



Fun times at Fiserv!

Cal Odgers (14) and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team defeated Lodi during a game played at Fiserv Forum last Saturday. For more, turn to sports on page 12.

No evidence that the village violated open meetings law

*Former village president had filed
complaint with District Attorney*

By Matt Geiger

Mount Horeb Mail

Both the Blue Mounds village attorney and the Dane County District Attorney's office have found that the village followed proper protocols and did not vio-

late any open meetings laws in October of 2025 despite accusations from the former village president.

Former Blue Mounds village president Audra Anderson filed a formal complaint

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With 'Hemlock' in hand, Melissa Faliveno returns



Mount Horeb native Melissa Faliveno released her second book, the novel “Hemlock” (Little, Brown) on January 20. Photo by Anna M. Maynard.

Wisconsin Newspaper Assoc. urges passage of legislation to protect free speech

*Bill would protect right to
petition the government*

State Senator Eric Wimberger (R-Oconto) and Representative Jim Pi-

wowarczyk (R-Hubertus) have introduced Wisconsin Senate Bill 666/Assembly Bill 701, which would adopt the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act (UPEPA), bringing long-overdue free speech protections for citizens and journalists in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Newspaper Association and this newspaper applaud Wemberger and Piowarczyk for introducing SB 666/AB 701 and enthusiastically urge its passage. Designed to pro-

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By MATT GEIGER

Mount Horeb Mail

Melissa Faliveno is many things. She's a celebrated author, a longtime Brooklyn resident and a current

creative writing professor at the University of North Carolina. Her debut essay collection *Tomboyland* was named a Best Book of 2020 by NPR, New York Pub-

lic Library, Oprah Magazine, Electric Literature, and Debutiful, and she was the recipient of a 2021 Award for Outstanding Literary Achievement from the

Wisconsin Library Association. Faliveno's writing has appeared in *Esquire*, *Paris Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Literary Hub*, *Ms. maga-*
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Obituary

Thomas Roland Holum

Mount Horeb - Thomas Roland Holum, age 62, of Mount Horeb, died peacefully on Saturday, January 3, 2026 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. Tom was born the youngest of five on September 1st, 1963 in Madison to Roland and Marlene (Brattlie) Holum.

Tom is survived by his son Hunter Holum, mother Marlene Holum, siblings Steve (Maureen) Holum,



Carla (Kurt) Nowka, Patti (Brian) Haag, Becky (Jim) Murray, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son

Gunnar Holum and his father Roland Holum.

Tommy's life was defined by his family and friends, his lifelong career in construction, and his love of the outdoors.

Tom was a 1982 graduate of Mount Horeb High School and lifelong Mount Horeb resident. He was employed as a foreman at Cleary Building Corp. from 1982 to 2020 where he and his hard work were honored with the Builder of the Year

award multiple times. He also worked privately under Holum Construction. If it needed a frame, he could put it all together, blueprint or not, and the buildings he built are scattered across the Midwest.

He had a social circle full of unique nicknames, great memories, and humor. The Hyde crew would regularly gather after work, for Sunday football, and for the Hyde annual squirrel hunt, all of which Tommy would

take part in. Tom loved the outdoors and the solitude that came with it.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman whose Saturday mornings were often spent searching for shed antlers and those same evenings were spent with a six pack and a spotlight, looking for deer anywhere he could find them.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to Agrace Hospice for their thoughtful and attentive care for

Tommy. He was blessed with many compassionate nurses and support staff at Agrace and their presence provided great comfort to Tom during his end-of-life care.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests any donations to be made to the Agrace Foundation. A small celebration of life will be held in the spring of 2026, with a date and location yet to be determined.

Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**

Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- Feb. 3, 1886

Tuesday was a horse delivery day at Mount Horeb.

A wolf hunter hailing from Oregon has been prospecting in this neighborhood the past few days.

Cloaks, new markets, and heavy shawls at cost, at O. C. Nuubson's.

The long-delayed donation (delayed two times due to -20 temperatures) is announced for Wednesday evening at the church. The pertinacity of the congregation is declining to give it up is worthy of commendation and support.

S. Thompson, Schneider and Eggers with families enjoyed a visit to the relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Schneider in the town of Black Earth last Saturday and Sunday, also taking in the electric lights in Mazomanie.

130 Years Ago- Jan. 30, 1896

Becoming the president of such organization as the Mt. Horeb Wheelmen and the father of a well-developed boy within a few days is about as much honor as with safety can be heaped upon a man at one time.

Bring your laundry to Syverson's restaurant in the opera block. It will be well taken care of and a number one job is guaranteed. Bring latest Tuesday morning. Goods will be back for delivery Friday evening.

A couple of our youths took a trip to Blanchardville recently, one furnishing the horse, the other the cutter and harness. On arriving at their destination they discovered that it was the same lass that had been occupying their thoughts the entire journey, then came the crisis then and there, for it had to be settled who should receive her attention. The case was left in her power to decide. She was not slow

in making her choice; it happened to be the owner of the horse that was the disappointed one, and it so worked on his mind that his only relief was to sever his connection with the whole affair by unharnessing his horse and ride barebacked home without even looking back. How his more fortunate companion came back, we have not yet learned, but we imagine a man's position with a harness, a cutter and a girl on his hands, far away from home among strangers and in a strange land.

120 Years Ago- Feb 1,1906

Lars Haukness, a Norwegian artist from Madison, spent Sunday in the village, visiting Dr. N. C. Evans and other friends. Mr. Haukness is an excellent artist, of high reputation, and a princely fellow to meet and know.

Will all who ask for free church and society notices please write out same and save the editor this extra work.

A colored cameo given free with one dozen photos ordered at the studio of E.R. Curtiss, Madison.

I wish to engage boy about 16 or 20 years of age to learn the harness making trade. For particulars call or write. W.H. Britt, Mount Horeb.

Last Monday an unusual string of people was noticed entering and coming from the Mt. Horeb Bank, and on ascertaining the cause it was learned that Cashier Lingard was setting up a good quality of cigars on the safe arrival of a bouncing boy at his home. which event took place last Saturday.

110 Years Ago- Feb. 4, 1916

1000 lbs. of fresh candy just received to go on sale Sat. morning at 9 o'clock, at 10¢ a pound.

Schroeder Bros. are buying draft horses and will take

them to the northern part of the state and sell same at private sale.

There has been a merry time in Feldman's store commencing last Saturday and Mr. Hise and assistants have been dishing out the goods in a way that indicate great bargain prices, the rain and the slippery walks was no terror to the bargain-seekers.

The surveyors came Monday to stake out the ground for the disposal plant of sewer system which will be located on Dr. Evans land and his annual renewal.

A town out west went dry, the saloonkeeper went into the bakery business and now he is making buns in place of bums. What a change.

100 Years Ago- Jan. 29, 1926

The 11 o'clock west-bound bus collided with a coupe driven by a traveling salesman Wednesday near Barneveld.

The roads to Daleyville are now passable. It seems there should be some money kept for opening roads during the winter and not spending all in the summer.

Charley Pfister, town of Blue Mounds, was all smiles last Friday, Jan. 22, when he entered our office with a box of cigars and treated the force and informed us he was the happy father of boy No. 2.

Albert Kahl and O. Ogilvie took a carload of horses to New Glarus Monday of this week.

Mrs. Fred Luhman and Mrs. Melia Paetz drove to Klevenville Tuesday to spend the day with Mrs. Inger Swenson and daughter, Miss Irene.

100 Years Ago- Jan. 29, 1926

Mt. Horeb Times

The Dane County Guernsey clan will be well represented at the annual conference of the Wisconsin Guernsey Breeders' association in Madison. Local breeders will also take in sessions of the Wisconsin Farm Folks Week while conferring with the Guernsey-men of the state.

Herman Goth sold a fresh cow lately for \$25.00.

We have more ice this winter than in many years. It is not a hard winter then we have early November weather in January.

AGENT WANTED IN MOUNT HOREB TERRITORY: Sworn proof of \$75.00 a week. \$1.50 an hour for spare time. Introducing Finest Guaranteed Hosiery. 126 styles and colors. Low prices. Auto furnished. No capital or experience necessary. Wilknit Hosiery So., B. 58, Greenkeld, Ohio.

James Kinney raised a tempest in a teapot where to

find a cure for cancer. He is called a lunatic and a fanatic and the editor of the Times is blamed more than Kinney. Mt. Horeb has a good man in Kinney. He drove the beer kegs off the depot platform and he will head off cancer if they will only let him.

There was a dance lately at the Coyle school house.

In 1859 Henry S. Hanks, who recently died in Madison, aged 89, in his uncles house in Janesville, slept one night with Abraham Lincoln , but Lincoln snored and kicked and tossed around in the bed so that Hanks got out and slept the rest of the night in the hall.

Nels Hustad celebrated his 84th birthday doing the janitor and overseeing other business in his opera house property. A good example for the younger men who don't care to work.

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

Just Arrived! Only 20 dresses in the lot, but they loom-up very conspicuously. The new bright colors and the charming new styles seem to give the Dress Section a touch of spring. You'll like them. Come and See, Hoff's.

60 Years Ago- Jan. 27, 1966

Officers who will serve the Chamber of Commerce in 1966 and their wives are Mr. and Mrs. Gary Greve, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Kipfer, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Zwald and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Roth.

Mrs. Josephine Thompson, 82, was killed when struck by a car in Mount Horeb as she was returning home from the grocery store.

Mr. and Mrs. Matt Marty, Mount Horeb, observed their 60th wedding anniversary Sunday with a diner at the Karakahl Inn.

20 Years Ago- Feb. 2, 2006

Gladys J. Collins, 73, passed away at home on Jan. 26, 2006, after a brave battle with cancer.

Evie Monum will celebrate her 90th birthday with an open house at Ingleside on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Timothy and Molly Post of Mount Horeb proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Lilliam Maria, born Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006, at Meriter Hospital, Madison

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Celebrating Dave Jeglum

After decades of devoted service to Olson's Flowers - we lovingly say thank you to our delivery driver and dear friend, Dave Jeglum.

His kindness, reliability, and care was given to every delivery.

As he steps into a well-earned season of more time with family and enjoying life, we send him our deepest appreciation and warmest wishes.

He will be truly missed.

♥ The Olson's Flowers Family

Sugar River Euchre

By Stan Hook

Not sure if the Viking Trolls thrive in cold weather or if it's that diesel locomotives don't. But, thirteen weeks into the 2025/2026 season the Viking Trolls won their first match of the season. Once Kurniki's Express engineers John Scheidegger and Dale Herfel got their locomotive running, they traveled 116 miles down the tracks, leaving the rest of the engineers chugging along at least 16 miles back. As for the Trolls, they were able to get three couples from under the bridge to outpace Kurniki's Express by 6 points. This is the Trolls' first win since Febru-

ary 2025. Once again, the Red Mouse Shufflers' cards were colder than the outside temperature, and of late that is pretty darn cold. Whereas the Norsk Pranksters seemed to play as if they were somewhere in the Caribbean. They were so hot that they should have been wearing sunglasses and Bermuda shorts. With all four Prankster couples scoring over 100 points, they lost only the fourth frame, and that was by a single point. Laurel Grindle and Rodney Latham were the hottest of the bunch. It's surprising that they aren't recovering from heat stroke. With 120 points to their credit, they

Standings	Sportsman's Cheese Eaters
J&M Bar River Rats 3-0	0-3
Norsk Pranksters 3-0	
Kleeman's Hay Shakers 2-1	
Norsk Cowboys 2-1	
Kurniki's Express 1-2	
Kurniki's Pipe Benders 1-2	
Red Mouse Shufflers 1-2	
Red Mouse Uff-Da 1-2	
Viking Trolls 1-2	

recorded this season's third perfect score, and Laurel's second. Dave Hook and Jim Boland lost just two games to end with 114, while Jolene Hook and Larry Losenegger pulled 112 points from the hat. Shufflers

Brad Haack and Shane Kahl scored this week's, and this season's low score of just 67 points. The Shufflers lost by a whopping 110 points. Ouch!

Another team that apparently loves the Caribbean is

the Kleeman's Hay Shakers. They found it rewarding to replace their pitchforks with sunglasses. Barb and Jerry Judd, along with Don Williams and Al Zimmerman, stacked a whopping 118 points, per couple, for the team. Roger Truttmann and Jeff Judd added another 110 points. As for the Sportsman's Cheese Eaters, much like the Shufflers, they were unable to get anyone over the 100 point barrier.

Scarfig up 111 points for the J&M Bar River Rats, Jack Gehn and Darrell Storkson led the team to a 35 point victory over Kurniki's Pipe Benders. This is uncharted territory for the River Rats, as they haven't

seen a 3 and 0 record start to a half since the second half of the 2018/2019 season.

In the match between the Norsk Cowboys and the Red Mouse Uff-das, the Uff-das took a 4 point lead after the first frame, but that didn't last long. By the end of the match the Uff-das had recorded four 5 point games. Although the Cowboys had several 6 point games, they were still able to corral 23 points more than the Uff-das. Team Uff-da has a week to catch their breath before trying to run down the Express at Kurniki's.

MEETING

continued from page 1

with the Dane County District Attorney's office alleging that the village did not properly post notice of its October 23, 2025 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Anderson filed the notarized complaint on January 7. The village subsequently acknowledged they had received the document and referred the matter to the village attorney for review.

Under Wisconsin state law, every meeting of a governmental body must be preceded by public notice and must be held in open session. Under state statute, local bodies of government can post notice of their meetings in a variety of ways to meet transparency requirements, including in the local newspaper, on their website, and/or in "at least 3 public places likely to give notice to persons affected."

Blue Mounds village clerk/treasurer Mary Jo Michek provided a posting affidavit swearing that she posted the Notice of Zoning Board of Appeals in three public places in the Village of Blue Mounds: the bulletin board at the Village Hall, 1011 Brigham Avenue; the bulletin board at the Post Office, 2965 Jones Street; and the bulletin board at Hooterville Inn, 10992 Division Street.

The meeting agenda stated: *"The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Blue Mounds will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at the village hall located at 11011 Brigham Ave. to consider the following matter:*

A variance request from Gary and Laurie Rowley for property located at 10979 South Street, Blue Mounds, WI. They are requesting a variance on Municipal Ordinance 385-15(C)(3)(a)

Specifications for R-3 Lot, building and yard requirements. They are requesting front and side yard setbacks of 10 feet.

A copy of the variance request is available for review at the village office. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearing to be heard or submit their comments in writing."

Under the law, every public notice of a meeting of a governmental body must set forth the time, date, place and subject matter of the meeting, including that intended for consideration at any contemplated closed session, in such form as is reasonably likely to apprise members of the public and the news media thereof. The public notice of a meeting of a governmental body may (but does not have to) provide for a period of public comment, during which the body may receive information from members of the public. Public notice of every meeting of a governmental body must be given at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of such meeting "unless for good cause such notice is impossible or impractical, in which case shorter notice may be given, but in no case may the notice be provided less than two hours in advance of the meeting," states the statute.

Anderson was the village president for 22 years before she announced her resignation at the board's December 11 meeting in 2024. At the time, she said she felt "disrespected" by the board and staff, and in the ensuing year she has attended many village meetings despite no longer being a member of the board and levelled an assortment of criticisms against village leadership.

In the two-page complaint she filed with the DA's office, Anderson made several claims. Among them, she al-

leged that the village did not properly post notice of the October 23 meeting of its zoning board of review and that the board did not properly word a motion it voted on at the same meeting. In the same complaint, Anderson stated: "I would also like to talk with you about the multitude of unethical incidents that have gone on with the majority of the current Village Board, one past Village Board member along with the current Clerk/Treasurer."

Anderson later said the investigator only spoke with her regarding the open meetings complaint and not the other allegations she alluded to.

She said the motion the Zoning Board of Appeals voted on regarding the 10979 South Street was worded confusingly and that she believed the actual wording of the board's vote went against its intent, primarily because the board was voting on a what was essentially a negative motion. Ironically, this comes around the same time village leaders in neighboring Mount Horeb had multiple conversations regarding negative motions (essentially motions that are worded in such a way that voting "yes" means voting against approval of the thing being sought).

Anderson said she went to village president Paul Baum with her concerns but when she did not feel he took her seriously enough, she pursued legal action.

Michek said the village is reconvening the Zoning Board of Appeals to revote on the matter and make sure the board's action is as clear as possible to all parties involved.

In a January 21 letter to the D.A.'s office, attorney Rick Manthe said Anderson's accusations were baseless. Manthe included several documents proving

the village complied with open meetings laws.

"In short, the Village complied with the Open Meetings Law, and the Village respectfully requests that your office close its investigation with no further action," Manthe wrote.

"Although it is unclear from Ms. Anderson's Complaint, it appears as though she is alleging that the Village violated Wis. Stat. § 19.84(3) by not posting the Notice on the Village's website 24 hours before the meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Anderson is wrong," the attorney wrote.

"Ms. Anderson's second allegation appears to dispute the accuracy of the Notice itself," continued Manthe. "According to the Complaint, the variance applicant 'explained why he is requesting to change the front setbacks from 30 feet, which is the Village ordinance, to 10 feet. During public comment, Ms. Anderson asked 'if the variance request was for front setbacks or side setbacks. Gary Rowley looked at [her] and replied, front.' (Id.) Ms. Anderson notes that she 'did not understand how [she]

thought the request was for side setbacks not front setbacks,' so she 'looked at the meeting notice that [she] had taken a picture of and it clearly states side setbacks.' (Id.) Ms. Anderson apparently then looked again at the notice posted on the website and that 'clearly state[d] front setbacks, which is not what the Post Office posting said.' (Id. at 2) Ms. Anderson claims that '[t]he website meeting notice does not say that it is an amended agenda,' and she alleges that the 'inconsistency is . . . a violation of Open Meetings Law.'" (Id.)

"The Notice posted at the post office here was permissible under the statute," Manthe wrote. "The Notice plainly identifies (a) the date, time and location of the meeting; (b) the applicants; (c) the property; and (d) the applicants' request for *both* 'front and side yard setbacks of 10 feet. (Michek Aff., Exh. 1) The notice posted at the post office, Village Hall, and Hooterville Inn reasonably apprised the public of the subject matter of the meeting: a variance request regarding setbacks. Olson, 252 Wis. 2d 628, ¶14.

Neither the fact that Ms. Anderson apparently did not see the reference to front setbacks on the notice nor the fact that side setbacks were not referenced on the agenda rise to the level of an open meetings violation. Accordingly, Ms. Anderson's second allegation is equally without merit."

In a January 21 response, District Attorney Ishmael Ozanne informed the village that after reviewing Anderson's complaint his office would not pursue any action against the village.

"This letter is to confirm that the Dane County District Attorney's Office declined to commence an 'open meetings law' enforcement action against the Village of Blue Mounds," wrote Ozanne. "After a review of the submissions, this complaint will be closed with no further investigation."

The D.A.'s decision does not negate Anderson's right to bring a private enforcement action before the court, Ozanne noted.



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COMMUNITY

Brittany Walton and Jack Schultek are ‘Someone You Should Know’



Brittany Walton

Brittany Walton is “Someone You Should Know.” Brittany was chosen as the Optimist Club’s high school recipient of the “Someone You Should Know” award for outstanding community service for the month of January.

Brittany is a senior at Mount Horeb High School and has been involved in many different volunteer opportunities throughout her community. During the summer months she has participated in various volunteer opportunities through Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt Horeb. These include volunteering at the Clothes Closet, sorting books for the non-profit Madison Reading Project, helping at the Riverside Food Pantry and also assisting with Parent’s Night Out. Brittany has also helped out with many Optimist events throughout her middle school and high school years, which include assisting with applying make-up for the Prairie Fire performances, face painting for the Norsk Celebration and being a backstage-hand for Mt. Horeb’s Got Talent. Brittany has also helped out the Lion’s Club for the past several years with their Lefse making around the holidays. Brittany has also

made “Homeless Lunches” with her family over the years which are delivered to the homeless of Madison. One of her favorite volunteering positions is working with the cats in captivity at the Iowa County Humane Society, where she has put in 25 hours of volunteer hours so far this year and continues to volunteer. Through her assistance with socializing these cats, they can hopefully be adopted into a good home. Outside of rolling up her sleeves to help in our area, Brittany also assisted her family in gathering supplies in September of 2024 for the victims of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina on two different occasions. The first donation drive filled a 26 foot truck (U-Haul’s biggest truck) plus a snowmobile trailer, and 2 pick-ups. The second trip there included filling a pick-up and 12 Foot U-Haul trailer with necessities and delivering them to the people of North Carolina. Brittany also helped make pizzas for displaced families with her dad and sister Brooke.

Outside of volunteering, Brittany has enjoyed taking dance and voice lessons at Forte from the time she was 4 to 16. She was also part of

the Forte Fusion group her Freshman and Sophomore years, which is a choreographed singing and dancing troupe. Brittany also took guitar lessons for 6 years and has performed at the open mic stage at the Brix multiple times. Brittany was chosen as an alternate for the Badger Girls event for the summer session in June 2025.

Brittany is also an entrepreneur and started her own gardening business in the summer of 2025, performing various gardening tasks for many local clients. Brittany will be attending UW Steven’s Point in the fall of 2026 and studying Interior Architectural Design.

Brittany was honored at the January meeting of the Optimist Club with her parents Ellen and Peter Walton in attendance, as well as her grandparents Pete Sr and Luann Walton. She received a certificate of recognition, \$50.00, and is also in the running to receive one of the Optimist Club scholarships awarded at the Senior Awards event in May.

Congratulations Brittany! Thank you for all you do to help make Mt Horeb the great place that it is!



Jack Schultek

Jack Schultek is “Someone You Should Know.” Jack was chosen as the Optimist Club’s high school recipient of the “Someone You Should Know” award for outstanding community service for the month of January.

Jack is a senior at Mount Horeb High School. He has been active in many clubs and activities during his high school years including Student Council (has served as Secretary and President), Link Crew, Club Interact, National Honors Society, Green Team (has served as Treasurer and President), DECA (Officer for three years) and Prom Planning Committee. His extra-curricular activities include Class Treasurer for two years, Student School Board Representative for two years serving on the Safety and Wellness Committee and Full Board. Jack was also chosen as a Student Rotarian. He just finished the EMT Class at Madison College and is now preparing to take the National Registry exam. Jack is a

Mental Health Campaign co-founder for a project known as the InnerMind Project and had a booth at the Mental Health and Wellness Fall Festival. Jack participated in Cancer Research at UW-Madison last summer. He has been a Lab Assistant for Ms. Felcyn Chemistry class. He competed at the DECA State Conference twice. He won 3rd place with InnerMind Project and qualified for Internationals. He won a Kwik Trip Innovation Contest from Wisconsin Business World and participated in a remote marketing internship for a startup.

As for community service, The InnerMind Project was an initiative founded by Jack and a friend. This initiative focused on providing students with sufficient materials to begin journaling as a coping mechanism after the events of May first. They worked on this project for nine months, and participated in the Mental Health and Wellness Fall Festival where they ran a successful booth promoting journaling techniques and donated over 400 journals to participants. He also presented to a group of firefighters in Middleton and talked about the effects of working in emergency care and the benefits of journaling. Jack donated 20 journals during that presentation. The InnerMind Project was presented at the DECA State Conference and won third in the State, allowing them to present the InnerMind Project at the International Stage. Through Club Interact (a member for 3 years) he has partici-

pated in multiple community service projects. Jack has worked with the group “Feed My Starving Children” where he helped package food packets for those in need. He also helped with projects including making cards for teachers and veterans.

National Honors Society and Student Council have helped Jack take a lead in running community service projects. NHS and Student Council both host Blood Drives, and he has had a large role in the logistics of these events. As a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician, Jack will be able to provide emergency medical care for those in need. Jack believes that advocacy is one’s greatest power, so serving as Student Council President and as a Student Representative on the Full School Board as well as the Safety and Wellness Committee will allow him to provide student voice and opinion on policies and give direct feedback to administrators.

Jack was honored at the January meeting of the Optimist Club with his parents Erik and Christine present as well as his twin brother Luke. He received a certificate of recognition, \$50.00, and is also in the running to receive one of the Optimist Club scholarships awarded at the Senior Awards event in May.

Congratulations Jack! Thank you for all you do to help make Mt Horeb the great place that it is!

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Teddy Bear Clinic is a hit with kids



The Mount Horeb Public Library hosted a Teddy Bear Clinic on January 22 at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Nicole Altman-Meyers led the event, which was designed to connect families with local healthcare in a fun way. Children brought their stuffed animals for a check-up and learned about healthy habits. “The Teddy Bear Clinic is a simple but meaningful way for Upland Hills Health to connect with families in our community,” said Melissa Lease, Director of Business Development for Upland Hills Health. “It helps kids see health care in a fun, friendly way while building comfort and trust at an early age. We’re grateful to partner with the Mount Horeb Public Library to make this event possible.”



CHURCH NOTES

- Good News Lutheran Church - WELS**
9975 Pepper Dr, Mt Horeb
Pastor Jonathan Bauer
Thursday Worship: 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am
Sunday School and Bible Study: 10:15 am
608-437-4646
GoodNewsLC.org
- Immanuel Lutheran- ELCA**
310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb
608-437-8733
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www.immanuelmh.org/
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Bible Study 9am-10am
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation
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608-437-3493
Pastor Jim Ranney
Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th
Sundays of the month at 10am
twosteeples.org
- St. Michael The Archangel Parish**
~St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Thurs-Friday, 8:00 am;
Sat. 5:00 pm
~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am
- Vermont Lutheran Church- ELCA**
9886 Vermont Church Road
Black Earth, WI 53515
www.vermontlutheran.org
608-767-3312 (office)
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church**
2962 Church St., Blue Mounds
608-437-3493
Pastor Jim Ranney
Worship: Every 2nd & 4th
Sunday of the month, 10 am

Vermont Lutheran to host Meatball Dinner

Everyone is invited to attend the Mission Meatball Dinner at Vermont Lutheran Church, Sunday February 15, 2026. This is a free-will donation event for the ongoing mission outreach of the congregation. There is one reserved seating, at 11:30 AM, for 100 diners. The dinner includes Norwegian meatballs, lefse, potatoes, beans, dessert and plenty of hospitality. Call Peter Antonie, 608-767-2641, for reservations. Vermont Lutheran Church is handicapped accessible and located part way between Black Earth and Mount Horeb off highway 78 at 9886 Vermont Church Road. More information about the church can be found on the web at www.vermontlutheran.org

Historium to Offer Free Monthly Hands-on History Afterschool Workshops



The Driftless Historium’s first Hands-on History session will introduce a host of fascinating folks from the Mount Horeb area, like master beekeeper Gilbert Ranum of Perry Township (shown here in the 1930s), who honed his craft for over fifty years and specialized in the production of white clover honey.

Mount Horeb’s downtown Driftless Historium (100 S 2nd St) invites students in grades K to 4 to their new “Hands-on History” after school workshops. Each session will be held on the second Tuesday, February through May, and feature season-themed crafts with a historical twist! The sessions will run from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and are absolutely free, due to a generous grant from the Mount Horeb Community Foundation. Capacity is limited to just twenty students per month and registration is required. Hands-on History will launch on Tuesday, February 10 with “There’s Snow One Like You!”- a celebration

of Mount Horeb’s pioneers, community leaders and innovators. Students will hear about Norwegian master craftsman Aslak Lie, accomplished beekeeper Gilbert Ranum, skilled China painter Hazel Hanneman and so many more Dane County larger-than-life characters! This, and every session, will wrap up with an exhibit scavenger hunt, so our young historians become comfortable with museum etiquette and familiar with the stories, people and places in their own hometown. Kids who attend two or more Hands-on History sessions and complete all activities will earn an of-

ficial “Junior Tour Guide” card that grants access to the Driftless Historium for them and their family for the rest of 2026. The Driftless Historium is owned and operated by the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society. This nonprofit organization is celebrating fifty years of saving and sharing the history of Southwestern Dane County. For more information related to Hands-on History or to register for February’s inaugural session, visit mthorebhsitory.org and search “Events,” or call 608-437-6486.

Countryside News: Frost Rings

By Jerry Davis

The next time someone asks how cold is it or is it cold enough for you, an answer could be cold enough for tree rings to show as rings of frost. Here a post made from a small tree trunk gives up frost from moisture coming out of the cells and more moisture coming from the larger cells formed in the early growth of each tree ring. Less moisture or none at all comes up and out of the small cells in the later part of the ring, the part formed by the growing tree in during July and August. Trees



stop growing in September and begin growing the following May. Each year that cycle is repeated. If this is not completely clear, that

is because this explanation could be a 50-minute structural botany lecture, senior class, at a major university.

Presenting:

JANUARY COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Puzzle Lovers Unite – Celebrate National Puzzle Day January 29!

National Puzzle Day is an unofficial holiday celebrated annually on January 29th. There are puzzle celebrations and events held at museums, libraries and other venues around the country. Crossword, sudoku and word search puzzles remain amongst the most popular. There are puzzles that fit into the needs of every person and every skill level, for the young and the old. There are also jigsaw puzzles, puzzle books and many many more.

Jodi Jill, a puzzle enthusiast started giving away free her Brain Baffler puzzle in the magazine *Official Freebies for Teachers*. Before long, there were people asking for free puzzles year around. So she decided to only send out free puzzles one day a year, on her birthday, January 29. By 1994 this was observed as National Puzzle Day. Beginning in 2002 this holiday became widely known.

Celebrate National Puzzle Day and enjoy this selection of puzzles, sponsored by these local businesses. Watch for a different topic in our special Community Spotlight each month!

LOG CABIN

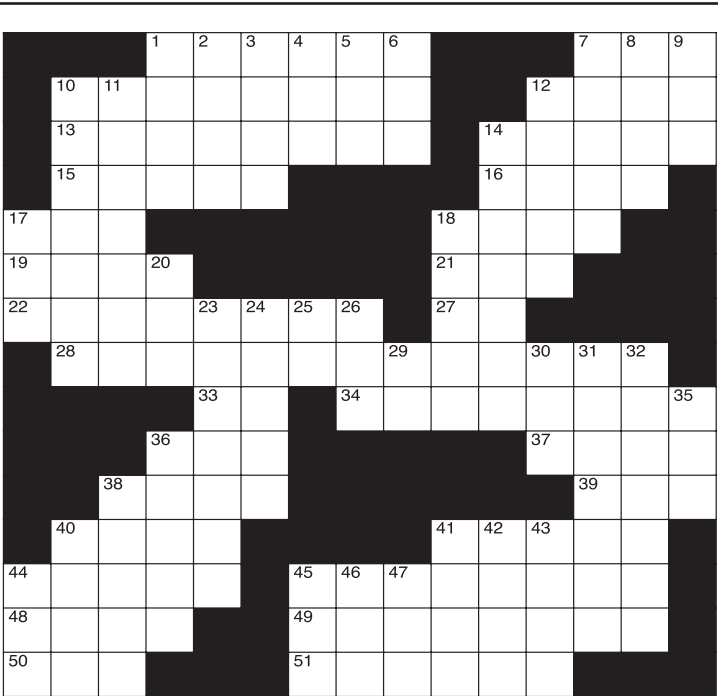
WORD SEARCH

K	P	P	H	H	E	Y	C	D	R	I	Y	Y	M	E	R	H	C	C	T
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A	S	L	O	N	H	M	I	U	G	Y	P	A	L	A	E	W	E	S	Y
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B	O	Y	O	H	X	V	I	E	E	M	S	L	B	M	W	I	O	V	K
U	P	E	R	E	K	M	X	C	M	D	H	W	E	Y	K	M	L	O	X

WORDS

ANTLERS
AXE
BEAR RUG
CABIN
CEDAR
CHIMNEY
CHINKING
FIREPLACE
HEARTH
HOMESTEAD
LANTERN
LODGE
LOFT
LOGS
MANTEL
NOTCHING
PANTRY
PORCH
RETREAT
ROCKING CHAIR
RUSTIC
TIMBER
WOOD PILE
WOODSTOVE

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Mechanical lever

7. Rocky peak

10. Leave a country

12. Discount

13. D.C. ballplayer

14. Partner to “ooled”

15. Engine sound

16. Japanese ornamental box

17. Fido is one

18. Amounts of time

19. DiFranco and Phylo are two

21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

22. Make secret plans

27. “Tiny Bubbles” singer

28. “His Airness”
33. Morning

34. Perfected

36. Winger guitarist Beach

37. Abba __, Israeli politician

38. Self-immolation by fire ritual

39. A way to save money

40. Pulpit

41. Make ecstatically happy

44. Once more

45. Works on

48. Nocturnal S. American rodent

49. State again

50. Expression of disappointment

51. Type of door

CLUES DOWN

1. Yugoslavian communist leader

2. Exchange rate

3. High school dance

4. Peter’s last name

5. When you anticipate arriving

6. Israeli city __ Aviv

7. Goat-like mammals

8. Margarine

9. End-of-the-spectrum color

10. Make poisonous

11. Popular beverage

12. Actress Lathan

14. Where planes land and depart

17. Political fundraising entity

18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era

20. Buffer used in microbiology

23. Light, open carriage

24. Metrical feet
25. Email subject line feature

26. A street with lots of nightmares

29. Rapper Rule

30. River in Scotland

31. One who settles a dispute

32. Most chummy

35. We all have our own

36. Arab tribe

38. Slap

40. Ottoman military commanders

41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language

42. Emit coherent radiation

43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)

44. Inclined to

45. Olfactory reference syndrome

46. Chest muscle (slang)

47. Body part

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HEMLOCK

continued from page 1

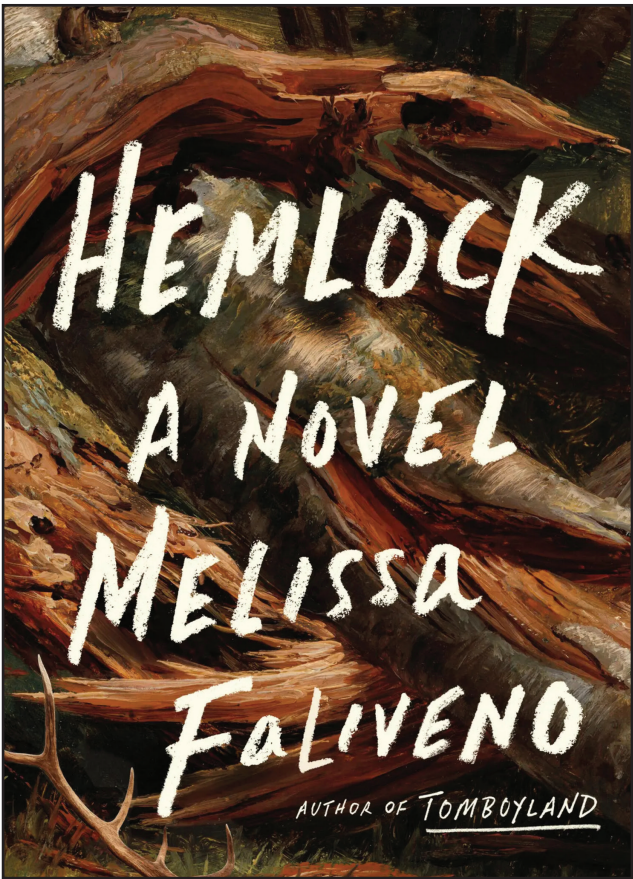
zine, *Brooklyn Rail* and more, and in the anthologies *Sex and the Single Woman* and the forthcoming *Hit Repeat Until I Hate Music*. But no matter how far she travels and how much she accomplishes, Faliveno retains, somewhere deep within in her core, the cradle from which this creative dynamo first emerged: small town Wisconsin. This Mount Horeb native released her second book, a novel called *Hemlock* (Little, Brown) on January 20. It's a spooky little story about inheritance and transformation set in a shadow version of the Wisconsin Northwoods. There are plenty of treats for Midwesterners and horror lovers alike in this book, including but not limited to a haunted cabin, a talking doe, Friday fish fries, brandy old fashioned, and plenty of Northwoods folklore. And cheese curds, of course.

Okay, last time we talked you were in the process of releasing *Tomboyland*. Tell us a bit about the incredibly positive reception that book received and what life has been like since then.

Faliveno: It's been a whirlwind few years! I'm so glad that book had the reach it did, not least since it came out right in the heart of the pandemic in 2020. But I think it found the people who needed it, and I'm still getting messages from readers about what it meant to them, and how in some cases it felt like they saw themselves represented in a book for the first time. That's the absolute best thing to come of it, and at the end of the day why I write. But the shape of my life has also changed quite a bit since then, in no small part because of the success of that book. Since then, I left my job as a magazine editor in New York City, and took a few different teaching jobs—first at Sarah

Lawrence, in New York, where I got my MFA, then at two different colleges over two years in Ohio, and finally at the University of North Carolina, where I was a fellow in 2020-21 and was lucky enough to come back as a tenure-track professor. I live in a little house with my partner in the woods outside Chapel Hill, and my life is pretty fully dedicated to writing and teaching. (And bird-watching, and trying to plant a garden, and, if all goes according to plan, building a little writing shack in the woods.) After twelve years in New York, and several years of moving around, it feels good to have a routine again, and to exist in my writing practice in a way I've never been able to before. I really love teaching too. My students are wonderful, and my work as a teacher informs my writing, and vice versa. It's an extremely different life from my life in New York, and I miss the city a lot sometimes, but the goal has always been to build a life around art—that's what I've been trying to do since leaving Wisconsin in 2009, and it's happening now, in this current shape of my life, which is a really a dream. Plus, North Carolina is beautiful, and both Carrboro and Durham, two towns I spend a lot of time in, feel a little like the Madison of the South.

You've spoken very eloquently about your complex relationship with the Midwest, how you simply refuse to be reductive about the place where you grew up despite the fact that you have moved on to other places. Tell us a little about revisiting your homeland, both in real life and in your new novel. I remember Hemingway saying something about how he was sitting in a Paris cafe writing about the Michigan woods, and how it was raining in Paris so it was raining in Michigan in the story, too. I love that idea of places bleed-



ing into one another, and into us. In other words, what role does place play in your writing?

Faliveno: Oh wow, I love that quote. (Also a big Hemingway fan over here.) But yeah, I definitely think of myself as a writer of place, and that place is usually the Midwest. I love where I come from, where I grew up, and I still think of it as home. And the longer I'm gone, the more homesick I get, and I still think a lot about how I might return someday—and I think what that means is I'm constantly returning in my mind, and in my work.

For this book, I was staying alone in a little cabin in the Northwoods to finish *Tomboyland*. I was there for like six weeks, and I was more alone than I'd ever been. There was no WiFi, and very little cell service, and it got pretty creepy at night. That's when I got the idea for *Hemlock*, and where the story began. I realized I wanted to write about the Northwoods, this place I spent a lot of time in when I was growing up, which is so beautiful and so strange. It's just such a unique part of the country, and I think part of writing place well is writing its idiosyncrasies, and incongruities, and mythologies—and the Northwoods is full of them. Like in *Tomboyland*, I wanted to write about a person with a visibly queer body existing in a place she loves, but that she might sometimes feel uncomfortable—maybe even frightened—in. Because I feel like that Up North sometimes—both fully myself, and more visible than I am in a city, especially when I was there alone.

Hemlock is also about New York, and that tension between the urban and rural—about someone who leaves the Midwest for the city in part to disappear, and then eventually gets called back home. I'm fascinated

by the intersections of body and place, how the places we live leave their imprint on us, and can sometimes help us see ourselves more clearly. And I feel like I can only really write about a place once I leave it. (Watch out, Ohio.)

I just came across this lovely line: “The meteorological inflection coming back to her like the accent had, like a doctor tapping her knee.” So, I guess I do have another question. I already asked about the sense of place etc. in your writing, but I’m curious, while you were actually sitting there writing this, how much of what you found/wrote (about the characters, about the places) was actually an emotional or artistic reflex. How many of these beautiful sentences emerged like a kicking leg at the doctor’s office. How often did you write something, look at it, and go, “Oh!” with the same surprise a reader might have.

Faliveno: This is such a great question. I feel like both my relationship to home, and how I write it, are like reflex, or muscle memory. You know, I've been away going on seventeen years now, and I don't think I ever had a very pronounced Wisconsin accent, but every so often it shows up out of nowhere. Those long vowels give me away. And there are certain ideas and behaviors that do the same—they just come out of me unbidden, like they've been living in my body or memory all this time, just waiting to emerge. Writing is a lot like that too, especially once I get into the flow of a project. A lot of the time, it's work, and I'm just slog-ging along, fighting my way through the brambles, trying to make a sentence more beautiful or an image more clear. And then sometimes, there are these magical mo-

ments, when a sentence or image just comes out, fully formed, like it was just waiting to be born. I feel like that happened a lot with this book. There were so many moments where I'd write something down and then sit back and think, *Oh. Whoa*. There was a lot of this story already living inside me, I think, and it wanted to come out through these characters, and this place, which is also a character to me. I tell my students that those magical moments really come with practice, and it's true—the longer I do this, and when I'm really committed to my practice, that's when the magic happens and the good stuff comes.

***Hemlock* seems to both defy description and be quite fertile for it. The back of the advance copy calls it a “butch Black Swan,” a Queer Gothic novel about a woman with a “dark inheritance,” and “a carnal coming-of-addiction, a dark sparkler about rapture, desire, transformation, and transcendence in its many forms.” So tell us in your own words what story you sat down to write, and what story you ended up writing:**

Faliveno: I think my favorite descriptor of this book so far is a “queer Midwestern Gothic.” I've always loved horror, and Gothic novels, and there's such a rich tradition of the Southern Gothic (which I've gotten even more into since moving to North Carolina), but I've long been obsessed by the idea of a Midwestern Gothic, and what it might look like. (There was actually once a great little magazine with that name, and one of the first essays I wrote for *Tomboyland*, “Driftless,” was originally published there.) As I started writing this book, I think I kept that idea in mind—what a queer Midwestern Gothic could be. Margaret Dotter, of Dotters Books in Eau Claire, also recently called *Hemlock* a “Northern Gothic,” and I love that too. I knew I was writing a story about addiction, and transformation. I wanted to write something that set a narrative of the monstrous against the narrative of queerness—the way that queer bodies are so often called or considered monstrous, and how sometimes when you hear stories about yourself for long enough, they become a part of you. I love a werewolf story, and I love psychological horror, where you don't know what's real or imagined (there's a ton of horror homage in this book, including shoutouts to *Silver Bullet* and *The Shining*), so I wanted to do something fun with transformation, and uncertainty—both in terms of body and gender, and of this

idea of creatures that haunt the woods, incorporating a lot of cross-cultural folklore and mythology of the Northwoods. And I think what I came up with is a story about the ways our bodies and memories are haunted by the places of our past, and by the stories we're told and tell ourselves—and how we're sometimes most haunted by ourselves.

***Tomboyland* was intensely personal. Is *Hemlock* personal in the same (or perhaps a different) way?**

Faliveno: This book is very personal too, but in a very different way. For this novel, I was writing into a lot of things I didn't feel like I could in nonfiction—namely, addiction, and inheritance. Though there's certainly some autobiographical influence in this book, it is above all fiction, and when I started writing it, I don't think I realized quite how much I had in common with Sam. And in the years it took to write and revise this story, there was a lot of revelation, and I began to seriously confront my own historical relationship to alcohol. A lot of other things happened in those years, including the suicide of someone very close to me, who struggled with addiction. That, and this story I was telling, felt a little like a wakeup call; I saw Sam as a kind of shadow self, going somewhere I didn't want to go. I felt like writing this book allowed me, in a strange way, to see myself more clearly than I could even when writing deeply personal essays. Like I was able to access something from the distance that fiction requires. Which of course has been difficult, but it's been a pretty cool experience too, and a reminder of what art can do.

Are you coming back to Wisconsin anytime soon so people can get their copy signed and/or hear you reading from it?

Faliveno: Yes! I'll be back in February, as part of my book tour for *Hemlock*. I'll be in Madison on Thursday, Feb. 19, at A Room of One's Own, at 6:30 p.m., in conversation with my wonderful friend and fellow Mount Horebian, novelist Maggie Ginsberg. I'll also be hitting stops in Milwaukee, Viroqua, and Eau Claire, and I'm hoping to get up to the Northwoods later this spring or summer, when there's a slightly smaller chance of being snowed in, though maybe if I'm snowed in I'll be able to finish my next book.



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The Arts

High School Art Show Returns



Above left, Anneli Wik and Delaina Nicewander help set up the exhibit.



Mount Horeb’s downtown Driftless Historium (100 S 2nd St) once again hosts the 2026 Mount Horeb High School Art Show. This annual collaboration warms up the chilly winter months with impactful artwork by talented young creators from your own community.

Dozens of works of art in a variety of mediums, all by Mount Horeb High School students, will be viewable in the Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Gallery now through Tuesday, March 03, 2026 during the museum’s open hours (Friday to Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). This show is free and open to all.

Exhibiting students include Aubree Aschliman, Brady Baker, Sadie Beadle, Haylie Becker, Nesta Benz-

ing, Alex Blake, Braydon Byers, Harper Cassens, Isis Chapman, Jami Chapman, Clem Christian, Charley Collins, Gabriel Costa, Caid Danz, Mairead Davis, Faith E. Droessler, Ava Dyreson, Emily Folco, Kyle Frischmann, Delilah Gasch, Ava Gee, Romy Ginter, Colin Haag, Aferdita Hashani, Blerton Hashani, Beckette Hatfield, Nix Hobbs, Elli Hopkins, Raniah Hubbard, Daniella Huseman, Nick Ibinger, Emma Jordan, Ella Kahl, Gabi Kinney, Emily Lee, Freja Lutz, Reid McClellan, Kennedy McWilliams, Mackenzie Meinholz, Logan Monahan,

Courtney Monroe, Delaina Nicewander, Isla Odgers, Matthew Oimoen, Mattie Olson, Raelynn Olson, Ray Ova del, Paige Radloff, Lexy Rickard, Sofia Sanchez, Hailey Schauf, Katharina Schneider, Sonja Schreiber,

Tula Statz, Brinley Steiner, Emma Strother. Erin Wagner, Brittany Walton, Anneli Wik and Addie Zwolanek

The MHHS Art Show is made possible by an ongoing partnership between the Mount Horeb Area Histori-

cal Society and the MHHS Art Department, with leadership provided by MHHS educators Anna King and Dana. The opportunity to exhibit in this annual show is open to any high school student; they do not have to be involved in an art class or

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vasquez to speak at PFLAG meeting



The PFLAG February chapter meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2026 from 6-8 p.m. at the Mount Horeb Public Library meeting room.

The speaker Aiden Vasquez is a transgender man who lived 48 years with depression, self loathing, and suicidal tendencies. In 2016, he had top surgery and started his life on testosterone as an attempt to save his own life. This is a decision that he has never regretted. In 2019 Aiden, backed by the ACLU, entered into a lawsuit against the State of Iowa, DHS, and Governor Kim Reynolds, fighting for the right to have gender affirming care and for the civil rights of all the other transgender Iowans. They won in 2023 after the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that the law banning Medicaid coverage for transgender Iowans was unconstitutional and a violation of civil rights.

In 2022, Aiden received the LGBTQ Legacy Leadership Award that was hosted and awarded by DSM Magazine in Des Moines, Iowa. An award given specifically

to members of the LGBTQ community and their supporters. The award honors lifetime achievements, highlights leadership and community service, highlights people who inspire others, and works towards making Iowa more inclusive and connected.

But this isn't ALL of his story. If you want to hear more, come listen to him share his intimate and personal experiences during this battle to become the man he is.

This program is not a library sponsored event. It is made possible by a grant from the Mt. Horeb Community Foundation.

Aiden will join via Zoom from 6-7 PM. The remaining time is reserved for sharing and support. There's no need to RSVP if you'd like to join us in person at the library. If you prefer to attend via zoom, RSVP at pflagmho.org and a link will be sent.

Pam Graber to speak with Garden Club



On Tuesday, February 3, Pam Grabber will be presenting on Garden Design Through an 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, 6:45 p.m., at Wisconsin Surplus, Mount 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 View Garden Club. If you are interested in gardening and local community service and outreach, contact Gloria Davies at jrdgrdquilt@mhtc.net about club membership.

Alice in Dairyland Applications Due January 30

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) reminds individuals with a passion for promoting Wisconsin agriculture to apply for the position of 79th Alice in Dairyland through January 30, 2026.

In this highly visible and fast-paced position, Alice in Dairyland serves as a full-time spokesperson, cultivating relationships with media outlets throughout the state, writing and delivering speeches at events, using social media to tell the stories of Wisconsin agriculture, and more. Additional responsibilities are outlined in the position announcement.

Alice in Dairyland applicants should have an interest in Wisconsin agriculture; at least three years of experience, education, or training in communications, marketing, education, or public relations; and public speaking experience. Applicants must also be residents of Wisconsin and at least 21 years old.

This one-year, full-time contractual position starts July 6, 2026. The chosen candidate will travel extensively throughout the state and have required weekly in-person office time at DATCP's Madison office.

The annual salary for Alice in Dairyland is \$45,000 and includes holiday, vacation, and sick leave, and use of a vehicle while on official business. Reimbursement is provided for professional travel expenses and an individual health insurance premium up to \$450 a month.

To apply, provide a cover letter, completed application form, resume, and contact information for three professional references to DATCP-Alice@wisconsin.gov by 4:30 p.m. on January 30, 2026. Application materials are available on the Alice in Dairyland website.

Qualified applicants will participate in a preliminary interview on February 21, 2026, at DATCP's Madison office or via Microsoft Teams. The resulting Top Candidates will attend a two-day program briefing and press announcement March 6-7, 2026, as well as the three-day final interview process May 14-16, 2026, in Marathon County.

Questions about the position or application process can be directed to DATCP-Alice@wisconsin.gov.

Agard announced initiative to keep youth out of jail

Dane County Executive Melissa Agard announced the launch of the Assessment, Treatment, Transition and Aftercare (ATTA) Program, a new pilot initiative designed to provide intensive, community-based support for at-risk youth and reduce the need for placement in state correctional facilities.

ATTA represents a significant shift in Dane County's approach to juvenile justice, emphasizing early intervention, accountability paired with care, and individualized support that keeps youth connected to their families, schools, and communities whenever possible.

"Earlier support and meaningful opportunity are the cornerstones of this program," said County Executive Melissa Agard. "ATTA is about stepping in sooner, surrounding youth with the right services, and giving them a real chance to succeed."

The program was developed at the request of Judge Everett Mitchell and shaped by Interim Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent Albert Watson, drawing on successful models from other Wisconsin counties and tailoring them to meet the needs of Dane County youth.

ATTA is designed for youth who are at high risk of being placed in facilities such as Lincoln Hills or Copper Lake. The six-month program integrates assessment, treatment, transition, and aftercare into a single continuum of care focused on rehabilitation and long-term stability.

"My hope is that programs like ATTA mean fewer and fewer youth ever have to experience placements like Lincoln Hills because we've invested in strong early intervention right here in Dane County," Agard said.

Participants will be housed in a dedicated wing of the Juvenile Detention Center and will have access to employment opportunities, community service, skill-building, and individual and family therapy through a partnership with Anesis. As youth progress, they may earn home visits or overnight stays and, in some cases, attend their traditional school.

Crop insurance deadline looms

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) reminds producers to apply for crop insurance premium rebates. The rebate application is web-based and is available on DATCP's website until January 31, 2026, or until program funding is exhausted. DATCP administers this program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency.

There is \$800,000, or 160,000 acres of coverage, to be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible participants will receive a \$5 per acre rebate on their summer 2026 crop insurance premium for acres that were planted with cover crops in 2025, then planted with an insurable crop the following growing season.

Producers who received state or federal cost-sharing to plant cover crops in 2025 are not eligible for this year's program. Applicants will need to use their FSA-578 form to complete the application, and there is no limit on acres an applicant can apply for. Applicants should keep seed receipts and planting records, as DATCP may conduct audits to ensure cover crops were planted.

Additional information about eligibility and FAQs can be found on DATCP's

website. Questions about these rebates should be directed to DATCPCC@wisconsin.gov.

For more information on conservation programming, visit DATCP's website or sign up for email updates.

Optimists hold oratorical contest

The Optimist Club of Mount Horeb is encouraging area students to speak their minds about the topic "The Moment I Realized I Belonged—My Definition of Community" as part of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest for the 2025–2026 school year.

The Optimist Club will judge the local students' speeches based on content and presentation to determine the top winners. Winners will receive medallions and a \$250 cash scholarship from the Mount Horeb Optimist Club. The winning speeches at the club level will be sent to the Zone level, and possibly the District level for the opportunity to win college scholarships. Winners of the District level will be eligible to compete in a regional competition in St. Louis, Missouri, at Saint Louis University.

Winners of the regional contests will compete in the World Championship also held at Saint Louis University. Students could possibly win up to \$22,500 in scholarships!

The contest is open to students under the age of 19 as of October 1, 2025 and who have not yet completed secondary school or its equivalent.

"As they prepare for their future, many of our local students need experience expressing their thoughts and opinions to an audience," Club President Ellen Walton said. "The Oratorical Contest challenges them to do just that and also offers an opportunity for scholarships. In this way, our club hopes to bring out the best in each of them and help them achieve their goals for the future."

The deadline to hand in speeches is March 1, 2026 and the competition is scheduled for Sat, March 14th 10:00AM at the Violet Room, Wisconsin Surplus, 2600 WI 78 S, MH. The length of time will depend on how many participants we have.

Students wishing to participate in the oratorical contest can find out more about the contest at optimist.org.

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Recreation Notes

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 to 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.

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 to 10:30 am. The fee is \$50 for residents and \$60 for non-residents; the registration deadline is 2/2.

BINGO! Join us for **FREE Family Bingo Night** on February 20th at 6pm. Enjoy 8 exciting rounds of bingo, with prizes for every winner. Bring the whole family for a night of fun! Participation is free; however, registration is required.

Sign up by 2/16!

Does your child enjoy robotics? Build a robot to solve a maze, play soccer, and participate in a dance party in **MacQueen Robotics**! This robotics class for 3rd through 8th graders, challenges young engineers to build, code, test, and modify a robot to complete multiple tasks and challenges. Starting 2/23, this course runs Mondays, from 6 to 7 pm, through 4/6. The fee is \$115 for residents

and \$125 for non-residents. Deadline: 2/16.

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 regis-

tration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment to mhrec@mounthorebwi.info

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

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

BILL

continued from page 1

protect free speech and the right to petition the government, SB 666/AB701, will allow the courts to quickly dismiss lawsuits that are filed not to win on the merits, but to intimidate, silence, or financially exhaust critics.

So-called SLAPPs—Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation—are often used against individuals who speak out on matters

of public concern, such as government accountability, tax and spending decisions, consumer protection, environmental impacts, or workplace conditions. Even when these cases are weak or baseless, the cost and stress of litigation can be enough to deter people from speaking at all. Anti-SLAPP laws are intended to stop this abuse of the court system.

Under UPEPA legislation, which was developed by the nonpartisan Uniform Law

Commission, a person who believes they are the target of a SLAPP lawsuit could ask the court to dismiss the case if it arises from their exercise of free speech or their right to petition on a public issue. If the court agrees, the lawsuit would be dismissed, and the party who filed it could be required to pay the defendant’s attorney fees and costs. The fee-shifting provision is critical, as it discourages the use of litigation as a weapon rather

than a legitimate means of resolving disputes.

Wisconsin is currently behind much of the country in providing these protections. According to the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, 31 states have anti-SLAPP laws in place. As a result, journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens in Wisconsin are more vulnerable to retaliatory lawsuits than their counterparts in other states.

Passage of Senate Bill

666/Assembly Bill 701 will address this disparity. SLAPP lawsuits are powerful tools for silencing dissent, not because they are likely to succeed in court, but because they impose crushing legal costs and risks. For many people, the mere threat of such a lawsuit is enough to discourage them from speaking out, even when their speech is lawful and important to the public.

The good news both SB

666 and AB 701 have passed committee with unanimous, bipartisan support. We urge legislative leaders to ensure SB 666/AB 701 receives votes in the full Assembly and Senate so that Wisconsinites can feel free to express their opinions on public issues without fear of being subjected to a costly lawsuit.

Contact your legislator and voice your support for passage of Senate Bill 666/Assembly Bill 701.

ANNOUNCE

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or by contacting Optimist member Katie Landmark at 608-279-2992 or katielandmark@gmail.com.

Keep snowmobiles on marked trails

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds snowmobile riders to operate only on marked trails, routes or other areas with permission and to stay off closed trails.

Wisconsin snowmobile clubs work hard all year to secure one of the best riding experiences in this country. Remember – operating a snowmobile off a designated trail can be dangerous and can damage private property. Operation on closed snowmobile trails is also illegal.

“Wisconsin has thousands of miles of well-maintained trails that are managed by dedicated club members,” said Lt. Jake Holsclaw, DNR off-highway vehicle administrator. “Please respect their lands, and ride safe and sober.”

Trails do not open at the same time. Check Travel Wisconsin’s Snow Report to make sure trails are open before heading out.

The DNR also urges snowmobilers to ride sober and be aware of unsafe ice.

Alcohol affects your risk perception and reaction time. If you choose to consume alcohol, wait until after you’ve safely returned

home – it could save your life.

Additionally, monitor ice conditions by consulting with local experts, such as outfitters, bait shops and fishing clubs. Remember that the DNR does not monitor ice conditions. Be aware that several factors determine ice quality; follow ice safety tips. Float coats, life jackets and rescue ropes can be lifesavers.

Here are more tips:

Remember that ice is never completely safe under any conditions.

Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a life jacket or float coat, should you fall through the ice and to help retain body heat.

Do not travel in unfamiliar areas.

Slow down when traveling at night.

Know if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows that have currents that can thin the ice.

Watch for pressure ridges or ice buckling. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water.

Visit the DNR’s Snowmobiling webpage for additional information on snowmobile safety classes, regulations, safety tips and how to register your snowmobile.

Local students take part in SkillsUSA

The second Wisconsin SkillsUSA regional competition of 2026 will be on Fri., Jan. 30, at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1 University Plaza, Platteville,

WI. More than 315 students from the following schools will compete, including those from Barneveld High School (23 contestants) and Mount Horeb High School (10 contestants).

Competitions, which are for high school students unless indicated, will be held in the following categories: 3D Printing & Design (High School & Middle School); Carpentry; CO2 Dragster (High School & Middle School); Electrical Construction Wiring; Electronics Technology; Entrepreneurship (High School & Middle School); Facilitator – Leadership in Facility Management; Job Skill Demonstration Open (High School & Middle School); Job Interview (High School & Middle School); Medical Terminology; Medical Math; Power Equipment Technology “Small Engines”; Prepared Speech (High School & Middle School); Promotional Bulletin Board (High School & Middle School); Related Technical Math; Team Engineering Challenge (High School & Middle School); TeamWorks; Technical Drafting; Welding; Welding Sculpture (High School & Middle School); Woodwork Display \$0-\$50 (High School & Middle School).

The opening ceremonies will begin at 8:15 a.m., with the competitions from 9 a.m. to noon. Competition judging will be from noon to 1 p.m., with the award ceremonies at 1 p.m.

The Regional Competi-

tion will also host a Future-Ready Workforce Summit from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with lunch provided. Area business leaders, human resource directors, and recruiters from across Wisconsin will participate with SkillsUSA Wisconsin team members to discuss the challenges of finding and recruiting skilled employees and how SkillsUSA Wisconsin can partner with organizations and school districts to provide a pipeline of skilled and qualified future workers.

Regional competitors will have an opportunity to advance and participate in the 53rd annual Wisconsin SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference (SLSC) in Madison, Tues. April 7 – Wed., April 8.

The Wisconsin SLSC, the largest hands-on workforce development event in the state, is the premier showcase of Wisconsin’s most highly skilled career and technical education students. State competitions will occur at the Alliant Energy Center and Madison Area Technical College (MATC).

DNR published food waste evaluation

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has released a Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation report that provides key details about Wisconsin’s existing food waste generation and management.

The report includes recommendations for indi-

viduals, businesses and government agencies to reduce food waste going to landfills as part of a statewide goal to reduce per-capita food waste disposal in landfills by 50% by 2030, compared to 2020 levels.

Key findings of the study include:

The vast majority (88%) of the food waste going to Wisconsin landfills is from residential and food service sources, with residential contributing the largest share at 47%.

Infrastructure for hauling food waste to destinations other than landfills (such as composting and anaerobic digestion facilities) will have to expand significantly to achieve the statewide food waste reduction goal.

Of the 286 facilities licensed for composting in Wisconsin, just 30 (10%) are approved to accept food waste. Of the 122 anaerobic digestion facilities currently operating in Wisconsin, just 37 (30%) currently accept food waste.

To expand food donation, food rescue and food waste processing infrastructure, education, technical support and funding will be needed. Regulatory and policy reform may also be necessary.

“We’re excited to share this report and begin working with stakeholders on the next steps,” said Kate Strom Hiorns, director of the DNR’s Waste and Materials Management Program. “Through the sustainable management of food, we can conserve resources,

help businesses and consumers save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide access to food for those who do not have enough to eat.”

This study was funded through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant that the DNR received in 2023 to evaluate Wisconsin’s food waste landscape, develop a statewide food waste reduction plan and provide technical assistance to businesses. These activities, under this Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant, support Wisconsin’s commitment to waste reduction and responsible use of resources.

The impetus for this work was DNR’s 2020-2021 Statewide Waste Characterization Study, which found that wasted food and food scraps accounted for 20% of the trash sent to Wisconsin landfills — the largest single category. This amounts to an estimated 854,000 tons annually in Wisconsin during the study period, or 294 pounds per person. More than three-quarters of this food could have been consumed by people. When food goes in the trash, so do resources, time and money.

The DNR will host a webinar via Microsoft Teams from noon to 1 p.m. on Feb. 3 to present an overview of the food waste study. Anyone interested in attending the webinar can register using the Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation Results Webinar registration link on the DNR website.

Sports Editor
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SPORTS

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Vikings shine at Fiserv Forum

Mount Horeb
downs Lodi

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

MILWAUKEE — Hayden Anderson and some of Mount Horeb’s senior class has played at the Fiserv Forum — home of the Milwaukee Bucks — on three occasions.

The group played there once in middle school. Some then played there as freshmen when the Vikings battled Portage.

Last Saturday’s trip was extra special, though.

Anderson and the Vikings’ seniors know that this is their last rodeo, their final hurrah. So they were determined to make this memory extra special.

Mount Horeb did just that in posting a 58-54 win over Lodi before a festive crowd at the Deer District Prep Showcase. The Vikings built an early double digit lead, held off a second half Blue Devils’ rally and notched their fourth straight win.

Mount Horeb improved to 12-4 overall, while Lodi fell to 9-5.

“Yeah it was a lot of fun,” said Anderson, the Vikings’ burly 6-foot-5 center. “I mean, playing on NBA courts is tough because it’s (10-feet) longer. But I mean, it’s just fun to be here with the guys. Just a cool experience.”

Perhaps the coolest thing from Mount Horeb’s per

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Clockwise from top, Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team was all smiles after defeating Lodi at the Fiserv Forum last Saturday. Ethan Morrisard surveys the court, while Alex Chapman drives to the hoop. Photos courtesy of Steve Grundahl

Mount Horeb has new
heroes emerging

Vikings win two league games without Manchester

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team is navigating life without star guard Josh Manchester.

And when it comes to games inside the Badger Small Conference, the Vikings are certainly holding their own.

Mount Horeb defeated Reedsburg, 57-42, on Jan. 22 and toppled Fort Atkin-

son, 66-51, on Jan. 20. The Vikings improved to 11-4 overall and 5-2 in the league.

Here’s a recap of Mount Horeb’s conference games last week.

- **Mount Horeb 57, Reedsburg 42** — Junior forward Alex Chapman scored 23 points and senior post Hayden Anderson added 18 as the Vikings downed the host Beavers.

Mount Horeb rallied from a 20-16 halftime deficit with

an impressive second half.

“I was extremely pleased with our second half and the execution we showed,” Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. “We really challenged some guys at half and they stepped up. Great reactions to some adversity for us.”

The Vikings struggled against Reedsburg’s 1-2-2 zone in the first half. Fortunately, their defense kept

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Mount Horeb senior guard Kam Nesheim (1) sizes up Lodi’s Grayson Koeppen (10) during the Vikings’ win over the Blue Devils at the Fiserv Forum last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Steve Grundahl

Spartans rally past Vikings

by DENNIS SEMRAU
Sports Reporter

On a frigid night fit more for a dog sled race than a prep basketball game, Mount Horeb’s girls got off to a hot start in its rematch with visiting McFarland on Jan. 22.

But the Vikings’ early 10-point lead began to melt away in the final minutes of the first half.

Following the halftime break, it didn’t get any better for Mount Horeb as McFarland opened the second half with a 10-0 surge of its own.

The Spartans then fought off a late Mount Horeb rally to hold on for a thrilling 49-46 victory in a Badger Small Conference matchup.

Vikings sophomore guard Magali Forline attempted a game-tying 3-pointer from the right wing, but it was blocked by McFarland freshman guard Allison Charbonneau as time expired.

“We were as cold in the gym as it was outside,” Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said of the Vikings coming out of the break. “Near the end of the half, we were up 10 and in six straight possessions we didn’t get a shot off and turned it over.

“We could have made it a 14-, 16-point game and it would have been over, right?”

Instead, the Vikings extended their scoreless streak for another 5 minutes as McFarland raced to a 26-22 lead that it wouldn’t relinquish.

Mount Horeb fell to 8-8 overall and 6-2 in the Badger Small, while McFarland improved to 6-10, 5-3.

“We didn’t play smart mentally either tonight,” Leibfried said. “A lot of sets and out of bounds plays our kids didn’t run right. I don’t know what that was.

“But we battled. That’s what our kids always do. We got it back and had a chance and didn’t execute at the end there on a set to hopefully get us a good look on a three.”

Mount Horeb jumped to a 5-0 lead when McFarland turned the ball over on its first three possessions.

While both teams used tenacious man-to-man defense to contest nearly every shot, Mount Horeb gradually built a 22-12 lead when sophomore guard Lauren Mester sank two free throws 2:46 left before halftime.

But the Vikings went scoreless for nearly 8 minutes spanning the first and second halves.



Mount Horeb’s Lauren Mester (1) and the Vikings fell to McFarland on Jan. 22. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

“We needed to slow down. They were speeding us up,” Mount Horeb junior guard Courtney Monroe said of McFarland. “We just needed to run some sets and stuff. Normally we score a lot off our sets. We just needed to slow down and play our game.”

Spartans’ freshman guard Allison Charbonneau sank a layup in the final minute of the first half to pull McFarland within 22-16 at the break. But the Spartans were just getting started.

After McFarland missed a shot on the opening possession of the second half, the Spartans scored on their next three trips to grab a 24-22 lead.

Allison Charbonneau (11 points) began the surge with a layup followed by a 3-pointer from senior Alexis Charbonneau (12 points) off an assist from her sister Allision. Sophomore guard Kylie Ganshert added a layup and free throw for a traditional three-point play and McFarland was off and running.

“We just came out with a lot of energy,” said McFarland first-year head coach Kaitlynn Eversoll. “We were a little more patient on offense and didn’t try to make the difficult pass right away. We made their defense work a little bit more.”

Junior forward Brooke DeShong completed the 10-0 run with a layup at the 14:29 mark to extend McFarland’s lead to 26-22.

Meanwhile, Mount Horeb missed all six of its field goal attempts and committed two turnovers during that span,

However, the Vikings kept scrapping for loose balls and battling on defense despite their woes on offense.

“We knew halfway through the second half, it was going to be a dogfight,” Leibfried said. “We just had to fight, fight, and fight and hopefully make enough plays at the end to win.”

Junior guard Avery Monroe finally snapped the scoreless streak for Mount Horeb when she sank the first of two free throw attempts with 12:56 left in the second half.

McFarland junior forward Annabel Willenbacher, though, scored off an offensive rebound and Allison Charbonneau drilled a free-throw line jumper to give the Spartans a 30-23 lead.

“I think that McFarland

just wanted it more than us at that point,” Courtney Monroe said. “All of us didn’t put enough pressure on them. We weren’t giving enough effort and McFarland was and that allowed them to get that 10-0 run.”

Mount Horeb used a 6-2 surge to pull within 34-32 on a steal and fastbreak layup from Forlines with 7:48 left to play.

“We take a lot of pride in our defense,” Mester said. “We aren’t the tallest team, but we’re short and quick and fast, so we’re trying to put pressure on teams with our multiple presses and zones and different trap defenses.

“That allows us to create a lot of turnovers. McFarland is a pretty, young team and not very experienced. So, we were able to apply pressure on them and put them in situations they’re not used to.”

McFarland countered with a 9-2 surge to push its lead to a game-high nine points at 43-34 when DeShong

drained two free throws at the 5:06 mark.

That set the stage for one final rally for the Vikings, who got a pair of key baskets, including a 3-pointer, from sophomore guard Aubrey Rockow to remain within striking distance.

“Aubrey came off the bench and hit some big shots for us,” Leibfried said of Rockow, who led Mount Horeb with 12 points, including two 3-pointers. “We got some inside scoring from Jami Chapman, a freshman, that helped us.”

Junior guard Sammy Johnson’s layup off an assist from Mester pulled Mount Horeb within 48-46 with 59 seconds to play. But Ganshert sank the first of two free throws with 25.2 seconds left to cap the scoring.

Mount Horeb had two final chances to force overtime, but committed a turnover with 10.2 seconds left.

After Ganshert was again fouled and missed two free throws, Allison Charbonneau bailed out the Spartans with her game-saving block.

“They are long and can shoot the ball,” Leibfried said of the Spartans. “We had open looks. We just didn’t make them. Ali Charbonneau has long arms, is athletic and quick. We struggled with that quickness a little bit.”

McFarland earned a split in the season series after Mount Horeb prevailed, 56-50, on the road on Dec. 2.

“We struggled there with their quickness, but we made some shots,” Leibfried said of the first meeting. “We were able to get a lead and just hang on, but not tonight.”

Despite the setback, Leibfried was proud of the Vikings’ tenacious defense down the stretch.

“Our defense has always been sound,” he said. “We

gave ourselves a chance. We just had to make some more shots. We just couldn’t do it.”

With only one senior (Nalia Craven) on the squad, Leibfried believes the best is yet to come for the youthful Vikings, who are in second place in the Badger Small Conference behind Madison Edgewood, which is unbeaten in league play.

“I really like that the kids get along and they support each other and are such good friends. They bring so much positive energy,” Leibfried said. “I know we will bounce back. They have short memories. I have no doubt we’ll get better. They’re so young.”

• **Milton 67, Mount Horeb 47** — The host Red Hawks prevailed in a Badger Conference cross-over game on Jan. 19.

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb was at Madison Edgewood on Tuesday, then hosts Stoughton in a league game on Friday at 7:15 p.m. The Vikings then play at Sun Prairie West in a non-conference game on Feb. 2 at 7:15 p.m.

Jan. 22	McFARLAND 49,
	MOUNT HOREB 46
McFarland	16 33 — 49
Mount Horeb	22 24 — 46
McFARLAND (fg ft-fth pts)	
— Lila Westrum	1 0-0 2, Brooke DeShong 2 2-2 6, Ava Roder 0 0-0 0, Annabel Willenbacher 1 1-2 3, Greysyn Grey 0 0-0 0, Allison Charbonneau 4 3-6 11, Alexis Charbonneau 3 4-4 12, Kylie Ganshert 3 3-9 9, Charlie Lueder 2 0-0 6. Totals 16 13-23 49.
MOUNT HOREB —	Lauren Meister 1 4-4 7, Sammy Johnson 1 0-0 2, Julia Straka 0 0-0 0, Magali Forlines 3 0-0 6, Aubrey Rockow 5 0-0 12, Nalia Craven 2 0-0 5, Courtney Monroe 3 3-4 9, Avery Monroe 0 1-2 1, Jami Chapman 1 2-4 4. Totals 16 10-14 46.
3-point goals:	McF 4 (Alexis Charbonneau 2, Charlie Lueder 2). MH 4 (Lauren Meister 1, Aubrey Rockow 2, Nalia Craven 1). Total fouls: McF 13, MH 21.

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Gymnasts shine on Senior Night

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team celebrated Senior Night in style on Jan. 22.

The Vikings defeated visiting Reedsburg, 138.0-119.225 and stayed unbeaten in the Badger Conference.

Seniors Ava Bilse, Carmen Olgesby, Sylvia Seeliger and Tessa Soppe were all honored during an opening ceremony made possible by Spirit Squad coach Donna Skogan and her cheerleaders. The Vikings' seniors were recognized with flowers, gifts and speeches from their younger teammates.

"We had a very successful night, highlighted by numerous season-best individual scores across all four events and in the all-around," Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faut said. "While we didn't post season-best team totals, the confidence this team continues to build was on full display — an essential ingredient for success in this sport."

Mount Horeb's Harper Hendrickson was the all-around champion with a score of 35.475, while Sylvia Seeliger was second with a 34.70.

Hendrickson finished first on the vault (8.90), balance beam (9.30) and floor exercise (9.05), while Seeliger was first on the uneven bars (8.65).

Here's how the Vikings finished on each event:

Vault (34.0 points)
1st place — Harper Hendrickson, 8.90
2nd — Sylvia Seeliger, 8.80
5th — Avena Meyers and Carmen Oglesby, 8.15

Bars (33.55 points)
1st place — Sylvia Seeliger, 8.65
2nd — Tessa Soppe, 8.35
3rd — Macie Finley, 8.30
4th — Averı Kalscheur, 8.25

Balance beam (35.55 points)
1st place — Harper Hendrickson, 9.30
2nd — Sylvia Seeliger, 9.025
3rd — Carmen Oglesby, 8.925
4th — Avena Meyers, 8.30

Floor (34.9 points)
1st place — Harper Hendrickson, 9.05
2nd — Averı Kalscheur, 8.90
3rd — Carmen Oglesby, 8.675
5th — Sylvia Seeliger, 8.225

All-Around
1st place — Harper Hendrickson, 35.475
2nd — Sylvia Seeliger, 34.70

JUNIOR VARSITY RESULTS:
Mt. Horeb 123.80, Reedsburg 24.45

Vault (32.55 points)
1st place — Kate Van Gorden, 8.35
2nd — Averı Kalscheur,



Avena Myers and Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team rolled past Reedsburg on Senior Night. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

8.20
3rd — Evie Wyse, 8.05
4th — Marie Hutchins, 7.95
5th — Ava Bilse, 7.55

Bars (29.2 points)
1st place — Carmen Oglesby, 8.10
2nd — Elise Hooks, 7.20
3rd — Kate Van Gorden, 7.0
4th — Evie Wyse, 6.90
5th — Marie Hutchins, 6.30

Beam (31.3 points)
1st place — Macie Finley, 8.30
2nd — Ava Bilse, 8.10
3rd — Elise Hooks, 7.50
4th — Jacey Morin, 7.40
5th — Tessa Soppe, 7.35

Floor (30.75 points)
1st place — Elise Hooks, 8.40
2nd — Jacey Morin and Evie Wyse, 7.5
4th — Kate Van Gorden, 7.35
Ava Bilse, 7.0

All-around
1st place — Kate Van Gorden, 29.90
2nd — Evie Wyse, 29.25
3rd — Ava Bilse, 28.15

• **On deck:** The Vikings travel to Waunakee on Feb. 3 for a Badger Conference dual against Waunakee/DeForest at 6:30 p.m.

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Mount Horeb wrestlers top Stoughton

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

The Mount Horeb/Barneveld wrestlers defeated Stoughton, 54-27, on Jan. 20.

Here's how the Vikings fared at each weight class:

106: Bryce Madden (27-7) Fr., MHB pinned Austin Murphy (9-5) Fr., STOU, 1:28.

113: Joey Savaske (4-6) Fr., STOU pinned Ryan Kuntz (7-7) Jr., MHB, 1:28)

120: Drew Droessler (13-12) So., MHB pinned Donovan Richards (7-7) Fr., STOU, 0:36.

126: Brayden Breider (21-3) Fr., STOU pinned RJ Emanneul (11-9) Fr., MHB, 3:17.

132: Maxton Stevens (22-14) Fr., MHB pinned Aiden Lange (7-11) Jr., STOU, 5:56.

138: Liam Angeles (11-8) So., STOU pinned Nick Burreson (14-9) Sr., MHB, 1:35.

144: Timmy Kruse (13-11) Sr., MHB pinned Levi Valdovinos (0-11) So., STOU, 1:34.

150: Harrison Cyvas (8-2) Sr., STOU pinned Max Frisch (4-4) Jr., MHB, 0:30.

157: Hunter Stevens (33-2) Sr., MHB pinned Liam Ackley (4-2) So., STOU, 3:54.

165: Landon Kahl (13-12) So., MHB pinned Gunder

Nelson (15-5) So., STOU, 1:38.

175: Eli Maier (32-3) Jr., MHB pinned Carter Wubben (0-3) So., STOU, 2:06

190: Eli Leonard (34-0) Sr., MHB pinned Dean Smilgis (15-6) So., STOU, 1:13.

215: Kade Splinter (21-1) Fr., STOU def. Leland Havens (25-4) Fr., MHB, 2-0.

285: Wyatt Bush (5-7) So., MHB pinned Jack Swalheim (0-3) So., STOU, 1:46

HOCKEY

Stoughton's hockey team — which includes players from Mount Horeb — dropped a pair of games last week.

The Vikings fell to Milton, 10-0, on Jan. 19. Waunakee then defeated Stoughton, 8-1, on Jan. 22.

Milton outshot Stoughton, 43-16, including 23-2 in the first period. Milton scored two goals in the first period, and four in both the second and third periods.

Waunakee held a 40-6 advantage in shots and rolled to a win. The Warriors scored four goals in the first period and three in the second.

Silas Sawacki had an unassisted goal for Stoughton.

• **On deck:** Stoughton hosted Sauk Prairie Tuesday, then is at Homestead Friday at 5:15 p.m.

New

LEGAL NOTICE DEADLINES

EFFECTIVE ON ALL LEGAL NOTICES PUBLISHED IN THESE PUBLICATIONS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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TOWN OF PERRY
LAND USE COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTICE
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Perry Town Hall, 10084 County Highway A
7:00 PM
Teleconference: 425-585-6272
access: 394-722-206 #

Agenda

1. Call to Order.
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – January 7, 2026.
3. John Willborn Jr, 10833 CTH A – review revised CSM to rezone 3 acres to RR-2, 5 acres to FP-1, 0.7 acres to HAM-R, site plan for residence and driveway. *
4. Town Comprehensive Plan – review and edit Element 8, “Land Use.”
5. Pending applications – review and discussion.
6. Schedule meetings.
7. Adjourn.

Stephanie Zwettler
Deputy Clerk
www.perry-wi.gov
A quorum of the Town Board may be present at this meeting.

* A site view will be conducted at the Willborn site on Saturday, January 31, 2026, beginning at 8:30 AM.
Posted: Town Hall, Town Garage, Daleyville signpost, Town website–January 29, 2026.

Publish: 1/29/26 WNAXLP



FISERV

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spective is they continued to excel without all-state guard Josh Manchester, who suffered a separated shoulder on Jan. 15. With Manchester watching in street clothes, a handful of Vikings stepped up.

Junior forward Alex Chapman led the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds, while Anderson added 15 points and five rebounds. They had plenty of help, though, as 10 Vikings played and all 10 scored.

Manchester is targeting a Feb. 6 return against Stoughton. But in Manchester's stead, his teammates have stepped up, played terrific basketball and developed a world of confidence for a late-season surge.

"I mean, these kids have grown so much in a week with their confidence and their ability to know that they can do this," Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. "When you have a player like Josh, you're going to utilize that both as a coach and as a team, and then that means fewer opportunities for everybody else, no doubt. But this is how we won games prior to Josh.

"You know, you might have a couple guys in double digits every game, but probably like 12 or 14 points, not 22, 24 or 30. We know how to win games like this. Maybe the kids don't, but we do and this stretch of winning games without Josh is going to help a lot."

Finding the win column was a tall task, though. Lodi has a pair of standouts in senior guard Theo Traeder (21.1 points per game) and junior guard Kyle Schneider (12.9), and a veteran team that was one of the favorites in the Capitol North Conference this winter.

Mount Horeb built an early 21-10 lead, though and



Fun times at Fiserv

Clockwise from top left:

- Mount Horeb boys basketball coach Todd Nesheim stands in front Giannis Antetokounmpo's locker before the Vikings' game at Fiserv Forum on Jan. 24.
- Sophomore guard Kyle Freitag brings the ball up court.
- Mount Horeb's Kam Nesheim and Evan Leibfried (in air) celebrate the Vikings' win over Lodi.
- Evan Leibfried drains a 3-pointer from the right wing. Photos submitted

held a 28-19 halftime advantage. The Blue Devils took their only lead of the game at 41-40 with 7:20 left and the teams were still knotted, 47-47, with 3 ½ minutes left.

Mount Horeb then went on a 7-0 run over the next 3 minutes and surged to 54-47 lead that proved insurmountable.

Senior guard Kam Nesheim, junior guard Nick Ibinger and Chapman all made two free throws in that stretch and Mount Horeb held Lodi scoreless for 3 minutes, 5 seconds.

"I'm not surprised," said Chapman, who was voted the Player of the Game and honored afterwards. "We've got a good group of guys, and I see it every day in practice, and I know we can hold our own against anybody. So I think it's a good little streak. We've got a little bit of momentum, and we can keep it rolling."

Lodi pulled within 54-52 after a 3-pointer from freshman guard Silas Seffrood with 12.9 seconds left. But Chapman drilled four straight free throws in the

final 11.9 seconds to keep the Blue Devils at bay.

Chapman, who went 6-of-8 from the line, had missed two straight foul shots with 23.6 seconds left. But he shook that off and came up huge down the stretch.

"I've shot too many free throws in my life," Chapman said. "My attitude is the next one has to go. It was good to see them go down."

There were a lot of good things for the Vikings during an impressive first half that saw them take a 28-19 lead. Chapman led the way with eight points, Anderson added six, and Mount Horeb shot 42.3% from the floor (11-of-26) while holding Lodi to 31.8% shooting (7-of-22).

"We just really pushed the ball, and their shots weren't falling," Anderson said. "And we took advantage of that."

The Vikings used a 13-3 run midway through the half to take a 21-10 lead. With Mount Horeb leading, 8-7, Anderson scored and was fouled. Anderson missed

the free throw, but Chapman grabbed the rebound and fed Anderson for a layup to complete a four-point possession that gave the Vikings a 12-7 advantage.

Before the run was over, reserve post Evan Leibfried knocked down a 3-pointer, while Anderson, sophomore forward Kyle Freitag and senior guard Ethan Morrisard all had two points.

Lodi pulled within 23-18, but the Vikings closed the half on a 5-1 run and took a 28-19 lead to the break. Chapman drilled a 25-footer in that stretch and junior guard Mason Williams had a driving layup.

"We're having to be really patient offensively," Chapman said. "We're taking the shots that we want, kind of just being patient. Being able to get into the offense, get the looks we want, look for guys, a lot of cuts, a lot of flares, just find each other's strengths."

Lodi opened the second half with a 13-5 run, though, and pulled within 33-32. Schneider drilled a 3-pointer and had a traditional 3-point

play in that stretch, Traeder had five points and the Blue Devils scored on 5-of-8 possessions.

Mount Horeb maintained a narrow lead until Traeder's triple with 7:20 remaining gave Lodi its only lead of the game at 41-40.

"Sometimes it's not real pretty on the offensive end," Todd Nesheim said. "But that's the way it's going to look for most of the games right now. And, you know, that's a good team. They're going to make a tournament run, and they've got two legit players."

"So that's just the way we're going to win games here right now. We told them that when Josh went down, we're not going to win 80-to-something anymore. But can we win 50-to-something."

And that's just what the Vikings did with a big finishing kick.

Mount Horeb went with its twin towers of the 6-foot-8 Leibfried and Anderson. That move paid off when Anderson missed in close and Leibfried kept a rebound alive. Anderson then corralled the loose ball, scored at the rim, was fouled and converted the 3-point play to give the Vikings a 44-41 lead with 5:37 remaining.

"I mean, we should have a mismatch with that lineup, so then one of us can just go to work down low," Leibfried said. "And that play was probably like a game changer. I mean, I almost had that one, and then it came down to me. I just put it back up and got the foul called, so that was good."

After another 3-pointer by Traeder tied the game at 44, Chapman buried a triple from the right wing to give the Vikings a 47-44 edge.

"It's an open look, and I'm going to shoot that nine times out of 10," Chapman said. "I was trying to look for my shots, and I found one."

Traeder buried another 3-pointer — his fifth of the game and fourth of the second half — to tie things at 47. But Lodi's offense went silent and the Vikings embarked on their 7-0 run to build a lead that proved insurmountable.

"You kind of need a couple alphas, right?" Nesheim said. "And Alex and Hayden are showing to be those two guys. They've done a great job."

All of the Vikings are showing plenty without Manchester, which has everyone excited about where this season could go.

"I think it's giving a lot of guys the opportunity to step up," Chapman said. "And as we continue to work and get better, it's only going to help us in the long run."

Anderson agreed.

"I mean, you've got to be able to play without Josh, especially when he needs a break," Anderson said. "Down the road, once he comes back, we'll be better for it. But we're good right now."

They sure are — which made this trip to Milwaukee and the Fiserv Forum a memorable one.

"It was awesome," Chapman said. "I've been here a couple times being able to see the place. It's a really cool opportunity, and I'll never forget it."

MOUNT HOREB 58, LODI 54	
Lodi	19 35 — 54
Mount Horeb	28 30 — 58
LODI — (fgm ftm-fta pts) —	
Theo Traeder 7 1-1 20, Grayson Koeppen 0 1-4 1, Colton Waller 1 0-0 3, Kale Schneider 10 2-6 23, Kyle Kurt 1 0-0 2, Silas Seffrood 1 0-0 3. Totals: 21 4-11 82.	
MOUNT HOREB — (fgm ftm-fta pts)	
Kam Nesheim 1 2-2 4, Hayden Anderson 7 1-2 15, Cal Odgers 1 1-1 3, Nick Ibinger 0 3-4 3, Alex Chapman 5 6-8 19, Evan Leibfried 1 2-2 5, Ethan Morrisard 0 2-3 2, Kyle Freitag 1 0-0 2, Mason Williams 1 1-2 3, Mx Grun-dahl 0 1-2 1. Totals: 17 19-26 58.	
3-pointers: L 8 (Traeder 5, Seefrood, Schneider, Waller), MH 4 (Chapman 3, Leibfried).	

BOYS BB

continued from page 12

them in the game.

After nine minutes, the Vikings led 5-2. But with Mount Horeb’s offense stuck in first gear, it trailed, 20-16, at halftime.

“The zone frustrated us early,” Nesheim said. “We haven’t been a great shooting team this year — minus Manchester. Against the zone, you need to make a few three’s. However, you need to be great inside against it and that has always been our philosophy.

“We started to get the feel for it a bit and had a few more buckets. However, Reedsburg got the momentum and took it to us.”

At halftime, Nesheim challenged his team — hard!

“No doubt (Reedsburg) was excited to be leading and left the floor with a lot of positive energy,” Nesheim said. “I felt like we didn’t execute our offense very well, and frankly, looked panicked.

“We challenged them to run our stuff, get the ball to the short corner and play out

of that. We were also being outrebounded and didn’t stop a lick defensively. Adjustments to switching some on ball screening action were put on the table.”

Mount Horeb played like a different team in the second half and scored on seven of its first nine possessions. The Vikings also poured in 26 points in the first nine minutes and surged to a 42-34 lead midway through the half.

Cal Odgers had eight points in that stretch, while Nick Ibinger, Kyle Freitag and Chapman all drilled 3-pointers, as well.

“Most of our action early was inside,” Nesheim said. “We then started hitting three’s as things loosened up.”

Mount Horeb kept its foot on the gas, pushing its lead to more than 20. And when Reedsburg needed to foul late, the Vikings hit 10 straight free throws, including six in a row from Chapman.

“We started switching the on ball screens out top and that took away much of the dribble penetration they were getting to get some

free looks,” Nesheim said. “They were forced to have longer possessions which help eat the clock. A good lesson for us on how to beat a zone.”

• **Mount Horeb 66, Fort Atkinson 51** — Ten different Vikings scored and Mount Horeb rolled past the Blackhawks. Alex Chapman led the way with 18 points, Hayden Anderson added 16, while Kyle Freitag had seven and Kam Nesheim had six.

“I really like the way we are playing right now,” Todd Nesheim said. “It helps that the teams we have beat without Josh have been missing a significant player, but I have coached long enough to know that doesn’t always mean you will play well. We have played well and did what I hoped, and thought we should have done to Evansville and Fort.”

The Blackhawks jumped to a 12-8 lead. By halftime, though, the Vikings pulled ahead, 35-20.

Anderson had nine of his points in the final nine minutes of the first half, while Chapman added eight. Mount Horeb also scored on



Hayden Anderson and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team have won four straight games despite missing leading scorer Josh Manchester. Photo courtesy of Steve Grundahl

nine of 10 possessions during that stretch.

“We were able to lock in a bit on defense and made a run ourselves,” Nesheim said. “We blew the game open in this segment. Most of our work came on the interior.”

The Vikings stretched their lead to 48-28 midway through the second half.

“I sprinkled in some bench guys with our starters, which was nice,” Nesheim said.

Then when Fort Atkinson cut the lead to 11, Nesheim put his starters back in the

game and they quickly pushed their advantage back to 18 and cruised home.

• **On deck:** The Vikings hosted Stoughton Tuesday, then host Sauk Prairie Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

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The Town of Primrose Board of Supervisors meeting for February 2026 will be held on Monday, February 2nd, 2026, at 8468 County Road A, Verona, WI beginning at 7:30pm. The agenda for this meeting will be posted at the Town Hall, Mount Vernon Auto, Primrose Church, and on the Town website. A summary of the agenda will be available on the voice message system at 608-832-6660.

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