Mount Horeb Mail

TRUTH THROUGH JOURNALISM

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Farm, food and family

Why Campo di Bella is not your normal restaurant

Marc Bellazzini dishes up food in the kitchen at Campo di Bella in rural Blue Mounds. Photo contribuuted.

By Matt Geiger
Mount Horeb Mail

"We're not your normal restaurant," says Mary Ann Bellazzini.

It's a monumental understatement. Campo di Bella is a family. It's a farm. It's a community of growers, food producers and fine dining enthusiasts. And yes, it's a restaurant too.

On the wall behind Bellazzini on this chilly autumn morning are pictures of her family, usually gathered around food, usually smiling. In the kitchen of this on-site farm eatery is the stove where her husband, Marc cooks special meals gleaned from generations of family recipes that span all the way back to the Old Country. On the shelves are fine wines from Italy and from the family's own vineyard just a few yards outside. In the pastures, animals graze and the last vestiges of the summer's bounty are still visible in the fields as the frost takes hold and the Earth falls dormant again, for a time.

Many businesses use the term "farm-to-table" to illustrate their connection to local food sources. Few offer experiences where the local land, its bounty of fruits, vegetables and animals, are so inexorably woven into the fabric of the dining experience.

Diners at Campo di Bella eat meals carefully prepared by the Bellazzini family.

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MUSIC

Taste of Jazz is Jan. 31

On Saturday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. over 200 student musicians from grades 6-12 will participate in the annual Taste of Jazz at Mt. Horeb High School. This

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VETERANS

Assembly Passes Bill Honoring Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial

On Tuesday, January 13th the State Assembly passed by a unanimous voice vote Assembly Bill 520 (AB 520) authored by Representative Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) and Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green). The bill requires the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) to place highway signs along US Highway 18/151 honoring the Mount Horeb Veteran's Memorial.

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Citing an array of problems, Springdale terminates trash collection contract

Local displeasure with trash and recycling pickup recently came to a head in the Town of Springdale, where the board of supervisors issued a joint statement saying they have changed providers despite the fact that there was two years left on their original contract.

Pickup day and time-to-curb will continue to be Fridays by 6 a.m., with biweekly recycling service.

Weekly recycling will continue until the new carts are delivered, tentatively the end of January/first week in February. The town's previously scheduled Spring Cleanup day (Saturday, June 13) will likely be rescheduled as a result of this switch.

"As you may have heard, Springdale's contract with Republic Services (formerly Town & Country Sanitation) has been terminated," said

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PUBLIC SAFETY

PD working to bring back local K9 unit

Mount Horeb Police Officer Kyle Dix recently took the time to answer a few questions about the push to resurrect the village's K9 program, which supporters say will enhance public safety and pay tribute to one of Mount Horeb's most beloved officers. Doing so will also honor former officer Blaine Hall (pictured above). Read more on page 5.

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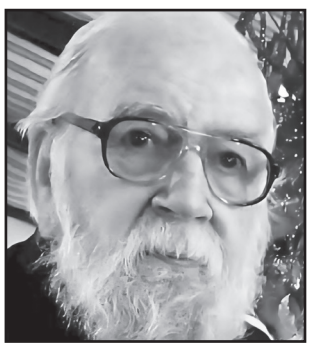
Obituaries

Richard "Phil" Phillmore



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Richard "Phil" Phillmore, 86, who passed away in Fresno on Sunday, January 11, 2026. He was born July 3, 1939, in Watertown, WI.

A proud Veteran of the United States Air Force, Phil served his country with honor and dedication. He came to Madera as part of the 774 Radar Squadron, a historical U.S. Air Force unit that operated radar for Air Defense Command (ADC) at locations like Madera, AFS, CA.

After leaving the Air Force, Phil went on to own the Union 76 Service Station on Gateway Drive. He later opened Phil's Auto Specialty, specializing in the repair of Volkswagens. He finished his work career as a Dispatcher for Cherokee Freight Lines.

Phil loved the simple things in life. He enjoyed his family and friends, loved walking and photography, and shared a passion for antiques with his late wife, Marilyn.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents, Claude Phillmore and Helen McIntosh; his beloved wife, Marilyn Phillmore; and his sister, Debbie Phillmore. Their memory remained deeply rooted in his heart throughout his life.

Phil is survived by his son, Robert Phillmore of Rancho Cordova, CA, his daughter, Robin Phillmore Gomez of Los Angeles, CA, stepdaughter Leslie Holder of Modesto, CA, and his sister, Dorinda Jelle of Mount Horeb, WI. He is also lovingly remembered by his grandchildren, Alessandro Gomez, Olivia Gomez, step-granddaughter, Callie Madden, and a step-great-grandson, Maverick Madden.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Phil's caregivers, Percy Tobias, Mel Del Mundo, and John Del Mundo from Cromwell Haven Care Home in Fresno.

Dolores H. Kahl

November 3, 1930 – January 14, 2026

MOUNT HOREB - Dolores H. Kahl of Mount Horeb, passed away on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. She was born on November 3, 1930, in Westboro, Wis., the daughter of George and Maria (Shebestak) Zimmerman. Dolores grew up on the Zimmerman homestead that borders the Chequamegon National Forest and graduated from Westboro High School. She met Donald Landmark while working at the University in Madison and they were married in 1951.

Dolores' keen mind and meticulous problem solving made her a valuable employee at Tracor Northern where she retired as a supervisor after 25 years of service, in 1990. Dolores wed Milton "Cootie" Kahl in 1979 and they spent many happy years traveling and hosting fun adventures with their grandchildren.

In retirement, Dolores spent many hours sewing handmade quilts and other beautiful keepsakes for her family. She was also a talented baker providing pies, stryl and delicious death by chocolate desserts. With her endless energy and love of people, she also worked part-time for many years at Isaac's in the Mount Horeb Antique Mall.

Dolores is survived by her daughter, Judy Thompson; and her son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Julie Landmark; brother, Donald Zimmerman of Westboro; sister, Ruth Baker of Hawkins; sister-in-law, Beverly Jewell; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Donald Landmark and Milton Kahl; son-in-law, Dennis Thompson; brother, Gene; sister-in-law, Helen Zimmerman; brother-in-law, Ray Baker; and many other relatives and friends.

A funeral service will be held at EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 315 E. Main St., Mount Horeb, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2026, with Pastor Karen Hofstad presiding. After the service, burial will take place at Union Cemetery in Mount Horeb, followed by a luncheon at the church. A visitation will be held at the church from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service on Saturday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Evangelical Lutheran Church or the Dane County Humane Society.

The family would like to thank the staff at Agrace HospiceCare, Inglehaven and all the caretakers that have served Dolores so lovingly during the last two years. Also, a special thank you to all who visited, called and sent her cards. She appreciated all your thoughts and prayers. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

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Gleanings

By Barb Johnson
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- Jan. 27, 1886

Mr. Peterson, of Iowa, is speculating in horseflesh at this place.

T. Carlson has been dancing big and preparing himself for the tobacco business.

90 days was the doom of Henry Hanson in the county jail for his lately committed trespass.

Stripping tobacco has been the order of the day among our farmer friends for the past week. Quite a few report stripping finished and await the buyer whom we predict will put in an appearance about Feb. 1st.

The editorial sanctum is in no pleasant state of feeling at this writing. The cause of this can be accounted for when the fact is known that Jumbo has gone to the dog's paradise. His death was caused by a dose of strychnine intended for the festive rat, and took place Monday evening, Jan. 25th.

130 Years Ago- Jan. 23, 1896

A deaf and dumb gentleman, representing himself to be editor and proprietor of the "Critic", a newspaper published at Dubuque, Iowa, made his appearance at our office last Monday evening, making himself understood by the fluent use of his pencil.

C.M. Sobye, postmaster of Stoughton, made this office a very friendly visit last Monday. Being at Madison on business he made up his mind, he said, that he wanted to see Mount Horeb for once, and took a run out to gratify his desire to know how the place looked which he had heard so much talk about.

Yes, some editors are in luck this time it is brother Everell of the Middleton Times that comes in for a full share of this life's joy in securing a life companion. After a fifteen minutes acquaintance the words were spoken which will unite them until death only will separate the twain that now are one. The flimsy argument that advertising does not pay has again been flatly knocked out. It was through this medium our worthy colleague found his intended. We hope it may prove a double blessing to him, first in domestic happiness and secondly in financial success by teaching his advertising patrons the value of painter's ink. Success to you, Thos., and may your troubles be but little ones.

Erick Erickson, Daleyville, was the first one to pay his assessment. Mr. Erickson is laying the foundation for the Daleyville town hall. Kleven Bros. will build it.

Simon Peterson of Perry was up for eight loads of hay last Monday. The hay was shipped in from Iowa and cost him $8 a ton.

Elef Syverson has purchased the restaurant and confection business of J.J. Paskey which is located in the opera block.

Considerable business changes will take place in our village this week. I.E. Kittleson & Thos. Syverud have pulled out of Mt. Horeb Hardware, Co. and are succeeded by S. Thompson and J.C. Ward, the former two retailing the machinery business.

120 Years Ago- Jan. 25, 1906

John Stavick bought a fine pair of young horses from Albert Kahl last week, paying $350 for the team and harness.

James L. Campbell, formerly of Riley, Sundayed at the National. He is on the road selling machinery for a Minneapolis firm.

The Mt. Horeb Mining Co., have incorporated, with a capital stock of $2,000. B.G. Gunhus, J.T. Dahle and seven others are the incorporators.

I wish to rent the Alfred Whiting farm, now owned by me, situated 2-1/2 miles south of Blue Mounds, containing 320 acres. For terms and further particulars call on Wm. Thousand, Barneveld.

W. H. Smith of Albright, Canada arrived here last Saturday for a month's visit, and joined his better half who arrived before Christmas. Mr. S. speaks well of Canada and they are well pleased with their adopted country.

100 Years Ago- Jan. 22, 1926

Yesterday the businessmen sent out a crew to open up the roads so that approaches from all sides are open to automobiles. This will be good news to all who are planning to be here for the Community Sale Days.

We noticed the undertaker starting out with the old hearse on runners one day this week. It is so long ago since he was compelled to resort to this means of getting over the road that it couldn't help but attract attention.

Some business and professional men have been "hiking" as a recreation. A walk of 8 to 10 miles means nothing to these ambitious pedestrians and we have a faint suspicion that it is a preparation for golfing in the spring.

Edward Disrud, son of Nels N. Disrud, town of Blue Mounds, is quite ill with inflammatory rheumatism.

Thomas Ayen sold nearly $2,000 worth of fine fat pigs, which he delivered to Mt. Horeb.

The big plow on No. 19 cleared up the road pretty well to Dodgeville.

Today the annual meeting of the Mt. Horeb Creamery company is being held, and after the business meeting the directors, assisted by their wives will be hosts to the creamery patrons, their friends, and the business people and their assistants of our village. Lunch will be served and a general get together good time will be held. In the evening there will be a big old time dance in the creamery hall, to which we understand all are invited to have a good time.

To the people who call the fire department: In case of fire do not get excited, but give the telephone operator the full name and complete address where the fire is and do not forget the street address, as that is the most important. Be sure that they understand you fully before you hang up.

The supplement to the International Encyclopedia in two volumes was received this week by the library. They contains the history of the Worlds War and brings the encyclopedia up to date.

Mrs. Robert Haidiman and daughter Florence were badly cut and bruised Wednesday eve, when they were run into by a bob on Nape's Hill.

M. Johns Bang has purchased a five tube Stewart & Warner radio from the National Buick Auto Co.

90 Years Ago- Jan. 23, 1936

Henry Ottum was crushed between a gatepost and a truck Tuesday of last week while assisting John Uebersetzig haul wood. R. Ottum sustained fractures of both hips and the pelvic bone. He is in care of Dr. A.S. Thompson.

P.J. Dunlap has rented the former Locke farm, now owned by Richard Leitch, which the past year has been operated by Roy Finke. Mr. Dunlap takes possession March 1 and will mainly use the land as a poultry farm.

The local school is not in session today because of the intense cold. The thermometer steadily dropping to 25 degrees below zero with strong west winds has caused difficulties for students, many of whom reported for school with partially frozen noses and faces.

Arne Bohle, 76, passed away at his home here Monday after a long illness.

80 Years Ago- Jan. 24, 1946

F. H. Hanneman, instructor of music in the Mt. Horeb High School since the early 20s, has resigned his position effective Jan. 21. He will be succeeded by Everett Goli, who was discharged Jan. 10 after three years of service.

Albert Nesheim has purchased the former Mrs. Anna Gesme house on South Eighth Street.

Grace Jeglum, Blanchardville, became the bride of Richard Iverson, son of Carl Iverson, Daleyville, Jan. 19 in the York Lutheran Church, the Rev. I.V. Lavik officiating.

40 Years Ago- Jan. 23, 1986

A group of local working women have joined together to form a chapter of "Business & Professional Women" in Mount Horeb. Mrs. Ira Rice died on Saturday, Jan. 18, 1986, at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, General and Mrs. Richard Knobloch in San Antonio, Tex. She was born on the first farm east of Old Town in 1880 before Mount Horeb had rail service.

Depies appointed to Blue Mounds Board

By Jill Jonas
Mount Horeb Mail

Newly appointed Chair, Rick VanDomelen, called the January 13th Town of Blue Mounds Board meeting to order. A voting quorum was complete with Supervisor Mary Ann Bellazzini's attendance. By the end of the meeting, a third Board Supervisor, Kevin Depies, was appointed.

Board Supervisor Selection and Appointment

As their last item, the Board completed appointment of a new Interim Town Board Supervisor. On December 18th, Burghy had provided the Open Supervisor position Notice of Vacancy. The Town accepted applications and resumes until January 8th. Applicants included Chris Smith, Robin Marohn, and Kevin Depies. Prior to the Board meeting, Marohn removed his name as a candidate. Smith and Depies discussed their goals, visions and priorities for the Town, then answered follow up questions. Depies was appointed to the Interim Supervisor 2 position, extending through April, 2027. He completed the oath of office. The Board thanked both candidates for applying and encouraged others in attendance and on Zoom to be active in the Town.

Trash and recycling

Most of the Board's time was focused on the Town's trash and recycling contract, zoning, and the selection of a new supervisor.

Susan Malmanger, representative for Republic Services/Town & Country Sanitation, presented proposed contract renewal terms for 2026 through 2030. As a reminder, Republic Services has been serving the Town since May 1st, 2025. Proposal terms include a "not to exceed" 5% annual cost escalator that includes trash and recycling pickup along with delivery, maintenance and cost of use for one trash and one recycling cart per home. For an additional monthly fee, individual homes could purchase additional carts. Commercial containers are also available. If approved, the Town would convert to carts by June 1st of this year. Malmanger noted that the company could start cart delivery as early as sometime in February. The Town's existing two week service schedule remains the same.

VanDomelen asked "how would you like us to address any complaints that we have?" After some discussion, Malmanger said individuals and Town staff may contact either the Boscobel or Prairie du Sac offices. If staff notice a trend, Malmanger suggested the Town contact her directly and she will work with operations. She also noted that operations will complete "ride-alongs" over the next few weeks, to identify route areas that may need additional consideration.

Given that the Town just recently received the January 2nd written proposal, both Bellazinni and VanDomelen wanted more time for consideration. They chose to table a contract decision until their February meeting. It was noted that, in general, the Town was pleased and saw no problem with current service. Before the next meeting, the Board asked staff to check with a couple other places.

Malmanger indicated that services will remain "business as usual" until the Board's February decision.

Zoning and Related Matters

Moving on to zoning matters, the Board approved a driveway permit off Hwy JG. Noting existing precedent, they also approved a one year, $125.00 "RV Permit" for temporary housing during home construction. Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Curt Winters, also discussed precedent regarding "one structure" when incorporating a breezeway.

The Board held the public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Plumbing fixtures in an accessory building off Hwy E. No public comments were offered and the Board approved a four year renewable CUP. Conditions include that the accessory building not be used for human habitation and that a building permit be obtained for all plumbing improvements or modifications.

Based on a revised Certified Survey Map (CSM) for a property off Hwy Z, parcel boundary changes were approved. Also, a North Road/Hwy ID property owner was advised that, in order to revise the parcel's lot lines, a CSM be completed and brought for Board approval. That same owner expressed interest in allowing residents to provide input into the Town's upcoming Comprehensive Plan Review. One area of interest specifically mentioned was consideration of "density units." Bellazinni indicated an interest in the Board receiving residents' feedback before finalization. She added wanting to allow residents "to have a voice in what we're doing." VanDomelen added, "we're certainly always open to residents' input," cautioning whether or not it could be used. The review is scheduled for completion in 2027.

Without a Jar Storage representative in attendance, the Board tabled follow up to the concept meeting.

Public Works

Patrolman Ross Powers presented and the Board approved the annual mower rental contract at $4,175. By picking up the mower in Black Earth, Powers stated a $500 savings.

Powers provided the board with a cost estimate for purchasing a new snow plow, including attachments. Estimates were provided by Double D Services, Inc. and Ford. In total, the combined estimates were approximately $128,625. The Board appreciated receiving the information and indicated equipment delivery times and financing questions be addressed before any decision. VanDomelen requested additional specific information on the up front commitment and when the balance is due.

Land Use Committee Report (LUC)

LUC Chair, Kevin Depies discussed the group's recent workshop. The Comprehensive Plan revaluation work is slated and needs to be built into the 2027 budget. Work items presently identified are: following legal processes, addressing home density requirements, freshening and cleaning up the driveway ordinance, understanding costs on engineered driveway plans, clarifying accessory structures, updating website forms, addressing potential data center issues and defining temporary portable storage.

After a question from the audience, the Board allowed open discussion on temporary storage, CUPs, multi-family units, and data centers.

Miscellaneous Administrative Matters

The Board then moved on to several administrative matters. First, they passed an "Ordinance Assuming Responsibility Of Treasurer," exempting it from filing the bond or bonds as per Wisconsin Statutes. This assures required tax payments to the County Treasurer. VanDomelen reminded others that when external entities complete Town bill paying, they are already bonded. Winters reminded the Board of "ultimately considering outsourcing all of the payroll and the bill paying" as a way to streamline office operations.

Bellazinni reported on the availability of new Dane County plat books. She expressed willingness to pick up needed copies and save mailing costs.

Additionally, Bellazinni is attending the Department of Revenue's approved Board of Review annual training. Should VanDomelen or a new supervisor also attend, Bellazinni reminded others of the public notification requirements. Clerk, Amanda Burghy reminded the Board that at least one supervisor must attend.

Given that necessary signatures are in place, Winters touched base on opening accounts at Farmers Saving Bank. He would like to place some money into both the checking and money market accounts, completing setup for Automated Clearing House payments. The Board agreed Winters could proceed.

As of December 31, 2025, $17,136.48 in bill payments were approved. Winters requested selection of legal counsel be placed on the next Board agenda.

Bellazinni moved and VanDomelen agreed to include "Future Items" following "Approval of Bills" on the Board's monthly agendas. She noted selection of legal counsel and the Republic Services/Town & Country Sanitation Contract decision as examples. She also included covering suggested topics and necessary follow up conversations.

The next monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th, 7:00 pm. A "Listen Only" Zoom link is available.

Letter to the Editor

Those in power should have 'courage and integrity' to listen

Dear editor,

Years ago I was one of thousands to protest the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line, sitting through endless meetings where hundreds of us took turns using different words to say the same thing: we don't want this in our community. And in the end, the Public Service Commision board — who were by definition supposed to represent and serve the interests of the public, aka us — acted as though we'd all stayed silently at home, and the unneeded and unwanted power lines went up. It was an unconscionable and appalling act.

A lot of the recent rhetoric in favor of the Mount Horeb housing project feels familiar to me from the CHC propaganda, which boils down to "the common people don't understand or know what's good for them, so we'll do it over their objections." Put mildly, this is insulting, and putting things mildly instead of calling them by their real names is one of the practices that's gotten us into our current political mess so I'd rather put it this way: this is dictatorial. Democracy works when people show up and speak out about the issues that will affect their daily lives, and when those in power bow to the wishes and demands of those they have been elected to serve.

The majority has spoken quite clearly: we don't want this in our community. I hope — and, as a stakeholder, I demand — that those in power in our community continue to have the courage and integrity to listen to the voices of that community.

Rose Brookins
Mount Horeb

TASTE OF JAZZ

continued from page 1

event features nearly every extracurricular band, choir, and orchestra group in the school district. The event is hosted in the high school main gym; students and parents work for hours beforehand to transform the space into Mt. Horeb's swankiest jazz hotspot, complete with lighting effects, coffee, and desserts.

In addition, this event always features a set by a professional jazz group to add a level of authenticity to the evening.

Tickets are available at both the MS and HS music offices. You can send in money with your student and have them pick them up for you.

For more information, please visit the Mt. Horeb Music website, or contact band teacher Kellen Dorner at dornerkellen@mounthorebschools.org.

Taste of Jazz Performance Schedule (times vary)

Middle School Jazz
High School Vocal Jazz
High School Friday Jazz
Middle School Fiddle Band
Guest Artist
High School Thursday Jazz
High School Fiddle Band
Middle School Chorale
High School Tuesday Jazz

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DECA Earns Strong Results at District Competition

Nearly 90 Mount Horeb High School DECA students competed at the Wisconsin DECA District 3 Competition on Saturday at DeForest Area High School, demonstrating their skills in business, marketing, finance, hospitality, and entrepreneurship through written exams and business role-play simulations.

The Mount Horeb chapter earned almost 100 individual and team awards. Ten students placed first, second, or third in their events and automatically qualified for the Wisconsin DECA State Career Development Conference (SCDC) in February in Lake Geneva. The chapter expects to take approximately 24 students to the state conference. Students who earn top placements at SCDC will advance to the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC), scheduled for April in Atlanta, Georgia.

First-place District finishers were Micah Ammann (Business Finance), Finn Rothenberg (Principles of Finance), and Eleanor Guenther (Retail Merchandising). Second-place awards went to Laurel Aquino (Food Marketing), Graham Norton (Principles of Marketing), and Raniah Hubbard and Jackson Schultek (Travel and Tourism Team). Third-place finishers included Khaya Kasubaski and Shayla Morin (Marketing Management Team) and Clara Wagner (Quick Serve Restaurant Management).

Honorable Mentions were earned by Cullen Anderson and Jack Loger; Gavin Beglinger; Nora Carroll; Dylan Ferrin; Ro Gilles; Maddie Hadac and Erin Wagner-Leek; Ana Kolb; Elysia McKillips; Adam Rokitowski; Sophia Sadler; Maeve True; and Anneli Wik.

Additional individual exam and role-play medals were earned by Krystal Chang and Katharina Schneider; Eli Dinh and Tom Fisher; Aisha Dowling; Ella Gage; Ethan Gage; Hannah Gibbs; Barrett Gragg; Claire Hurda; Aria Johnson; Dani Kleman; Jasa Lynn Medina; Giana Melka; Lauren Mester; Zea Noltnerwyss; Cal Odgers and Gabe Walden; Reid Tryba; CeCe Watson; and Julia Zimmer.

DECA is a Career and Technical Student Organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

1st Place Micah Ammann (Business Finance)

2nd Place Laurel Aquino (Food Marketing)

1st Place Eleanor Guenther (Retail Merchandising)

3rd Place Khaya Kasubaski and Shayla Morin (Marketing Management Team)

2nd Place Graham Norton (Principles of Marketing)

1st Place Finn Rothenberg (Principles of Finance)

2nd Place Raniah Hubbard and Jackson Schultek (Travel and Tourism Team)

3rd Place Clara Wagner (Quick Serve Restaurant Management)

Initiative aims to bring back K9 unit

By Matt Geiger
Mount Horeb Mail

According to the Washington Times, there are around 50,000 police dogs working in the United States. These four-legged officers are, in essence, supercops, capable of incredible speed, strength, intuition, bravery, and as anyone with a pet dog knows, stalwart faithfulness.

Mount Horeb Police Officer Kyle Dix recently took the time to answer a few questions about the push to resurrect the village's K9 program, which supporters say will enhance public safety and pay tribute to one of Mount Horeb's most beloved officers.

First, tell us a bit about Mount Horeb's history with K9s and the current effort to have a local K9 officer. It's been quite a while since MHPD has had a dog.

Dix: In the early 2000s Mount Horeb officer Blaine Hall set out to develop a K9 program for the Mount Horeb Police Department, sacrificing a lot of his personal time and often providing his own funding to start the program. At the time, he was one of five handlers in the area. After starting the Mount Horeb program Blaine led several successful deployments removing illicit drugs, dangerous persons and weapons from the community and surrounding area. During my research, speaking with officers who worked closely with him I found Blaine also removed quite a large amount of funds from criminal entities that helped fund the criminal activity. Along with his successful deployments with his K9 partners, Blaine provided other outside agencies with stats that supported having a K9 unit and demonstrations that offered insight towards how a K9 can aid in protecting both the department, officers, and the public.

Currently our efforts to restart the program have led us to contacting multiple local business, the public, and nonprofits nationwide, by mail, phone, and in person. We have received a large response of support from monetary donations to pledges of additional support after our partner arrives. Additional support includes equipment, food, and veterinary services. The program is not inexpensive by any means and costs approximately $125,000 to start. The initial start-up includes the cost of our K9 partner, training, dedicated squad, gear, and equipment. Additionally, while the K9 partner is an active member of the department we will need to raise additional funds to protect our partners health in case of injury. As well as support additional training the department requires to provide this service to the village. It has been about 10 years since the village has had a dedicated partner and we hope by bringing this asset back we can lay the groundwork to secure a K9 partner now and in the future, so our public is protected.

Tell us some of the unique ways a K9 can help keep the community safe and enhance human public safety work:

Dix: By having a dedicated K9 partner in the village we can provide the village with several resources other communities do not have. K9 partners can conduct searches not only for illicit items or substances but also missing or endangered persons. Recently MHPD has used K9 partners from neighboring agencies to remove restricted and controlled substances that were being transported through the village. By removing these substances and items related to their consumption MHPD can protect the members of our community and prevent these substances from endangering our community and youth. K9's have been used to find persons missing who may be endanger or unable to care for themselves. By having a dedicated K9 partner we can potentially reduce the time it takes to find these loved ones, provide them medical attention and return them to their families. Along with finding items or people dogs serve as a de-escalation tool when interacting with dangerous persons. When a K9 is deployed on scene most individuals become cooperative leading to their safe apprehension and the safety of our officers. With a dedicated K9 unit in the village officers can use a lower level of force ultimately protecting the community, suspects, and officers.

Also, what happened to Bero after Blaine's accident?

Dix: After Blaine's accident Bero was returned to a Kennel in Wisconsin where he was retired from working. Bero was very much a one handler K9 and couldn't be paired with another handler to continue his work.

Okay, tell us a bit about the 30x30 initiative to raise funds for the K9 initiative?

Dix: We have partnered with the 30x30 initiative to reach others we haven't contacted directly in person or with our letters. While working with 30x30 we've cast a broader net informing individuals the costs that will be incurred over time with the K9. As funding is received thought the 30x30 program it will be used to provide additional gear and equipment the K9 and handler need for deployments. Consumable gear includes harnesses, vests, collars, eye protection, hearing protection as well as a multitude of other items needed for maintaining the K9 unit. 30x30 created a link where individuals can make donations and receive the required documentation to file for tax deductions.

What's the police departmebt's current timeline: In other words, how soon do you realistically hope you can have a K9 again? Funding is obviously important, but obtaining a dog and doing the training is an extensive process, right?

Dix: Currently we have raised a significant amount of funds. Though continued fundraising grants and community outreach events and programs we hope to raise the last 40,000 dollars needed to reach our initial goal of 125,000. With that we are currently working with a kennel who will be able to provide our K9 partner in the spring of 2027. The fundraising is an ongoing effort as we are trying to fund this program without removing funds from other department programs. By funding the K9 unit this way we will be able to provide the village the support needed without the removal of other programs. Fundraising will continue through the life of the initial K9 to further fund the program and secure funds for future K9 partners.

How else can citizens get involved and help out?

Dix: We are hoping to work closely with village members to bring this program back to the community. We hope the community will continue to support the department and this program by attending community events like National Night Out. Additionally, MHPD is working to introduce additional community events by working with local businesses and potential sponsors of the K9 unit. We are working to introduce a "Stuff the Squad" event where we partner with Neighbors helping Neighbors as well as other events that are in development. Members of the village can always stop by the office and speak with members of the department about ongoing efforts to raise funds and reestablishment of the program. Donations can be mailed to the public safety building or dropped off in person at 400 Blue Mounds Rd. Officers will be more than happy to see and speak with members of the public. I can be reached at kdix@mhpd.org to schedule an in-person meeting with community members to answer additional questions or if they would like to speak with me directly.

Visit https://bit.ly/MountHorebPDK9to find out more.

Any effort to revive Mount Horeb's K9 work is inexorably linked to officer Hall, and I know how connected to him and his legacy many at the PD are. For readers who don't know, tell us a bit about Blaine and his impact on this effort. I know his accident was a decade ago, but I still remember how deeply it impacted local officers and people across the community...

Officer Dix: We still have officers at MHPD who worked closely with Blaine and his K9 partners. Blaine's accident was unexpected and impacted not only the community but the department as well. With our newfound push to revitalize the program we have received the support of those active officers and community members who worked with Blaine to bring back an important program that will provide additional safety to the community. After working closely with Blaine's family, I know our efforts have been shared with Blaine. I know Blaine is proud of the work we are doing to bring back this program that was near to his heart.

TRASH

continued from page 1

the board in a statement issued on January 13. "As of January 23, 2026, all residential garbage and recycling in Springdale will be collected by Pellitteri Waste Systems."

"Over the past five months, the Town has experienced increasing breaches of our contract including routine, large-scale missed collections, damages to resident property, and numerous breakdowns in communication. Much time and effort has been spent managing and attempting to remedy these issues, with very little assistance or consideration from Republic," continued the statement. "As a result, the Board determined that staying with Republic for the remaining 2 years of the contract was untenable. Partnering with a new hauler will reduce resident stress, unburden town administrative resources, and most importantly, ensure taxpayers receive the timely garbage and recycling services they are paying for."

"We understand that while this news will be welcomed by many, it may also frustrate others," they continued. "We know that some residents – especially those with longer driveways – may find the larger, wheeled carts to be a challenge. We encourage residents to keep an open mind while navigating this change. Visit www.pellitteri.com/pages/long-driveways for suggestions."

"Manual garbage collection is expensive, rare, and outmoded," the statement continued. "Springdale could not have continued manual collection past the end of our contract (2027), regardless of hauler. In spite of the many disadvantages and risks, Pellitteri has agreed to continue manual collection during the transition to automatic collection until all residents have been provided with Pellitteri-owned, wheeled carts. Pellitteri requires the use of their standard 96-gallon garbage and recycling carts but will issue smaller carts (for a $50 fee) to residents who wish to swap. Contact Pellitteri for more information."

"Pellitteri is a local, family-owned and operated company providing incredible value to many surrounding municipalities," they said. "With state-of-the-art recycling capabilities and customer-centric service and technology, we look forward to a smooth transition and a successful partnership. One of the many resident benefits will be the Pellitteri smartphone app, providing direct to customer updates and reminders for garbage and recycling schedules, so you never miss a trash day."

For any questions regarding this transition, please reach out to Pellitteri's customer team directly at (608) 257-4285.

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GEIGER Counter

by Matt Geiger, Editor

A fool in the moonlight

So. We hear tales of courage in days gone by. Stories of valor and bravery. Of monsters slain and good people rescued. We are told that heroes once walked the same Earth as us, breathed the same air we pull into our mortal lungs. That halflings, elves, dwarves, giants, and even humans adventured in the same dark forests we just barely see through the murk of night when we gaze out our windows from our cozy homes and cars.

But those are tales of long ago, stories of other people in other times. The age of heroes has long since passed into history, and ours is the time of ragebait tweets and A.I. slop. Ours is an epoch when our eyes wear down from the strain of little screens, while our legs grow weak for they never carry us over rough deadfall and deep drainages. Ours is an age when our bodies never suffer but our minds and souls grow frail.

Then one night we hear of a hero who walks the Earth right now. Who bleeds and nearly dies in the blackest forest in the cosmic solitude of night. And we take heart. For maybe our time has heroes yet. Maybe, if we gather round the hearth, if we plop down on our mead benches and hear and retell these tales, we can be heroes, too. First in mind, then in body, and someday even in spirit.

Such is the tale of my friend, Matthew Jefko, a Mount Horeb native who some of our readers might remember as the weird little guy who once wrote a passionate op-ed arguing that people shouldn't have to wear shoes in the public library. He is a fool. And a hero. I'll explain...

People have about five liters of blood in them. Matthew ended up with significantly less when he accidentally stabbed himself in the knee far from civilization. Whitetail deer have roughly a gallon of blood, and the buck he shot with an arrow poured most of his onto the forest floor that has been fertilized for millions of years with the viscous heat of spilled life and all it represents.

The story starts with a text message from Matthew to me.

"I shot a buck," he said.

He was hunting in the 4,000-acre Yellowstone Wilderness Area in Southwest Wisconsin. I was hunting near Mount Horeb, about 40 minutes away. I climbed down from my tree stand and headed home to prepare the butcher station where we usually cut up our deer together.

As I climbed into my car, I called Matthew. He told me he took a good shot on a young buck and quickly recovered it. But in between his elated words, I heard strange, atavistic grunts and gasps of pain.

"Hey buddy, you okay?" I asked.

"You know," he replied philosophically. "Sometimes I'm a pretty cool guy. I do cool things sometimes, at least, I think. But sometimes I'm a real idiot."

"Uh, what?"

"I kneeled on my knife when I was gutting the deer. It's okay. I think. I made a tourniquet with a ratchet strap I had in my pack."

In fact, an icy sharp and slightly rusty Swedish carbon steel knife (which I had given him) fell to the ground when he was removing the deer's entrails. Matthew dropped from a standing position to his knees, and the blade, held upright by some tall, dead grass and invisible to him, penetrated seven centimeters into his knee, slicing deep beneath the kneecap.

I asked if he needed me to come get him or come get his deer, and he said no. He said he wanted to drag the deer out by himself.

"I think I can do it," he said, as if asking himself a timid question. Then, as if answering hiw own voice in a more stalwart one: "I *can* do it."

I asked Matthew to drop a location pin and share it with me on OnX Hunt, the GPS mapping app. That way I knew exactly where he was, even if he happened to be in the middle of nowhere. I looked and quickly realized he was way more than a mile from any trailhead. I asked him to send me regular updates and said that if I didn't hear from him for a period of more than 30 minutes I was coming to get him.

The time was just after sunset. What followed was a saga for the ages, a tale that should, if anything is right with the world, eventually become the stuff of poem and song.

Matthew dragged his bow, his tree stand, and his useless, blood-soaked leg back to his car, where he dropped off everything but the leg, drank some water and ate an apple, then grabbed a plastic ice fishing sled and plunged - if one can plunge very slowly and with great limping and whimpering - back into the thorny, up-and-down topography of Wisconsin's rugged Driftless Region. All in all, he walked somewhere around five miles through the wilderness on a single leg, with little blood left, for much of the way dragging a beast that weighed far more than he does even when he has a full tank of blood.

Here are just a few of our text messages from that evening.

Matthew (4:26 p.m.) "I shot a little buck"

Matthew (5:03) a photo of the broadhead

Matthew (5:30) a photo of his gear and the deer's head

Matthew (5:32) OnX Shared Location

Me (5:45) "You should text me every 30 minutes so I know you haven't bled out. And if you need me to get your deer just tell me."

Matthew (5:50) "I'll keep you posted."

Me (5:51) "It will be fitting if I have to use Cowboy [that's my dog] to find your body."

Matthew (6:02) "I will be nude. You've been warned."

Me (7:16) "Still alive?"

Matthew (7:27) "Alive and kicking." (There is no way he was kicking anything with that leg, in retrospect.)

Matthew (7:27) "I'm 2/3 of the way back to the deer with the sled."

Matthew (7:27) "Hobbling like the Fool in the moonlight."

Matthew (8:27) "I'm struggling. Still one mile from the car."

Me (8:35) "Want to leave the deer and I can come get it?"

Matthew (9:23) "Nah. I'm almost to the car. I don't think I can cut him up tonight."

Me (9:27) "I'll butcher it for you. I've got cold beers and sharp knives." (In hindsight, it might have been a little too soon for a sharp knife joke.)

Around 11:30 p.m. he rumbled up to my house in his old Subaru, which is currently devoid of a muffler. He was covered in blood and his face was alabaster pale in the glow of the dispassionate and eternal moon. I dragged the deer out of his trunk, took one look at his wound, and said, as calmly as possible but absolutely flabbergasted by the severity of it on the inside, "Hey buddy, you need to go to the Emergency Room…" I offered to drive him, and he said no, then he hobbled back to his car, howled in pain as he sat down, and drove away into the night. 20 minutes later I texted him again.

Me (11:55) "You alive buddy?"

Matthew (11:59) a photo of the exterior of the Emergency Room building in Madison.

Me (12:09 a.m.) "All your steaks are labelled with one word: 'Stab.'"

Matthew (12:11) "Perfect."

Matthew (12:12) a photograph of his bloody leg in a wheelchair.

Me (12:14) "Aside from the whimpering this is the toughest thing any of my friends has ever done."

Matthew (12:26) "They are going to numb me up and clean out this wound." (It was at this point the doctors and nurses gave our story's hero a very stern lecture about going to the hospital immediately after a stabbing and not going on an epic journey in the interim. They said he might have died and still might get sepsis. They also gave him morphine, so he thought the things they were telling him were all pretty interesting in a fairly abstract kind of way.)

Me (12:28) I finished butchering his deer and packed all the meat into the freezer. After that, I sent Matthew a passage from one of our favorite books. It is from a character named John Sheddan, who is about to die: *"I have never thought this life particularly salubrious or benign and I have never understood in the slightest why I was here. If there is an afterlife - and I pray most fervently that there is not - I can only hope that they wont sing. Be of good cheer, Squire. This was the ongoing adjuration of the early Christians and in this at least they were right. You know that I›ve always thought your history unnecessarily embittered. Suffering is a part of the human condition and must be borne. But misery is a choice."*

Me (12:28) "Suffering without misery is the key, little buddy. Good luck."

Matthew (12:51 a.m.) His final text message of the night: *"No misery here."*

I spoke with Matthew's wife the following morning. She told me an Uber pulled up outside her house in the gray dawn light and Matthew hobbled out of it, then walked into the house, still pale as a chimera, said "Good Morning" and promptly fell asleep. The paperwork from the hospital revealed that the Swedish carbon steel blade penetrated a horrifying seven centimeters into his leg, plunging deep beneath the kneecap. By some miracle, it missed every ligament.

The episode quickly became the stuff of legend. Matthew was featured on MeatEater.com. The Sharing the Land initiative and Decked gifted him a first aid kit to keep in his car. He was interviewed on the Wisconsin Sportsman podcast.

On that podcast he revealed how close he came to giving up that night, how much pain he felt, how many times he reached the very edge of what he could physically and emotionally endure. How many times he experienced the sentiment expressed by Samuel Becket: "I can't go on, I'll go on."

"And then you just get that feeling of, 'I can't do this.' Like, it's hard for me to drag a deer out over all the deadfall, through these drainages, even when I'm able bodied, let alone when my leg is throbbing," he said. "And at that point I'm starting to feel a little funny – I don't know if it's shock or just the pain is becoming so visceral – but I'm having a hard time facing emotionally, in a positive way, the situation. I'm starting to feel doubt. I'm starting to feel woe is me. And one of the things that kept me going was just that this is part of the game. You are in a bloodsport. This is part of what you signed up for. You just killed this deer with an arrow and then slit its throat, and you are going to bow out with like, a little wound to your knee? Come on, man, what are you doing? If you want to hunt you should be able to accept the consequences of what that entails."

He had recently talked to his brother-in-law about World War I, and as he quivered on the edge of giving up, he thought back to that, "and how many people had it way worse than me and endured way worse things than I have ever even begun to endure, and this is such a minor thing."

"And with that in mind," he said to himself, "Let's go."

On that night, he answered questions about himself that can only be answered in the woods. Great adventures are told and retold around hearths in cities, towns and villages. But they are always born in the wilderness. That is where you discover what you are made of. That is where you ask yourself life's important questions, and that is where you answer them with primordial honesty.

"Bad things are going to happen to you," Matthew later said. "How you respond is up to you."

He was, and he is, of good cheer.

Anyone who reads or hears this story will understand just how seriously we hunters care about the lives we take in the wilderness. Once you kill an animal for food, the two of you are inexorably linked. Your fates and stars are intertwined. Just as importantly, it is a reminder how *unseriously* we – all people – should take ourselves. For we are all fools in the moonlight, one way or another, unable to go on, and then going on despite it, awash in the dispassionate and eternal glow of the moon and the sun alike.

For years now, Matthew has been listed in my phone contacts as "Holy Fool Matthew." It's a reference to the Holy Fools that wandered the East in days of old, Russian Orthodox monks, sages and lunatics who trudged through snow with domesticated bears and knew that harmony with the real world and what society views as insanity are often one and the same thing.

And when he and his wife and daughters gather around the table and talk and laugh and tell funny stories as they feast for months on the venison that he carried and dragged for them, and for himself, and for the deer and for all of us, on one leg through the darkest and coldest places far off the edge of the civilized map, he will be many things at once. A hero and a fool. A fool and a hero. Human all the while.

He walks with a slight limp these days, yet Matthew is far lighter on his feet than ever before. He has the spring in his step of an adventurer, a fool in the moonlight, a Squire of good cheer. He, like all heroes, is a living reminder that perhaps we are still in the days of monsters and heroes and grand quests, each of us capable of the deeds of poem and song. For ours are the tales of long ago, of other people in other times, and of everyone and everything, now and forever.

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Community Foundation gives out $94,400 in grants

Wide assortment of local groups benefit from funds

The Mt. Horeb Community Foundation had a record number of applications and were able to award $94,400 in grants to 38 local organizations this year. Pictured here are:

Kneeling: Kellen Dorner (HS Marching Band), Allison Plumer (Welcome Center), Jason Brehna (Friends of Library), Charley & Jake Hamilton (MH Christian School), Jasmine Wyant (Upper Sugar River Watershed Assoc), Christine Benedict (Girls on the Run)

Seated: Jim Davies (Mound View Garden Club), Lynn Forshaug (SW Dane Outreach), Evonne Martin (Immanuel Luth Church), Judy Steinhauer (MHCF), Donna Sefton (United Meth Church), Kelli Hamilton (MH Christian School), Rebecca, Finn, & Alistair Buros (MH Community Band)

Standing: Lori Astell (Jr. Achievement), Nathan Schulte (PFLAG), Destinee Udelhoven (Historical Soc), Jessica Gretzinger & Melissa Roelli (Library), Troy Arneson (German Valley Cemetery), Annie Gillaume-Gantz (K-5 PTO), Peter Cameron (Center for Community Stewardship), Judy Robb (Arts Assoc), Mike McNall Sr. (Neighbors Helping Neighbors), Cathy Jones (Landmarks Foundation), Josh Smelzer (Volleyball Club), Jerry Hook (American Legion), Mike Woodward (Norsk), Peggy Popp (Wildlife Rehab), Casey McClyman (MHCF), Sarah Straka (MHASD), Suzi Grundahl (MHCF), Rick Gage (MHASD), Peter Waltz (MHCF)

Not Pictured: Mandy Potter (Wed Night Live), Marny Skindrud (VFW), Don Hartman (Veterans Memorial), Rowan Childs (Madison Reading Project), Mathew Wittenwyler (Wrestling Club), Jordan Van Zeeland & Nicole Tepe (ELC & PC), Rami Aburomia (Farmers Market), Craig Smith (MHHS).

Mount Horeb Community Foundation
Grants for 2026 Projects

Organization:	Project:	Amount
Southwest Dane Outreach	The Newsletter Project	$1,500
MH High School	Student Employment Excellence	$600
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Little Free Pantry	$1,400
PFLAG MH	Education & Outreach	$1,500
MH American Legion	Badger Boys and Girls State	$1,500
MH Area Wrestling	Wrestling Mat replacement	$1,500
Mound Vue Garden Club	Trollway Planters & Public Gardens	$1,500
Wildlife Nursery of MH	Electrical Wiring for Nursery Annex	$1,500
MH Community Band	Blast from the Past Concert	$500
Friends of the MH Public Library	Adult Programming	$1,500
MH Christian School	Library Project	$1,500
Girls on the Run of South Central WI	IC Afterschool Wellness Programming	$1,000
Wednesday Night Live	Summer Music in the Park	$1,500
German Valley Cemetery	Parochial School house repair.	$1,000
MH Veterans Memorial Association	Flag Replacement	$1,500
VFW Post 9511	Replace floor in Mens room	$1,500
MH United Methodist Church	Community Produce Gardens	$1,500
Landmarks Foundation - Dist 1 Schoolhouse	Newsletter & Child School Supplies	$1,500
MHASD Early Learning and Primary Centers	Summer Support Bags for Kids	$1,000
Jr. Achievement of WI - South Central Region	MH Future Ready Initiative	$1,500
MH K-5 PTO	Snack Attack / Teacher Appreciation	$1,500
MH Volleyball Booster Club	Booster Club Enhancements	$1,500
MH Area Arts Association	Spring Art Tour - 19th Annual	$1,500
Friends of the MH Welcome Center	Welcome Center Exterior Refurbish	$7,500
The Center for Community Stewardship	2026 State Legislature Election Journalism Project	$1,400
MH High School	London New Year's Day Parade & Gala Concerts	$10,000
Norsk Golf Club	Bowling Alley Bumpers for all 8 lanes	$5,000
MH Area School District	Robotics Classroom Bundle	$4,000
Madison Reading Project	Books for MH Educators	$3,500
Neighbors Helping Neighbors	Mission Support - Other Relief Services	$12,500
MH Area Historical Society Inc	History for All: Youth & Adult Community Programs	$5,000
Upper Sugar River Watershed Assoc	Building Capacity for Education and Outreach	$3,000
MH Farmers' Market	Local Food Resilience & Security	$5,000
MH Area School District	2 MHCF High School Scholarships	$3,000
MH Public Library	Kindlund Bequest	$5,000
Total Awards		**$94,400**

Sugar River Euchre

by Stan Hook

Both Red Mouse teams, team Uff-da and the Shufflers, had a terrible night last Thursday. Team Uff-da fell to Kurniki's Pipe Benders by 61 points while the Shufflers fell to the Express by 62 points. In the seventh round between the Pipe Benders and team Uff-da, Pipe Benders Jerome Krantz and Tom Arneson needed just one point to maintain a perfect score. Their opponents, Tom Magnuson and John Baumgartner, were on13. With three spades in his hand and hopes that Jerome could help, Tom Arneson ordered the ace of spades into Tom Magnuson's hand. Tom, now having dutchman's (jack of spades, jack of clubs and the ace of spades) immediately showed Tom Arneson his hand. Tom knew he and Jerome had just lost their first game of the night. Tom and Jerome went on to win the eighth game to end the night with 119 points. This just shows you how hard it is to obtain a perfect score. Ryan Arneson and John Forbes assisted in the 61 point victory by adding an additional 116 points to the Pipe Benders' tally. Uff-da teammates Dan Meinholz and Bruce Milestone had the low score for the league, scoring just 75 points.

All four Kurniki's Express couples scored over 100 points. With engineers Tracy Haag and Hoffy (Steve Hoffmaster) scoring 114 points, and teammates Dale Herfel and Dave Steinhauer shoveling in another 113 lbs. of coal. With scores like this, the Express had no problem taking the two-step away from the Shufflers, outscoring them by 62 points. Stan Hook and Shane Kahl were the only Shufflers able to break the 100-point barrier.

The Norsk Pranksters kept their perfect record intact, beating the Sportsman's Bar Cheese Eaters by 24 points. Chris Hook and Rodney Latham were high scorers for the Pranksters with 111 points. None of the Cheese Eaters apparently had much of an appetite as none of them were able to eat 100 lbs. of cheese.

The J&M Bar River Rats also stayed perfect, defeating the Norsk Cowboys, winners of the first half, by a mere 8 points. The River Rats won 9 of the first 12 games to take a 47-point lead after three frames. With a perfect fourth frame, the Cowboys were able to cut their deficit by 24 points. After the sixth frame they were within 9 points of the River Rats. The River Rats chowed down and won five of the last eight games to clinch the victory.

Kleeman's Hay Shakers started out plus 30 in their match against the Viking Trolls. By the end of the sixth frame, the Hay Shakers increased their lead to 55 points. But the Trolls weren't going down without a fight. They gained 4 points in the seventh frame, and with a perfect round in the eighth frame, they picked up another 23 points. Unfortunately, the deficit was just too large to overcome, the Hay Shakers Hay Shakers won by 28 points.

Standings

J&M Bar River Rats 2-0
Norsk Pranksters 2-0
Kleeman's Hay Shakers 1-1
Kurniki's Express 1-1
Kurniki's Pipe Benders 1-1
Norsk Cowboys 1-1
Red Mouse Shufflers 1-1
Red Mouse Uff-Da 1-1
Sportsman's Cheese Eaters 0-2
Viking Trolls 0-2

Schedule for Jan 22

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

DR. RILEY COON

Riley Coon, son of Jim and Lori Coon of Mount Horeb and 2015 graduate of MHHS, is wrapping up his Family Medicine residency at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He has served as Chief Resident during his third year and was just selected to a sports Medicine Fellowship position at UCLA Health in Los Angeles, CA.

The Mount Horeb Veteran's Memorial was the result of years of work by local veterans and their supporters. Two signs along eastbound and westbound USH 18/151 will soon direct travelers to the site. File photos by Matt Geiger.

MEMORIAL

continued from page 1

"I am thankful for the overwhelming support from my legislative colleagues on this bill," said Novak. "The Mount Horeb community has invested their time and resources into a memorial that honors local veterans and their service to our country. By constructing new highway signs, we will be able to highlight the monument and attract more visitors to the Mount Horeb area. I look forward to Governor Evers signing this bill into law."

AB 520 and its senate companion bill SB 521 have now passed both chambers of the Legislature. The bill then heads to Governor Evers' desk for his signature. The Wisconsin DOT will be responsible for installing and maintaining the two directional signs along eastbound and westbound USH 18/151 for the Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial.

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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

Mount Horeb Public Library

Mount Horeb Mail

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*

Local dog breeder seeks protection from activists following online threats

By Kevin Murphy
Mount Horeb Mail

An animal rights activist's threats on social media to remove dogs from Ridglan Farms has the town of Blue Mound-based dog breeder seeking help from law enforcement.

"If the Government Won't Rescue the Ridglan Dogs, We Will," Wayne Hsiung posted to his blog on Jan. 6.

"I've come to the conclusion that the only way for us to save the dogs is for citizens to head to Wisconsin and just start rescuing them ourselves," Hsiung.

Hsuing and a few other activists took three dogs from Ridglan Farms in 2017 and were going to trial in Dane County before the charges were dropped at the request of Ridglan's owners.

Ridglan has been one of the country's largest breeders of dogs for medical research and currently has about 2,200 dogs on the premises, according to Jim Newman, a spokesman for Ridglan.

Although Ridglan agreed last fall to quit breeding research animals for sale by July 1, Hsiung apparently wants to end the practice this spring.

He has been using Zoom to recruit and organize 100 or more individuals to trespass and forcibly remove animals from Ridglan, possibly by March, Newman wrote in a news release last week.

Attorney Eric McLeod said his clients are contacting state, federal and local law enforcement to warn them of Hsuing's threatened actions to avoid a confrontation that could be harmful.

"People can get hurt and we're concerned about the physical safety of our employees and others," McLeod said in a phone interview.

McLeod finds Hsuing threats to be credible as the activist attorney has three convictions for theft and trespassing at similar animal research facilities, according to Newman's news release.

"They create chaos which can have unintended consequences," McLeod said.

Hsuing expects to be arrested for his planned actions at Ridglan, as he wants to draw more attention to his cause of freeing animals kept for medical research.

"I'm sure he feels that me talking to you helps generate more publicity," McLeod said.

Ridglaln wants the FBI, Dane County Sheriff's Office and the Dane County District Attorney notified of the planned raid on Ridglan just what they can do to prevent it remains unclear, McLeod said.

Sheriff's spokesperson, Elise Schaffer, said she's aware of the announced actions against Ridglan and was checking to see if patrols would be increased or what their response would be.

Schaffer had no follow up to that statement as of last week.

MoHo citizens gather for protest against ICE following shooting

The SouthWest Wisconsin Area Progressive group held an event which drew attention to the tenets of fascism. On a cold and windy January 14, local residents lined Springdale Street in Mount Horeb, many holding signs concerning the ICE agent shooting of Renee Good in Minneapolis. Photos contributed.

Recreation Notes

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!

Get ready for a sweet and creative Valentine's Day experience! Youth ages 6–14 are invited to join our hands-on **Valentine's Cookie Decorating Class**, where they'll learn step-by-step how to design and decorate five festive cookies to take home (and maybe share!). Participants will explore fun icing techniques and add their own personal flair to each delicious creation. All supplies are provided—just bring your imagination and love for cookies! Children ages 8 and under must be accompanied by an adult. This class takes place on Saturday, Feb. 7th, from 9-10:30 am. The fee is $50 for residents and $60 for non-residents; the registration deadline is 2/2.

Unlock your child's creativity! In this fun, hands-on **Painting Class**, young artists ages 5-12 will be guided step-by-step to create a painting of an adorable Valentine's Owl—no experience needed—just imagination! This class will be held on February 9 from 1:00-3:00pm (an early-release day for Mount Horeb Schools). Cost is $50 for residents and $60 for non-residents, and the registration deadline is 2/2.

Join **Fit for Life**! This 45-minute low-impact fitness class combines cardio and strength-training fitness with a focus on balance, stability, and flexibility. Participants will engage in both standing and seated exercises, with optional chair support. The class is designed for a moderate, beginner-to-intermediate workout level, and all exercises can be modified to suit individual abilities. Fit for Life runs 4:15-5 pm on Wednesdays, March 4th to May 20th. The fee is $60 for residents and $70 for non-residents. The registration deadline is 2/24.

2026 facility reservations are 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.

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:

1/26, Babysitting Class Sess. 1

2/2, Cookie Decorating Class

2/2, Early Release Painting Class Sess. 2

2/16: Family Bingo

2/16: Macqueen Robotics

2/23: After School Art Class

2/24: Fit for Life Spring Session

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Mount Horeb Area School District

It Takes a Village: Thank You, MHASD Community

By Aubree Hanks
Mt. Horeb Area School Dist.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and the Mount Horeb Area School District (MHASD) is fortunate to be supported by an extraordinary community that believes in providing pathways for all our kids. Student success at MHASD is made possible through the collective efforts of dedicated educators, support staff, families, and community members, volunteers, community partners, and local organizations who work together each day to help achieve our vision to "prepare, learn, and lead."

MHASD staff bring knowledge, passion, care, and commitment into classrooms, hallways, and activities across the District. Their exceptional professionalism includes creating engaging learning experiences, supporting struggling students, and fostering meaningful connections. Through these and other actions, our dedicated and passionate staff power our students' educational journeys. These, plus more, have a lasting impact on our students' educational journeys.

Families play an equally vital role. Through encouragement and support at home, partnership with school staff, and ongoing involvement, they help reinforce the importance of learning and growth. Volunteers and community partners further strengthen this foundation by sharing their time, talents, and resources, enriching opportunities for students both inside and outside the classroom.

The broader Mount Horeb community continues to show unwavering support for students through financial support, attendance, advocacy, and engagement. Whether it's a volunteer reading with first graders, a local business hosting a job shadow, or families showing up on a cold Friday night to cheer on our students, the presence of community members sends a powerful message to students—that their efforts matter and their community believes in them. This spring, we will see the manifestation of our community's support as work begins on our elementary school's addition.

Mount Horeb Area School District (MHASD) "is fortunate to be supported by an extraordinary community that believes in providing pathways for all our kids," writes Aubree Hanks.

As the school year continues, there are many ways people in the MHASD community can remain involved:

As the school year continues, there are many meaningful ways members of the MHASD community can stay involved. Individuals are encouraged to volunteer by joining the Board's Community and Legislative Engagement Committee, which meets online monthly and focuses on advocacy for greater financial, educational, emotional, and safety support for students—as well as by joining the PTO or supporting classroom experiences, school events, and enrichment opportunities. Community members may also host interns or provide job-shadowing experiences to help students explore future career pathways. Those looking to give financially can donate to specific programs or areas of interest, directly supporting student learning and growth. In addition, community partners may sponsor a classroom, club, or athletic facility, or choose from a variety of district advertising opportunities that both support our schools and promote local businesses.

To learn more about how to give back and stay involved, visit www.mounthorebschools.org/giveback.

Every show of support—big or small—contributes to a positive, encouraging learning environment where students feel valued and inspired to "prepare, learn, and lead."

Thank you for being an essential part of our area school district. Together, we are shaping a bright future for our students.

Garden Design Through the Artist's Eye with Pam Graber

On Tuesday, February 3rd, Pam Grabber will be presenting on Garden Design Through as Artist's Eye. Pam will demonstrate how artist's design principles can help enhance your garden's beauty. Using light and shadow, color and form contrasts and other design parameters, gardens can be enlivened throughout all the seasons. Pam will also walk us through some art history and look how gardens have played a role over the centuries and captured artist's eyes. She also plans to bring some of her work to the event. For more information on Pam's life and artwork, go to her website at: https://www.pamelagrabber.com/about

The club meets monthly, every first Tuesday, 6:45PM, at Wisconsin Surplus, Mt Horeb, 2600 Rte 78 South, in the Violet Room. The building is located on the west side of the village of Mt Horeb (at the 2nd exit heading west off 18/151). Refreshments at 6:45, presentation starts at 7:00, and the club business meeting begins at 8:00.

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

Stay Safe This Winter With These Tips From Madison Gas and Electric Company

Natural Gas Safety

We add a distinctive, harmless chemical odor to the natural gas we deliver to you. This smelly (rotten egg or rotten cabbage), sulfur-based odor will help you detect gas leaks that might occur in your home, business or neighborhood. If you smell natural gas, evacuate the area immediately and call MGE to report the gas emergency at (608) 252-7000.

Other important gas safety tips:

Do not touch anything that might create a spark (light switch, telephone, cell phone, garage opener, etc.)

If your pilot light is out, read the manufacturer's instructions so you know what type of ignition is on the furnace or appliance. Be sure to check the instructions and follow them exactly as described. If you aren't sure what to do, call a qualified service technician.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a clear, odorless gas produced by burning fuels like natural gas, propane, oil, wood, kerosene or charcoal. At high levels, CO can kill a person in minutes. Fetuses, infants, older adults and people with anemia or a history of heart or respiratory disease can be especially susceptible.

Common CO causes:

Fuel-burning appliances that are not vented properly or that are used incorrectly including gas ranges/ovens, water heaters, furnaces, clothes dryers, etc.

Gasoline-powered snow blowers, emergency generators, lawn mowers, etc.

Idling cars.

Charcoal or gas grills.

Symptoms of CO poisoning:

Low levels of CO poisoning may cause shortness of breath, nausea or headaches.

Moderate levels can cause severe headaches, dizziness, confusion, nausea or fainting.

Moderate levels of exposure over a long period of time can cause death.

Many of these symptoms are similar to those caused by the flu, food poisoning or other illnesses. If you think you have symptoms caused by CO poisoning, leave the house to get fresh air immediately and be sure to call 911 and seek medical attention.

Steps to prevent CO poisoning: Have appliances and equipment that burn fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil or wood inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season. This includes your furnace, water heater, range, oven, dryer, space heater and fireplace.

Purchase and install CO alarms that are Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved. Do not use an alarm as a substitute for proper use and maintenance of your appliances and equipment.

Make sure the exhaust vents, flues and chimneys in your home are working properly.

Don't use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short time.

Don't use a charcoal grill indoors, even in a fireplace.

Don't ignore symptoms, especially if more than one person has them. If you do nothing, you could lose consciousness and die.

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Visit mge.com for more information on gas and electric safety.

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BELLA

continued from page 1

They use ingredients from a variety of nearby farms, but much of what they serve has never even left the property on which their customers sit and tuck into Lasagna Bolognese, Braciola, Filet Mignon Au Poivre, Porchetta and more, all while sipping wine.

It all started with a small Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation in 2009, a year after they purchased the 20-acre Blue Mounds farm. A few years later, prompted by their customers, they decided they wouldn't merely grow food for them; they would cook it, too. They started with special off-site events; a dinner at St. Francis Catholic Church, and one at Schubert's Restaurant.

At the time, Mary Ann and Marc has two young boys at home, plus an assortment of animals and crops to tend to. They were raising their own sheep and chickens, making their own wine, and producing an eclectic assortment of crops. Everything centered around food and family. It was a very Italian arrangement on this New World property in rural Wisconsin.

With so much going on, they realized the farm, which Mary Ann says has always been "the center of their family" needed to be the site of their business, as well.

"We were like, 'We need to do this here,'" she said.

In the fall of 2014, they offered a couple dinners on the farm. The following autumn they began offering regular Friday and Saturday meals there, with customers coming from far and wide to enjoy their homemade, homegrown meals in a small restaurant that looked directly out onto the land where the food had lived. It could easily be mistaken for family dining in the Italian countryside, with elegant meals and wine services, and an array of candid family photos adorning the walls.

"We've just been kind of going along," she said. "We've pivoted when we needed to. I think people understand what we are doing here."

Fifteen years ago, Mary Ann stood just a couple hundred yards away, talking about her family and their grape crop for an article in the *Mail*. She says if you had told her then what the family farm would blossom into, she would hardly have believed it.

"I would have said no," she laughs. "Too crazy. But my husband is an idea guy, and he gets me excited about things, and then we both jump in with both feet."

The two have been married nearly 30 years now, and when they faced trials and illness early on, they made a simple pact: "We just decided to stick this out together, no matter what."

"It's funny," she says. "We had barely any restaurant experience. I had once been a bus girl and a hostess and I hated both. But I love telling these stories and I think people come here for the experience."

Every glistening roasted red tomato. Every white cannellini bean. Every sweet pepper. Ever braised shank of lamb. Every mouthful tells a story.

That kind of passion means they don't always agree on every detail. "Marc and I disagree on how cannoli should be made," she says in the same tone someone would admit they and their spouse are members of two different religions. But such disagreements are par for the course when food and family intermingle to this degree.

"I'm a butcher's daughter," Mary Ann says. "I think people should know where their meat comes from and how to cook it." Bellazzini even was given her father's own coveted sausage recipe recently, and the family sometimes makes sausage over Facetime with her 82-year-old father, who now lives in Arizona.

"I do think there is that little component of love or compassion or whatever in our food," she says. "And to think about the products you are putting into your body. The taste is so different."

Campo di Bella, located in rural Blue Mounds. offers on-site farm to table dining. Photos contributed.

It is a place of strong men, strong women, and carefully tended recipes. Food is definitely their love language.

"It's a family business, but it's also a business as a family."

They own a place in Italy, where they regularly journey to search out and learn from some of the best restaurants in the world. But when they return home, they feel a special connection to the soil beneath their feet and the special Blue Mounds skies.

"The stars at night," she says. "And the sunsets. I don't ever take those for granted."

This is the land that produces their food, supplemented by many nearby small producers.

"Part of our values are to buy from other local producers as much as possible as well as highlight their products and their business at our dinners," said Marc. "Not only by telling our customers where their meal comes from but by actually hosting the producers to allow them to tell their story at our dinners. We hope that the producers we support would do the same and tell others about our business to come full circle and support the local economy, small farms and businesses and provide and sustain our community."

Their list of local producers is lengthy and ever-changing. It currently includes Bleu Mont Dairy, Blue Valley Gardens, Bryant Family Farms, Bures Berry Patch, Dorothy's Range, Dreamfarm, Dreamy 280 Farm Fresh Meats, Gentle Breeze Honey, Hook's Cheese, Munchkey Apples, New Life Greens, Pasture Patterns, Squashington Farm, The Cider Farm, Uplands Cheese, Wonderfarm, Park Elm Farm, Swiss Cellars, Open Kettle Farm, and of course, vegetables, fruit, flowers, herbs, grapes, eggs, lamb and pork from Campo di Bella.

Part of their unique system is that they serve only by reservation, so they know ahead of time what ingredients they need and how many customers they will have at each meal.

What does the future hold? Perhaps pizza on the farm. Maybe special brunches featuring homemade pastries. Perhaps an educational series about food. The Bellazzinis know it could be anything. Whatever it is, its foundation will be food, farming, and family.

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Many thanks to all who remembered me on my 90th birthday with cards, phone calls, gifts, visits and emails. Special thanks to my wonderful family. You are all a blessing to me.

- Wayne Sutter

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SPORTS

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Mount Horeb dealt a blow

Manchester separates right shoulder

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Same opponent.
Same gymnasium.
Same shoulder.

This was the kind of déjà vu Josh Manchester didn't need.

Manchester, a standout senior guard for Mount Horeb's boys basketball team, suffered a separated right shoulder in the Vikings' showdown against visiting McFarland on Jan. 15. Manchester also injured the same shoulder in the WIAA Division 2 regional finals against the Spartans last season and didn't play again.

This time, Manchester was hurt with McFarland leading, 18-12, 8 minutes into the game. With Manchester sidelined the rest of the night, the Spartans rolled to an 88-45 win.

McFarland, which leads the Badger Small Conference at 6-0, improved to 11-1 overall. The Vikings are now 9-4, 3-2 and tied for third place in the league with Stoughton.

After the loss, though, that was all secondary. Manchester's health was at top of everybody's mind.

"I just feel bad for Josh," Mount Horeb coach Todd

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Mount Horeb standout Josh Manchester suffered a separated right shoulder in the Vikings' loss to McFarland on Jan. 15. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Vikings top Evansville without Manchester

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Now what?

That was the question Todd Nesheim and his Mount Horeb boys basketball team had to answer last Friday — 24 hours after standout guard Josh Manchester was lost due to a separated right shoulder.

"At practice we talked about what this team will now look like without Josh," Nesheim said. "I think for this team to have success we will need to hang our hat on the defensive end, and really focus on making life tough for other teams offensively. We will need to win games with scores in the upper 40s, low 50s and on a good offensive night, maybe in the 60s."

That's exactly what happened last Saturday as the Vikings defeated visiting Evansville, 56-45. The Vikings improved to 9-4 overall, while the Blue Devils slipped to 7-6.

Mount Horeb junior wing Alex Chapman led the way with 19 points, while senior post Hayden Anderson added 14 points. Senior guard Kam Nesheim and junior guard Nick Ibinger both

continued on page 15

Vikings poised for second half push

Mount Horeb's girls in second place in league

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's girls basketball team hit the halfway point in Badger Small Conference play last week.

And the Vikings have positioned themselves for a terrific finish in the league.

Mount Horeb defeated Portage, 63-19, on Jan. 13 and downed Fort Atkinson, 50-34, on Jan. 16. The Vikings improved to 6-1 in the conference and 8-6 overall.

"We've put ourselves in a position to finish strong," Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said. "This team just keeps getting better each and every day mentally, and with basketball I.Q. I know that will help us down the stretch."

Here's a recap of the Vikings' week.

• **Mount Horeb 63, Portage 19 —** Senior forward Nalia Craven led the Vikings with 11 points and junior guard Courtney Monroe added 10 as Mount Horeb rolled past the Warriors (2-10).

Mount Horeb was able to play everyone on the team and sophomore guard Emily Wittenwyler scored seven points in the second half off the bench.

Mount Horeb also forced 26 turnovers that led to 28 points.

"Our pressure defense was just too much for their guards," Leibfried said. "Our strength played into their weakness. Proud how our girls did not let up and had the killer instinct."

The Vikings led, 41-11,

continued on page 14

Courtney Monroe and Mount Horeb's girls basketball team are in second place in the Badger Small Conference midway through the season. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo gymnasts stay unbeaten

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team improved to 3-0 in Badger Small Conference duals meets on Jan. 13.

The Vikings rolled past Watertown, 138.175-126.775.

"Our Viking gymnasts continued their undefeated season behind numerous personal-best performances," Vikings coach Martha Koller Faust said. "We had a solid meet overall, but we are still adjusting our lineups as we work to put together our strongest vaults and routines on each event. As we close out January and head into February, our schedule becomes more challenging and this process will be important as we prepare for tougher competition."

Sylviah Seeliger won the all-around competition with a 35.175 score, while Harper Hendrickson was third (33.975).

Mount Horeb also had the top two finishers in three of the four events.

"Tonight's outcome was a complete team effort and a great example of the confidence and consistency our gymnasts continue to build," Koller Faust said. "With more repetitions and full routines in practice, we hope this team continues to gain even more confidence and belief in themselves."

Here's a list of the Vikings' individual scores:

Mount Horeb 138.175, Watertown 126.775

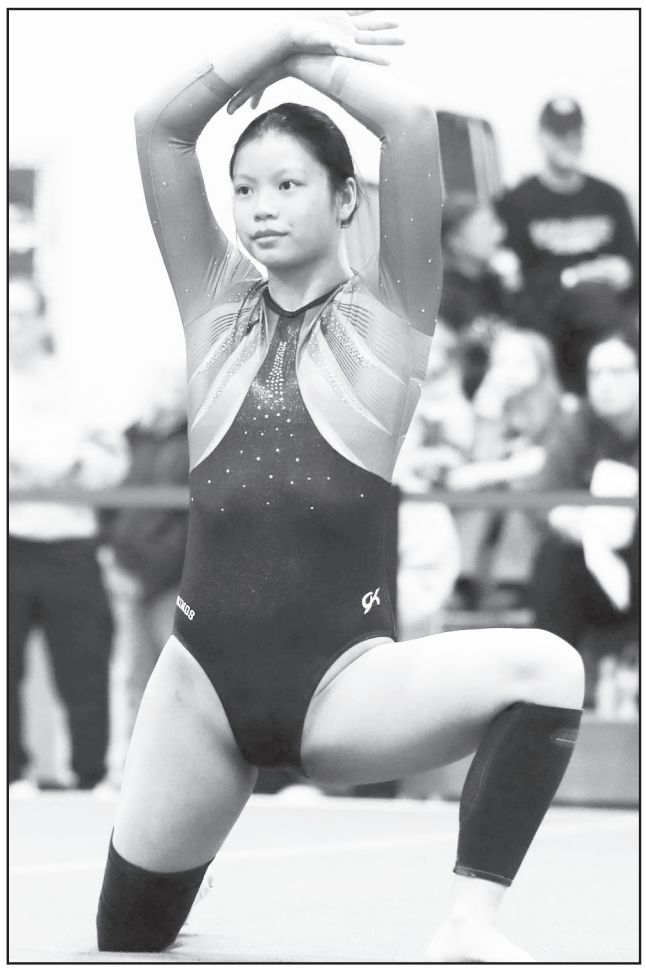
Floor — 36.0
1st place — Sylviah Seeliger, 9.125
2nd — Carmen Oglesby, 9.1
4th — Averi Kalscheur, 8.9
5th — Harper Hendrickson, 8.875

Beam — 35.75
1st place — Averi Kalscheur, 9.0
2nd — Avena Meyers and Sylviah Seeliger, 8.95
4th — Harper Hendrickson, 8.85
5th — Carmen Oglesby, 8.65

Bars — 33.275
1st place — Macie Finley, 8.55
2nd — Sylviah Seeliger, 8.45
3rd — Tessa Soppe, 8.175
4th — Harper Hendrickson, 8.1

Vault — 33.15
2nd place — Sylivah Seeliger, 8.65
4th — Avena Meyers, 8.25
5th — Harper Hendrickson, 8.15
Carmen Olgesby, 8.1

All-around
1st place — Sylviah Seeliger, 35.175
3rd — Harper Hendrickson, 33.975



Mount Horeb's Sylviah Seeliger was the all-around champion against Watertown. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

JV
Mount Horeb 120.3, Watertown 91.6

Beam — 31.2
1st place — Macie Finley, 8.2
2nd — Ava Bilse and Elise Hooks, 7.7
4th — Jacey Morin, 7.6
5th — Kate Van Gorden, 7.2

Vault — 31.1
1st place — Evie Wyse, 8.1
3rd — Kate Van Gorden, 7.85
4th — Marie Hutchins, 7.7
Ava Bilse, 7.45

Floor — 29.4
1st place — Kate Van Gorden, 7.8
2nd — Elise Hooks, 7.4
3rd — Evie Wyse, 7.3
5th — Jacey Morin, 6.9

Bars — 28.6
1st place — Carmen Oglesby, 7.6
2nd — Elise Hooks, 7.1
3rd — Kate Van Gorden, 7.0
4th — Evie Wyse, 6.9

All-around
1st place — Kate Van Gorden, 29.85
2nd — Evie Wyse, 28.2
3rd — Ava Bilse, 27.7

Wrestlers top Baraboo

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb/Barneveld's wrestlers defeated Baraboo on Jan. 16.

Here's a recap of hos the Vikings performed at each weight class.

106 — Bryce Madden (22-7), Fr., MHB won by forfeit

113 — Ryan Kuntz (3-5) Jr., MHB, won by forfeit

120 — Drew Droessler (10-10) So., MHB won by forfeit

126 — Dezmen Severson (13-4) Sr., BARA pinned RJ Emanneul (11-8) Fr., MHB

132 — Maxton Stevens (19-12) Fr., MHB pinned Shayden Pesek (0-1) Fr., BARA.

138 — Nick Burreson (10-7) Sr., MHB pinned Mason Lurvey (1-2) Fr., BARA, 1:03.

144 — Timmy Kruse (9-9) Sr., MHB pinned Isaac Stansberry (0-3) Fr., BARA, 1:04.

150 — Max Frisch (3-2) Jr., MHB def. Dominic Gallo (2-13) Jr., BARA, 27-7.

157 — Hunter Stevens (28-2) Sr., MHB pinned Gavin Gerhartz (0-5) Fr., BARA, 0:34.

165 — Landon Kahl (10-10) So., MHB won by forfeit

175 — Eli Maier (27-3) Jr., MHB won by forfeit

215 — Eli Leonard (29-0) Sr., MHB won by forfeit

285 — John Rogers (17-7) Sr., BARA pinned Wyatt Bush (5-4) So., MHB, 2:10.

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GIRLS BB

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at halftime and cruised home.

"I had to use a timeout to get them out of full court pressure defense," Leibfried said. "We have had seven different players lead us in scoring through 14 games which is a testament to our balance."

• **Mount Horeb 50, Fort Atkinson 34 —** Courtney Monroe scored a team-high 15 points and sophomore guard Aubrey Rockow added 13 as the Vikings downed the Blackhawks (7-6).

"Once again our pressure took them out of their game and really didn't allow them to even get into their offense," Leibfried said. "We did not shoot well, but played really well in all other phases of the game."

Leibfried called it, "Some of our best ball of the season" as Mount Horeb did everything well except consistently make shots.

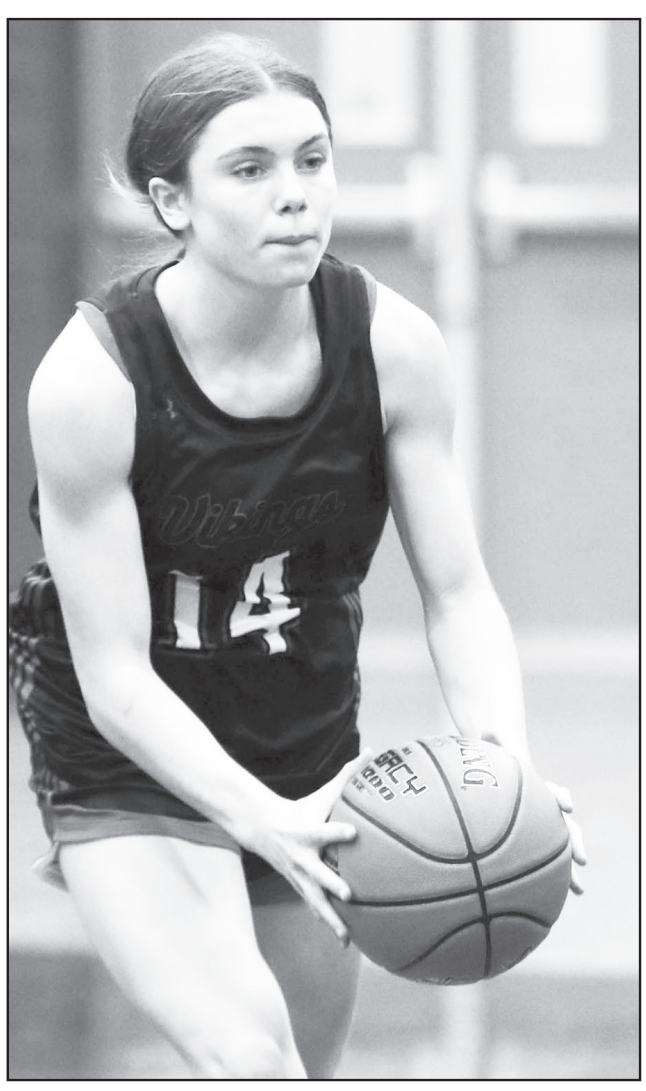
Monroe's night was terrific as she had one of her best all-around games of the season.

"Courtney Monroe had a great all-around game," Leibfried said. "She got us into the right offense when they were changing defenses, ran the right sets, scored around the hoop and was just tenacious on defense. We know she can play this way every game and now just needs to build off the momentum and keep playing that way."

Rockow came off the bench and buried three 3-pointers in the first half to also give the Vikings a boost.

"She has been struggling offensively, so she really needed this and so did our team," Leibfried said. "She is a great shooter and we are going to need her to hit some shots for us down the stretch."

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb was at Milton Monday, then hosts McFarland Thursday at 7:15 p.m.



Isla Odgers and Mount Horeb's girls basketball team defeated Portage and Fort Atkinson last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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BOYS BB

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added eight points.

Mount Horeb also held Evansville to just 35.4% shooting (17-of-48).

"Alex Chapman certainly will be our go to scorer," Todd Nesheim said of how the Vikings will function without Manchester. "We talked with him about what things might look like now and I would expect him to be face guarded, and for teams to try to take him out of the picture offensively. That didn't happen in this game, but I think in conference play it will. Alex hit some big buckets in this game.

"Hayden Anderson continues to be a threat inside for us offensively. He continues to have success around the rim and buries an occasional three. As important, he's been a beast on the defense end and on the boards."

Evansville had its own adversity to deal with as Blue Devils coach Jon Nedelcoff resigned last Friday morning. And that left Nesheim and the Vikings guessing what Evansville might look like.

"We weren't sure what kind of team we were going to see," Todd Nesheim said. "One that was fired up or one that was emotionally spent?"

Mount Horeb got off to a terrific start, scoring on nine of its first 10 offensive possessions.

Kam Nesheim hit a 3-pointer and got to three free throw line early.

"He's been our second most consistent shooter from three in practice and we will need him to get going in games a little bit more without Josh," Todd Nesheim said of Kam. "So it was good to see his confidence pick up."

From there, the game stayed relatively even the rest of the way.

Mount Horeb pushed its lead to as many as 14 at various times. Evansville trimmed its deficit to eight, but couldn't come any closer.

For the Vikings' first outing without Manchester, things went about well as anyone could have hoped.

"We came up with big stops time and time again and then we came down and had a big score," Todd Nesheim said. "This happened multiple times to keep that lead at a comfortable gap. We will need contributions now from the bench and from other starters going forward."

• **Mount Horeb 78, Monroe 67 —** Senior guard Josh Manchester scored 37 points and senior post Hayden Anderson added 20 points as the Vikings rallied past the visiting Cheesemakers on Jan. 12.

Monroe led, 58-56, with 7 minutes remaining, but Mount Horeb finished the game on a 22-9 run.

"I was proud of the response out of the timeout," Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. "That showed some toughness on both ends of the floor. This is the second game in a row that we needed to find a way to go win a game late, which will hopefully pay off for us down the stretch."

Monroe (7-4) had impressive wins this season against Sauk Prairie, Darlington, and Madison Edgewood. But Mount Horeb has gotten the better of the Cheesemakers in recent seasons.

"Monroe has struggled in games at Mount Horeb historically the last few years," Nesheim said. "I thought maybe if we could build a lead, they might fold a bit."

Alex Chapmna had 19 points in Mount Horeb's win over Evansville last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

The Vikings did race to a 21-12 lead and stretched that to 42-30 by halftime.

Mount Horeb scored on 12 of its 18 first half possessions and went 11-of-13 on two-point shots. Manchester led the Vikings with 18 first half points.

"We were dominating the boards so I felt good about that," Nesheim said. "And even though Josh had 18 at half, we had a balanced offense and I felt good about that."

Monroe didn't fold, though, beginning the second half on a 20-12 run to close within 54-50.

"We weren't able to deliver the knockout punch and now we were in for a battle," Nesheim said.

Monroe took its first lead since early in the game at the 6:55 mark after a steal and a lay-up gave it a 58-56 advantage. But after Nesheim called timeout, his team responded with a terrific finish.

"We proceeded to score on our next seven possessions, most of those coming off of sets," Nesheim said. "Our defense picked up as well and we were able to put the game away down the stretch. A nice win for us."

• **On deck:** The Vikings hosted Fort Atkinson Tuesday, then are at Reedsburg Friday at 7:15 p.m.

Mount Horeb then faces Lodi at the Fiserv Forum Saturday at 2 p.m. The Vikings will

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~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
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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 tcpchair@townofcrossplains.wi.gov.

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INJURY

continued from page 13

Nesheim said. "The kid has given us everything. He wanted a state tournament run for this team, and he did everything he possibly could to put our team in that position the last four years. So I feel bad for him in that regard."

With 10 minutes remaining in the first half, Manchester drove the left side of the lane. He went up for a 10-footer as double-team help arrived, and was hit by McFarland junior guard Garrett Crull.

Manchester immediately fell to the ground and screamed in pain. Officials let play continue, and the Spartans raced the other way and drained a 3-pointer.

When play finally stopped, Mount Horeb trainer Sheri Almquist hurried to Manchester's side and was quickly able to get his shoulder popped back into place. Perhaps the only good news is the Vikings are optimistic the injury won't be season-ending.

"I mean, nobody knows that for sure right now," Nesheim said. "I think from the perspective of him being injured, we probably don't want to make any rushed judgments right now, but our trainer didn't think it was nearly as bad as last year.

"He'll just have to strengthen it. He'll have to rest for a couple weeks and strengthen it and probably wear a brace. He wore one during AAU, so he's used to it."

What the Vikings aren't used to is playing without Manchester — and it showed.

Mount Horeb was within 24-16 after two free throws from Nick Ibinger with 8 ½ minutes left in the half. McFarland then went on an eye-popping 36-7 run and surged to a 60-23 lead.

That lead eventually grew to 77-30 with 10 minutes left in the game as McFarland had a running clock against the Vikings.

"As far as the team goes, obviously a little rattled," Nesheim said. "They played lights out, so I think it was a little bit of a combination of both of those things. You don't want to judge anything too hard tonight, but what we did see wasn't very encouraging.

"But, you know, we're going to have to find scoring and we haven't had it. Josh has, you know, been our scoring, and others haven't had to score as much. Every game there's always been one other kid. Now we're going to need, like, four of them. So as we just talked about, you're going to have opportunities."

While Nesheim was disappointed how his team played after Manchester's injury, he knew facing McFarland — even with a healthy Manchester — was going to be an enormous task.

McFarland has rolled off 11 straight wins since dropping its season-opener at Milton. Crull, who averages 20.0 points per game, is one of the top players in the league, and 6-foot-9 junior center Eli Kruger (17.0 ppg) can hurt teams from inside and out.

"We were going to have our hands full either way," Nesheim said. "They shoot the ball. That's what makes them so good. The big and the point guard are great, which is a good start.

"And then you add three, four shooters, and they've got guys coming off the bench. They're going to be really good the next two years. And (coach Jeff Meinholdt) has done a nice job putting those kids in positions to succeed too. Those sets he's running right now are putting guys in positions to maximize their strengths."

Mount Horeb must now discover what its strengths are without Manchester.

Nesheim believes his team can still excel on the defensive end of the floor. Junior wing Alex Chapman (13.7 ppg) will be become the focal point of the offense, while senior post Hayden Anderson (9.0 ppg) will be asked to carry more of the offensive load, as well.

Others like senior guards Cal Odgers and Kam Nesheim must step up their games if the Vikings hope to stay above water.

"As I told them, we're going to have to find guys that can score a little bit," Todd Nesheim said. "We can't run around out there and look incompetent. If we continue to look like this, there are going to be a lot of people that want to beat the crap out of Mount Horeb."

Nesheim then raised his hand above eye-level and said: "As I told them, my bar is here and I'm not adjusting it. The standard is the standard. I still plan on winning plenty of games, and we've got to find guys that can do that and that will be a group effort, certainly. But that was the message."

Hayden Anderson and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team fell to McFarland, 88-45, on Jan. 15. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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