

Village delays Langhús vote to allow time to review ethics complaint

By CATHY SCOTT
Mount Horeb Mail

After the usual roll call with all Board members present and Pledge of Allegiance at the December 3 Village Board meeting, Nic Owen, Village Administrator, read the following statement:

"I am going to give a brief update on the items that were removed from tonight's agenda on the Langhús on Main. We received an ethics complaint on Monday regarding one of our trustees due to a prior business arrangement with the applicant. Based on the timing, we did not have proper time to investigate it fully, so the trustee would have had no choice but to recuse himself from the discussion and the vote on that item

tonight. When discussing it with our Village attorney, he advised that the other option would be to delay the item a month so he could have time to fully investigate the conflict. We presented those options to the applicant, and his decision was to request removal of the item from tonight's agenda. The Village considered that option and granted his request for removal. With all items, especially big items, we like to provide the option for every trustee to be involved in the discussion and the decision process. This delay will allow us to fully complete the investigation and determine if there is a conflict or not and if there is not, the trustee will be allowed to participate in the

continued on page 6



Happy Holidays



Santa Claus came to town Saturday morning, visiting with children like Paulina Keogh (above) at the Mount Horeb Public Library. See more on page 8.

Plumer named New Head of the Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce



Allison Plumer

The Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the appointment of Allison Plumer as its new President & Chief Executive Officer, effective December 3, 2025.

Plumer brings a strong background in chamber leadership, tourism development, and community engagement from her work with the Verona Area Chamber of Commerce. Over the past several years, she has been deeply involved in strengthening business engagement, advancing tourism initiatives, and sup-

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Veterans donate \$500 to support high school band's London trip



Members of the Mount Horeb VFW Post last week donated \$500 toward the High School Band's London trip. Pictured from left to right: Marny Skindrud, Leah Kellesvig, Anika Schaller, Kaylynn Duckett and Kamryn Huseh.

Local Government

Utility Commission gets electric, wastewater and water reports

By ERIN HERNDON
Mount Horeb Mail

Electric Department Report

Mount Horeb Electric Superintendent shared September and October reports with the Utility Commission. The Commission met for their monthly meeting Nov. 11, 2025, receiving updates from the Electric Department as well as the Water Department and Wastewater Department.

“We’ve been super busy the last two months and pretty much all summer. In September, we did seven new underground services. We had three outages: two squirrels and one contractor dig-in,” Superintendent Jordan Schmitz said. “In October, we did nine underground services, and we had two outages: one with a squirrel and one with a dead tree.”

According to Schmitz’ September report, the electric department collaborated with J&R Underground, LLC to complete a wire upgrade in the N Brookwood area. In October, J&R additionally completed an electric line boring project on County Highway JG. The electric department also

completed a major overhead-to-underground conversion for Surplus Suds and filtered the oil in the downtown substation transformer.

“We’ve had gases being built up in that ever since I’ve been here,” Schmitz said. “At the start of this, we got the oil filtered, all the gas was out and we were back to zero. The plan now is to take oil samples from that transformer about every three months to see if gases are building up in there or not.”

Schmitz said the department crew completed their current duties on the Brookview Trail development, worked on the new three-phase extension by Miller and Son’s Supermarket and spent considerable time working towards the cleanup of North Rd and N Brookwood through September and October. He also noted that the crew completed safety training on silica, lockout tagout (LOTO) procedures and pole top rescue.

Wastewater Department Report

Mount Horeb Wastewater Superintendent Michael Brace presented September and October reports with

the Utility Commission. The Commission met for their monthly meeting Nov. 11, 2025, receiving updates from the Wastewater Department as well as the Electric Department and Water Department.

“In September, the plant ran well. We talked about feeding ferric, and we were able to shut that off early in the month,” Superintendent Brace said on the department’s use of ferric chloride. “We made a few operational adjustments and haven’t had any issue with phosphorus levels since.”

According to Brace’s reports, the plant continued to run well and operated below permitted limits through October. The month’s end marked the completion of the department’s first six-month period of its Adaptive Management interim phosphorus limit of .60 mg/L. The department achieved an average of .49 mg/L. The next six-month evaluation period is November 2025 through April 2026.

Brace said September saw the department work with a local landowner as part of their Adaptive Management Program, through which the department aims to better

understand the impact of crop methods on water quality.

“We were able to confirm our commitment to a Dane County landowner who was interested in participating in our program by including almost 150 acres of traditionally row-cropped fields into continuous cover,” Brace said. “A portion of those have already been converted in June. The rest will take place in the spring of ‘26.”

In his reports, Brace also shared that the department had one call-out in September and three in October. All the call-outs were residential backups that were determined to be on the side of the homeowners. The department also cleaned 2320 feet of sanitary sewer, televised 1410 feet and completed 11 manhole inspections.

“In October, we were able to clean roughly 2,000 feet of the sewer and inspected 13 manholes,” Brace said. “We were unable to get any televising inspections, as our equipment was in the shop for repair.”

Water Department Report

Mount Horeb Water Superintendent Brian Schult presented September and

October reports with the Utility Commission. The Commission met for their monthly meeting Nov. 11, 2025, receiving updates from the Water Department as well as the Electric Department and Wastewater Department.

“In the month of September, we worked on switching out radio read boxes to flex net boxes. This will allow the water meter readings to go directly to the office and will also put the information from the water meter into the WPPI system so they can monitor any unusual activity on the meter,” Superintendent Schult said. “We currently have 1200 meters to change out with new boxes. Some locations that have two meters on the property will only use one FlexNet box to transmit the information.”

According to Schult’s reports, in September, the water department had one broken water main to repair on West Main Street at Blue Mounds Street. In October, another was repaired at 603 Birchwood. Additionally, the reports stated the ongoing street project on

Nesheim Trail is progressing, and the water main and water services were located multiple times during September. In October, the department also flushed 460 fire hydrants while S&L Construction completed pipe work and the restorations of connections to residential properties. They also completed paving on Nov. 3.

“In the month of October, we spent a good portion of the month flushing hydrants,” Schult said. We got through 460 hydrants, which operated okay.”

Schult said that the department completed 10 bacti and one fluoride split sample each month and that while they were called out once in September to Oak Tree Court, there were no call-outs during October. Schult concluded that he had applied for and received a department grant of \$14,468 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

“It pretty much penciled out to \$3,617 per well-house,” Schult said. That will cover all the fluoride pumps, scales and new barrels, so we’ll be upgraded.”

Springdale town board talks room tax, trash removal and more

By STEVE MATYAS
Mount Horeb Mail

The Town of Springdale Board declined to take action on several items brought before it on November 18th. The items included a possible room tax for the town, issues with the current trash removal company, ventilation at the town shop, and contracting of a firm to supply a new, updated code book.

The room tax was proposed by board member Kelly Altschul, who cited a “need to explore new avenues of revenue.” 70 percent of such a tax would go toward tourism development and promotion, and the remaining 30% to the town. Chair John Rosenberg objected to the proposal, saying it would “not be right for the town” due to its lack of short-term rental properties. The proposal was subsequently tabled.

Ongoing issues with the trash removal company was once again discussed. Town Administrator Jackie Arthur reported that the current contractor is willing to supply credits for broken bins and that any mixed pick-up locations reported to it

would be handled the next day. She further stated that the town has been withholding payments for missed pick-ups. Residents reported that one entire road had been missed on the latest pick-up date, and Rosenbaum invited those residents to bring their trash to the town hall for disposal. No further action was taken at this time.

Shop ventilation has been discussed for some time, and board member Richard Schwenn brought up the fact that it was on the previous month’s agenda but had not been addressed. And reaffirmed his intention to vote against any decisions made in the future regarding this issue. Altschul expressed her refusal to “vote to break the law” and called for the town to seek variances loosening some of the current construction requirements. Rosenberg cited the “need to meet state regulations as economically as possible” and said the town should get variances and put out a request for quotes again.

Arthur presented a bid proposal from one out of state firm to re-write the code books and said that a second would perform the

service for a similar fee. A third firm, this one in-state has been contacted but has not responded. Rosenberg stated his preference for the work to be done in-state, and Arthur responded that the two firms she had been in contact with handle the bulk of such work nationwide.

The board did approve construction plans for three driveways, located at 1710 Lust Road, 16484 Kollath Road, Davis Street in Mount Vernon. Rosenberg had inspected the three sites and found “nothing controversial” with any of them. An existing driveway, at 8577 Davis Street, was brought up for discussion due to its lack of ten feet of concrete between the driveway and the street to which it connects as called for in town ordinances. After hearing town patrolman Devin Dahlk say that the driveway’s location in a cul-de-sac would not

lead to any problems with snow removal, since the town uses its smaller plow for such areas. After expressing its concerns about being perceived as granting selective enforcement of the ordinance and Altschul saying “if the patrolman says there is no issue, there is no problem”, the board elected to grant a variance on this occasion citing language in the ordinance allowing such action, and moved to lower the maximum amount of concrete required in the future.

Dahlk also reported that, due to removal of a town stop sign, all the posts in town have been coated with grease to make them more difficult and less appealing to remove. Altschul commented that this was “the most exciting thing to happen” in some time.

The board also approved an operator’s license for Noah Willey at the Riley

Tavern and examined proposed meeting with Mount Horeb representatives to meet regarding a boundary amendment, questions about replacement of a portion of sidewalk in Mount Vernon, overpayment of taxes, and the need for a capital planning commission.

Rosenberg pointed out that the proposed boundary agreement concerned no particular property and called for a meeting after the first of next year.

The sidewalk replacement involves a small portion of walk near Mount Vernon Tap and would be required as result of county highway work in the vicinity. The county wants Springdale to pay the replacement cost, estimated at five to six thousand dollars, and Springdale wants

the county to pay. Rosenberg stated that “if the county destroys the sidewalk, it needs to replace it.”

Refunds of tax overpayments were looked into, with Arthur pointing out that current law requires requests from the taxpayer for any amount under ten dollars. She went on to say the Springdale receives very few overpayments, with the largest one in the current tax year being eleven dollars.

The need for a capital planning commission was resolved with the establishment of group to focus largely on roads, equipment, and buildings. The commission will first meet in January, and volunteers to serve would be welcome.

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:**

HOLIDAY AD DEADLINE for the Mount Horeb Mail
issue of January 1 is **10 AM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26.**
(Classified deadline: 12pm Tuesday, December 23)

HOLIDAY AD DEADLINE for the Mount Horeb Mail
issue of January 8 is **10 AM FRIDAY, JANUARY 2.**
(Classified deadline: 12pm Tuesday, December 30)

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Springdale 4H News

Here is a list of the awards the members, leaders, and club received this past year:

Past Officers 2024-2025:
President - Marc Stoddard
Vice President - Mackenzie Meinholz
Treasurer - Aaron Fendrick
Secretary - Matthew Mahoney
Reporter - Liam Crolla
Historian - Leah Meinholz
Sunshine - Finn Rothenberg

Officers 2025-2026:
President - Mackenzie Meinholz
Vice President - Aaron Fendrick
Treasurer - John-Henry Lee
Secretary - Liam Crolla
Reporter - Leah Meinholz
Historian - Ruah Franzmann-Simmert
Sunshine - Carly Esser

Leader Awards:
Andy Connors - 40 Year Pin
Brenda Nemec - 20 Year Pin
Jill Stevenson - 10 Year Pin
Brent Darley - 1 Year Pin
Dana Resop - 1 Year Pin
Lisa Mahoney - Outstanding Contribution Award
Gwen Mahoney - Outstanding Contribution Award

New Members to Springdale 4-H 2025-2026:
Allison Bilsie (4th Grade) New Springdale Member Certificate
Brooklyn Bilsie (6th Grade) New Springdale Member Certificate
Ailene LaRosa Spooner (5th Grade) New Springdale Member Certificate
Reese Bilsie (Kindergarten) New Member Cloverbud Certificate
Perrin Darley (Kindergarten) New Member Cloverbud Certificate

Cloverbud Members:
Calvin Stevens -1st Year Cloverbud Certificate
Brody Elver - 2nd Year Cloverbud Certificate
Kate Stevens -2nd Year Cloverbud Certificate



On Sunday, November 2 the Springdale 4-H club held their annual club awards banquet. They hold this event to recognize the achievements of the current members and leaders actively involved in the club. During this meeting they also discussed the goals and activities they hope to complete this coming year.

Ashlynn Ringgenberg -Cloverbud Graduation Certificate
Preston Corrigan -Cloverbud Graduation Certificate
Bailey Elver -Cloverbud Graduation Certificate
Jasper Locken -Cloverbud Graduation Certificate
Certificate of Achievement (Cloverbud Record Book)
Elliot Steinich -Cloverbud Graduation Certificate
Certificate of Achievement (Cloverbud Record Book)

Members: Project & Permanent Records, Member Year Pins & Other Awards:

Levi Baldwin-Hart
Member in 4-H year Pin - 4 years
Harper Baldwin-Hart
Member in 4-H year Pin - 4 years
Anaveja Blizzard Burns
Member in 4-H year Pin - 8 years
Eirinn Carr
Member in 4-H year Pin - 9 years
Delaney Chronister
Member in 4-H year Pin - 11 years
4-H Graduate
Dalton Corrigan
Club Certificate of

Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 1 year
Junior Project Pin: Swine
Jackson Corrigan
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 3 years
Junior Project Pin: Swine Bronze Pin
Liam Crolla
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 6 years
Officer Pin: Reporter
Intermediate Project Pin: Foods & Nutrition
Intermediate Project Pin: Poultry
Kynan Darley
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 1 year
Junior Project Pin: Poultry
Carly Esser
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 3 years
Intermediate Project Pin: Art
Bronze Pin
Tyler Esser
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 3 years
Bronze Pin

Aaron Fendrick
Member in 4-H year Pin - 8 years
Club Certificate of Achievement
Officer Pin: Treasurer
Zeme Franzmann-Simmert
Member in 4-H year Pin - 7 years
4-H Graduate
Ruah Franzmann-Simmert
Member in 4-H year Pin - 7 years
Henry Healy
Member in 4-H year Pin - 7 years
Serenity Humphrey
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 1 year
Felt Letter
Skylar Humphrey
Member in 4-H year Pin - 1 year
4-H Graduate
Finn Judd

Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 1 year
Felt Letter
Junior Project Pin: Woodworking
Junior Project Pin: Crops
John-Henry Lee
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 2 years
Intermediate Project Pin: Shooting Sports
Matthew Mahoney
Member in 4-H year Pin - 10 years
Officer Pin: Secretary
Zelma Marohn
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 9 years
Sam McGinnity
Member in 4-H year Pin - 4 years
Katrina Meinholz
Club Certificate of

Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 9 years
Leah Meinholz
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 5 years
Officer Pin: Historian Silver Pin
Mackenzie Meinholz
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 8 years
Officer Pin: Vice President
Senior Project Pin: Swine
Emma Ringgenberg
Member in 4-H year Pin - 10 years
Finn Rothenberg
Member in 4-H year Pin - 6 years
Officer Pin: Sunshine Officer
Alivia Shaffer
Member in 4-H year Pin - 7 years
Marc Stoddard
Club Certificate of Achievement
Member in 4-H year Pin - 9 years
Officer Pin - President Gold Pin

Springdale 4-H Club Awards 2025:
Stoughton Fair Clean Barn - Blue
Dane County Fair - Dairy Clean Barn - 1st Place
Dane County Fair - Swine Clean Barn - White
Dane County Fair - Sheep Clean Barn - Blue
Club Newsletter (meeting agenda completed by President)
Springdale Club Display (completed by Historian)-Blue
Endowment Project - Bags filled with items for patients of Guatemala Hospital - Red
County Club Awards - 1st Place National 4-H Week Promotion - \$75 -Blue
Report National 4-H Week - Red.

Mount Horeb Kindergarten Registration is now OPEN for the 2026-2027 School Year.

If you have a child who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2026 and they **do not** participate in the MHASD 4K program, you will need to register them with the school district.

Scan the QR Code to complete registration by Friday, December 12, 2025.



Questions? Email Sierra at buchersierra@mounthorebschools.org



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Letters to the Editor

Martinson says the recent anti-development mailers were paid for by ‘anonymous’ source

Dear Editor,

It was recently reported that I covered “the expenses incurred by sending out five thousand postcards to residents asking for support in denying approval” of the JG Proposal. I did not take credit for covering the expenses. I created the bulk mailer independently, unaffiliated with any organization. The expenses were covered independently by a concerned private citizen(s) other than myself, also unaffiliated with any orga-

nization. They requested anonymity. I will honor that request.

Thank you,
Joy Martinson

Toss ‘skyscraper’ proposal

What a project! I would like to voice my opinion on the planned apartment on Main Street. My opinion is that it is an eyesore. Mount Horeb can use more residential units. The Lukken property is trying to get started but the biggest concern is how much space to allow for soccer fields. How does that relate to housing?

Years ago, Walter Durtschi tried to develop a farm, which was the perfect place for a residential development. It was not approved because of the adverse impact the runoff would have

had on a creek. The creek could use the water. That land is still undeveloped.

But don’t build this addition in our quaint little village. Go to Blue Mounds, Barneveld or Dodgeville. If this is done, nearby properties will be redeveloped too. It’s all greed.

My family has lived here since 1968, and I don’t think a skyscraper is appropriate for downtown. Toss it.

Jack Scheidegger

More pushback against development is needed

The village board is a vote away from changing ordinances that will allow the Langhus apartment to be built in our historic down-

town district. If this is allowed, this will not stop at the current proposed apartment complex. Wealthy developers will start snatching up properties that go up for sale downtown. More historic buildings will be leveled. More out of place, oversized downtown modern buildings will be erected for larger profits. Mount Horeb will lose its unique identity as many of the nearby towns have already done. Proof of this is already in the works. Jeff Grundahl owns the small lot across the street from the proposed apartment and the former police station building. I heard he wants to purchase the American Legion building. He wants to tear down the historic Legion building. I heard this from a Legion member myself one day while chatting with him outside the building. It’s only a matter of time. Other lots and other developers will follow. This approval will be the rubber stamp that developers need to do what they want. There has been a lot of pushback on this proposal

but it’s still not enough. A referendum is not possible due to state law. If our downtown being bought out by developers concerns you, please reach out to the village board. The board member emails are on the village website. Encourage them to vote no! You can also email the entire board at Village.Board@mounthorebwi.info.

Brian Sweeney
Mount Horeb

Village president clarifies that he did not speak with developer prior to proposal

In a letter to the editor regarding Langhús on Main last week, Brian Durtschi wrote: “How it works. The

developer meets with the Village President and Administrator sharing his idea and over time the developer’s idea is shared with the Village Planner and Economic Development Director gaining their support.”

Mount Horeb Village President Ryan Czyzewski subsequently confirmed that he did not personally talk to developer Jeff Grundahl regarding Langhús on Main until June 25, the same day as the planning commission concept meeting. “I don’t participate in the pre-application staff meetings unless the applicant asks, which is rare,” said Czyzewski. “The last time I participated in any conversations the parcels were discussed for redevelopment were during the Downtown Redevelopment Plan reviews at CDA as part of a larger strategic discussion, and those would have been public meetings.”

Obituary

Eleanor E. Arneson

October 5, 1930 - December 6, 2025



MOUNT HOREB - Eleanor E. Arneson, age 95, of Mount Horeb, passed away

on Saturday, December 6, 2025, in Mount Horeb. She was born on October 5, 1930, in Oconomowoc, Wis., the daughter of the Rev. Roland and Anna (Herbener) Schlueter.

Eleanor graduated from Monona High School in Monona, Iowa, where she was a basketball star. Following high school, she attended Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Eleanor was united in marriage to Dale K. Arneson on February 20, 1955, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Monona, Iowa.

Over the years, Eleanor worked as a homemaker and daycare provider, and at the Cave of the Mounds and Lands’ End.

She was a member of the Song of Norway where she played Mother Grieg, a member of the Homemaker’s Club and Immanuel Lutheran Church, where she was active in many roles. She was a founding member of the Mount Horeb Chorale where she had an opportunity to travel internationally. Eleanor volunteered at the Mount Horeb Chamber of

Commerce and the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society. In her free time, she enjoyed singing, knitting, crocheting, needlepoint and spending time with her family. She enjoyed cheering on her grandchildren and great-grandchildren during all of their activities.

Eleanor is survived by her children, Craig (Cindy) Arneson, Rayne (Michael Losenegger) Arneson, Shelley (David) Lee, Kim (Keith) O’Connell, Kent Arneson and Troy (Amy) Arneson; 19 grandchildren

and 17 great-grandchildren; and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dale; parents; brother, the Rev. Arnold Schuelter; and sisters, Margaret Dettmann and Ruth Hughes.

A memorial service will be held at IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 310 W. Main St., Mount Horeb, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, with the Rev. Jared Parmley presiding.

ing. Burial will take place at German Valley Cemetery at a later date. Visitation will be held at the church from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Monday, December 15, 2025, and also from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Tuesday.

The family would like to thank Agrace HospiceCare, all of Eleanor’s caregivers, especially Tammy who was Eleanor’s live-in-caregiver who showed her the utmost love and respect while caring for her.

Memorials may be made to Agrace HospiceCare, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mount Horeb or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

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MOUNT VERNON TAP
8646 Davis Street
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Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**
Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago- Dec. 8, 1885

Notwithstanding the cold weather carpenters are at work on the tobacco warehouse.

Lewes Bergh is now situated above Nuubson’s store and will be pleased to give you a clean shave or a neat haircut.

Olaf Quisler is putting up a building in the northern part of this burg, which he will occupy with family as soon as the structure is finished.

There will be services held at the schoolhouse next Sunday evening in the English language, by Rev. O.P. Syftestad. Time for commencing is set at 7 o’clock. All are invited to attend.

Gust Schneider is away again, this time on very important business. He has enlisted in the grand army and to-morrow Dec. 10th, will shoulder not the musket, but the responsibilities of married life. His happy bride is Miss Parman, of the town of Black Earth.

That old shop of Damholdt’s now that he is the sole owner will be a good investment. Rooms are being fitted up for the dressmaker at \$2.00 per month. Smedsrud is to have the shop as \$4.00 and the rink upstairs is let at \$65 per annum.

130 Years Ago- Dec. 12, 1895

There are between eighty and ninety students now attending the Academy.

Hon. Tollefson is now leaning back in his easy chair enjoying the contents of Prof. Anderson’s new book on “Norwegian Immi-

gration.”

John Rue formerly of this vicinity, and now a well to do farmer near Utica, Wis., was awarded the fathership of twins a short time ago.

A large number of friends of Mr. and Mrs. K.O. Jelle gathered at their home last Sunday to dedicate their new and elegant dwelling house, which was accomplished in a very pleasing manner by presenting them with many very nice and valuable presents, amounting in all to about twenty-five dollars. Mr. and Mrs. A. Jacobson, their new neighbors, who having once upon a time gone through the same sad experience of witnessing their own home being consumed by fire, were first to conceive this plan of showing a neighborly act.

120 Years Ago- Dec. 7, 1905

S.A. Britton has rented his hotel to Frank Knohr who took possession Monday. The Brittons left Monday for Oconomowoc to live with their daughter while Mr. Britton is receiving treatment for his eyes.

The electric light plant has changed hands. J.C. Ward sold out to Andrew Lee and J.H. Harmon.

Men’s trousers sold at less than cost at Dahle Bros.

The fire department was photographed Thursday morning.

On Thanksgiving day Mr. Martin Lukken and Miss Emma Halferdahl were joined in hand, heart and destiny. The happy couple left on the noon train for Madison, where a feast awaited them at the home of the bride’s sister, Mrs. G. Schneider. The same day

they proceeded on a short wedding trip to Milwaukee, on thence to Stoughton their future home.

Village Clerk Gier informs us that the taxes this year will be considerably less than last year.

Andrew Gesme took his aged mother to Milwaukee last week to consult an eye specialist, as the lady’s eyesight has been failing. They received but little encouragement, although some benefit may be derived from treatment given. It was fifty-one years since Mrs. Gesme was in the Cream City and she must have noticed some changes in the metropolis.

110 Years Ago- Dec. 10, 1915

The *Mail* office was moved the first of the week to its new location adjoining the old library building on Main Street. George Pieh had charge of the engineering end of the job. P.H. Kelliher furnished the horsepower, and the work was finished in good order.

C.A. Offerdahl is now established in his new barbershop in the National Hotel.

Ole Jenve has finished the cement work on the new town hall building in the town of Springdale.

Brigham and Badgely have the thanks of the Editor’s household for furnishing a Jersey to supply the needs of the family with a good grade of milk.

Notice is hereby given that in view of the fact that the Public Library will be open for some time every afternoon, except Sunday, the village curfew ordinance will be strictly enforced by the librarian in the use of library evenings. Parents and

guardians will please bear this in mind. By order of the Library Board.

C.A. Offerdahl is now established in his new and neat barbershop at the National Hotel, which is the model of neatness, and completeness, Mr. Offerdahl is a first class tonsorial artist and a gentleman.

The many friends of Bart Lunch will be pleased to learn that he is gaining nicely both mentally and physically, and hopes are good for his recovery, may it so be.

100 Years Ago- Dec. 8, 1925

Thieves entered the front door of the Mount Horeb Lumber Company’s office Friday night and escaped with four cents.

Myrtle Dodge, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lance Dodge, Blue Mounds, and Wayne Lampman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Lampman, Arena, were married at Rockford Nov. 24.

Mrs. Nels Hustad, 60, died Dec. 3.

The people of Mt. Horeb were again awakened by the fire siren at 3:00 a.m., Friday morning when the night watch discovered a fire in the Hoff Meat Market. Mr. Disrud’s attention was first attracted by the howling of the hound which is kept in the back room. Using his flashlight he discovered that the entire market was filled with dense smoke. He at once awoke Mr. and Mrs. Hoff who lived in the flat above the market, and then turned in the alarm. Water was soon played on the blaze and in a few minutes the fire was extinguished. The exact cause of the fire is

unknown, but is presumed to have started from defective electric light wiring in the basement directly under the large kettle used for cooking sausage.

All musical forces of the Mt. Horeb Schools will give a free concert next Monday night. A well balanced program is being worked out by Mr. Hanneman and the whole community is extended an invitation too come over on the hill, where the doors are open and the seats are free and enjoy a concert that will make you glad you live in Mt. Horeb.

The National Buick Auto sold a three passenger club coupe to Reider Knot, Daleyville recently.

90 Years Ago- Dec. 13, 1945

The mysterious shootings which terrorized the Mt. Vernon area during the past two weeks, were solved Friday with the arrest of two town of Springdale farm brothers, 15 and 17, who confessed to taking wild shots at seven homes and two taverns. The boys said they went to a Mount Horeb tavern where they had 8 or 10 bottles of beer each. The youths also confessed to throwing a block of wood through the Farmer’s Store window in Mount Horeb the same night.

The Mount Horeb City Cagers opens its basketball season Thursday meeting Prairie du Sac city team at the high school at 8:15 o’clock.

DRESSED GEESE for Christmas, 33¢ per pound delivered in Mount Horeb Saturday, Dec. 22. Phone orders to 35R6, Verona, Mrs. R. W. Gust.

70 Years Ago- Dec. 12, 1965

Year End Clearance at Gambles: 51-15 Nylons-Pair only....57¢; Coronado Radio, 5-tube....Now \$17.95; Toy Guitar, Davy Crocket....\$1.69.

As has been the custom the past years, the churches in this area are asked to ring the church bells at 5 o’clock on Christmas Eve to herald in the season. Fred H. Hanneman will play a half-hour program of Christmas carols, which will be broadcast from the belfry of the Mount Horeb Lutheran Church.

Nortie Espeseth’s Shoe Repair Shop will move from the Mickelson Sales and Service building to the old post office building on East Main Street January 1.

40 Years Ago- Dec. 12, 1985

The Barneveld Congregational United Church received the first commercial gas meter Nov. 22, marking the extension of gas lines to this Iowa County community.

Dan McMahon, president of the Mount Horeb Junior Chamber of Commerce, has been named the Outstanding Young Man of the Year by the National Young Man of the Year organization.

Otto Gilbertson, 82, curator of the Mount Horeb Historical Society Museum, died Dec. 3 of a heart attack at his home. He also was owner of the Gilbertson Hardware Store from 1936 until he sold it in 1978.

Sugar River Euchre

by **Stan Hook**

The rematch between last year’s championship match contenders, the Norsk Cowboys and Kurniki’s Express, was decided by just 12 points. The Cowboys once again robbed the Express of its prize cargo. Harold Schlimgen and Ferdie Schmitz carried off the largest chest worth 111 points.

While Randy Schmid and Roger Olstad secured the take when they took everything out of Opie Taylor and Steve Hoffmaster’s chest except 1 point in the eighth round.

Kurniki’s Pipe Benders found themselves 4 psi below the minimum pressure required to be outright winners of the first half. The main reason for the low

psi came from Pranksters Larry Losenegger and Laurel Grindle who recorded the second perfect score of the half. Based on the loss by the Pipe Benders and the Cowboys win, a play-off match, to be played at Kurniki’s, will be scheduled at the Mid-Winter Tournament.

J&M Bar River Rats demonstrated why they are the biggest rodents in the league when they devoured the fine cuisine stored in the Sportsman’s Bar Cheese Eaters warehouse. River Rats Steve Ace and Gary Bartellis showed their appetite when they ate 117 blocks of cheese. River Rats Darrell Storkson and Scott Keys devoured another 115 blocks of cheese, while Jack Gehin

and Jimmy Gehin could only handle 111 blocks. Lightweights Tracy Funseth and Ernie Sarbacker could only manage 107 blocks. I’m guessing that Ernie had filled up on steak before the match. With little cheese left to scavenge, Cheese Eaters Larry Disch and Brett Hoesly were only able to consume 76 blocks of cheese, this week’s low score.

Kleeman’s Hay Shakers shook 43 times faster than the Red Mouse Shufflers could shuffle away. Barb and Jerry Judd scored 112 points for the Hay Shakers, with Jeff Goebler and Jeff Judd adding 111 points to their total.

With a 42-point massacre the Red Mouse Uff-das kept

the Viking Trolls winless through the first half of the season. Pat Baier and Kevin Ollendick gave the Trolls a bright spot when they wrecked John Baumgartner and Jim Day’s perfect score in the fifth game. Jim and John finished with 119 points. Based on number of games played, Jim Day at 107.889, has high average for the first half.

Standings:
Kurniki’s Pipe Benders 7-2
Norsk Cowboys 7-2
Kleeman’s Hay Shakers 6-3
Norsk Pranksters 6-3
Kurniki’s Express 4-5
Red Mouse Shufflers 4-5
J&M Bar River Rats 4-5

Red Mouse Uff-Da 4-5
Sportsman’s Cheese Eaters 3-6
Viking Trolls 0-9

**December 11
Mid-Winter:** The tournament is open to all current and past Sugar River Euchre League players. It will be held at the Red Mouse in Pine Bluff. Registration starts at 6:30, play at 7:00. The format of this tournament has changed from a partner format to an individual player format. Under this new format, players will switch partners after each game and prize money will be issued to individual players not partners. Cost is \$15 per person, which includes prize money and pizza.

“Your Complete Family Shoe Store”



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BLACK EARTH, WI

608-767-3447 | 608-231-4445



THE BARGAIN BOX
Shoe Box

608-767-2788



Black Earth, WI
M-Fr 9-7, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5

Recreation Notes

Important Reminder - **Starting in 2026**, we are upgrading our registration and reservation software to CivicRec. This change will provide a more user-friendly experience, improve mobile access, and allow our customers to register for programs and events while also renting a Facility or Park Shelter within the same transaction.

Our 5-8th Grade Big Ten Volleyball league is for players who would like to have fun learning skills and getting involved in competition against players at their own skill level. Rules have been altered to accommodate young players so success can be felt by all. Games will be played with surrounding communities. This program will start on January 9th and run approx.

9 weeks. Cost is \$65 for residents and \$75 for non-residents. The registration deadline is December 18th.

Get an early start on your New Years Resolution with **Total Body Fitness!** This class is designed to improve fitness and overall health. Tone muscles while boosting your balance, flexibility, endurance, and speed. Exercises can be modified

to accommodate all fitness levels! The winter session takes place at 6 pm on Mondays, January 5th through March 2nd. The cost is \$40 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. The registration deadline is December 30th.

HOW TO REGISTER: There are multiple ways to register for programs and activities.

Online (go to <https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/mhrd>)
In-person at 105 N. Grove Street
Place completed registration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment in 24-hour drop box
Email completed registration form (found on Rec Dept website) and payment to mhrec@mounthorebwi.info

UPCOMING REGISTRATION DEADLINES
12/15, 4K-2nd Grade Basketball
12/18, 5th-8th Grade Big Ten Volleyball
12/29, Slow Flow Yoga
12/30, Total Body Fitness (Winter Session)
12/30, Water Exercise (Winter Session)

VILLAGE

continued from page 1
process next month and if it is determined there is a conflict, they will have to recuse themselves. So, this is why we had the change in the agenda tonight and that item will be up for consideration next month.”
The *Mail* has obtained a copy of the complaint and will report on it after a thorough review.

Public Comment
Bill Mcinnes addressed a non-agenda item. The topic was bullying, saying that our Mount Horeb schools do a wonderful job of protecting youth while in school. Mcinnes’ concern is that bullying does not end after completing school, as he witnessed by the Plan Commission and several members of the community at the November 19 Plan Commission meeting. “We as adults and parents have a responsibility to continue our anti-bullying discourse with our

families and other folks,” Mcinnes said, holding up two white boards for all to see, one showing KBOP and the second Keep Bullying Outta Politics. Continuing, “we can do this at the ballot box on February 17, 2026, and April 7, 2026.”

Consent Agenda
Ultimately, the eleven items on the consent agenda were approved, with Trustee Jason Fendrick requesting additional information on the final payment to S&L Underground for the Nesheim Street Water Main Rehabilitation project. Due to a citizen complaint received at a Utilities Commission meeting regarding the quality of the work, Fendrick wanted assurances that there will be sufficient funds available to either have the contractor fully fix the final paving or a second contractor can be hired to complete the project meeting the Village’s paving standards. Owen assured him there would be sufficient funds

from the project to address the paving and other issues with the Village engineer’s final spring walk thru.

Aaron Fendrick was appointed as the third Youth in Government program, joining Jenna Jones and Aveena Meyers. Fendrick said he applied for the position as a Junior in high school as he is interested now in getting involved with local government and after college get more involved with leadership roles. Both he and Jones will be part of the band trip to London, with Fendrick looking forward to marching in the parade on an international stage and Jones anxious to perform at a London church. The parade performance will be shown live on the local PBS on January 1, 2026. More than two hundred students are traveling to London.

New Appraisal Firm Contract
Moving on to the agenda considerations, Tyler Technologies was unanimously approved for a five-year village appraisal contract, effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2030, replacing Accurate Appraisal who has served Mount Horeb for years. Owen opined there were several issues in 2025 with Accurate, especially with the Board of Review (BOR) meeting this last summer. They were not prepared to address two property owners contested concerns of their assessments, resulting in a win for the property owners. Following the BOR meeting, a request for proposal (RFP) was sent to appraisal firms, asking if interested in preparing a bid for the Village. A submission to renew its contract was received from Accurate Appraisal, and both Musser Appraisal and Tyler Technologies sub-

mitted bids. The Musser bid was less than the Tyler bid but the staff interview committee felt its recommendation for the higher bid from Tyler was justified due to its 60-years in business, twenty-six US locations, its team approach, educational capabilities to the public, large commercial appraisal division and the ability to automatically transfer all of Accurate’s Mount Horeb data to its more commonly used (by appraisal firms) system. The first year of Tyler’s contract is the highest due to data conversion and the following four contract years are more in line. Musser Appraisal, a one-person shop, intended to transfer all the data by hand.

School District Expansion Applications
The final items for consideration were the Conditional Use Application, Certified Survey Map, Site Plan and Design review for the Mount Horeb Elementary School expansion at 207 Academy Street.

Although no representative was present at the meeting, Owen said a Bray Architecture person is available by phone for any questions. Owen reviewed the plans presented at the November Plan Commission meeting, where it was unanimously approved. Fendrick asked about the location of the current baseball field used by both the school and Rec Department. Owen said it is moving to the practice soccer field at the high school.

Trustee Sarah Best mentioned this is the third iteration of the Primary Center in the last fifteen years and questioned if there is any planning for future growth. A Bray representative sent Owen a text, saying yes, additional classrooms can be

added to the new Elementary School if needed. Best said, “Has that been discussed? What is the grand plan with the School Board, addressing all the campuses.” She feels it would be a good idea to have this topic discussed on January 26, 2026, joint meeting between the Village Board, Chamber, and the MHASD.

All three items for new Elementary School were unanimously approved.
Committee Reports
Nate Gauger, School Liaison, reported the MHASD has a new website, MounthorebSchools.org. He also added that the school has seven pre-qualified general contractors and intends to award the contract by February 16, 2026, with construction to end by Spring 2027 and opening for the 2027 Fall school year.

Ben Jones, Finance and Personnel Chair, mentioned the tax bills will be mailed to property owners the week of December 8. He also shared the committee meeting held earlier tonight discussed the required timeline for putting a referendum to exceed the levy limit on a ballot. The Committee will be working with R. W. Baird on a financial management program to assist the Village with this matter. He asked people follow the referendum discussions to remain aware of its possibility to be on a ballot, either in 2026 or 2027.

Marc Schellpfeffer, chair of the Community Development Authority, said its November meeting included a closed session discussion of the tax increment financing ask from the developer of the Langhús on Main Street project.

Ryan Czyzewski, chair of the Plan Commission, said his report was written and in the packet for viewing. In

addition, with the delay of the Langhús on Main Street project until the January 7 Village Board meeting, the Board’s continued review of the zoning code re-write will be scheduled later.

Czyzewski mentioned his President’s report was written and published in the agenda packet. He also mentioned the Village was notified Dane County decreased its contribution to the SW Dane Outreach/Nutrition Board by \$10,000. He said the Outreach program serves various area community seniors and he would like to find a more sustainable funding source for the program.

Owen’s Administrator reported the January 7 Village Board meeting will be held at the Senior Center at 7 p.m. and will be recorded by Trollway TV. However, it will not be streamed live since the meeting is remote. The Cable TV crew did a dry rehearsal Tuesday to confirm all equipment is working properly as well as the additional microphones and sound system borrowed for the upcoming meeting. Owen also mentioned he had received about five interested parties for the Teams Link informational meeting on December 4 for potential developers of dwelling units at the Lukken property. He does not know if any are planning to attend in person.

Alyssa Gaffney, Village Clerk, reminded parties interested in running as Trustee for the Village Board must have the completed nomination papers turned into Village Hall by 5 p.m. on Monday, January 5. As of Dec. 3, three residents have taken out papers to run for the two open positions. The filing deadline is the first Tuesday of January.

CHURCH NOTES

Good News Lutheran Church - WELS
NEW LOCATION:
9975 Pepper Dr
Pastor Jonathan Bauer
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am (in person and online)
Sunday School and Bible Study 10:15 am
608-437-4646 visit
GoodNewsLC.org/location for details & directions
Immanuel Lutheran- ELCA
310 W. Main St. Mount Horeb
608-437-8733
10am Sunday Worship
www.immanuelmh.org/
1st Steps Childcare
608-218-4425
New Hope Evangelical Free Church
639 S. Eighth St., Mt. Horeb
Phone: 608-437-3273
www.newhopeefc.org
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Mt. Horeb United Methodist
Corner of Hwy. S & Hwy. 78
Sunday Worship: 9am online and in person
umcmh.org
Celebrating God’s Inclusive Love
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

Springdale Lutheran Church
2752 Town Hall Rd. 608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th
Sundays of the month at 10am
twosteeple.org
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.
Mt Vernon United Church of Christ
1693 Washington St. Verona
608-832-6677
Sunday Worship, in-person and on Facebook Live, 10:15 am
Bible Study 9am-10am
We are an Open and Affirming Congregation
West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church
2962 Church St., Blue Mounds
608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: Every 2nd & 4th
Sunday of the month, 10:00 am
Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church – ELCA
315 E. Main St. 608-437-5012
www.elcmthoreb.org
5 pm Saturday Worship
9 am Sunday Worship
Perry Lutheran Church ELCA
1057 Hwy 78 S, Mt. Horeb
608-437-5294
Sunday Worship 9:00 am
www.perrylutheranchurchelca.org

CHAMBER

continued from page 1
porting collaboration across Dane County communities. Her work has focused on connecting businesses, local government, and community partners around shared goals and economic oppor-

tunity.
“Allison brings the right combination of experience, energy, and community-minded leadership to this role,” said Joel Geissbuhler, Chair of the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. “We’re grateful for the dedication of our hiring com-

mittee and staff throughout this transition, and we’re confident Allison will build on the strong foundation already in place while helping guide the Chamber into its next chapter.”

The Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce plays a central role in supporting local businesses

through advocacy, networking, tourism promotion, and community development. The organization looks forward to continuing to strengthen its partnerships, programs, and member services under Plumer’s leadership.

News & Notes

Historium's Half-Hour History Explores Hygge—the Scandinavian Lifeway of Contentment and Coziness with an in-person Badger Talk presented by UW-Madison Professor Claus Andersen



Andersen

On Wednesday, December 17, UW-Madison Professor Claus Andersen will present “Hygge, Health, and Happiness” a *Badger Talk* event hosted by Mount Horeb’s Driftless Historium (100 S 2nd St) as part of their monthly *Half-Hour History* series. All are welcome at this free event; registration is not required.

What is hygge? And how does it relate to happiness and health? In this talk, Professor Andersen will introduce the concept of contentment and coziness, how it relates to the Scandinavian way of life, and what Americans can learn from it.

Professor Andersen is a native Dane who came to Wisconsin in August 2017. He has been teaching in the field of Scandinavian Studies for more than 15 years at places like the University of Minnesota, UCLA, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Helsinki in Finland. He conducts research on Scandinavian culture, history, and literature. His current research focuses on the Norwegian writer Karl Ove Knausgaard and his six-volume autobiography, *My Struggle*.

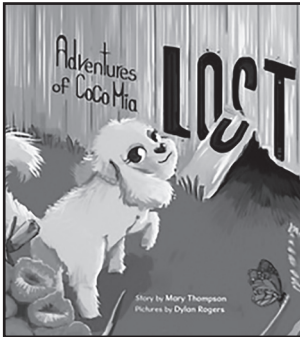
The University of Wisconsin–Madison Badger Talks program reflects the tradition of the Wisconsin Idea — to extend the resources of the University to citizens of the state. Learn more at badgertalks.wisc.edu.

Half-Hour History is a monthly afternoon lecture series featuring engaging presentations on local and regional history. These free programs are open to all and take place at the Driftless Historium at 1:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

For more information on “Hygge, Health, and Happiness,” call 608-437-6486 or email mthorebahs@gmail.com.

com. Up next “Dating Historic Family Photographs,” presented by Arlo Paust on Wednesday, January 19, 2026.

Trollidays at the Historium: Family Storytime & Kids' Holiday Lantern Craft



The Driftless Historium gets into the holiday spirit with an evening of free family fun—so bring the kids! On Friday, December 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. enjoy a cozy storytime (with treats!), followed by a free tissue paper mosaic lantern craft.

Pull up some fake-wood floor and enjoy some sweet snacks, while local author Mary Thompson shares a reading of her debut children’s book, “Adventures of Coco Mia—Lost.” This heartwarming “tail” is a story about a little dog’s bravery, friendship, and the magic of finding your way home. Mary’s book is based on the true story of when her dog Coco Mia went missing, and how neighbors and friends rallied to help bring her home. Everyone will get a chance to pet Coco Mia, the star of the book, who will be attending the event with the author.

Mary Thompson grew up on Maple Shade Farm in Mount Horeb (also known as the Milford Thompson farm)—a fifth-generation farm full of hard work, family memories, and stories. A graduate of Luther College, Thompson worked in education and financial services, prior to becoming a children’s book author. She lives in Madison with her husband Larry Jenkins, and their dog Coco Mia. Signed copies of the book will be available for sale at the event.

After the story, children and their families can make their own tissue paper lanterns to take home, with all materials provided. Everyone is welcome at this free event, but please note that children under five must be accompanied by an adult.

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society operates the Driftless Historium. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Society was founded in 1975 to collect, preserve and share the stories of southwestern Dane County.

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

Indoor Farmers Market Sunday

The Mt. Horeb Farmers Market will be holding a pre-Christmas indoor market on Saturday, December 13, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 315 E. Main Street between 9 a.m. and noon. There will be plenty of parking both on Main St. and in the large parking lot behind the church. Enter the building from either the front or the back and follow the signs.

Vendors at the market will be offering a wide range of products including seasonal vegetables, leafy greens, pickled beets, kimchi, sauerkraut, hot sauces, maple syrup, honey, beef, pork, lamb, chicken, eggs, breads, pastries, pies, gluten-free bakery items, jams, pie fillings, and handmade soap.

Other cold weather markets will be held on January 24, and February 21. For more information visit the market’s Facebook page or inquire by email at mthoreb-farmersmarket@gmail.com.

Snowmobile trails are open

Dane County Snowmobile Trails in three regions opened Sunday. Conditions are reported as marginal and users are reminded to watch for groomers.

SE Region has two trail segment closures: Trail 51 between intersection 1A and 1 and Corridor Trail 38 between intersection 3 and 2A. Links to a PDF and interactive snowmobile trail map can be found on the Dane County Parks Snowmobile webpage.

Within Dane County, there are over 500 miles of snowmobile trails including Badger, Glacial Drumlin and the Military Ridge State Trails. For trails to be open, trail conditions need to be appropriate, including a minimum of 6” of snow and below freezing temperatures. A State Snowmobile Trail Pass is required to ride on the snowmobile trail system.

“With the trails opening, snowmobile enthusiasts are eager to take their first ride of the season,” said Sara Acker, President of the Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs. “This is the first time that we’ve had adequate snow conditions to open the trails. We want to remind riders to use caution as there will likely be uneven terrain, snow cover icy sections and the potential for open water in the marshes and waterways.”

According to Sergeant Kyle McNally, from the

Dane County Sheriff’s Office – Marine and Trail Enforcement Bureau, “The majority of snowmobile trails are on private lands throughout Dane County. Riders should not deviate from designated trails. Snowmobile trails are for snowmobiles only unless otherwise designated, so please obey trail signs.” Sergeant McNally reminds snowmobilers to drive safely, not drink and drive and to review all snowmobile regulations before venturing out on the trails.

To receive up-to-date information on trail openings and closing, visit the Dane County Council of Snowmobile Clubs’ website or call the Snowmobile Trails Hotline at (608) 242-4576. For up-to-date information on Dane County Parks trail closures and conditions, visit the Dane County Parks Closures & Trail Conditions webpage.

The Dane County Park System is made up of 17,000 acres of land that features the best of Wisconsin’s natural beauty. Our Parks do not require an entry fee and offer countless opportunities to get away from it all to unwind, spend time outdoors, and make memories with friends and family. Dane County Parks takes an active role to enhance and preserve the county’s finest natural resources. We strive to create welcoming spaces, events and educational opportunities for park visitors of all backgrounds and ability levels.

Area Musicians Invited to perform with the Mount Horeb Community Band

The Mount Horeb Community Band will soon begin rehearsing for their 2026 Concert entitled “Home”. If you have ANY experience with a band instrument and would like to join the group for a seven-week concert season, you are sincerely invited to come and play. Rehearsals will be held at the Mount Horeb High School Band Room on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 9 p.m. beginning January 7th and continuing consecutive Wednesdays until the concluding concert on Wednesday, February 25th.

Come and relive your musical past! Any level of experience is welcome and the repertoire will be varied, familiar and fun! If you have any questions, please contact Patty Schlafer at schlaferpatty@gmail.com or Will Janssen willjanssenmh@gmail.com. They can send you all the links you need to get signed up and help you find an instrument if needed. MHCB is an

all ages group.

County Board Chair Reacts to Adoption of 2026 Budget

Dane County Board Chair Patrick Miles issued a statement following County Executive Melissa Agard’s signing of the 2026 county budget, formally adopting the spending plan adopted by the Dane County Board of Supervisors last week.

“This budget shows the best of local government — working together, caring for our community, and managing resources responsibly,” said County Board Chair Patrick Miles. “Every department, supervisor, and community partner played a vital role in shaping this budget, ensuring that public input and shared priorities are at its heart.

“This budget proves that we can find innovative, responsible solutions when we work together and prioritize the very real needs of our community. There are difficult challenges and choices ahead —driven primarily by state-imposed revenue limits, federal actions, and funding uncertainty— but I am confident the board is ready to navigate them with fiscal discipline and care for our community.

“We look forward to working with County Executive Agard, department leaders, and community partners in the months ahead. Our shared responsibility is to ensure that Dane County remains a place where people can count on strong services, safe communities, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.”

The scheduled special meeting of the Dane County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, has been canceled.

Evers Joins Petition to EPA Calling for Monitoring of Microplastics in Drinking Water

Last week, Governor Evers joined a petition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) demanding that the agency include microplastics in the next Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) issued pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). If the EPA grants the petition, it would develop a monitoring program for microplastics in drinking water across the country – and jumpstart the process toward future regulation.

The EPA had anticipated releasing the proposed UCMR last month, with a final rule scheduled for December 2026. It has yet to issue the proposed rule.

Last week’s announcement comes after nearly a year of advocacy by Food & Water Watch members, who met with governors’ staff and sent over 8,000 messages in support of microplastics monitoring. Last year, Food & Water Watch also filed a legal petition to the EPA, signed by 175 groups across the country, urging the Agency to monitor microplastics under the Safe Drinking Water Act rule.

The governors have petitioned the EPA for the inclusion of microplastics on the monitoring list under a provision of the SDWA. This provision requires the EPA to include a contaminant on the list if it receives a petition from seven governors, unless the agency determines that the inclusion would preclude the monitoring of a contaminant of more pressing public health concern.

“This is a momentous step towards gathering critical information we need about the emerging crisis of microplastics in drinking water,” said Wenonah Hauter, executive director of Food & Water Watch. “We thank Governor Murphy for his leadership on this petition and Governor Evers and all the governors that have joined him in this vital effort. We now call on the EPA to grant this petition and get to work. People have a right to know about microplastic contamination in their drinking water.”

Microplastics are widespread in our environment – especially in our drinking water – and pose a major threat to our health, including being associated with an increased risk of certain cancers. They are currently unregulated and unmonitored at the federal level.

“It’s critically important that we persist in our collective efforts to insist that elected officials stand up and speak out for public health and, in this case, to protect us from dangers from microplastics,” said Paula Rogovin, Co-Chair of the Food & Water North Jersey Volunteer Team. “We applaud Governor Murphy for listening to our call and leading on getting support from other governors.”

The petition was led by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Delaware Governor Matt Meyer, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, Maryland Governor Wes Moore, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont were the other signers.

Cookie walk, Santa’s visit bring holiday cheer to the Mount Horeb Library



Clockwise from top left on Saturday at the library: Staff and volunteers were all smiles; Santa makes his entrance; crafts and games from across the world; storytime; the popular “Cookie Walk” fundraiser; St. Nick points the way. Photos by Matt Geiger.



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Community gathers for annual tree lighting ceremony



Mount Horeb Fire and EMS hosted the 36th annual silent parade and tree lighting event on Saturday, December 6 at 5 p.m. Decorated apparatus headed down Springdale and Main Street, ending at Grandma Foster Park to light the tree. Pictured above, Jorgen the Troll waves to the crowd. Photos by Matt Geiger.



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Business

Art and History Meet at 2nd Street Studios

The old cheese storage warehouse at 120 S. Second Street has been revitalized as 2nd Street Studios, a new creative hub for local artists. Next door, the historic train depot features a dragon sculpture designed and built by resident artist and studio owner Dan Ganch of Super G Carpentry. The Super G Shop occupies part of the main floor at 2nd Street Studios.

Super G Carpentry is a design/build firm specializing in custom cabinetry and built-ins for a wide range of residential and business customers. Projects range from residential upgrades, to whole home or business office architectural themes, as well as unique “Nakashima” style functional art furniture pieces. Dan Ganch has a history of professionally meeting the functional and

artistic visions of his vast client base.

Ganch’s craftsmanship can be found across Wisconsin, from Glyptodon signage at the UW Geology Museum to interactive exhibits at the Madison Children’s Museum, composting stations throughout Dane County, locally the visitor desk at Cave of the Mounds, and the permanent stage at Grundahl Park. His latest project — a bee hive inspired interactive structure — was installed last month at the Children’s Museum in Topeka, Kansas.

2nd Street Studios top floor is home to Second Street Soundworks: a classic style recording studio focusing on capturing the magic of live musical conversations. Joshua Alley provides professional recording and mixing services to local as well regional



artists. The 12” thick cork walls that kept the cheese cool is ideal for a really cool sound.

Driftless Wood Warehouse occupies space on

the first level. Owner Larry Anderson has harvested, processed and sourced local species wood from the Driftless Region for the past fourteen years, providing



2nd Street Studios is a new creative hub for local artists.

standard milled and one of a kind unique wood pieces for serious woodworkers, artists and craftspeople. Driftlesswood is available to hobbyists as well as professionals.

Studio space is available at 2nd Street Studios — feel free to reach out (608-669-1967) or drop in anytime!

Opinion

Shovel more, salt less...

by **Jeremy Goldsmith**
Applied Sustainability Research & Solutions

Shovel More, Salt Less

With our first major snowfall of the season, many of us are reminded of the glory of shoveling. Back aches become part of the routine. Watching someone try to stand up straight after a good shoveling can feel like watching a replay in ultra-slow motion. Snow, shovel, salt, ache, and repeat. It is simple and effective.

I have made one adjustment to my routine in recent years: using less salt. Much of my time over the last couple of years has been spent researching climate change as part of a graduate program. The topics vary widely, and many of the impacts are hard to see because they unfold slowly or happen far from where we live.

Every once in a while, though, a topic forces me to pause and take a step

back. It pushes me to think not only about what is happening around us, but also about how our own behaviors contribute to it. As I learn more and my understanding becomes clearer, it gets harder to ignore what is at stake. De-icing salt is one of those topics. Its effects on the environment are profound, and unlike many environmental issues, this one plays out right in front of us. We see our lakes and streams get murkier year after year. Water quality declines, and fish populations follow. Some of us even notice our tap water tasting a little saltier

Where the Salt Goes

The salt we put down in winter does not disappear when the snow melts. Spring rain washes it into storm drains, lakes, streams, and eventually down into groundwater. There it breaks apart into chloride ions, and once chloride is in the sys-

tem, it stays, forever. It does not break down or biodegrade.

One teaspoon of salt is enough to permanently pollute five gallons of water to a level that is toxic to freshwater organisms. One teaspoon. A little extra on a driveway may not seem like much, but it all keeps moving downhill, continuing to accumulate. It never leaves the system.

I have certainly been guilty of oversalting. When it is icy and I am running late, it is easy to dump a handful and move on. But once you understand what happens downstream, it becomes harder to ignore.

The Environmental Impact

As salt continues entering our waterways, the salinity builds up. High chloride levels are toxic to many of the species we rely on to keep lakes and streams healthy. Trout, frogs, aquatic plants, insects, and invertebrates struggle to survive in water that is too salty.

When those sensitive species disappear, the entire food web starts to shift. Larger fish lose their food sources. Microorganisms that help keep algae under control decline. Zooplankton, which keep algae in check, are especially vulnerable. Without them, algae can take over. Combined with nutrient runoff and other pollutants, this creates a major burden on our lakes. Many of us have seen

algae blooms or murky water in places like Stewart Lake. There are several reasons for that, including nutrients from the landscape, but salt is another stress on an already struggling system.

The Drinking Water Problem

Salt does not stop at surface water. As it continues downward, it infiltrates the groundwater that supplies our drinking water. In Madison, six of the city’s 22 wells now have sodium levels at or above the EPA’s recommended levels for people on low-salt diets. One well has had its sodium level nearly double within the last decade.

As mentioned earlier, chloride stays in the water permanently. Desalination technologies like reverse osmosis can remove chloride, but they waste large amounts of water and require equipment that cannot be scaled across an entire watershed. The other option is abandoning wells and drilling deeper, which is extremely expensive and still does not solve the underlying problem. It simply pushes it onto future generations.

There are no realistic or economical ways to remove chloride from drinking water once it gets there.

What We Can Do

Salt use is a balancing act. We do not want unsafe sidewalks or avoidable car accidents, but we also cannot

keep pouring salt on every surface whenever snow falls.

At Home

The most important step is to reduce how much salt we use. Shovel and scrape early, before snow compacts into ice. If you use salt, scatter it lightly. There should be space between each grain.

A good reference is that a 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or about ten sidewalk squares. More than that will not make anything safer. It will just push more salt into our lakes and wells.

Mount Horeb has some great snow removal companies that genuinely care about keeping people safe. If you hire someone to clear your sidewalk, consider asking whether they can reduce how much salt they use.

Temperature matters too. Regular road salt does not work well when pavement temperatures fall below about 15 degrees Fahrenheit. At that point, sand for traction works far better than extra salt that will not melt anything.

In Our Community

Many municipalities and snow-clearing companies have already made changes. Plow blades can be adjusted for a more aggressive cut to remove more snow mechanically. Rotary brushes can be used on sidewalks and pedestrian areas to reduce salt use.

Some communities have begun switching certain

routes to brine or other liquid treatments. These still contain salt, but they use significantly less of it. Calibrating spreaders so they are not applying two or three times the necessary amount is another effective change.

These efforts have helped many municipalities cut salt use by 30 to 70 percent while saving money and reducing long-term damage to roads and bridges. Madison has increased its brine pretreatment capacity by more than 19,000 gallons in the past decade, helping reduce overall salt use while keeping roads safe.

Moving Forward

None of this is about making winter unsafe. It is about using salt responsibly. If we reduce the amount of salt we use in the winter, we protect trout streams, lakes like Stewart, and the groundwater that eventually comes out of our taps.

This winter, when you reach for the salt bucket, remember: one coffee mug can cover your whole driveway, and one teaspoon is enough to permanently pollute five gallons of water. The choices we make on our own sidewalks travel much farther than we think.

If you want to learn more about proper salting techniques and safer winter practices, Wisconsin Salt Wise is a great resource. Visit WisconsinSaltWise.com for tips and alternatives that keep people safe and protect our water.

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Magical moment Manchester eclipses 2,000 career points as Vikings rout Reedsburg

by DAN LARSON
Sports Reporter

The third time was the charm.

Mount Horeb senior guard Josh Manchester needed just two points in last Friday’s Badger Small Conference clash with Reedsburg to eclipse 2,000 for his career, a mark he was sure to hit sooner than later in the game.

But the Vikings’ star missed his first two field goal attempts, one a contested shot in a crowd of defenders in the lane and the other on a putback attempt.

He didn’t miss the third time.

Manchester drove from the left corner along the baseline, and with 2 minutes, 55 seconds gone in the game, made a right-handed reverse lay-up, etching his name in Wisconsin boys basketball history as the 69th player in the state to reach the milestone.

Mount Horeb went on to a convincing 68-35 win over the Beavers and improved to 3-0 on the young season.

“I just wanted to get it done,” Manchester said. “I didn’t want it to be the focus. I wanted to win first, then worry about all this (congratulatory) stuff after.”

“I’m glad I got it out of

continued on page 15



Mount Horeb senior guard Josh Manchester is congratulated by coach Todd Nesheim after reaching 2,000 career points last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo gymnasts looking to reload

Vikings will be back in D2 this postseason

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

The word “rebuilding” never gets used around Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics program.

No, “reloading” is the proper term for the Vikings.

Mount Horeb suffered big losses from last year’s team that was bumped up to Division 1 and finished sixth at state. This year, the Vikings are back in Division 2, and plan to restock and continue one of the state’s greatest traditions.

“We have a solid crew coming back this season,” Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. “Yes, we graduated 10 of the allowed 20 positions of our varsity line-up last year, but this year’s team is stepping up and filling the openings very nicely. They are a hard-working, dedicated group and we are excited for the upcoming season.”

Mount Horeb has qualified for the state tournament 38 times, more than any school in Wisconsin history. The Vikings have earned 14 straight trips to state, produced six state championship teams, 12 second place finishes and seven third place showings.

Last year’s Vikings were bumped to Division 1 — where most schools were double Mount Horeb’s size — based on the WIAA’s ‘Performance Factor.’ This year, the Vikings move back to Division 2, where the schools will once again be their size again.

“We are proud that we qualified for D1 state as a team last year,” Koller Faust said. “Since the WIAA looks at the last three seasons when configuring the competitive balance formula, this year we dropped the three points earned in 2022 from our Division 2 state runner-up

MOUNT HOREB GIRLS GYMNASTICS ROSTER

Seniors: Ava Bilse, Carmen Oglesby, Sylvia Seeliger, Tessa Soppe

Juniors: Harper Hendrickson, Avena Meyers, Katie Schneider (foreign exchange student from Germany), Kate Van Gorden, Grace Yerges

Sophomores: Macie Finley, Averie Kalscheur, Tori Schilling

Freshmen: Elise Hooks, Marie Hutchins, Marhianna Marshall, Grace McKinney, Jacey Morin, Evie Wyse

finish.

“I’m very proud of our team’s finish last year and we are excited to see how we do in D-2 this year.”

The Vikings will be led by gifted seniors Sylvia Seeliger, Carmen Oglesby and Tessa Soppe. Juniors Harper Hendrickson and Avena Meyers, along with sophomores Macie Finley and Averie Kalscheur will also be key contributors.

“Each gymnast was a part of our 2025 state team,” Koller Faust said.

Sophomore Tori Schilling and freshman Elise Hooks are two other promising gymnasts looking to compete at the varsity level.

While the Vikings will have several new gymnasts in the lineup, Koller Faust is hoping the results are similar to past years.

“We like to say “reloading,” she said. “We had a very strong JV team last year and we are cautiously optimistic that our girls are motivated to step up.”



Sylvia Seeliger and Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team are hoping for a big season. File photo

BADGER SMALL GIRLS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Mount Horeb picked for third

Editors Note: This preview of the Big Eight Conference girls basketball season was compiled by Maxpreps.com.

Predicted Order of Finish

- 1) Madison Edgewood
- 2) Sauk Prairie
- 3) Mount Horeb
- 4) Stoughton
- 5) Fort Atkinson
- 6) Reedsburg
- 7) McFarland
- 8) Portage

Players to Watch

Hannah Baldry, Fort Atkinson – Baldry contributed 9.1 points, 4.2 rebounds, 2.3 assists, and 2.8 steals per contest as a junior.

Macey Faust, Edgewood – As a junior, Faust earned first-team all-Badger Small, tallying 8.2 points per game with 41 three-pointers made.

Mallory Hartwig, Sauk Prairie – Hartwig was voted first-team all-league as a junior, averaging 13.1 points, 5.3 rebounds, 1.9 assists, and 3.0 steals per game. Mallory is an NCAA Division I South Dakota State volleyball recruit.

Anna Miller, Edgewood – Miller was named Badger Small Player of the Year and WBCA all-state as a junior. The Wisconsin commit averaged 16.8 points, 4.5 rebounds, 4.1 assists, and 2.5 steals per game. Miller also connected on 48 triples.

Courtney Monroe, Mount Horeb – As a sophomore, Monroe tallied 7.8 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 2.8 assists per game.

Beanie Thompson, Edgewood – Thompson received first-team all-conference and WBCA all-state as a sophomore. She averaged 14.4 points, 6.8 rebounds, and 2.2 steals per contest.

Emma Trautsch, Stoughton – Trautsch contributed 6.6 points, 2.3 assists, and 2.2 steals per game in her debut season for the Vikings.

Lorelei Williams, Reedsburg – Williams scored 10.4 points per game as a freshman for the Beavers.

1. Madison Edgewood

Coach: Lora Staveness, 33rd year (515-262)
2024-25 Record: 28-2, D2 state runner-up, lost to Wauwatosa East

2024-25 Conference Finish: Badger Small champion (14-0)

Returning Starters: Anna Miller (5-9, jr., 16.8 PPG, 48 3PM, 4.5 RPG, 4.1 APG, 2.5 SPG), Beanie

Thompson (5-10, jr., 14.4 PPG, 6.8 RPG, 2.2 SPG), Macy Faust (5-6, sr., 8.2 PPG, 34 3PM)

Other Returnees: Alex Moschkau (5-8, sr.), Maggie Iglar (5-5, sr.), Siena Rabach (5-8, soph.), Eva Akpandja (6-0, jr.)

Newcomers: JuJu Thompson (5-4, fr.), Gladys Powless (5-4, soph.), Veronica Seitz (5-9, soph.), Summer Milesko (5-6, jr.), Penny Teigen (5-6, soph.), Mya Hampton (5-4, jr.), Katie Pomraning (5-10, soph.), Berkeley Julian (5-6, jr.)

Team Notes: The Crusaders have advanced to the WIAA state tournament in each of the past two seasons, winning the Division 3 state title in 2024 and finishing as the D2 state runner-up last season. Edgewood welcomed back three starters, headlined by Wisconsin commit Anna Miller.

2. Sauk Prairie

Coach: Seth Kostroski, 1st year

2024-25 Record: 13-12
2024-25 Conference Finish: T3rd, 9-5

Returning Starters: Mallory Hartwig (5-11, sr., 13.1 PPG, 5.3 RPG, 1.9 APG, 3 SPG), Audrey Brickl (5-4, jr., 7.4 PPG), Brooklyn Kaufman (5-7, sr., 2.8 APG, 2.3 SPG),

Other Returning Letterwinners: Haylie Bader (5-11, sr., 5 PPG), Kenzi Kleist (5-6, jr.), Sophia Hanson (5-4, jr.), Savannah Leigel (5-6, jr.)

Team Notes: Coach Kostroski said that they are guard-heavy with the hope of spacing the floor and creating driving lanes. “We also have many athletes, which will help us come up with loose balls and get touches defensively.”

3. Mount Horeb

Coach: Bart Leibfried, 4th year

2024-25 Record: 12-14
2024-25 Conference Finish: T3rd, 9-5

Top Returnees: Maren Johnson (5-8, jr., 8.1 PPG), Courtney Monroe (5-7, jr., 7.8 PPG, 2.8 APG), Lauren Mester (5-4, soph., 5 PPG, 2 APG)

Other Notable Returnees: Nalia Craven (5-8, sr.), Maddie Niemetscheck (5-6, jr.), Magali Forlines (5-7, jr.)

Newcomers: Isla Odgers (fr.), Rae Olson (fr.), Jami Chapman (fr.)

Team Notes: The Vikings returned two of their top three scorers from last season.

4. Stoughton

Coach: Brad Pickett, 12th year (162-103); 22nd year (311-186)

2024-25 Record: 20-7, lost to D2 state runner-up Edgewood in sectionals

2024-25 Conference Finish: 2nd, 12-2

Notable Returnees: Emma Trautsch (5-7, soph., 6.6 PPG, 2.3 APG, 2.2 SPG), Marlie Burke (5-8, sr.), Kianna Karlen (5-8, sr.)

Team Notes: The Vikings graduated their top four scorers from last year’s team, which advanced to sectionals.

5. Fort Atkinson

Coach: Mark Gavigan, 4th year

2024-25 Record: 9-17
2024-25 Conference Finish: 8th in Badger Large, 1-13

Returning Starters: Olivia Knickrehm (5-6, soph., 9.6 PPG), Hannah Baldry (5-5, sr., 9.1 PPG, 2.3 APG, 2.8 SPG), Audrey Wargolet (5-8, sr., 6.3 PPG), Kinley Wargolet (5-6, soph.), Lyla Hintz (5-9, soph., 4.9 RPG)

Other Returning Letterwinners: Emma Norris (5-7, sr.), Layla Kohl (5-5, jr.)

Newcomers: Ellie Norris (5-7, fr.), Sophie Klopeic (5-10, fr.)

Team Notes: The Blackhawks join the league after previously being in the Badger Large, switching spots with Baraboo in the Badger Conference. “We will be a quick team this year with a lot of positional diversity,” coach Gavigan told MaxPreps.

6. Reedsburg

Coach: Mark Simon, 20th year (322-142)

2024-25 Record: 11-15
2024-25 Conference Finish: 5th, 6-8

Returning Starters: Lorelei Williams (5-9, soph., 10.4 PPG)

Other Returning Letterwinners: Lily Engel (5-8, soph.), Lanie Delkamp (5-8, soph.), Maddie Miller (5-6, sr.), Sam Laffey (5-6, sr.), Syd Olson (5-5, soph.)

Newcomers: Victoria Powell (fr.), Randi Greendeer (soph.)

Team Notes: The Beavers have won double-digit games in 18 of the last 19 seasons. Coach Simon told MaxPreps that tradition is a strength, while consistent scoring is an area to improve on.

7. McFarland

Coach: Kaitlynn Ever-



Courtney Monroe and Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team are picked to finish in third place in the Badger Small Conference. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

soll, 1st year

2024-25 Record: 3-22
2024-25 Conference Finish: 6th, 3-11

Returning Starters: Brooke DeShong (5-10, jr., 7.7 PPG, 9.6 RPG, 2 SPG), Charlie Lueder (5-4, jr., 6.1 PPG), Kylie Ganshert (5-6, soph., 5.5 PPG), Annabel Willenbacher (5-9, jr.)

Other Returning Letterwinners: Greysyn Gray (5-7, jr.), Ava Roder (5-8, jr.), Chloe Matz (5-9, soph.), Emma Moran (sr.), Abby Repenshek (5-8, jr.), Jayla Phalen (5-8, soph.)

Newcomers: Alexis Char-

bonneau (sr.), Ali Charbonneau (fr.) Lila Westrum (fr.), Chloe Matz (soph.)

Team Notes: Coach Ever-soll told MaxPreps that they are returning a solid number of players, and possible strengths include speed and depth.

8. Portage

Coach: Addison Hemming, 2nd year

2024-25 Record: 5-20
2024-25 Conference Finish: 8th, 1-13

Returning Starters: Trinity Williams (5-6, sr., 5.8 PPG, 2.4 SPG)

Other Returning Letterwinners: Josie Kiefer (5-5, jr., 6.3 PPG), Lyla Brown (5-4, jr.), Julia Chilson (5-8, jr.), Matilynn Holtan (5-9, sr.), Hannah Foley (5-10, sr.), Aubrie Kinzler (5-8, sr.)

Newcomers: Maya Petzke (soph.), Makenna Kirkendoll (soph.)

Team Notes: Coach Hemming told MaxPreps that all five of their starters had meaningful varsity minutes last season, and they are more scoring-minded this season.

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Gymnasts win Sun Prairie West Invite

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team kicked off its new season in style on Dec. 6, rolling to a first place finish at the Sun Prairie West Invite. Mount Horeb posted a 136.275 team score, while Sun Prairie West/East was a distant second at 125.3.

Monona Grove (124.725), Watertown (117.175) and Madison West rounded out the top five (116.925).

“I am extremely pleased with the performances of our girls in their first competition of the season,” Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. “For many of our gymnasts, it was their first time competing new routines and/or vaults, and even though there were some ‘first meet jitters’, they brought confidence, focus and commitment to doing their best.”

Mount Horeb’s Harper Hendrickson was second in the all-around competition at 34.35, while Sylvia Seeliger was third at 34.275.

Hendrickson was first on the beam with a 9.10, while Seeliger was second at 8.70. Avena Meyers was fourth (8.525) and Averi Kalscheur added an 8.30.

Hendrickson was also first on the floor with a 9.20



Off and running

Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team kicked off their new season by winning the Sun Prairie West Invite last Saturday. Photo submitted

and Carmen Oglesby was second (9.05). Seeliger was fourth (8.625) and Avena Meyers added an 8.55.

Seeliger was second on the vault with an 8.70 and Averi Kalscheur was third (8.425). Meyers was fourth with an 8.40 and Hendrickson added an 8.325.

And Macie Finley was first on the uneven bars with 8.70, while Seeliger was second (8.325), Hendrickson was fourth (7.725) and Tessa Soppe was fifth (7.70).

“What made the day even better was how every

Viking competitor contributed to our first-place team plaques and every one of them also stood atop the podium with well-earned individual medals,” Koller Faust said. “It was truly a full-team effort from start to finish and an awesome way to start the season.”

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb is at the Janesville Craig Invitational Saturday beginning at 9:45 a.m.

• **JV:** Mount Horeb also rolled to the JV title, posting a 124.05 team score that would have beat two varsity teams.

Madison West was a distant second (98.175), followed by Watertown (93.825), Monona Grove (60.9) and Sun Prairie West/East (55.10).

Tori Schilling was first in the all-around with a 30.95, while Elise Hooks was second (30.9) and Kate Van Gorden was third (29.425).

Tessa Soppe was first

on the vault with an 8.35, while Schilling (8.30), Hooks (8.10) and Evie Wyse (8.05) rounded out the top four.

Averi Kalscheur was first on the bars (7.55), while Schilling was second (7.50), Hooks was third (7.30) and Van Gorden was fifth (6.55).

Schilling was first on the

beam, while Soppe was third (8.25), Ava Bilse was fourth (7.90) and Hooks added a 7.85.

And on the floor exercise, Hooks (7.75), Soppe (7.60), Van Gordon (7.40) and Jacey Morin (7.25) finished first through fourth, respectively.=

Co-op hockey team off to an 0-4 start

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

The Stoughton hockey team — which co-ops with Mount Horeb, Barneveld and Luther Prep — is off to an 0-4 start.

Here’s a recap of Stoughton’s first four games:

• **Appleton United 5, Stoughton 0** — Appleton scored in every period and defeated the Vikings on Nov. 25. A.J. Esser made 30 saves for Stoughton.

• **Beloit Memorial 5, Stoughton 0** — The Purple Knights held a 51-16 ad-

vantage in total shots and downed the Vikings on Nov. 28. Maddox Woods had 46 saves for the Vikings.

• **McFarland 13, Stoughton 1** — The Spartans had six goals in the first and third periods and rolled past the Vikings on Dec. 3.

Givon Storkson had the

Vikings’ lone goal.

• **South Central 7, Stoughton 3** — The Navigators had seven goals in the first two periods and downed the Vikings on Dec. 4.

Stoughton’s Givon Storkson had two goals, while Oliver Shambeau added a goal.

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Evan Leibfried and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team rolled past Platteville, 93-64, on Dec. 2. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb routs Platteville

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb rolled past Platteville, 93-64, on Dec. 2.

Senior guard Josh Manchester led the way with 36 points and closed within two points of 2,000 for his career. Junior wing Alex Chapman added 13 points and junior post Evan Leibfried had 10 points.

“Platteville lost the player of the year in their conference last year (Lucas Ludlum), but returned some good guards and picked up a transfer kid from Shullsburg who averaged a double/double for them as a sophomore,” Mount Horeb

coach Todd Nesheim said. “It’s always a tough place to play.”

And at times, it was for the Vikings.

Mount Horeb jumped to a 21-10 lead as Manchester scored the Vikings’ first nine points. Platteville hung around, though, and trailed 41-31 at half.

Mount Horeb was 11-of-22 in the lane in the first half and took 16 3-pointers.

“I never felt like we ‘ran offense,’ ” Nesheim said. “On top of that, they scored some easy transition baskets.

“We gave the kids a pretty

stern message at half. Playing the way we were playing won’t be good enough against Sauk, Slinger, etc. On top of that, if Platteville cuts the lead to five, we will have a game.”

Sure enough, the Hillmen opened the second half on a 5-0 run and closed within five at 41-36. Mount Horeb answered, though, scoring on 10 of its next 14 posses-

sions and pulling away.

By the 7-minute mark, Nesheim was able to go deep into his bench as the Vikings withstood Platteville’s run.

“We responded well,” Nesheim said. “Defensively, we were better as well. More solid and less risk taking.”

TOWN OF SPRINGDALE NOTICE

The Town of Springdale, Dane County, is seeking bids for remodeling a back hall area in the town hall (built in 1980). The project consists of drywall repair, electrical work, flooring, wall tile, shelving/cabinets, trim carpentry, door widening and install, wall bolstering for grab bars, painting, and installation of fixtures. For questions or to view the space, please contact Jackie at adminclerk@springdalewi.gov. Bidders should be aware that, as a municipal building during an election year, town hall will not be available for work during the following weeks: 3/17- 4/10/26; 7/24- 8/14/26; or 10/16-11/6/26. Bids should be itemized as much as possible, sealed, and submitted no later than noon on Monday, 12/29, to be opened at a public meeting at 1PM on Monday, 12/29.

Publish: 12/11/25, 12/18/25
WNAXLP

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The Town of Springdale, Dane County, is seeking bids for repair of the municipal salt shed, installing tin on building ends to bring up to code. For more detailed specs contact Devin at (608) 444-5707. Bids should be sealed and submitted no later than 5PM on Monday, December 15th. Bids will be opened at a public meeting on Tuesday, December 16th at 7 PM.

Publish: 12/11/25 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF PRIMROSE NOTICE

The Town of Primrose Planning Commission meeting for December 2025 will take place at 8468 County Road A, Verona WI, on Monday, December 15th, 2025, 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.

Publish: 12/11/25 **WNAXLP**

TOWN OF CROSS PLAINS NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION APRIL 7, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in an election to be held in the TOWN OF CROSS PLAINS on Tuesday April 7, 2026, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term for all offices is for two years beginning on Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Town Board Supervisor III	Greg Haack
Town Board Supervisor IV	Paul Correll

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2025, and the final day for filing nomination papers is January 6, 2026, in the office of the Town Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Posted: December 3, 2025, Published: December 11, 2025

Jennifer Broberg, Clerk
Town of Cross Plains
3734 County Rd P
Cross Plains WI 53528

Publish: 12/11/25 **WNAXLP**

Vikings’ girls top McFarland

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb girls basketball coach Bart Leibfried will be the first to tell you it wasn’t pretty.

Really though, who cares? The Vikings grinded out a 56-50 win over McFarland on Dec. 2 that didn’t get any style points, but counted as a win all the same.

The Vikings improved to 1-2 on the young season.

“It was a tough gutty win,” Leibfried said. “We took four days off for Thanksgiving then came back to a sick team and only had a one hour practice the day before the game. We don’t make excuses, but we looked rusty and out of sorts, but did enough to win.”

Lauren Mester led the Vi-

kings with 21 points, while Aubrey Rockow came off the bench and chipped in 15. Nalia Craven also added 10 points.

“Aubrey gave us a spark as she hit three 3-pointers in the first half,” Leibfried said. “It was also the best all-around game Nalia has played and we needed it to get the win.”

Mount Horeb also shot 15 of 19 from the free throw line in the second half after going just 3-of-10 in the first half.

“That was the difference in the game,” Leibfried said.

• **On deck:** Mount Horeb hosted No. 1 Madison Edgewood Tuesday, then is at Platteville Saturday at 1 p.m.

**LEGAL NOTICES HOLIDAY DEADLINES**

Post Messenger Recorder • Times-Tribune Independent Star News • Mount Horeb Mail

For all publications the week of December 29, DEADLINE IS NOON TUESDAY, DEC. 23.

For all publications the week of January 5, DEADLINE IS NOON TUESDAY, DEC. 30.

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**LEGAL NOTICE DEADLINES**

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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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MR. 2000

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the way — later (in the game) than I wanted, but I got it out of the way.”

After Manchester’s 2,000th point, officials stopped the game for Vikings head coach Todd Nesheim to address the crowd and recognize the accomplishment.

Manchester then made his way to the bench and hugged his dad, Vikings assistant coach Paul Manchester.

“He’s been in this gym since he was 5. He’s spent so many hours in here shooting, so it kind of came flooding back, all the nights we had in here, how much work we put in,” Paul Manchester said. “Me — not me, I just stood there rebounding — but he’s worked so hard for it.

“Proud dad, so happy for him. And his teammates have been so good, and this coaching staff and community have been so great to him. It was a lot of good emotions tonight. It was fun.”

Nesheim, Mount Horeb’s longtime coach, echoed those sentiments in his remarks to the crowd.

“Josh has been a consistent force for our program,” Nesheim said. “What stands out most is not just the points, but the way he earns them — through effort, discipline, leadership, and an incredible competitive spirit.

“He makes his teammates better, he elevates our pro-

gram, and he plays the game the right way. This milestone is a tribute to his dedication, to the teammates who’ve battled with him, and to the coaches and family who have supported him every step of the way.”

After reaching 2,000 points, Manchester dished out assists for the Vikings next two baskets, one made by fellow senior Hayden Anderson in the paint and the other a pass to junior Alex Chapman for a fast-break lay-up.

“We love that he can go see the floor, and there’s more to his game than just shooting the ball,” Paul Manchester said. “That was fitting that the next two baskets were assists.”

The blowout was on. Manchester scored inside to make it 8-2, drained a 3-pointer to make it 11-5 and then missed a 3-pointer, only to have Anderson collect the rebound and feed Manchester for a lay-up that made it 13-5.

With 6:06 left in the half, Manchester broke away for a fastbreak dunk that pushed the Vikings’ lead to 24-10. And with 8 seconds left in the half, Manchester converted his own steal into another fastbreak basket, giving the Vikings a 39-15 halftime lead.

Manchester had 25 points at the break, meaning he had 2,023 for his career — already 65th in state history, just ahead of Racine Horlick’s Marquise Milton (2019), who scored 2,021.

“Two thousand points is something that doesn’t

come around often,” said Mount Horeb senior guard Kam Nesheim, Todd’s son and one of Manchester’s best friends “Being in the top 70 in the state is an insane accomplishment — and he could be top-10 by the end of his career. So it’s really special for him.”

Because of their friendship, the moment was special for Kam, too.

“Me and Josh have been close since day one,” Kam Nesheim said. “He’s worked his butt off, so he deserves this. Home opener, good crowd, so it’s nice for everyone to come out and celebrate this unbelievable milestone.”

Reedsburg never got close in the second half, scoring only 20 points over the final 18 minutes.

Manchester, meantime, remained hot.

He scored the first basket of the half to make it 41-15, later drained a step back 3-pointer from the right corner for another high-light-reel play and finished with 10 points in the half to give him 35 on the night.

His night was done with a little over 10 minutes left.

“The first three games now he’s played until about the 12-minute mark in the second half,” Todd Nesheim said. “Part of me is like, ‘Well, he’s chasing bigger goals -- he has a chance to be top-five all-time in the state.’ But you’re up 30, so where is that line?”

Mount Horeb has won its first three games by an average of 30.0 points per



Mount Horeb senior guard Josh Manchester has 2,033 career points after scoring 35 against Reedsburg last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

contest.

The road ahead gets a little more challenging, however, with back-to-back away games against Watertown (Dec. 8) and Sauk Prairie (Dec. 12), before coming home to face rival Stoughton on Dec. 18 and highly regarded Slinger at Madison College in the

60Eight Basketball Tournament on Dec. 20.

“I’m really pleased with where we’re at,” Todd Nesheim said. “Watertown on the road probably will be a little tougher. And then we’ve got Sauk, Stoughton and Slinger, so those are going to be three, ‘Where are we at?’ type of games.”

Friday night wasn’t about looking ahead, though.

It was, in a lot of ways, about looking to the past.

“I remember coaching him in third grade. He was always the best player in the gym. In fourth and fifth grade, teams knew about Josh Manchester,” Todd

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MR. 2000

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Nesheim said. “I remember Columbus (playing a) box-and-one against him in seventh grade. He’s always been the best player in the gym.”

That made it easy for Todd Nesheim to come up with the right words to say to the crowd when the game was stopped.

“I was ready,” he said. “Those were heartfelt words.

“I’ve watched him play baseball in the spring, he gets done with a game at 7:30 (p.m.) and he’s in the gym at nine o’clock. He’s just always been that kid who doesn’t sit still. Him and Kam, best friends (since little). He’d come over and Kam would want to play video games and Josh would want to go outside. That’s the way he was. He wanted to be active.”

Manchester pushed his career point total to 2,033 by the end of the night, which is now tied for 62nd with Hartland Arrowhead’s Mac Wrecke, a 2023 graduate.

Next on the list? “He’s going after Tyler Herro next. He loves Tyler,” Paul Manchester said of the 2018 Whitnall graduate who played a year at Kentucky before leaving for the NBA, where he’s now a star for the Miami Heat.

Herro and two others, including Orfordville Parkview 1966 graduate Paul Johnson, are tied for 59th with 2,036.

The all-time leader is 1993 Wausaukee graduate

Anthony Pieper with 3,391, followed by Southern Door’s Drew Daoust, who finished his career this past spring with 3,096.

Fifth all-time is Chris Davis Jr., who played at Sun Prairie East, Sun Prairie West and Madison East over the course of his career and also graduated last spring, finishing with 2,688 points.

Manchester averaged 31.1 points per game last season and is averaging 34.0 points per contest this year. If Manchester stayed at his current average of 34.0 and the Vikings reached the sectional finals, he’d finish with 2,883 points, which would vault him to No. 3 in state history.

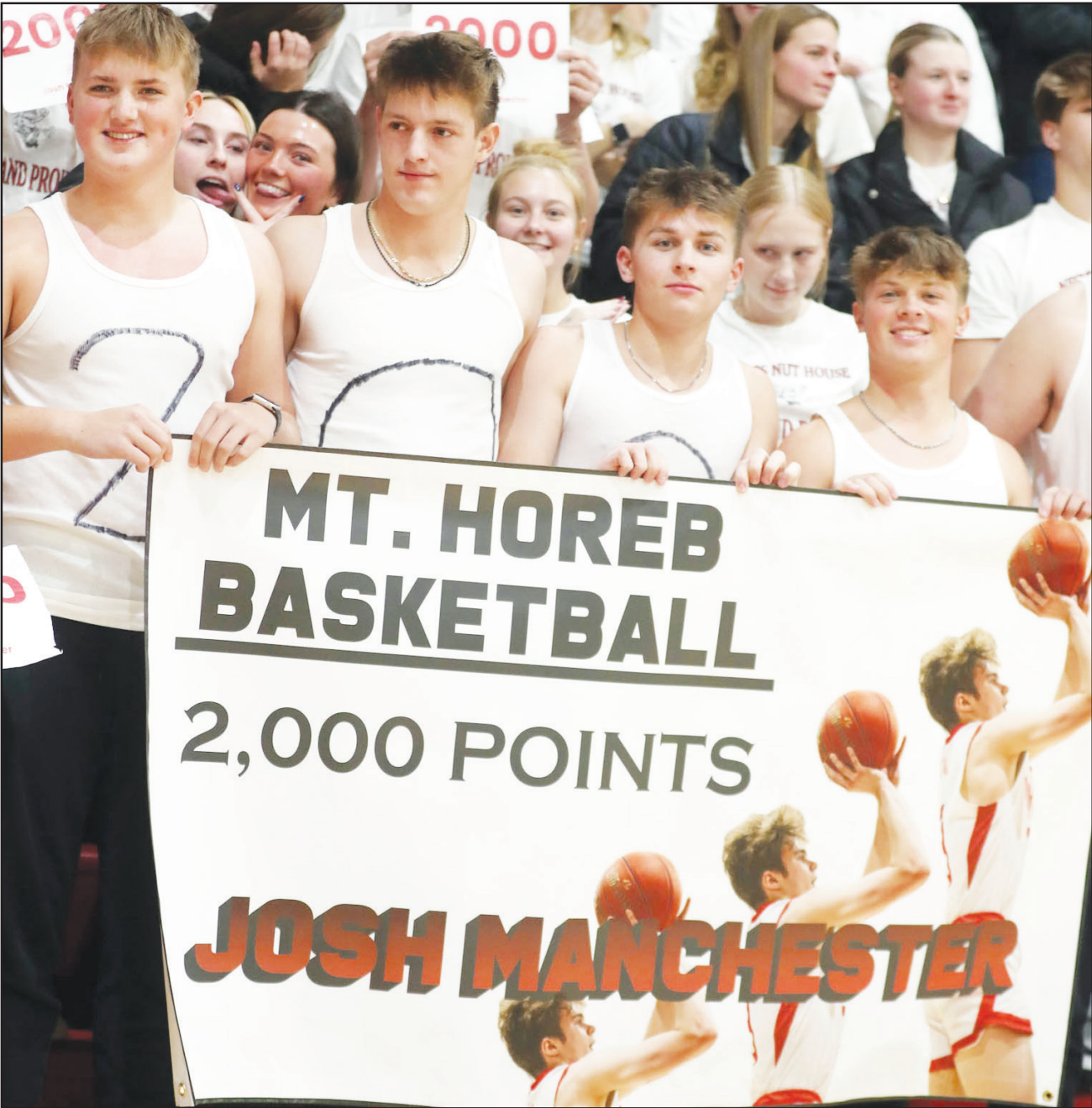
“I grew up looking up to a lot of guys he’s going to pass,” Paul Manchester said. “There’s a lot of pride seeing Josh’s name go past some of them. For me, a Wisconsin basketball junkie, it’s really neat seeing his name on there.

“There’s so many names. He doesn’t take it for granted. He stays humble and hungry. I think we’re proud of that more than anything — how he stays humble, and loves his community.”

That’s why so many community members in attendance came up to Josh after the game to congratulate him.

What did it all mean to him?

“The accomplishment, not too much,” Josh Manchester said. “But the love I’ve gotten tonight, it means a lot. This commu-



Mount Horeb fans were excited to see Vikings star senior guard Josh Manchester reach 2,000 career points last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

nity, since I was in third grade, has shown me so much love. I have so much gratitude.”

It was also a big moment for Josh from a team perspective, and so with a large banner unfurled to recognize the accomplishment, the Vikings took a team picture.

“That just means everything,” Josh Manchester said. “Those were my guys since as long as I can remember. It was just a really special moment. And they’re so cool about the attention I get. They’re great teammates — there’s no one else I want to spend the season with.

“I started getting a little emotional when I was taking a picture with all the seniors. It feels like yesterday we were playing in the Troll Classic here. It’s sweet and sour. It’s kind of sad (that it’s ending), but it’s going to be a fun last ride.”

Mikonowicz 1 1-2 4, Lincoln Benish 3 0-0 6, Drew Brandt 4 1-2 11, Nehemiah Guy 4 0-0 4, Jonah Williams 0-0 4, Gabe Zimmerman 1 0-0 2, Ethan Braun 0 0-2 0, Avery Olson 1 0-0 2. Totals: 15 2-6 35.

MOUNT HOREB — Josh Manchester 14 0-0 35, Kyle Freitag 1 0-0 2, Connor McCue 1 0-0 2, Max Grundahl 2 0-2 4, Evan Leibfried 4 2-3 11, Nick Ibinger 2 0-0 6, Alex Chapman 3 0-0 6, Everett Boatman 1 0-0 2. Totals: 28 2-5 68.

3-pointers: Reedsburg 3 (Mikonowicz 1, Brandt 2), Mount Horeb 10 (Manchester 7, Leibfried 1, Ibinger 2). Total fouls: Reedsburg 7, Mount Horeb 6. Fouled out: None.

MOUNT HOREB 68, REEDSBURG 35
Reedsburg 15 20 — 35
Mount Horeb 39 29 — 68
REEDSBURG — (fgm ftm-fta pts) — Lucius Wells 1 0-0 2, Will

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