening in classrooms each day.

During her visit, Sarah observed a wide range of classes, including International Baccalaureate Personal and Professional Skills, Agricultural Mechanics II, Journalism, Veterinary Science, and Ceramics I. Each classroom provided a unique glimpse into the passion of educators and the curiosity, creativity, and skill of students.



From left to right: Claire Casey, Austin Druid, Sarah Sarbacher, Maddie Niemetscheck, Cal Odgers, Julia Straka, Kim Hillary, Cullen Anderson, Sammy Johnson, Lea Roemer, Sierra Faul, Freja Lutz, Olivia Jensen

A particularly meaningful moment occurred in Kim Hillary’s International Baccalaureate Personal and Professional Skills class, a core element of the International Baccalaureate

Career-related Programme (IBCP). The Programme blends rigorous academic study with career-focused learning, helping students develop global awareness, professional skills, ethical

reasoning, and real-world application. Many high school students report feeling more confident and better prepared for their futures thanks to this rich experience.

While in class, Sarah took time to personally connect with each student as they shared reflections on how culture is represented in books. Students offered thoughtful insights and diverse perspectives—moments that highlight not only the strength of the program but the value of Board members engaging directly with student learning.

In this class, Sarah took time to connect individually with students as they shared reflections on how culture is represented in books—an exchange rich with insight, thoughtful discussion, and diverse perspectives.

Sarah’s visit—along with the ongoing efforts of Director Schlimgen and Vice President Fisher—reflects the Board’s deep commitment to being visible, supportive partners in education. Their continued engagement strengthens relationships across the District and affirms the meaningful work happening in classrooms every day.

District Celebrates Lizzy Mesenberg in Board of Education Student Spotlight

The Mount Horeb Area School District is proud to recognize Lizzy Mesenberg, a senior at Mount Horeb High School, as this month’s Student Spotlight recipient. Lizzy exemplifies the District’s commitment to learning and growth, well-being, and community engagement through her academic excellence, inclusive leadership, and deep dedication to others.

Faculty describe Lizzy as both a “gem” in the classroom and a “forceful leader” in the hallways. She blends intellectual curiosity and academic rigor with humility, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to making MHHS a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students. Her presence elevates classrooms, clubs, and peer spaces alike.



From left to right: Board Director and Liaison to the High School, Sarah Sarbacher; Superintendent Dr. Steve Salerno, Lizzy Mesenberg, proud parents, Amanda and Shane Mesenberg, High School Associate Principal, Talisa Corcoran, and High School Principal, Cody Lundquist.

Lizzy’s leadership is especially evident through her work with HOSA, the

health professions student organization. A key contributor since the club’s

founding just two years ago, she has helped grow membership from six students to

more than 70. Now serving as HOSA President, Lizzy leads with initiative and purpose, providing peers with meaningful opportunities to develop leadership, collaboration, and career-readiness skills.

Beyond HOSA, Lizzy is a trusted leader in Sources of Strength, where she was among the first students to volunteer as a mentor for middle and elementary school students. Through this work, she helps foster belonging across the District and models care, empathy, and connection for younger learners.

Academically, Lizzy is exceptional. One veteran staff member with more than 30 years of experience described her as one of the most intelligent students they have ever taught.

After excelling in advanced coursework, including Pre-Calculus and AP Statistics, Lizzy now serves as a Faculty Assistant, where her ability to connect complex concepts and support both students and teachers has been invaluable.

What truly distinguishes Lizzy, however, is her character. Despite her many accomplishments, she remains approachable, welcoming, and grounded. She leads by example, builds genuine relationships, and consistently lifts others. While the Mount Horeb community will miss her enthusiasm and grace after graduation, Lizzy is exceptionally well prepared to lead a meaningful life and make a positive impact wherever she goes.

BOOKS

continued from page 7

“I grew up in central Illinois and always loved to read,” said Arnston. “Trying to carve out time these days to read has been challenging to say the least.”

“I am currently reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, *The Death in Door County* series by Annelise Ryan,” she continued.

“We were looking to open a bookstore in the area,” said Arnston. “It was always a dream of Melissa’s to own a bookstore. The previous

owner of Kismet knew that we were exploring opening a store. They had relocated to England and had tried to operate the shop from across the pond. After realizing that that would not be possible for the long term, they reached out to us, asking if we would be interested in purchasing Kismet.”

“We closed on the acquisition on March 19, 2025, and were open for business on March 20,” she continued. “When we purchased Kismet, it was with the agreement that we would rename the shop. We rebranded as Garden Wall Bookshop on

September 20, 2025.”

“Our vision for Garden Wall Bookshop is one of a caring, cozy, and welcoming space,” said Arnston. “We are a general interest store and strive to maintain a thoughtfully curated collection of a wide range of topics and interests. If you’re shopping for nonfiction books, you’ll find anything from cookbooks, nature, professional development, memoirs and biographies, poetry, and more. Fiction books cover the genres of fantasy, science fiction, horror, thriller, mystery, romance, and general fiction.”

They carry books for babies all the way through young adults. Special orders and pre-orders of all categories are available by going to their webstore or by calling the shop. They also carry almost 50 artists in the store.

According to Arnston, “it has been a joy getting to know long-time customers of Kismet and building relationships with them. Many of our customers are members of vulnerable communities right now, and we have been told several times how this bookshop is a safe space that folks can relax and find solace in. While

we love books, at the end of the day, we want to create a space that serves the community and creates connections within it.”

“I personally love helping guests find their next read or a gift for someone in their life,” agreed Arnston Choudhury. “Book recommendations are one of my favorite parts of the job!”

Renaming the store was a fun creative exercise for the new owners. The specific wording was inspired by the cult-classic TV show “*Over the Garden Wall*.”

“We had agreed with the previous owners that we

would rebrand the store before we purchased it,” said Arnston Choudhury. “A friend and I had come up with the name after working several different ideas. We both love nature and plants and wanted to find something that is connected to the natural world. So many folks in the area feel a deep connection to the land, and we wanted to find a name that evoked that sense of place. I view gardens as a liminal space, connecting the wilderness with domesticity, and acted as a source of inspiration for generations of authors.”

ELECTION

continued from page 1

array of complex and nuanced issues (including development and zoning, but also myriad other things) that shape the fate of the village for years and generations to come. Who voters choose when they fill out their ballots will have a significant impact on Mount Horeb’s future.

All six village board candidates have received an extensive questionnaire asking about everything from transparency and development to Tax Increment Financing and civility in government. This week, however, we start with a simple introduction. Each candidate shared a little about themselves and why they are running for a seat on the Mount Horeb Village Board.

James Brager grew up in the village. “I lived here from early childhood until I graduated from Mount Horeb High School,” she said. “I then matriculated to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to study political science, and moved to Madison.”

“During college, I continued to work for my father’s business, Brager Heatng and Cooling,” he said. “During that time, I also worked for the Wisconsin State Senate. In 2013 I bought Brager Heating and

Cooling from my father and continue to run it to this day.”

“My wife Lacey and I moved back to Mount Horeb once we started our family, and we now have three strapping young boys as future Vikings!” Brager said. “I am running for Village Trustee because our village has lost its way. I want to help our Village Board represent the villagers better by listening to them, and not private interest.”

“The Village Board’s extreme thirst for ‘economic development’ is out of control, and the village needs to slow down and move more thoughtfully,” Brager continued. “I for one, would like to see our village remain small. We should not be in the business of giving countless exemptions of the zoning code to developers. We should also refrain from changing our zoning code until after the election and more public input can be sought. I want to help Mount Horeb remain the charming and financially responsible place it is.”

Tamiko (Tammy) Clary has lived in Mount Horeb for more than 45 years and seen many changes, she said. “I have an accounting degree and spent my career working in the insurance industry in auditing, compliance, operations and finance,” Clary continued. “The recent building proposal is my first opportunity to become involved with the Village of Mount Horeb government and

I do see opportunity where I could make a difference as a Trustee.”

“I would like to help drive our community to success with consistency as we navigate the housing crisis, high property taxes and adding businesses,” she added.

Ben Jones was born and raised in Dane County before moving to attend Saint Louis University and then the University of Minnesota Law School. Convinced it “was the best place to raise his family,” he moved to Mount Horeb in 2021. He lives in the Village with his wife, Traci, and their four young children.

Jones has worked as an attorney for several government agencies and currently serves as an Administrative Law Judge with the Wisconsin Division of Hearings and Appeals. Long committed to public service, he has served on numerous governmental and nonprofit boards since 2017. Jones was elected to the Mount Horeb Village Board in 2023 and currently chairs three village committees and serves as a village representative with Mount Horeb Area Fire District.

Jones said he is running for re-election to the board “to continue supporting responsible economic growth while preserving what makes Mount Horeb special. Additionally, I hope to lead us in meeting increasing demand for village

services in a cost-effective and responsible manner to maximize the long-term health of the Village.”

Jason Fendrick is originally from Nebraska and has lived in Mount Horeb since 2013. “My wife, Cindy, and I have two sons, Ethan, a Mount Horeb High School graduate and student at the University of Wisconsin, and Aaron, a junior at Mount Horeb High School,” he said. “I have a bachelor’s degree in political science, a law degree, and practiced law in Nebraska for 11 years before moving to Wisconsin for a career change. I’ve worked at Epic since November of 2012 in the internal IT department, and work with many of the servers and database systems that support Epic’s internal operations and public-facing resources.”

Fendrick has actually served on the Mount Horeb Village Board on two occasions. “First, I was elected in the 2019 spring election, and then served until April of 2023,” said Fendrick. “I was then appointed to the board in August of 2025 to fill the remainder of Brett Halverson’s seat [when Halverson moved out of the village].”

“During my first run for the board in 2019, I wanted to see the village add additional parkland, and also wanted to see more commercial and industrial development in town to help reduce the Village’s tax burden on

homeowners,” said Fendrick. “Those two items are now very much in reach with the purchase of the Lukken farm and the plans for the Mount Horeb Recreation Complex, and the work that Village Administrator Nic Owen and economic development consultant Kristen Fish-Peterson have put into a business park proposal over the past few years. I want to continue to work to see those projects to fruition. Also, I enjoy giving back to the village and citizens of Mount Horeb - the first community where Cindy and I owned a home, where our children have spent almost all of their academic careers, and where we expect to remain well into the future.”

Michelle Kelley lives in Mount Horeb with her husband, Mikel. “We have owned our home on South 4th Street for 25 years, where Mikel runs his ceramics studio and where we raised two beautiful daughters, Maggie and Erin, both of whom live in Madison now,” she said.

“I was raised on a dairy and hog farm in Pine Bluff, with my twin brother and I being the youngest of our large Irish Catholic family,” she continued. “My siblings and I are blessed with the most wonderful parents anyone could ask for, Bob and Rosie Farrell.”

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UW-Madison and a Master of Science in Organizational Behavior from Edgewood University. Kelley has worked in higher education administration for her entire career, primarily in Offices of the Registrar at three different institutions in the area. About a year and a half ago, she was ready for a change and now works as a Business Analyst for UW System.

“I am running for Village Trustee because I love this

community and want to be actively involved in shaping its future. I strongly support preserving our historic downtown — keeping it both small and historic — while revitalizing it for today’s world,” Kelley said. “I love hearing people respond with, ‘Oh, you’re from Mount Horeb? I love that place!’ when I say where I’m from. I want that sentiment to continue and grow, as capitalizing on our uniqueness and small-town feel benefits our community in countless ways.”

She said there “are thousands of possibilities for our downtown district that would allow us to preserve its character while thoughtfully bringing it into the 21st century. It will take creativity and collaboration, but that is what meaningful change is all about.”

“Beyond the historic downtown, I am eager to learn more about ways to responsibly increase our tax base and bring new businesses and housing to the community,” Kelley said. “Housing is a critical concern — we need more of it. I am particularly interested in approaches that would create affordable opportunities for those just starting out and wanting to start and raise families here. Creating ways to make Mount Horeb home for these folks would strengthen our community and our schools. I know firsthand that Mount Horeb is an incredible place to raise children and would love to be a part of providing that opportunity to others.”

Stephen Sopcak is a retired Information Technology (IT) engineer with “a diverse skill set that includes project management, process improvement, working with customers, leading meetings, solving problems” and more.

“The reason I’m running for Mount Horeb trustee is to initiate focus groups for our businesses and residents, which then can be used to make informative decisions on the topics and proposals presented the Mount Horeb board and committees,” said Sopcak. “I also want to provide more transparency on how our Mount Horeb administration works and the services that are being provided to our residence.”

TOWN OF PRIMROSE NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Planning Commission meeting for January 2026 will take place at 8468 County Road A, Verona WI, on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, beginning at 7:30pm. The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, and on the Town website. A summary of the agenda will be available on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

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VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT
FEBRUARY 17, 2026 SPRING PRIMARY
VILLAGES OF MOUNT HOREB & BLUE MOUNDS
TOWNS OF SPRINGDALE, PERRY, BLUE MOUNDS, CROSS PLAINS, PRIMROSE & VERMONT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026** for the Spring Primary Election may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. Citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on election day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot.

TO REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MUNICIPAL CLERK, OR GO TO MYVOTE.WI.GOV

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the Spring Primary Election. You may also request an absentee ballot by letter, email, or fax. Your written request must list your voting (registered) address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, your name, and your signature (if by letter or fax). Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, overseas, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, please contact your municipal clerk. You can also personally go to the clerk's office, complete a written certification, and vote an absentee ballot in-person. **YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR PHOTO ID TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

THE DEADLINE FOR MAKING APPLICATION TO VOTE ABSENTEE BY MAIL IS 5:00 P.M., ON THE THURSDAY BEFORE THE ELECTION – FEBRUARY 12, 2026. DATES AND TIMES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE ARE DETERMINED BY EACH MUNICIPALITY, BUT NO EARLIER THAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026 AND NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026. THE TIMES SET BY EACH MUNICIPALITY FOR THE SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION ARE LISTED BELOW.

ALL VOTED BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE MUNICIPAL CLERK BY THE VOTER BY MAIL, IN-PERSON, OR VIA DROP BOX, SO THE BALLOTS CAN BE DELIVERED TO THE PROPER POLLING PLACE BEFORE THE POLLS CLOSE ON FEBRUARY 17, 2026, THE DAY OF THE ELECTION. BALLOTS WILL NOT BE COUNTED IF THEY ARE RECEIVED AFTER 8:00PM ON ELECTION DAY. BALLOTS MUST BE DELIVERED BY THE PERSON WHO VOTED THE BALLOT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES. THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE IN RETURNING THEIR ABSENTEE BALLOT.

To obtain an absentee ballot send a written request to:

Village of Mount Horeb
Alyssa Gaffney, Clerk
138 E. Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Email: alyssa.gaffney@mounthorebwi.info
Phone: 608-437-9404
Office hours: 7a-4:30p Mon-Thurs
7am-12:00pm Fridays
Absentee Voting hours: Weekdays
Feb 3rd-Feb 13th 8am-4pm
Sat, Feb 7th and 14th 10am-2pm

Village of Blue Mounds
Mary Jo Michek, Clerk/Treasurer
11011 Brigham Avenue
PO Box 189
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
Office hours: Mon-Thurs
8am-4:30pm
Absentee Voting Hours: Feb 3-5
and 9-12 8am-4:30pm and
Feb 13th 8am-2pm
Tel: 608-437-5197 ext. 1

Town of Springdale
Jackie Arthur, Clerk
2379 Town Hall Road
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Absentee Voting by
Appointment from 1-6pm
on February 3, 9, 10
Tel: 608-437-6230

Town of Blue Mounds
Amanda Burghy, Clerk
10566 Blue Vista Rd
Blue Mounds, WI 53517
Absentee Voting hours: Feb 3-5 and
Feb 9-13 from 9am-1pm, or by Appt.
Tel: 608-437-8722

Town of Cross Plains
Jennifer Broberg, Clerk
3734 County Road P
Cross Plains, WI 53528
Absentee Voting hours: Feb 3-5,
10, 11, and 13 5:30-7pm
and Feb 9 and 12 5-6:30pm
Tel: 608-798-0189

Town of Perry
Mary Price, Clerk
1004 State Hwy 78
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Absentee Voting
by Appointment
Tel: 608-437-4553
mlprice@mhtc.net

Town of Vermont
Katie Zelle, Clerk
4017 County Road JJ
Black Earth, WI 53515
Absentee Voting by Appointment
Tel: 608-767-2457

Town of Primrose
Matthew Waite, Clerk
8468 County Road A
Verona, WI 53593
Absentee Voting by Appointment
Tel: 608-571-2988

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SPORTS

Gymnasts win Mount Horeb Invite

Vikings edge Monona Grove for team title

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb has hosted one of the area’s elite gymnastics invitational for 39 years now.

Most seasons, the Vikings roll to the title.

This year, Mount Horeb had to sweat a bit before bringing home the championship.

Mount Horeb finished with 136.8750 points to narrowly outdistance runner-up Monona Grove (135.25). Dodgeville/Mineral Point (132.9750), Platteville/Belmont/Lancaster (118.25) and Westby/Cashton/DeSoto (114.3750) rounded out the top five.

“I’m proud of how our gymnasts challenged themselves by adding new skills and combinations,” Mount



Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team won their own invitational last Saturday. Photo submitted

Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. “Knowing the scores were very close ... we had a pep talk prior to our final event, which was floor. Our team really stepped up, with all five gymnasts per-

forming strong, polished routines to solidify the first place team plaque.”

The Vikings had three individual event champions — Macie Finley on bars, Harper Hendrickson on

beam and Averi Kalscheur on floor.

In addition, Sylvia Seeliger was fifth on vault, fourth on bars, fourth on beam and second in the all-around. Carmen Oglesby and Harper

Hendrickson tied for third on the floor exercise, while Hendrickson also finished fourth in the all-around.

In addition, Monona Grove, along with the cops from Dodgeville and

Mineral Point are in Mount Horeb’s sectional. So the Vikings got a good look at where they currently stand against some of the teams they’ll face this postseason.

“Although there is still work to be done, being about halfway through the regular season allows us to continue tweaking combinations, refining routines and moving our gymnasts within our lineup as we prepare for the remainder of the season,” Koller Faust said.

The Vikings also defeated Milton/Edgerton, 138.275-116.0, on Jan. 6 in their first home meet of the season.

Harper Hendrickson was first in the all-around competition (35.85), while Sylvia Seeliger was second (35.025) and Carmen Olgesby was third (33.35).

“We executed strong performances across the board, earning numerous top-five finishes in all five events, along with several season-

continued on page 16

Vikings put Eagles in pressure cooker

Mount Horeb’s girls notch big win

by DAN LARSON
Sports Reporter

Pace is a pretty important concept in basketball.

Some teams want to go fast, some want to go slow. No matter the preference, though, the idea is the same: Winning the game of tug-of-war often means victory on the scoreboard, as well.

It did for Mount Horeb on Jan. 8, which used its full-court press to stymie Sauk Prairie en route to a 51-33 win over the Eagles in a Badger Small Conference girls basketball game at Sauk Prairie High School.

“We’re small so we have to pressure and press,” Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said. “That’s our strength. We’re quick and athletic. We give up a lot of height, and sometimes a lot of pounds in muscle, but the kids work their butts off and get after it.”

The Vikings got after it midway through the first half, that’s for sure.

Trailing 8-7, their press fueled a 17-0 run that gave

them a 24-8 lead with 8 minutes, 55 seconds to go before halftime.

“We struggled greatly with their pressure,” Sauk Prairie coach Seth Kostroski said. “We seemed like we didn’t really understand how to handle it and we continued to make the same mistakes over and over — putting the ball above our head, trying to dribble through double teams, dribbling to the corner. We never learned from our mistakes.

“Sharks smell blood. (Mount Horeb) smelled blood. Their press was working, so they just kept doing it because we couldn’t handle it.”

Courtney Monroe’s 3-pointer from the right wing started the run, making it 10-8 with 13:01 left in the half.

And Julia Straka made a lay-up off a steal right after that to push Mount Horeb’s (6-5, 4-1 Badger Small) lead over Sauk Prairie (5-6, 2-2) to 12-8.

But then it was Jami Chapman’s turn.

The freshman poured in the next 12 points for the Vikings, scoring on a put-back, back-to-back 3-pointers from the left wing and two baskets inside, capping off the decisive run.

“I got hot,” Chapman said. “And my teammates supported me so I felt like I could keep going. I kept shooting, and they went in.”

Chapman, whose game-day routine involves playing for a half in the junior varsity game beforehand, had her number called because the Vikings were in foul trouble.

And she took advantage, not only helping her team to a big lead but also giving it a shot in the arm.

“Our energy spiked,” she said of the momentum gained during the 17-0 burst, which took just a little over 3 minutes to complete.

For context, the Vikings scored just 34 points in the other 33 minutes of the game.

“It gave us a big lift,” Leibfried said of Chapman’s effort off the bench. “She



Avery Monroe and Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team downed Sauk Prairie on Jan. 8. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

has that ability. She’s shown that, so that was huge.”

The Eagles did punch back, though, closing the half on a 12-4 run to pull within 28-20 at halftime.

Senior guard Mallory Hartwig had four of the 12 points to lead the run, while it was junior Sophia Hanson’s 3-ball from the left corner that capped it with 2:05 to go in the half.

“When we were down 24-8 we talked about, ‘Can we get a stop, can we get a bucket, can we get a stop,

can we get a bucket and chunk away at it? Sixteen points in one play isn’t possible,’” Kostroski said. “So I was very comfortable at halftime. Eight points is three possessions, so I was thinking we were going to have a little bit better of a comeback.”

“But we just missed some bunnies, had some more turnovers and once (the deficit) got to double digits and upper teens, it was just too much for us.”

Nalia Craven, Mount

Horeb’s lone senior, made a step back jumper with a minute gone by in the second half to make it 30-20. But the two teams basically traded baskets for the next 5 minutes.

Then with 11:18 to go, Monroe made a floater to give the Vikings a 41-27 lead and any hope of a comeback for the Eagles was predicated on perfection the rest of the way.

Those hopes were all but dashed when sophomore

continued on page 16

Mount Horeb’s boys win a pair

Vikings edge Edgewood, cruise past Portage

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Whew!

Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team was given a scare during its game at Madison Edgewood last Friday. The Vikings survived, though, and left with a 63-62 win.

Mount Horeb improved to 7-3 overall and 3-1 in the Badger Small Conference. Edgewood fell to 5-7, 2-2.

“Really happy to escape with a win,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “We had great contributions tonight from a handful of players. We are used to getting everybody’s best shot, and I think certainly that was as well as Edgewood has played all year.”

Mount Horeb senior guard Josh Manchester had a game-high 29 points, while junior wing Alex Chapman had 18 and senior post Hayden Anderson added eight.

The Vikings led, 62-58, when Edgewood’s Gannon Bagstad scored to pull the Crusaders within 62-60 with 1:19 remaining.

Mount Horeb’s Cal Odgers made 1-of-2 free throws to give the Vikings a 63-60 lead. The Vikings’ defense then smothered Edgewood, which called its final timeout with 10 seconds left.

Mount Horeb went to its “no three’s” defense, and took away the 3-point shot. Edgewood scored to pull within 63-62, but the Crusaders were out of timeouts, and after their final basket the Vikings didn’t have to inbound the ball.

“We are road warriors,” Nesheim said. “I felt this would be a tough game for us. It’s been a heated rivalry the last few years.”

It certainly was, but it didn’t start that way.

Mount Horeb scored on eight of its first 11 possessions and raced to a 19-3 lead. Chapman and Manchester led the way combining for 17 of the Vikings’ first 21 points.

“Couldn’t have been a better start for us,” Nesheim said. “We also played great defense and really had Edgewood flustered early.”

The Crusaders answered with a 12-2 run, though, and closed within 21-15.

By halftime, Edgewood had pulled within 34-31.

“I thought they shot the ball better than they had shown they were capable,” Nesheim said of the Crusaders, who made five of 10 first half 3-pointers. “I was hoping they wouldn’t sustain that. We also didn’t rebound the way we needed to so that needed to improve.”



Todd Nesheim and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team won a pair of games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Edgewood took a 37-36 lead early in the second half, but the Vikings went on a mini-run and grabbed a 51-43 advantage with 11:29 to go.

Edgewood closed within 51-49, before the Vikings stretched their lead back to 58-53 setting up the exciting final minutes.

Mount Horeb also rolled by Portage, 73-32, on Jan. 6.

Mount Horeb senior guard Josh Manchester had a game-high 34 points, while junior wing Alex Chapman had 11 and senior post Hayden Anderson added 10.

The Vikings led, 18-11, midway through the first half. Mount Horeb then finished the half on a 26-3 blitz and surged to a 44-14 lead at the break.

Manchester was sensational and had 30 points in the first half alone.

“I felt like we were free-lancing a bit and trying to out-skill them without much discipline,” Nesheim said of the Vikings’ start. “We were turning the ball over and missing some easier inside shots.”

“The challenge was to play team basketball, especially on defense. We did just that.”

The second half was much of the same as Mount Horeb pushed its lead to 40 and had running clock for much of the half.

Junior Owen Schultz had eight second half points as the Vikings’ reserves got plenty of court time.

“Although it wasn’t clean initially, I liked our response for the rest of the game,” Nesheim said. “We did what I thought we should do.”

• **On deck:** The Vikings hosted Monroe Monday, then host McFarland Thursday at 7:15 in a showdown for first place in the league. The Spartans lead the league with a 4-0 conference mark and are 8-1 overall.

Mount Horeb then hosts Evansville Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and hosts Fort Atkinson Jan. 20 at 7:15 p.m.

**VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 28, 2026**

The Plan Commission of the Village of Mount Horeb will hold a public hearing on the above date at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Municipal Building, 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb, WI.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application from Brookstone South LLC, for the creation of Cottages at Brookstone Hills, a Pocket Neighborhood as phase 2 of the Brookstone Hills subdivision. The application includes a zoning change from A-1 Agriculture to R-3 Multi-Family Residential then to PD-1 Planning Development District to enable the proposed 21 single-family residential for sale buildings as a condo-style development on a common lot described as parcel 0606-141-4177-1

The Village Board, by its Plan Commission will hear all persons concerning all matters and/or objections written or oral at that time.

Publish: 1/8/26, 1/15/26 **WNAXLP**

**TOWN OF CROSS PLAINS
BIDS FOR CULVERT AND DITCH WORK**

The Town of Cross Plains is seeking bids for culvert and ditch work in Pine Bluff, West Mineral Point Road. Project consist of one (1) Town culvert across West Mineral Point Road and six (6) private residence driveway culverts and approximately 900 feet of ditch work and 2,000 square yards of reseeding. Bid details and documents are available at www.townofcrossplains.org.

Sealed bids must be mailed to Town of Cross Plains Clerk, 3734 County Road P, Cross Plains, WI 53528) by February 7th at 5:00 pm. Town would like a bid for all repaving work and a bid for the culvert and ditch work itemizing the cost for each culvert replacement and the cost of the ditch work. Bids for culvert work should provide an alternate price if two of six culverts are removed from the project. Bid documents currently exclude 1 culvert replacement. An addendum will be posted for the remaining culvert. Bids should include a sworn statement of financial status, equipment and experience.

Bid will be awarded to the lowest price responsible bid that Town determines is qualified to perform the work. Town reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids or reject the low bid for cause. Town reserves right to award to a single or multiple bidders.

Questions can be directed to topchair@townofcrossplains.wi.gov.

Publish: 1/15/26, 1/22/26 **WNAXLP**

New LEGAL NOTICE DEADLINES

**EFFECTIVE ON ALL LEGAL NOTICES
PUBLISHED IN THESE PUBLICATIONS:**

ADAMS FRIENDSHIP TIMES-REPORTER:
Noon Wednesday, the week prior to publication

POST MESSENGER RECORDER:
11 am Thursday, the week prior to publication

INDEPENDENT STAR NEWS:
Formerly Reedsburg Independent, Star News, Home News
Noon Thursday, the week prior to publication

MOUNT HOREB MAIL:
1 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication

TIMES-TRIBUNE:
Now covering Middleton, Cross Plains, Black Earth & Mazomanie
2 pm Thursday, the week prior to publication

MARQUETTE COUNTY TRIBUNE:
10 am Friday, the week prior to publication

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Do not email them to our editors or sales reps.

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

NOTE: Legal notices submitted after deadline will be scheduled for the next available publication date.

EARLY DEADLINES will apply for postal holiday weeks. Watch for updates.

**TOWN OF SPRINGDALE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
2026 TRID Road Improvement Project
Town Hall Road Bridge Replacement Project
Dane County, Wisconsin**

Sealed bids for the contract will be received by Jewell Associates Engineers, Inc via Quest online bid website. Bids will be received until 10:00 AM local time, Friday, January 23, 2025 at which time all bids will be declared closed.

Immediately after closing of the bids, they will opened via Quest and available on the Quest website for viewing.

THIS IS A TRID PROJECT

The proposed work consists of earthwork, base aggregate dense, asphaltic surface, guard rail, remove structure remove debris, excavation for structures, backfill structure type A, Concrete masonry bridges, bar steel reinforcement structures, heavy riprap, piling hp 10x42, traffic control, permanent signing, finishing items, erosion control, and any incidental items necessary to complete the work.

Bids shall be prepared according to the bidder’s documents prepared by Jewell Associates Engineers, Inc.

The Plans and Specifications may also be obtained at the website of Quest Construction Data Network located at www.quest-cdn.com upon a nonrefundable payment of \$50.00 for each set. If not a previous member of QuestCDN, you will need to create an account to access the plans and specifications.

The Town of Springdale reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities in any bid and to accept any bid which the Town of Springdale may determine to be in its best interest.

By order of the Town of Springdale
Mr. John Rosenbaum, Chairperson
2379 Town Hall Road
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Publish: 1/8/26, 1/15/26 **WNAXLP**

Wrestlers 15th at Kaukauna Invitational

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

The Mount Horeb/Barneveld wrestling team finished in 15th place at the 25-team Kaukauna Invite on Jan. 9.

Here’s how each individual Viking fared:

106 — Bryce Madden finished in 13th place.

Round 2: Bryce Madden (20-7) Fr., MHB pinned Caden Bock (19-8) Jr., FREE, 4:49.

Round 3: Ono Gonzales (32-5) So., POND pinned Bryce Madden (20-7) Fr., MHB, 1:00.

Round 4: Abe Heysinger (20-5) So., DUHE pinned Bryce Madden (20-7) Fr., MHB, 1:31.

Round 5: Bryce Madden (20-7) Fr., MHB def. Damon Mann, 8-0.

Round 4: Noe Hernandez (23-13) Fr., LOCK def. Bryce Madden (20-7) Fr., MHB, 10-1.

Round 6: Kane Robles (22-6) So., JOCA pinned Bryce Madden (20-7) Fr., MHB, 2:50.

Place Match: Bryce Madden (20-7) Fr., MHB def. Connor Woosencraft (18-7) Fr., PULA.

113 — Round 2: Erik Kluchurov (29-2) So., MOCA

pinned Ryan Kuntz (1-4) Jr., MHB, 1:00.

Cons. Round 3: Connor Bischof (14-2), STA pinned Ryan Kuntz (1-4) Jr., MHB, 0:13.

120 — Champ. Round 1: Drew Droessler (10-9) So., MHB pinned Isaiah Lopez (5-15) Fr., CAST, 5:19.

Champ. Round 2: Jarrett Smith (27-2) Sr., LOWE pinned Drew Droessler (10-9) So., MHB, 0:27.

Cons. Round 2: Drew Droessler (10-9) So., MHB def. Hunter Iverson (4-8) So., SMIT, 8-3.

Cons. Round 4: Bryce Holt (13-6) Sr., DAVI pinned Drew Droessler (10-9) So., MHB, 1:53.

126 — Champ. Round 1: Wyatt Heim (8-13) Fr., WRIG pinned RJ Emaneul (10-7) Fr., MHB, 5:32.

Cons. Round 2: Caleb Ro-cole (9-13) Jr., MISO pinned RJ Emaneul (10-7) Fr., MHB, 1:11.

132 — Champ. Round 2: Maxton Stevens (17-12) Fr., MHB def. Nathan Craft (17-11) Sr., YORK, 10-0.

Champ. Round 3: Mikey Malizzio (26-9) Jr., MOCA pinned Maxton Stevens (17-12) Fr., MHB, 4:29.

Champ. Round 4: Cade Dunn (16-8) Sr., LIBE pinned Maxton Stevens (17-

12) Fr., MHB, 1:36.

Champ. Round 5: Jeremiah Waldschmidt (9-6) Jr., POND pinned Maxton Stevens (17-12) Fr., MHB, 0:43.

Cons. Round 4: Hogan Benter (19-6) Jr., HICK pinned Maxton Stevens (17-12) Fr., MHB, 3:48.

Cons. Round 5: Kalin Anderson (12-13) Jr., KAMA def. Maxton Stevens (17-12) Fr., MHB, 7-1

15th Place Match: Declan Sons (18-14) Jr., SCE def. Maxton Stevens (17-12) Fr., MHB, 2-0.

138 — Champ. Round 1: Ezra Ledlow (11-10) Fr., CLEV def. Nick Bureson (9-6) Sr., MHB, 3:09

Cons. Round 2: Liam Angeles (13-10) So., STOU pinned Nick Bureson (9-6) Sr., MHB, 1:11.

144 — Champ. Round 1: Midaris Chappelle (6-4) Jr., DEKA def. Timmy Kruse (7-9) Sr., MHB, 14-3.

Cons. Round 2: Blake Blau (13-13) So., WBWE def. Timmy Kruse (7-9) Sr., MHB, 6-3.

150 — Champ. Round 2: Hunter Stevens (26-2) Sr., MHB pinned John Von Hoene (14-14) Jr., GRAN, 1:50.

Champ. Round 3: Hunter Stevens (26-2) Sr., MHB pinned Nolan West (15-6)

Sr., MEIS, 1:22.

Champ. Round 4: Hunter Stevens (26-2) Sr., MHB pinned Gavin Woodmancy (22-9) Jr., SCE, 1:54.

Champ. Round 5: Van Rosauer (30-2) Jr., YORK def. Hunter Stevens (26-2) Sr., MHB, 6-5.

Quarters: Hunter Stevens (26-2) Sr., MHB def. Daniel Blanke (27-8) Sr., BARR, 10-2.

Semis: Kellen Wolbert (26-0) Sr., OCON pinned Hunter Stevens (26-2) Sr., MHB, 4:22.

Cons. Semis: Hunter Stevens (26-2) Sr., MHB def. Legend Ellis (29-5) Jr., COWE, 3-0.

3rd Place Match: Hunter Stevens (26-2) Sr., MHB def. Daniel Blanke (27-8) Sr., BARR, 11-9.

157 — Champ. Round 1: Logan Peterson (9-9) So., FREE def. Landon Kahl (8-10) So., MHB, 14-8)

Cons. Round 2: Waylon Daughetee (12-10) So., DUHE def. Landon Kahl (8-10) So., MHB, 13-9.

175 — Eli Maier finished in fifth place

Champ. Round 2: Eli Maier (25-3) Jr., MHB def. Paul Wright (14-9) Jr., LAGI, 12-0.

Champ. Round 3: Eli Maier (25-3) Jr., MHB def.

Donovan Hodges (11-7) Sr., LIBE, 17-4.

Champ. Round 4: Eli Maier (25-3) Jr., MHB pinned Jack Johnson (5-5) Jr., PLCO, 3:56.

Champ. Round 5: Luke Hayden (24-3) Jr., HICK pinned Eli Maier (25-3) Jr., MHB, 4:46.

Quarters: Liam Crook (26-1) Sr., KAUK def. Eli Maier (25-3) Jr., MHB, 11-10.

Cons. Round 5: Eli Maier (25-3) Jr., MHB def. Braylon Pulley (30-8) Fr., CLEV, 3-0.

Cons. Semis: Luke Hayden (24-3) Jr., HICK def. Eli Maier (25-3) Jr., MHB, 7-1.

5th Place Match: Eli Maier (25-3) Jr., MHB def. AJ Tack (20-9) Sr., MOCA, 9-2.

190 — Eli Leonard finished in first place

Champ. Round 2: Eli Leonard (27-0) Sr., MHB pinned Hazen Murray (9-13) So., SCE, 0:52.

Champ. Round 3: Eli Leonard (27-0) Sr., MHB pinned Scott Smith (14-13) Jr., SOPO, 0:56.

Champ. Round 4: Eli Leonard (27-0) Sr., MHB pinned Tre Driggett (17-3) Sr., MEIS, 3:46.

Champ. Round 5: Eli Leonard (27-0) Sr., MHB pinned Jaxon Hamilton (16-3) Sr., CAST, 3:36.

Quarters: Eli Leonard (27-

0) Sr., MHB pinned Ryder Zdanczewicz (20-8) Sr., FENN, 2:12.

Semis: Eli Leonard (27-0) Sr., MHB pinned Beau Waldron (23-3) Jr., HICK, 4:25.

Place Match: Eli Leonard (27-0) Sr., MHB def. Aaron Stewart (23-4) Sr., WATW, 7-3.

215 — Champ. Round 2: Kasson Wynia (11-8) Sr., KAMA def. Leland Havens (23-4) Fr., MHB, 9-6.

Cons. Round 3: Leland Havens (23-4) Fr., MHB pinned Mason Calmes (6-8) Jr., FREE, 0:22.

Cons. Round 4: Leland Havens (23-4) Fr., MHB pinned Avery Lane (15-10) Jr., YORK, 1:46.

Cons. Round 6: Leland Havens (23-4) Fr., MHB pinned Cole Douglass (19-9) Jr., WBWE, 4:19.

17th Place Match: Jacob Pekrul (26-5) Jr., HART pinned Leland Havens (23-4) Fr., MHB, 1:28.

285 — Champ. Round 2: Braylon Hill-Lomax (21-7) Sr., EDWA pinned Gavin Reynolds (3-4) So., MHB, 2:26.

Cons. Round 3: Cael Roberts (12-8) Sr., SOPO pinned Gavin Reynolds (3-4) So., MHB, 1:41.

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umcmh.org
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Good News Lutheran Church - WELS
9975 Pepper Dr, Mt Horeb
Pastor Jonathan Bauer
Thursday Worship: 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
Sunday School and Bible Study: 10:15 am
608-437-4646
GoodNewsLC.org

Immanuel Lutheran- ELCA
310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb
608-437-8733
10am Sunday Worship
www.immanuelmh.org/
1st Steps Childcare
608-218-4425

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

St. Michael The Archangel Parish
~St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Thurs-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

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

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

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ
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608-832-6677
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Black Earth, WI 53515
www.vermontlutheran.org
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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

NOTICES

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GIRLS BB

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Lauren Mester canned a 3-pointer with 8:30 left to make it 44-27.

“We were flustered with their pressure and their intensity. We didn’t stick to what we are good at, which is moving side to side on offense, don’t rush shots — don’t do something you’re not comfortable doing,” Kostroski said of his team’s inability to get in any kind of rhythm offensively other than for that brief stretch to close out the first half.

“Their pressure kind of got to us mentally, and we started doing things we aren’t comfortable doing.”

The opposite was true for the Vikings. They were doing exactly what they’re comfortable doing.

“Our main focus is pressure,” Chapman said. “We try our best to force turnovers, so getting those turnovers was huge in the beginning. It really fueled what we were doing. It kept our energy up.”

And that energy never really went away.

“I feel like we wore them down a little bit,” Leibfried said. “It looked like they got a little tired. Their 3-point shots got a little short.”

“We went nine deep. We knew if we kept pressuring them, they might make mistakes.”

In fact, the Vikings depth was such a factor that Chapman, who didn’t score in the second half, still finished as the team-leader in scoring with 15 points.

Because she had played in the JV game prior and was called to duty due to foul trouble early on in the varsity game, her workload was more than it’s been so far this season.

“That was the most minutes she’s played on varsity,” Leibfried said. “When she went in in the second half, she didn’t have much legs left, so we had to rely on some other kids.”

They stepped up. Mester had seven points

in the second half, junior Julia Straka added five and Courtney Monroe and Avery Monroe chipped in with four apiece to shoulder much of the load over the final 18 minutes.

“We’ve been balanced all year,” Leibfried said. “We don’t really have what I would call a ‘star’ so we have to rely on everyone chipping in, and hopefully someone gets a hot hand like Jami did in the first half to give us a boost.”

Mount Horeb’s defensive intensity in the second half didn’t result in the same kind of big run as it did in the first half.

But it did keep Sauk Prairie off the scoreboard. The Eagles had just 13 points after halftime — and only six over the final 12:35.

The game was played at Mount Horeb’s pace.

And that was a problem for Sauk Prairie.

“Hopefully we can learn from this,” Kostroski said. “Hopefully we can watch some film on it, learn from it, figure out how we can fix those issues with pressure and tempo and the energy they were playing with.”

“We need to be tougher physically and mentally and not allow other teams to control the game, because they controlled the entire game. It looked like they were in control. They were the better team.”

“We need to figure out how to not allow that to happen and how to play a game more related to our style, which is not full pressure, up and down the floor. We want longer possessions on offense to get great looks, and defensively we’re trying to guard the lane.”

The Vikings likely have some things they want to clean up, as well.

For one thing, avoiding foul trouble.

And for another, more consistency on offense. Void of their one big run, they would have been fighting tooth and nail to get on the bus back home victorious.

But a win’s a win.



Nalia Craven and Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team rolled past Sauk Prairie, 51-33, on Jan. 8. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb found a way against the Eagles, and that was Leibfried’s biggest takeaway.

“Our mental toughness,” Leibfried said of what pleased him. “And this group has shown that all year.”

“We’ve got one senior. We’re pretty young. But this group really keeps its composure. They’re tough on each other, they’re competitive, but they don’t crumble.”

• **Wisconsin Dells 65, Mount Horeb 50** — Lauren Mester had 10 points, while four other Vikings added eight, but it wasn’t enough as Mount Horeb fell to the Chiefs on Jan. 6.

The Dells built a 36-22 halftime lead and Mount Horeb couldn’t mount a comeback. The Chiefs, ranked No. 7 in Division 3, improved to 13-0.

“We played well but every time we made a run they had an answer,” Leibfried said. “My hope is these games help prepare us for the stretch run of the year. We talked after the game about

not wanting moral victories but instead having the mentality that when we take the court we expect to win.”

• **Platteville 70, Mount Horeb 66** — Nalia Craven had 17 of her team-high 22 points in the second half, but it wasn’t enough for the Vikings who fell on Jan. 10. Mount Horeb was beat badly on the boards and gave up 26 second chance points. Platteville also had 59 of its 70 points in the paint.

“Rebounding is a lot of heart and desire and we didn’t have that extra effort on Saturday to get it done,” Leibfried said.

Platteville built a 35-24 halftime lead. The Vikings made a second half charge, but couldn’t get over the hump.

In addition to Craven’s big night, Magali Forlines added 19 points and Courtney Monroe scored 14.

“Offensively in the second half we played great,” Leibfried said. “But every time we cut the lead to two or three points we would make a mental mistake and give up an easy score. Fa-

tigue had a little to do with it but we don’t make excuses.”

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb hosted Portage Tuesday, then travels to Fort Atkinson Friday at 7:15 p.m.

“Our goal is to finish the first half of the conference at 6-1 in sole possession of second place,” Leibfried said.

MOUNT HOREB 51, SAUK PRAIRIE 33
Mount Horeb 28 23 — 51
Sauk Prairie 20 13 — 33
MOUNT HOREB — (fgm ftm- fta pts) — Lauren Mester 2 3-4 8, Sammy Johnson 0 1-2 1, Julia Straka 4 1-4 9, Magali Forlines 1 0-2 3, Nalia Craven 2 0-0 4, Courtney Monroe 3 0-0 7, Avery Monroe 1 1-2 4, Jami Chapman 6 0-0 15. Totals: 19 6-14 51.

SAUK PRAIRIE — Savannah Liegel 2 0-1 4, Kenzi Kleist 1 0-0 2, Sophia Hanson 3 2-3 11, Audrey Brickl 2 0-0 5, Mallory Hartwig 2 3-5 7, Haylie Bader 1 1-2 4. Totals: 11 6-11 33.

3-pointers: MH 7 (Mester 1, Forlines 1, C. Monroe 1, A. Monroe 1, Chapman 7), SP 5 (Hanson 3, Brickl 1, Bader 1). **Total fouls:** MH 17, SP 18. **Fouled out:** C. Monroe; Liegel, Hartwig.

GYMNASTS

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best scores,” Koller Faust said. “Gymnasts notched numerous top-five finishes across all five events, posted several season-best scores, and had a great opportunity to showcase new skills they had been working on over winter break.”

Here’s how the Vikings fared against Milton/Edgerton

Vault (33.875)
1st place — Harper Hendrickson, 8.90; 2nd — Sylvia Seeliger, 8.625; 4th — Avena Meyers, 8.25; Carmen Oglesby, 8.10.

Bars (34.625)
1st — Macie Finley, 8.925; 2nd — Sylvia Seeliger, 8.70; 3rd — Tessa Soppe, 8.55; 4th — Harper Hendrickson, 8.45.

Beam (34.30)
1st — Harper Hendrickson, 9.225; 2nd — Sylvia Seeliger, 9.075; 3rd — Carmen Oglesby, 8.30; 4th — Avena Meyers, 7.70.

Floor (35.475)
1st — Harper Hendrickson, 9.275; 2nd — Carmen Oglesby, 8.95; 3rd — Avena Meyers and Sylvia Seeliger, 8.625.

All-around
1st — Harper Hendrickson, 35.85; 2nd — Sylvia Seeliger, 35.025; 3rd — Carmen Oglesby, 33.35.

JV RESULTS
Mt. Horeb 121.8, Milton/Edgerton 60.0

Vault (31.30)
1st — Tori Schilling and Evie Wyse, 8.10; 3rd — Elise Hooks, 7.60; 4th — Kate Van Gorden, 7.50.

Bars (29.80)
1st — Averi Kalscheur, 8.05; 2nd — Elise Hooks, 7.95; 3rd — Tori Schilling, 7.40; 4th — Evie Wyse, 6.40

Beam (30.85)
1st — Tessa Soppe, 8.15; 2nd — Elise Hooks, 7.90; 3rd — Tori Schilling, 7.80; 4th — Ava Bilse and Jacey Morin, 7.0.

Floor (29.85)
1st — Elise Hooks, 8.10; 2nd — Tori Schilling, 7.45; 3rd — Evie Wyse, 7.20; 4th — Kate Van Gorden, 7.10

All-around
1st — Elise Hooks, 31.55; 2nd — Tori Schilling, 30.75; 3rd — Evie Wyse, 28.5; 4th — Ava Bilse, 25.5.

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