



Author with local roots celebrates with MoHo event
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Town of Blue Mounds has its third town chair in less than a year

By JILL JONAS
Mount Horeb Mail

Over a two-week period, the Town of Blue Mounds Board of Supervisors held a series of three meetings and a public hearing. At the most recent meeting, December 9, Supervisor Rick VanDomelen was appointed Interim Town Chair from December 2025-April 2027. This action followed Chair John Brixy's resignation, also an interim appointment, effective the same evening. Brixy noted his decision was related to a health issue.

The series of meetings started November 25. A special meeting was called to discuss and review handling of alleged zoning code violations and review of the Town's Citation Ordinance. Brixy called the meeting to order, repeating the public notice language and stat-

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'Business As Usual' for Grumpy Troll brewmaster

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

Gonzo icon Hunter S. Thompson famously wrote that good people drink good beer. It stands to reason that the folks who make this ancient and beloved elixir are probably pretty decent, too.

One of this area's longest-tenured brewers is Belleville resident Mark Knoebl, who has served as brewmaster at the Grumpy Troll in Mount Horeb for the past 16 years. During that time, the brewpub has had three different owners. Beer trends have come and gone. Economies have surged and faltered. There have been elections, wars, a global pandemic, and all the chaos and uncertainty that make the world interesting, for better or worse. Through all of it, Knoebl has been busily brewing an eclectic array of beers. To regulars, they are like old friends: Monk.



Knoebl

Maggie (named after Margaret Thatcher). Captain Fred. Erik the Red. Spetznaz, a rich stout that takes its name from fearsome Soviet Special Forces, recently won gold in the Denver-based Crafty Championships, as did the Dragon Ship Wit, which pays tribute to Mount Horeb's Viking heritage.

Running a small brewery isn't always as glamorous as one would expect. Visitors to the Troll are likely to glimpse in the back of the former cheese factory and

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The Grumpy Troll brewpub has been a local gathering spot for a quarter of a century now. Photo by Matt Geiger.

Village awaits decision on ethics complaint
Complaint does not show direct financial connection between trustee and Langhús

By MATT GEIGER
Mount Horeb Mail

An ethics complaint filed with the Village of Mount Horeb on November 30 alleges that trustee Marc Schellpfeffer has a conflict of interest and should recuse himself from any vote on the Langhús on Main development proposal due to what it calls a "pattern of a working relationship" with the developer. The complaint does not appear to show any direct link between the village board member and the specific proposal in question.

As of press time this week, the village's legal counsel had not announced whether the allegations are valid or would prevent Schellpfeffer

from voting on the project.

The Mount Horeb Village Board was scheduled to vote on Langhús on Main at its December 3 meeting but delayed the vote so it could review the complaint regarding Schellpfeffer.

Developer Jeff Grundahl's Langhús (Norse for "Longhouse") development was formally proposed in a September 22, 2025 letter of intent to the village. According to that filing, the project's architect would be Sketchworks Architecture in Middleton. The property manager would be Gallina Companies out of Mount Horeb. A traffic study was conducted by Traffic Analysis & Design out of Cedar-

burg.

The developer initially submitted a project that would include 6,720 feet of commercial space and 63 apartment units at 208, 214 and 220 East Main Street. He later reduced its scale in response to public comments that said the project was too big and would detract from the community's small-town charm.

The village's planning commission in November voted to recommend rezoning the land for Langhús after lengthy public meetings and a substantial opposition movement against the project from some citizens. The project's fate will now be decided by the village

board, likely at its Wednesday, January 7 meeting.

The village board first appointed Schellpfeffer to fill president Ryan Czyzewski's former seat when Czyzewski made the move from trustee to president back in 2023. Schellpfeffer ran for re-election unopposed in the spring of 2024, taking the oath of office for his current term on April 15 of last year.

Schellpfeffer, an architect, has lived in the village since 2003. He grew up in Verona, graduating from Verona High School in 1993. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban and Regional Studies from the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Wisconsin

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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)

Lusts Mark Milestone—50 Years of Auction Action

By AIMEE ARRIGONI
Historical Society

When Richard Lust saw an advertisement in *Hoard's Dairyman* magazine looking for auctioneers, he im-

mediately thought of Aleta Skaife. Skaife had been his English and Speech teacher at Mount Horeb High School, where he was one of 63 students in the gradu-

ating class of 1963. Skaife knew him well and knew he could talk. She once affectionately told him that if he could find an occupation where he could put that skill

to use, she knew he would be a success. Lust was working in insurance at the time and was ready to try something new. Richard had grown up

going to farm auctions with his dad, Alton, who ran A.O. Lust Trucking, headquartered in Mount Horeb. He also remembered listening to the early morning news reports of nearby farm auctions on WIBA radio. Burt Pfister ran many of those auctions at the time. So, in 1975 he established Lust Auction Services, with office space downtown at 204 West Front Street, a building that is still standing and was moved to that location from Old Town, where it originally served as a livery stable.

While Richard's first few auctions were informal, he quickly grew his business. He completed auction school at Reisch World Wide College of Auctioneering in Mason City, Iowa, in the summer of 1976 (he already held a Bachelor of Business Administration from UW-Whitewater). He loved the energy and community of live auctions, knew how to read a room, took pride in not driving bids, and kept his audiences engaged during what were often all-day affairs. Frequently working from the back of a pickup truck with a PA system built in, Richard would go on to hold over 2,000 public outcry auctions at residences, farms, restaurants, grocery stores, slaughterhouses, and many other businesses throughout Wisconsin and Illinois. The 1970s and 1980s saw big crowds as collectors looked for unique pieces and young families found antiques to fill their new homes.

No two auctions were the same, and Richard loved improvising. When he sold out the old Gamble store in Mount Horeb he fashioned a conveyor belt to send boxes to the sale floor, and when someone bought the store safe, he borrowed the floor jack from the Mobil gas station to get it loaded and on its way.

With auctions typically

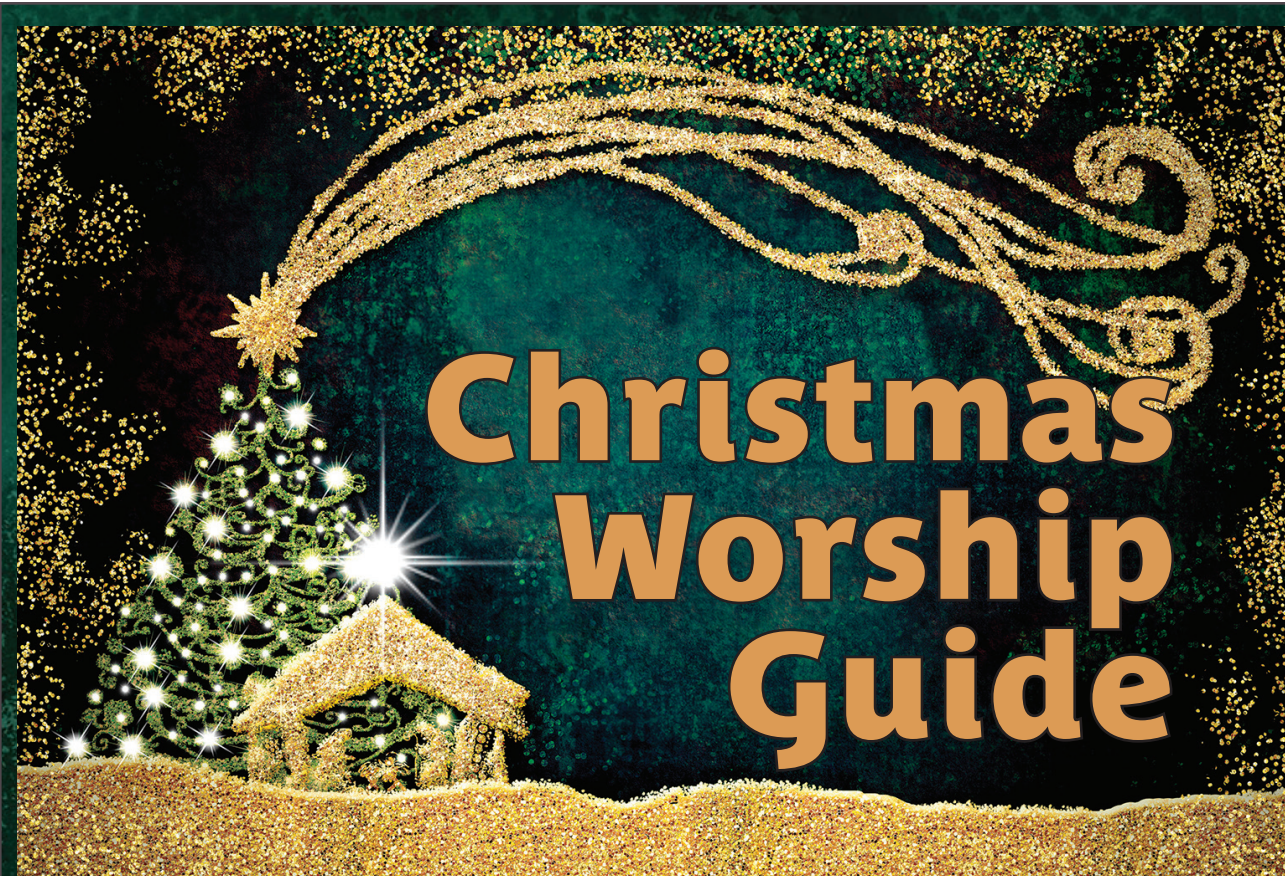
held on weekends, he spent weekdays following leads and preparing advertising material for upcoming auctions. He wrote his own ads for local newspapers, shoppers, and postcards, and was not above driving ad copy to the printer at all hours to make the morning paper. Richard was good, but he was not the only game in town, and competitors like Eldon Schraepfer, of Hollandale, kept him on his toes. One of Richard's proudest moments remains having a customer leave a blank check at the end of a long day of bidding at a lumber yard auction, knowing that Richard could be trusted with the transaction. Trust like that has to be earned.

In 1994 when Chapter 480 of the Wisconsin Statutes was passed, creating an Auctioneer Board to provide oversight within the industry, Lust was appointed by Governor Thompson as the Chair of the Licensing Board. He served in that position for 12 years. He holds Auctioneer License No. 1 in the state, and during his tenure he provided input on legislation and guided many new auctioneers in the early days of their careers.

In hindsight, one of Richard's smartest moves was raising his son, Matt, in the business. Matt took to calling bids naturally and crowds loved that he was young. He earned his license as an auctioneer in 1993, attending auction school between the ninth and 10th grade. Shortly after, he earned a degree in Computer Information Systems from Herzing College of Technology. At that time, Ebay was becoming increasingly popular as a way to bring buyers and sellers together across great distances on the internet. While the Lusts had a strong following and worked to draw crowds to their live auctions, ultimately Ebay and other services like it signaled the beginning of a new era in the auction world.

Richard's understanding of the industry and Matt's technical skill proved a perfect combination when they saw an opportunity to pivot and remain relevant in a changing marketplace. They won the contract to become the online auction provider for the State of Wisconsin in the fall of 2003 and had to have a website up and running by the first of the following year. Matt knew how to make that happen, and WisconsinSurplus.com was born. They were encouraged when the first lot they sold online, a Dodge from the state fleet, made 12% more in their online auction than

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These area churches invite you to join them in celebrating the reason for the season.

Worship at the church of your choice this Christmas.

Celebrate Christmas with
GOOD NEWS

Celtic Christmas Concert
Monday, December 22, 6:00 p.m.
Martinson Hall in Mt. Horeb

Christmas Eve Candlelight
4:30 and 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
9:00 a.m.

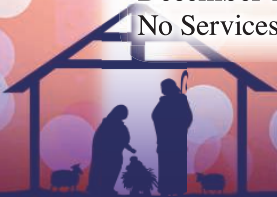
 **Good News Lutheran Church**
9975 Pepper Drive in Mt. Horeb
GoodNewsLC.org 608.437.4646

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH of Mount Horeb**

December 24 (Wed.)
Christmas Eve Services
Candlelight 5pm & 8pm

December 25 (Thur.)
Christmas Day Service
10am

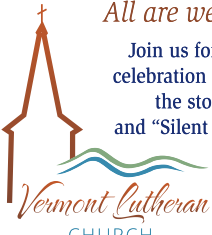
December 27 (Sat.)
No Services



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DECEMBER 25TH
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• St. Ignatius – 10:30 am

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Letters to the Editor

Board can change the ‘course of history for the better’

Regardless of how some would like to spin this there are a lot of people in Mount Horeb and beyond who are opposed to the Main Street apartment project as it now stands.

People will not forget the decision that could be made by the village board, a decision that could set in motion unprecedented and irreversible change for Mount Horeb’s character, streetscape and tourist industry.

Decisions like this leave long-time animosity such as those who still remember and talk of the removal of the village park and art deco building that once housed a world famous chiropractic office on the corner of Main and Second Streets.

The removal of a Main Street historic home that made national news in 1911 and is featured in the best-selling book Haunted Wisconsin, for the construction of an ugly non-descript bank that many refused to patronize.

The removal of a beautiful four-square Victorian home with leaded glass windows for the new Hardee’s that locals refused to patronize and was short lived.

The jacked up rents in the Hoff Building leading to all the merchant tenants leaving and where some citizens still refuse to enter that building to this day

I could go on but you get the picture

Now we already have interest in, and talk of a recall election and removal of village officials, and, by some, a view of members

on the planning commission that voted for this now seen as heartless outsiders who have not lived here long enough to have pride in their community.

To have over 10 percent response against this project in a direct mailing - in poling standards - is huge.

To have over a thousand people sign a petition against the project is huge.

To have hundreds attend village meetings and publicly speak is huge.

To make this much easier on the Village Board, Planning Commission, and village residents it requires only a referendum, which I still believe is possible if its wording meets the standards for such.

A referendum not against this project but rather one that allows the citizens of this village to determine the fate of our historic main street and to take pride and sense of ownership in what happens there going forward.

Mount Horeb’s village residents voted for a golf course – not because they all play golf – but because they wanted preserved green space.

If the village board feels it must approve this project then please insist that the involved architect scale it down and meet with staff at the Historium where they will get a first-hand chance to see what the streetscape of Mount Horeb “really,” does and should, look like.

We may have colorful rosemaling on buildings and some delightful artistic trolls, but our historic buildings are not New Glarus’ Swissconsin. Nor are we Verona’s

vanished history with apartment buildings sporting balconies displaying tenant’s bad taste for all to see, and, where small unique businesses are short lived because a characterless city draws no traffic to their doors.

Let us take a lead from tiny nearby Paoli, now dubbed by some a Hallmark community, which is relishing in its historic architecture and where crowds for its events are surpassing larger regional rivals.

As a life-long interested Mount Horeb-loving citizen I ask that the village board avoid a decision that will set in motion the destruction of what we fondly enjoy here in Mount Horeb

We need to table this “rushed” project and give it deeper thought to allow our elected representatives the opportunity to change the course of history for the better.

Sincerely
Brian Bigler

Dear Santa...

You know I’ve been good this year, so in addition to World Peace, Clean Energy, and an End to Poverty and Hunger, could you please gift a new community center to Mount Horeb? As you know, we don’t have a downtown Community Center where we can host large indoor/outdoor events like our Farmers Market and the Scandihoovian, or a venue for hosting fundraising events for organizations like the Optimist Club and Chamber of Commerce! In fact, a down-

town community center could even provide event space for Art Fairs, local concerts, and possibly even a Christkindl Market (which I’m sure you’d be in favor of!).

Maybe we could place it at the Main Street site of the proposed JG Langhus project? It could instead become a landmark structure and event space which would also attract tourists to our historic downtown business district. And it could even be modelled after a historic Viking Longhouse which would further enhance our village’s cultural heritage and charm.

I know it’s asking a lot, and I’m sure your budget is already tapped this year, so maybe the Mount Horeb Village Board would consider trading a few of the 136 acres of land they just purchased along HWY S for the JG lots on Main Street. That way JG would have a more suitable site for a sprawling development project and the community would have an exceptional downtown site to create a landmark community center and tourist attraction! As you know, we’re a fairly privileged and civic minded community that generously supports our schools and other beneficial community projects. Perhaps a good portion of the cost could be generated from local and corporate donations?

Please, Santa, grant my Christmas wish for our wonderful community.

Merry MoHo-hohoho,
Timmy Scott

Gleanings

By **Barb Johnson**

Mount Horeb Mail

140 Years Ago-
Dec. 16, 1885

The post office has been supplied with a coal heater, a long felt want.

John H. Swanson and John Carden were seen pawing the air and pounding beef at the rink Saturday evening.

I have now opened up the photograph gallery at this place and am prepared to take photographs, cabinet and card sizes, also tintypes, enlarging and copying photographs and tintypes in India ink, watercolors, oil and crayon, will receive my prompt attention. Satisfaction guaranteed or no charges. E.K. Gesme.

A grand wedding occurred in the town of Primrose on Thanksgiving Day, the bride being Miss Clara T. Gunhus, an accomplished young lady; the groom, Mr. Knudt B. Skuldt is an intelligent young man and an enterprising farmer. There were about one hundred guests present who did justice to the good things which were prepared for them. The presents were numerous and many of them very costly. They were also presented with fifty dollars in money.

120 Years Ago-
Dec. 19, 1895

One of the boys in the Academy claims that he pays fifty cents per week for a room in which there is

only one square inch of heat and that is frozen in one corner of the room.

Order your Christmas goods at the new restaurant for our goods are fresh and nice.

Farmers have been making good use of the sleighing in drawing wood to town which is fetching \$2.00 and \$2.25 per cord. Some of our villagers wish they had not bought coal in the fall.

Olaf Stromme acted the part of a little hero Sunday evening of last week while home alone with the baby, their folks being at church. The lamp set fire to the curtain and some papers which made a fearful blaze, Olaf wrapped the baby in a large quilt and placed it on the veranda, and for a bucket of water and with the grit of a well-trained fireman extinguished the flames. The damage was not very heavy although some of the furniture was somewhat scorched, the walls considerably singed and the carpet made holy. When all was again calm thence did Olaf go to church also.

daughter down at North Cape, Racine County give him that title. And by the way he is a grass widower pro tem, his better half has been with her daughter since thanksgiving.

120 Years Ago-
Dec. 14, 1905

The home of Enos Rider, west of town, burned to the ground Sunday morning.

Mrs. John Foye, Mount Vernon, died at her home Monday.

Miss Alma Mickelson of Vermont is sewing with Mrs. O.B. Pickard this winter.

Knut Johnson, who is dealing in fine grade musical instruments, sold Miss Mable Garfoot a fine piano last week.

Many are the compliments given the new managment of the electric light plant for brilliant and steady lights these long winter nights.

It is rumored that H.J. Lohff will build a new residence in the spring, and in place of locating his future home on his beautiful lots on 3d street he will build on the farm near the main road in view of the three farms occupied by his sons and daughter.

Gust Mennes had his hand quite badly mangled last Thursday while unloading a salt barrel from the wagon..Dr. Evans did some of his skilled performance and is hopeful of saving the useful member.

110 Years Ago-
Dec. 17, 1915

Miss Stocket of the State Library Commission spent Monday at the Mt. Horeb Library.

Not much can be said about the opening game at the Opera house last Friday evening. A good sized house greeted the players and it was expected that a close game would be witnessed but the lads from the city of the big condenser did not come up to the expectation nor any where near being a match for our husky and well developed lads which the score of 49 to 9 vividly indicate.

G. P. Nace has this week had his grounded telephone line changed to a full metallic in order to avoid the in-direction caused by the high tension electric line and now enjoy quiet and unobstructed service. Mr. Nace is the only farmer at this distance from central; 2-1/2 miles, to enjoy exclusive telephone service, and is willing to stand the cost.

100 Years Ago-
Dec. 15, 1925

There was a small chimney fire in the Thomas Hearan building about 11:00 o’clock Friday evening. Some passer by saw the flames and turned in the alarm but we are glad to say the fire was extinguished in a few minutes.The engine was not used but was at the scene of the fire almost be-

fore the call of the big siren was silenced.

The German Lutheran Congregation will dedicate their Church Building at Mt. Horeb on Sunday, Dec 20th and invites here with most friendly, the public to attend the dedication service and rejoice with their brothers in Christ over the new place of worship.

The Swiss cheesemakers and their friends had a very successful wrestle and dance at Monticello.

Mr. A. H. Wieneke and Dr. O. Sporleder were at Madison Monday, together with the committee of the village board, as a committee to investigate the electric light rates. We understand nothing can be done about the matter.

If Postmaster General New has his way about it, Christmas Day this year is going to be the biggest and best for all employees of the postal serve and especially for the ever-faithful letter carriers. He has issued orders to postmasters throughout the country that their offices will be closed all day Christmas except for the dispatch of special delivery letters and parcels and special handling letters and parcels.

80 Years Ago-
Dec. 20, 1945

A Christmas message: To one Day all the early world looked forward, to the same Day the latter world looks

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GEIGER

Counter

by Matt Geiger, Editor

Oh,

Christmas

tree

There is a lot of talk about empathy these days, but I, for one, think it's a terrible way to pick a Christmas tree.

Sure, feeling the pain of others can help us understand the fragile bond living things share. But I simply cannot get on board with the fact that we should pile into the truck, head to a forest of pine trees, and select the one we pity the most – the ones whose anguish really speaks to us – so we can display it in our living room to celebrate the holidays and carry some light into winter's dark center.

But that is exactly what my wife does. She walks around, like some arborist Dr. Kevorkian, looking for sickly, bare, brown, prickly trees to put out of their misery. If looking at it makes us feel sad, she wants to take it home. But even Dr. Kev-

orkian didn't festoon his victims with silver tinsel, colored lights and playful ornaments.

We don't use pity as our criteria for any other interior decorating decisions. Imagine if we did.

"Look at that terrible three-legged chair! It would look great in our living room!"

"That chicken breast is a strange color; let's make it the centerpiece of our dinner."

"That dog over there is throwing up. Let's adopt it!"

But for some reason, my wife's compassion overwhelms her at this time of year as we stroll through the pines.

"Look at this one!" she calls out with a strange, gleeful commiseration, pointing to a dead vertical twig that's so dry it will burst into flames if it catches even a glancing blow from direct sunlight. I try to point out that we are actually paying for this tree, so we should try to, you know, get a good one.

I, a reasonable person in the prime of mental health, select our Christmas tree

very differently. I try to find the largest, heaviest bemoth of a tree that ever lived. Something that will fill and render unusable one or more rooms in our home from now until I finally take it outside and toss it into the springtime mud, many months from now. I don't want something small or sick or sad. I want something huge and ridiculous.

But our marital bonds are strong, and despite our differences, we agree on the most important thing: the tree must be alive and real. My wife's favorites are usually on the verge of death, but even that implies they are, for the time being at least, among us, the living.

In a time and place where nearly all people, regardless of political affiliation, seem equally intent on destroying the very last vestiges of anything wild or untouched by human hands, each Christmas tree serves as the most incredible symbol, each year, of the most incredible truth: That the world outside – the ancient, primal, howling, wild world – is beautiful. It exists in majesty regardless of us. Not because of our existence, but not despite it, either. The tree, which is a completely renewable, living thing, which will always grow again from the soil after we cut it down. It is a symbol of the wilderness from which we come, the atavism that still resides inside us no matter how hard

we try to pretend we are fully civilized and housebroken. Trees, which have been here for 400 million years, are generally considered far too wild to come into our homes. They are part of the ancient world, the world of fairy tales, the Earth as it was for all its history, full of things we did not make and could not control. Beautiful, mysterious things. They remind us of how stunning the world was before we arrived, and how incredible it will be after all the pavement has crumbled. Yet they are also a reminder that it remains beautiful, even now. The wilderness remains all around us, and it remains in us, too. They *are* the wilderness, and once a year we – a species that spends much of its time fighting and fearing the wild – suddenly say, "Come on in."

Millions of years ago we climbed down from the trees and became human. And still we yearn to have them near us in our homes.

The fact that so many of us, in so many countries and from so many cultures, suddenly change the rules each December and welcome wild pine trees into our houses is strange and wonderful. It's no less weird than if every September, we all suddenly decided it was time to go find a grizzly bear or wildebeest and bring it home, where it could live for the remainder of the holiday season, wrapped in

bright lights and draped with trinkets that tell our family's unique but familiar human story.

These trees, whether they are sickly and pathetic, the way my wife likes them, or bombastic and far too big to fit through the door, the way I like them, are annual reminders that the world is a place that is wild and real. It was like this long before we arrived here, so recently, and will remain so long after we are gone.

Each year, I reread Truman Capote's "A Christmas Memory." It's about a little boy and a cognitively disabled woman, best friends, who each year make fruitcakes together and give them to friends and strangers alike. Near the end of the story, they go to fly a homemade kite together, when they realize this same thing. That all of Creation is right outside all our doors, throughout the duration of our individual and collective stories. In every single tree, in everything under the sun and the moon, lives the real world.

"My, how foolish I am!" my friend cries, suddenly alert, like a woman remembering too late she has biscuits in the oven. "You know what I've always thought?" she asks in a tone of discovery and not smiling at me but a point beyond. "I've always thought a body would have to be sick and dying before they saw the

Lord. And I imagined that when he came it would be like looking at the Baptist window: pretty as colored glass with the sun pouring through, such a shine you don't know it's getting dark. And it's been a comfort: to think of that shine taking away all the spooky feeling. But I'll wager it never happens. I'll wager at the very end a body realizes the Lord has already shown Himself. That things as they are" – her hand circles in a gesture that gathers clouds and kites and grass and Queenie [the dog] pawing earth over her bone – "just what they've always seen, was seeing Him. As for me, I could leave the world with today in my eyes."

We compromised again this year. The tree in our living room is not the smallest or most pathetic specimen we saw. It's also not the 50-foot monster I wanted to buy. Instead, it's somewhere in between. It's perfect. A pagan symbol of our deepest roots and a glimpse into our future. A piece of real-life wilderness presiding over our domestic lives.

And every time I look at it, adorned with our personal ornaments, lit up as if eternally on fire, its branches shadowing a pile of presents, I hope that one day I'm lucky enough to leave the world with this, and all it represents, in my eyes.

'Motion Dazzle' reading is

Homecoming for author Cox



Jocelyn Jane Cox, a Mount Horeb native and the author of "Motion Dazzle," held a reading and conversation with fellow writer Maggie Ginsberg at Brix Cider on Sunday, Nov. 23. "What an honor and joy to be in conversation with the literary force of nature Maggie Ginsburg who also grew up there and whose novel 'Still True' is one of the most beautiful books about love, human nature, and small-town existence I've ever read," said Cox.

"It was a coming home, it was full circle, it was love, it was memories, it was connection, it was amazing," she continued. "In the audience was my mother's best friend, my first grade teacher who flew in from Minnesota who also came to the event earlier that day in Madison, the genius seamstress who sewed all of our skating costumes from scratch, elementary school friends I hadn't seen in 40 years, my wonderful stepmother, and my 91-year-old father who Maggie so kindly honored and pulled into our conversation about the book."

Obituary

Anthony

Eugene Hefty

June 3, 1955 -

December 5, 2025



MONTICELLO – Anthony Eugene Hefty, age 70, of Monticello, Wis., passed away on Friday, December

5, 2025, at home. He was born on June 3, 1955, at St. Clare Hospital in Monroe, Wis., to Eugene and Jean Hefty. He was the second oldest of seven children.

Anthony helped his dad on the farm and worked several places and graduated from the U.S. Army National Guard in Automotive Repair. He loved his Mustang cars and liked taking pictures of landscapes and scenery on his trips.

Anthony is survived by his six siblings: two brothers, Dan (Jenny) and David (Debbie), and four sisters, Kathy (Bob) Zantow, Anne (Phil) Sieber, Peggy (Don) Becker and Lorie (Shaun) Schaalma; nieces, nephews, great-nephews and great-

nieces; and his stepmother, Sadie, and her family. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A graveside service was held in the chapel at Sunset Memory Gardens, 7302 Mineral Point Road, Madison, at 10 a.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

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Music

Free Celtic Christmas Concert at Martinson Hall

On Monday, December 22, the Lutheran Ceili Orchestra will hold a Celtic Christmas concert for the community.

The concert will be held at Martinson Hall in Mt. Horeb (108 S. 2nd Street) and begins at 6:00 p.m. Free snacks, water, and hot cocoa will be served. Martinson Hall's bar will be open with beverages available for purchase.

The concert is hosted and sponsored by Good News Lutheran Church. It is free and open to the public.

Local Government

School board tables vote on Florida trip

By Aynsley Hoelscher
Mount Horeb Mail

The MHASD Board of Education tabled a trip for the baseball team, discussed the elementary school construction project and demographic trends.

Baseball team goes to Florida
Baseball coach Ryan Finley approached the board asking to take the boys team to

Florida to play against schools from across the country. The board will vote on the subject at the next meeting.
The players and their families will fund-raise to cover the cost of the trip.

Elementary School Project Update
The board heard an update on the referendum project from Bray Architects.
Construction documents will be wrapped

up soon, and contractor bids will likely start in early 2026.
Demographic trends
The board discussed a report on demographic trends in the district.
Enrollment overall continues to decline within the district. The number of student with disabilities has increased while Hispanic students have increased slightly. English language learners have remained steady despite the enrollment drop.

Mental health assessments showed improvement from last year, with 87 percent of high schoolers agreeing that they can be themselves in school, up 4.1 percent.
In grades K-2, students were given a peer connectedness survey and students with two or fewer connections or were identified as non-preferred by most of their classmates were given staff interventions. Many of those students increased connectedness significantly.

Blue Mounds Village President talks taxes

By Abigail Leavins
Mount Horeb Mail

The village skating rink is coming together, according to Public Works Director Dan Foster. He said the work and supplies have all been donated, and while it's not ready yet, it should be coming together soon with all the cold weather.

Residents Matt Heindl and Audra Anderson both asked the board at its Dec. 10 meeting about DPW snow removal. Heindl noted snow had built up on the south side of Division Street, and Anderson complained that snow on Main Street had been left.
Village President Paul Baum said public works worked to plow as quickly as pos-

sible, but the village got so much snow that the department couldn't always plow immediately, leading to some buildup.
Also at the meeting, Baum said taxes for 2026 would be out in the next week, and he apologized ahead of time that people could see an increase. Not just in the village portion of their taxes, but also in the school and

county taxes.
"We'll be looking at our budget to see what we can do to try to mitigate that in the next cycle, it's about all we can do at this point," Baum said. The board also set the date for village caucus for the spring elections for Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. to take nominations for village board and chair.

Sugar River Euchre

Mid-Winter Tournament Results

By Stan Hook
Sugar River Euchre

The colder than normal temperatures didn't stop the strong at heart euchre players from attending the mid-winter tournament at the Red Mouse on December 11th. In all, there were 9 tables plus two extra players for a total of 38. The new

individual format this year allowed everyone to play, and the tournament took about 1 hour less to complete. Everyone appeared to enjoy the new format.
High score for the evening went to Ralph Hoesel with a 93. Fred Ryser was right on Ralph's tail with a 90. Dick Dahlk

and Richard Laufenberg tied for third place with an 84. David Steinhauer, Jeff Judd and John Forbes all had 83 to secure fifth place. Jerome Krantz, Barb Judd and Dale Herfel finished out the top 10 players with an 82. From that point on the scoring pretty much dropped by one point for

each position until the last two places. Dan Meinholz had a 51 while Cathy Taylor finished with the night's low score of a disappointing 47.
After everyone enjoyed the pizza made fresh by the Red Mouse staff, League President Jerome Krantz announced the winners

of the tournament and acknowledged last year's champions. He also mentioned those receiving a skunk last season and those that recorded a perfect score. Jerome informed everyone of the first half playoff match that will be played at Kurniki's at 7 pm on December 18 between

the Norsk Cowboys and Kurniki's Pipe Benders.
The league officers hope everyone enjoys this holiday season. Stay safe and warm.
We will see you in January for the second half of the season. Good luck to all.

GLEANINGS

continued from page 3
back. That Day holds time together.
Clarence Sutter is the new manager of the Kroger Store here, taking the place of Morris Rude.
Mr. and Mrs. Bertran Stuart, Black Earth, were instantly killed on Wednesday, Dec. 12 when their car was struck by the afternoon flier on the Milwaukee Road tracks while on their way home.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kahl at Madison General Hospital on Dec. 11, 1945.
70 Years Ago- Dec. 22, 1955
The annual Christmas party sponsored by the Mount Horeb Chamber of Commerce at the Strand Theatre last Saturday was attended by over 500 children. All children at the theatre as well as about 185 others, who could not get in the theatre, were presented a box of Cracker Jacks by Santa.
Magnus Forshaug left Saturday for Long Beach, Calif.

to spend the winter with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wilson.
40 Years Ago- Dec. 19, 1985
Jennifer Crabb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Crabb, has been named to receive the 1985-86 Daughter of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen ward at Mount Horeb High School.
Denise Brunner was the

winner of a ten-day trip for two to Innsbruck, Austria, for being the tenth caller on the new radio station, WMAD Sun Prairie, on Wednesday. Her winnings also include a ½-karat diamond, and a \$300 shopping spree at Peck and Peck clothing store.
30 Years Ago- Dec. 21, 1995
Mrs. Marie Darrow fell at home and was taken to the

hospital by the ambulance. She did not break any bones, but she had pneumonia and was taken to the hospital for about 10 days. Her grandson brought her home from the hospital and she has to stay inside.
A daughter, Emma Jeanne Jackson-Smith, was born to Douglas and Mary Jackson-Smith on Monday, Dec. 11

at Meriter Hospital.
William and Rae Thousand of Professional Computer Solutions, Madison, recently received two Great Plains Sales awards for outstanding sale and achievement.

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Recreation Notes

NEW CLASS ALERT! The Rec. Dept. has added **Adult CPR/AED/1ST AID** along with **Adult CPR/AED/1ST AID** to our winter offerings. Learn essential lifesaving skills in CPR, AED use, and First Aid for adults, children, and infants. After successful completion of this course, students will receive the Red Cross Certification. This class is a blended learning program with an online portion that must be completed prior to the in-person class on Jan. 20th. Each class costs \$90 for residents and \$100 for non-residents. The registration deadline is January 14th.

Looking for some family fun this January? Sign your family and friends up for **Puzzle Palooza!** Teams of up to four people will race to complete a 500-piece puzzle while competing for prizes! Puzzles and snacks will be provided. This event takes place at 6 pm on January 16th. The cost is \$15 per team for residents and \$25 per team for non-residents. The registration deadline is January 3rd.

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.

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
12/29, Slow Flow Yoga
12/30, Total Body Fitness (Winter Session)
12/30, Water Exercise (Winter Session)
1/2, Puzzle Palooza
1/3, YEL Bricktopia Catapults
1/8, YEL Video Game Design

WisPolitics-State Affairs

A rematch brewing for 2026 attorney general’s race

By WisPolitics-State Affairs

Next year Wisconsin voters will see the first open governor’s race since 2010 with Dem Gov. Tony Evers opting against a run for a third four-year term.

But contrary to conventional wisdom just a couple months ago, next year’s attorney general’s race is looking like a rematch from 2022: Josh Kaul vs. Eric Toney.

So much for conventional wisdom.

The broad expectation after Evers made his announcement in July was that Kaul, the incumbent AG who has been on the ballot with Evers in 2018

and 2022, would run for governor and be the anointed frontrunner.

But the longer Kaul didn’t jump in the governor’s race, the more the chatter spread that he wouldn’t run.

Kaul confirmed that in early October when he announced his intention to seek reelection as attorney general to continue his efforts to fight the Trump administration in the courts.

In a phone interview with WisPolitics, Kaul said personal reasons also factored into his decision to pass on a run for governor next year.

“I think this is a pivotal time for the nation,” Kaul said. “Some of our most

basic rights are under threat. I think it’s really critical that we have an AG that will protect our freedoms and the rule of law.”

Kaul said he will focus his reelection campaign on investing in public safety, protecting the things that impact the quality of life and opportunities for Wisconsinites, and reproductive freedom. Kaul said he’s proud his name is on the state Supreme Court ruling that overturned an 1849 law that banned abortion except to save the life of the mother.

And his likely opponent? Enter Eric Toney -- again.

Kaul beat the Fond du La County district attorney in 2022 by 35,000 votes as Evers won by 90,239.

Toney joined Kaul two years ago in calling for additional resources for the labs, only for the GOP-controlled Legislature to largely reject the AG’s request. In this budget, Kaul sought 19 additional positions. Evers proposed six in the budget he sent to the Legislature, but Republicans didn’t approve any new positions.

The Legislative Audit Bureau last year found the average turnaround time to complete an analysis

increased from 39 days in 2019-20 to 58 days in 2022-23 even as requests for testing dropped 13%.

“I’m proud of the work that we’re doing there, but I’m going to continue to be an advocate for those resources that are needed for the lab,” Kaul said.

In the meantime, insiders are watching to see if Toney can avoid a GOP primary this time and how the national mood will play into a second go-around with Kaul.

If he avoids a primary, Toney will still have to worry about the strength of the GOP gubernatorial nominee and how nationalized the race could become.

Businessman Tim Michels’ loss by 90,239 votes surely didn’t help Toney’s cause in 2022, insiders say. And while it was a midterm election with Joe Biden in the White House, the liberal furor over the U.S. Supreme Court overturning the right to an abortion produced a good Dem environment in Wisconsin.

Now with Trump back in the White House, the question is how the president’s standing with voters will impact Republicans up and down

the ticket.

Some argue Toney also has an interesting choice to make about how to approach the president. Does he seek to nationalize the race -- and pump up Trump supporters -- by vowing to end each and every one of Kaul’s lawsuits against the president’s administration? Or does he cast Kaul as too preoccupied with national fights to take care of issues like the turnaround rate at the state crime lab?

Along with the lab, Toney could seek to knock Kaul on immigration with the fights Trump has waged across the country. And he could point to the Dem incumbent’s appeal of a ruling requiring the state to ensure no one in the country illegally is on Wisconsin’s voter registration list to drive home that point.

Toney has his issues, too, after he was dinged in the 2022 campaign for declining to rule out prosecuting abortion cases under an 1849 law that had been interpreted as banning all abortions except to save the life of the mother.

While the law has now been overturned, some still see potency in the issue, particularly with Planned Parenthood halting

abortions at three clinics, citing passage of provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Insiders also note winning a third term is no cakewalk in Wisconsin unless you’re a member of Congress or the U.S. Senate. Former GOP Gov. Tommy Thompson and former Dem AG Jim Doyle did it, but former GOP Gov. Scott Walker failed in his bid to serve 12 years in the office.

Some Republicans are bullish on Toney’s chances. He’s got additional time in office under his belt, served as president of the Wisconsin District Attorney’s Association and will have the support of local prosecutors across the state.

Still, others question the public’s appetite for rematches. If 2026 follows the pattern of midterms being bad for the party in power in the White House and if the power of incumbency is still an advantage even when seeking a third term, Kaul starts as the insiders’ favorite.

For more, go to www.wispolitics.com

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

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

Mt. Horeb United Methodist
Corner of Hwy. S & Hwy. 78
Sunday Worship: 9am online
and in person
umcmh.org
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Springdale Lutheran Church
2752 Town Hall Rd. 608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: 1st, 3rd & 5th
Sundays of the month at 10am
twosteeples.org

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

St. Michael The Archangel Parish
~St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Thurs-Friday, 8:00 am;
Sat. 5:00 pm

~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr.,
Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am

Vermont Lutheran Church- ELCA
9886 Vermont Church Road
Black Earth, WI 53515
www.vermontlutheran.org
608-767-3312 (office)
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ
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608-832-6677
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New Hope Evangelical Free Church
639 S. Eighth St., Mt. Horeb
Phone: 608-437-3273
www.newhopeefc.org
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Service

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

Winter Reading

By Jessica Gretzinger

Library staff really want to encourage reading this winter – and year-round! To that end, we are offering a lot of reading incentives in the upcoming months. For the month of December, we are honoring Jane Austen’s 250th birthday with a Jane-o

Bingo game and the chance to win a collector’s set of three of her popular novels. To participate, all you need to do is check out library materials!

In January, we will host a “Winter Reading Challenge.” We challenge you to check out 40 items and make your way through all of them (to the best of your ability)! The challenge runs January through March so you will have ample time!

We will provide you with support and a fun way to keep track of your progress! Those who complete the challenge will have the chance to win fun prizes!

The library wants to help our community prioritize reading for all ages. People are reading less and less. According to Hallie Rich, the Editorial Director of the *Library Journal*, “A new study from University College London and the Univer-

sity of Florida published in *iScience* found that the share of Americans who reported reading for pleasure fell to 16 percent in 2023 – a 40 percent drop over a 20-year period.” (Library Journal, December 2025).

All incentives are aimed at making reading fun for each member of our community. Let’s read for the fun of it, Mount Horeb! Stop by your library today and get started.

County Executive Agard Celebrates 90 Years of Dane County Parks

County Executive Melissa Agard joined community members, staff, and volunteers on October 9, 2025, at the Lussier Heritage Center to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Dane County Parks, marking nine decades of stewardship, conservation, and community connection.

“When the Dane County Parks system began back in 1935 it was with a single park, Stewart Lake County Park in Mount Horeb,” said County Executive Agard. “That first park was the seed of an idea: that protecting land for public use wasn’t just good policy, it was an

investment in our collective future. Ninety years later, that seed has grown into something truly remarkable.”

From its humble beginnings, the Dane County Parks system has expanded to include more than 19,000 acres of protected land, serving as a cornerstone of the county’s commitment to conservation, recreation, and community well-being. Each year, more than 3,000 volunteers contribute over 50,000 hours of service, helping maintain trails, restore prairies, lead educational programs, and ensure that parks remain accessible

and vibrant for all residents.

Agard thanked those who have helped make the system what it is today, including Laura Hicklin, Director of the Land & Water Resources Department; Joleen Stinson, Dane County Parks Director; Aaron Mullins, Executive Director of the Foundation for Dane County Parks; and Tom Wilson, the Foundation’s new Board President.

“Our success is built not only on the work of our county staff, but also on the incredible generosity of our residents,” Agard said. “To our Parks staff and volunteers, you are the heart and

hands of this work, and the reason our parks continue to thrive.”

Since its founding in 2017, the Foundation for Dane County Parks has raised more than \$4 million to strengthen and sustain the park system. These funds have helped grow youth programming that now serves over 1,000 young people each year, connecting the next generation to nature and inspiring future conservation leaders.

To commemorate the milestone anniversary, the Foundation has also launched a new initiative, Adopt-an-Acre, giving resi-

dents and local businesses a way to directly support the preservation of Dane County’s most cherished lands.

“As we look ahead, we stand on a foundation built by generations of visionaries, people who understood that the health of our land and water is tied to the health of our community,” Agard said. “Our job now is to honor that legacy by protecting it for the next 90 years and beyond.”

Agard also highlighted her personal “25 for 25 Challenge,” a commitment she made at her swearing-in ceremony to visit all 25 Dane County recreation

parks during her first year in office. “It’s been a joy,” she said. “I’m closing in on my goal, and if anyone wants to join me on one of these visits, please contact my office.”

The event at the Lussier Heritage Center featured remarks, volunteer recognition, and reflections on the past, present, and future of Dane County’s beloved parks system.

“Happy 90th Anniversary, Dane County Parks,” Agard concluded. “Here’s to the next chapter in this incredible story.”

DNR Announces New Online Tool to Help Private Well Owners Interpret Water Lab Test Results

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced the launch of Be Well Informed, an online tool located at <https://naturalresources.extension.wisc.edu/emerging-contaminants-outreach/understanding-my-laboratory-results> that can help private well owners interpret their drinking water lab test results.

The DNR partnered with the UW-Madison Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and UW-Madison Division of Extension to design the Wisconsin version of Be Well Informed. The tool is tailored to Wisconsin’s drinking water environment and includes current water guidelines and standards.

Resources are also available to help private well owners make informed decisions about the results.

“I’m pleased that Wisconsin is able to provide this valuable tool to help private well owners make sense of their drinking water test results,” said Marty Nessman, DNR Private Water Supply Section Manager. “Understanding the well water lab

report is an important step toward correcting any water quality issues that may exist.”

A well owner can simply enter the test results provided by a certified laboratory, and the tool generates a report that explains the results and provides educational resources for any recommended next steps.

Wisconsin has over

800,000 private wells that serve about one-quarter of the state’s population. While most private water wells in Wisconsin provide safe drinking water, some may become contaminated with bacteria and other contaminants that can affect health.

Testing your well is the best way to make sure your water is safe. The DNR rec-

ommends that private well owners test their water at least annually and whenever there is a change in the taste, odor or color of the water.

More information is available for well owners on the DNR’s Private Well Owners webpage by visiting <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wells/homeowners.html>.

GRUMPY

continued from page 1

see Knoebl scrubbing stainless steel tanks or lugging sacks of barley or hops. But while the job has its blue-collar elements, it is the science of it, and the art, that makes him fall in love with his job day after day, year after year.

“It’s the execution of it,” he explains. “I still do rustic pilot brewing at home to test new batches, to test the process, the formulations, that’s how quite of the few that we make here get started. That kind of gets me excited.”

Does he really never get tired of making beer after all these years?

“No,” he replies with a swift glint in his eye. “Never. I’m always excited because beer is ever evolving. You can always make it taste better. You can play around with the grains and hops.”

Knoebl journeys to Germany on a regular basis to study his craft. It’s something of a homecoming for him.

“My dad was from Germany and my mom was from Sweden, and my uncle back in Germany worked at a brewery, so beer is kind of in my heritage and traditions,” he said. “I’ve been interested in it since I was 14 or 15.”

When Knoebl graduated from high school in the early 1980s, however, the American craft brewing landscape was essentially a wasteland. “Back then, there were probably only 40 or 50 breweries in the country,” he said. “So



Robin Pharo and Tim Duerst bought the Grumpy Troll in 2019. When Tim died last year, the brewmaster made a special beer named “Business As Usual” to honor his legacy.

I got into homebrewing.”

“Back then, beer in this country had kind of descended into one kind, the light lager, it was all basically homogenized,” he said. “There were just these small remnants of other styles.”

Today, there are nearly 10,000 breweries in the United States, and customers can find every imaginable style on the shelf of nearly any grocery store. But Grumpy Troll’s beers are sold on site, just a few feet from where they were brewed, and the menu’s rotation is constantly changing. At any given moment, Knoebl tries to have at least one of every major type of beer on tap, from stouts and

porters to English and Belgian Ales, along with everything in between.

“My philosophy has always been to try to cover the basics,” he says. “I want anyone who likes any certain type of beer to have a couple choices. This is a rural area where we get people from

all walks of life, and I want to have something on tap for all of them.”

Knoebl said he has forged close bonds with all of Grumpy’s owners. One of the strongest was with Tim Duerst. “He was an incredibly steadying force,” Knoebl says. “He had this thing

where he would always say, ‘Mark, just keep doing what you’re doing.’”

Duerst purchased the Grumpy Troll in 2019, along with his wife and business partner Robin Pharo. While the pair were savvy in the world of business, their interest in the Troll was a personal one; they had long loved the world of craft beer and had traveled extensively to breweries where they enjoyed comradery, tradition, innovation and a good beverage.

When Duerst died unexpectedly in November of last year, Knoebl decided he would pay tribute to his departed friend and boss the best way he knew how: by making a beer in his honor. Named “Business As Usual” in a nod to Duerst’s calm and steadfast leadership, it’s a strong West Coast double IPA featuring Amarillo, Centennial, Citra, Columbus, Simcoe and Warrior hops.

“Business As Usual is his beer, and it will come back every year,” he said. “He always had my back. And [manager] James [Speilman] and [owner] Robin [Pharo] have always had my back, too.”

Grumpy’s customers have

proven loyal as well, helping the brewpub survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’re grateful for our loyal mug club members, our regulars,” Knoebl says. “And we’re grateful for our regulars from around the region. We have people who make a point to come here from Minnesota or Iowa once a year, and we appreciate them, too.” The customers run the gambit, from skiers and hikers to bikers and local families.

Grumpy Troll has now been there for a quarter century, and Knoebl says he thinks people appreciate the fact that, in good times and bad, they can always go there and find business as usual.

“As a brewer, you want to establish a place and a name,” he says. “You don’t want to cut and run.”

He feels that after all these years, it’s comforting to know that some things – some beverages and some places – stand the test of time.

“I want others to like beer,” he says. “I think it’s wholesome beverage that comes from natural products and has stood the test of time.”

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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. Pictured above is the above 60 or below 18 group from 2025.

COMPLAINT

continued from page 1

at Milwaukee.

“What sparked my interest is that as a village we are at that point where growth is right in front of us, and we have an opportunity to move the village in a direction that allows for growth in a sensible manner while enhancing what makes Mount Horeb unique and attractive to visitors and potential residents,” said Schellpfeffer when he was initially appointed to the board two years ago.

“I believe with careful planning and leadership we can address the needs for growing our commercial tax base to help take the load off just our residents and their property taxes, increase what is much-needed recreational/park space, and continue to develop selectively in our downtown to continue to enhance the wonderful sense of place and activity that draws so many to our village,” Schellpfeffer continued. “I fully admit that growth can sometimes feel hard and uncomfortable, but I believe with open and productive conversation where all voices have a chance to be heard we will create an

outcome that all parties can be proud of and support.”

According to the company CaS4’s website Schellpfeffer started CaS4 Architecture “with the vision of fostering strong lasting relationships with our Clients.”

The recent ethics complaint claims he should not vote on Langhús due to his work as an architect.

“Marc Schellpfeffer (CaS4 Architecture LLC) has worked with Jeff Grundahl, through JG Development and their subsidiaries, on at least two projects, the most recent being last year with subsidiary Brio Design Homes,” alleges the complaint. “This establishes a pattern of a working relationship, creating a conflict of interest in voting. Additionally, Mark’s speaking at the Public Hearing on Oct. 22 clearly states his intentions of wanting to vote yes without looking at all of the facts and how the project meets zoning requirements. This is not appropriate for a Trustee to voice their position on a project they will be possibly voting on in the near future.”

“The Trustee should recuse himself from discussion and voting on all matters

concerning Jeff Grundahl and the Langhus project,” the complaint added. The citizen indicated they would be willing to testify in court regarding the accusations.

Wisconsin law prohibits elected officials from voting on matters from which they or members of their immediate family will directly benefit, but there are no statutes prohibiting trustees from voicing their personal opinions on development proposals that may come before the board(s) on which they sit. State law also does not prohibit a board member from voting on matters brought by individuals with whom they previously worked, although some elected officials opt to recuse themselves in certain situations to prevent the appearance of a conflict of interest.

The November 30 complaint, which was filed by a local citizen, includes what appears to be a screenshot of a Facebook post regarding National Construction and CaS4 Architecture working on the Academy of Little Vikings 4K & Childcare. It also includes a screenshot of a post by Brio Design Homes that mentioned CaS4 Architecture, which it says developed the original floorplans.

Grundahl told the newspaper that the only time his company directly paid

Schellpfeffer was 12 years ago for work on the Academy of Little Vikings 4K & Childcare, and that it was requested by the owner in that case.

Village administrator Nic Owen announced in a public meeting in early December that the village board had decided to delay a vote on the Langhús development until its legal counsel had fully reviewed the complaint. The village provided the ethics complaint document immediately upon receiving an open records request from the *Mail* that same week. Owen said as of Monday this week there was no official decision yet from the village attorney on the matter.

Wisconsin law (19.59) states: “No local public official may use his or her public position or office to obtain financial gain or anything of substantial value for the private benefit of himself or herself or his or her immediate family, or for an organization with which he or she is associated. A violation of this paragraph includes the acceptance of free or discounted admissions to a professional baseball or football game by a member of the district board of a local professional baseball park district created under subch. III of ch. 229 or a local professional football stadium district cre-

ated under subch. IV of ch. 229. This paragraph does not prohibit a local public official from using the title or prestige of his or her office to obtain campaign contributions that are permitted and reported as required by ch11. This paragraph does not prohibit a local public official from obtaining anything of value from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation or the department of tourism, as provided under s. 19.56 (3) (f).”

“No person may offer or give to a local public official, directly or indirectly, and no local public official may solicit or accept from any person, directly or indirectly, anything of value if it could reasonably be expected to influence the local public official’s vote, official actions or judgment, or could reasonably be considered as a reward for any official action or inaction on the part of the local public official,” the statute continues. “This paragraph does not prohibit a local public official from engaging in outside employment.”

“No local public official or candidate for local public office may, directly or by means of an agent, give, or offer or promise to give, or withhold, or offer or promise to withhold, his or her vote or influence, or promise to take or refrain from

taking official action with respect to any proposed or pending matter in consideration of, or upon condition that, any other person make or refrain from making a political contribution, or provide or refrain from providing any service or other thing of value, to or for the benefit of a candidate, a political party, any committee registered under ch. 11, or any person making a communication that contains a reference to a clearly identified local public official holding an elective office or to a candidate for local public office,” the law adds.

An elected official also may not use “his or her office or position in a way that produces or assists in the production of a substantial benefit, direct or indirect, for the official, one or more members of the official’s immediate family either separately or together, or an organization with which the official is associated.”

The *Mail* on December 9 submitted a request to Schellpfeffer asking for information about any business relationships he had with Grundahl. Schellpfeffer did not respond. Owen said over the weekend that once the village makes a decision regarding the complaint, the village will immediately turn over the requested details.

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Jack Schultek and Marc Stoddard named Student Rotarians

Jack Schultek and Marc Stoddard have been lunching with the Mount Horeb Rotary Club during November and December, and sharing their activities at Mount Horeb Area High School.

Schultek has been involved with Green Team, a joint project of high school students, community members and Rotary for four years, and currently serves as Green Team president. He’s also president of the student council, a student representative on the school board, and active in DECA for three years. He’s also in National Honor Society, Club Interact, and Link Crew.

You may see Schultek working at Mount Horeb Family Pharmacy. He’s also training to be an EMT, taking evening classes at Madison College two nights a week. Last summer, he did a research project in a prostate cancer research lab at the UW Carbone Cancer Center. Schultek, the son of Christine and Erik Schultek, hopes to attend college to study neuroscience or another biology major, with the goal of attending medical school. He is the brother of Lucas and Devin Schultek.

Stoddard also had a busy fall, competing on the Cross Country team and acting and singing in the fall musical Mary Poppins. He’s in the winter running club, and in the spring, he runs on the track team. Some of his other school activities include band, choir, musicals, Science Olympiad, Future Problem Solvers, and chess club. Outside of school, Stoddard has been a 10-year member of the Springdale 4-H club and he also volunteers with GATERS Search and Rescue.

Stoddard, the son of Jan and Jennifer Stoddard, plans to attend UW-Milwaukee to study history and education and become a high school social studies teacher. He has five siblings: Kurtis, Cheri, Matthew, Patrick and Joseph.

Application process open for Historium Student Spotlight



Pictured above, 2025 Student Spotlight artists Josetta Donaldson and Anneli Wik post with MHHS art teachers Anna King and Dana Showers at their July reception and exhibit debut.

The Driftless Historium is accepting applications for the 2026 Student Spotlight. This seventh annual partnership of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society and the Mount Horeb High School Art Department fosters and celebrates the talent of area youth. The selected student artists are awarded a project budget, made possible by Historical Society donors, to curate, install and promote their own art installation and host an artist reception. Throughout the process, MHAHS Director Destinee Udelhoven and MHHS educators Dana Showers and Dana King provide mentoring and guidance.

The Student Spotlight art show will debut in the Driftless Historium’s Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Gallery for a six-week summer residency. The museum’s highly trafficked downtown location (100 S 2nd St) and growing reputation as a regional art space offers high visibility in a professional venue. Past participants have received extensive media attention, including newspaper features and television interviews.

This opportunity is open to Mount Horeb High School students and those studying at an equivalent level within the district, with no previous gallery or museum experience required. Applications are available at www.mthorebhistory.org (search “Student Spotlight”) or at the Driftless Historium front desk (open Friday to Tuesday, 10:00am to 4:00pm). Completed forms can be dropped off on site or submitted via email to mthorebahs@gmail.com. The application deadline is Thursday, January 15. All applications will be reviewed by committee, with the selected student artist notified on Monday, February 02. For more information, call 608-437-6486.

School District Celebrates Eighth Grader Marissa Czyzewski in Board of Education Student Spotlight

The Mount Horeb Area School District is proud to honor Marissa Czyzewski, an eighth grader at Mount Horeb Middle School, as this month’s Student Spotlight recipient. Marissa exemplifies the District’s focus on learning and growth, well-being, and community engagement, and she is widely admired by staff for her character, leadership, and dedication.

Teachers describe Marissa as exceptionally kind, inclusive, and positive—someone who consistently brightens the school community. She brings a warm, welcoming attitude each day and models strong integrity by doing what is right, even when it may be difficult. Her thoughtful, friendly nature and quiet leadership strengthen classroom environments and help create a sense of belonging for all



Pictured (from left to right): Middle School teachers Jennifer Stoddard and Stephanie Schlimgen, father Ryan Czyzewski, sister Jaina, Superintendent Dr. Salerno, mother Amy Czyzewski, Marissa, Principal Christiansen, Assistant Principal Goninen, as well as Board Treasurer and Board Liaison to the Middle School, Joel Craven.

students.

Beyond her daily interactions, Marissa contributes significantly to the broader school community. She is an active member of Sources of Strength, a peer leadership group focused on building resilience and connection, and she has been a committed member of the Yearbook Club for all three years of middle school. Her teachers share that whether she’s helping a peer, participating in an activity, or simply

sharing her sense of humor, Marissa makes Mount Horeb Middle School a better place.

Marissa’s strong character is matched by her impressive dedication across academics, music, and athletics. She is a motivated and hardworking student who eagerly engages in learning—whether participating fully in math, discussing books in ELA, or supporting classmates in choir. Her achievements reflect her commitment: she earned a perfect score at a music festival and was recognized with the Front Runner Award in cross country.

The Mount Horeb Area School District “is proud to celebrate Marissa for the many ways she contributes to a supportive, thriving school community.”



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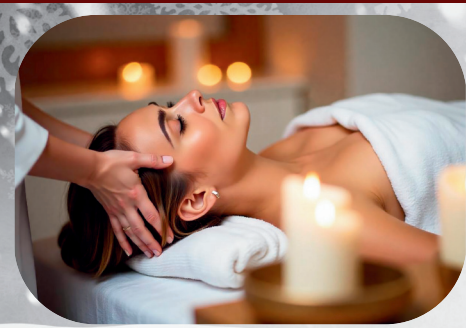


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TOWN

continued from page 1

ing “that’s the reason we’re here.” He continued, “notice there is no property, no individual name given, nothing.” Throughout the hour-long meeting, both staff and the other two supervisors raised questions and noted confusion regarding the meeting’s purpose, scope and urgency.

Clerk Amanda Burghy noted that Brixy had emailed her to “arrange and confirm a special board meeting, open to the public, for the specific purpose of engaging special or specific legal counsel for alleged zoning and building code violations occurring within boundaries” of a specifically identified parcel. Burghy went on to say that the specific parcel directly involved the resident that Brixy “just had leave” prior to the meeting’s official start. Brixy acknowledged that an original communication was sent and that it involved an issue brought forward by General Engineering Company (GEC) regarding the specific property. Before continuing discussion, Brixy requested that everyone on the Board, including staff, “please refrain and have some decorum.”

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Curt Winter noted that Brixy’s meeting directive came on Thursday, November 20, at 8 p.m., with the Town office already closed until Monday. Staff believed they were tasked to address the directive. Winter noted that staff were surprised to see the meeting’s purpose now “watered down” and went from talking to lawyers about a specific parcel to “let’s just get together and chat about zoning violations and how we’re going to handle them.” Winter stated that what staff understood as the intent of the meeting, went “from an emergency meeting to something that, quite frankly, is very routine.” After some back and forth between Brixy and staff, Winter asked the other two supervisors whether they were “really just going to sit here and listen to this?”

Brixy stated it is the Chairman’s choice to decide “what’s on the agenda.” Questions continued as to the urgency of holding a special meeting policy discussion on a holiday week. Brixy called the meeting

back to order to discuss a citation ordinance. He described his independent review and found “some lackings in the ordinance as it sits right now,” noting that a citation couldn’t be issued as it stood because the “Town would be in a weak legal position.”

Throughout the meeting, Brixy asked the other supervisors whether the Town should seek one time counsel and bring the ordinance up to standard. He noted reaching out to three law firms for cost estimates, via a generalized letter. Resident Matthew Smith asked, “were these violations that egregious that they needed this dire attention?” Supervisor Mary Ann Bellazzini interjected that the Board could not take up the possible violations since it wasn’t on the agenda.

Brixy went on to explain that the ordinance doesn’t indicate “who is in charge” and that the Town hasn’t issued a citation since 2014. He emphasized the need for a standard form or template. Brixy recognized Smith to ask a question. Smith asked, “since the Town of Blue Mounds pulled out of Dane County Zoning, would other Towns have citations that are issued by Dane County that would come into play here?” Brixy responded that “Dane County has nothing to do with the Towns that pulled out.” After additional discussion between Brixy and Smith, VanDomelen asked whether the Board was going to review the ordinance and whether there should be a back and forth with the audience. Bellazzini clarified that the agenda did not include public comments, apologizing to Smith for limiting input.

Concerning legal counsel, Brixy questioned additional needs such as identifying the appropriate courts and setting fee schedules. He went on to ask whether there is an agreement between Dane County and the Town and who was responsible for violations and citations. He would like legal counsel to answer the questions. He noted an upcoming Six Towns Zoning Discussion Group meeting that will include the need of updating ordinances.

Brixy acknowledged that the “original discussion of the meeting started somewhere else, but over time and discussion it came down

to simply what we need to do is bring the town citation ordinance up to legal clarification and specifications before we ever consider issuing a citation ordinance against anybody. That’s the reason for the meeting.”

VanDomelen noted a misunderstanding due to a November 24 email stating the meeting’s purpose was for “the specific purpose of engaging special or specific legal counsel” related to alleged zoning violations. He went on to state that he would not have attended a “non-emergency meeting.” Brixy again acknowledged the original purpose of the meeting and how it had changed. He again asked the Board whether they were willing to engage legal counsel.

Bellazzini then questioned the meetings scope and whether Board action was appropriate, given the agenda item was only posted as discussion and review.

Brixy repeated to the supervisors that the citation ordinance needs to be updated. He went on to say “I can’t call Rick, and I can’t call you and say Hey, I think this needs to go on, what do you think. You know, then this has to go through this convoluted process of back and forth, back and forth, back and forth, not everyone is in on every email. Okay, a process, that I don’t think is the best, but that’s the one that’s there right now.” He went on to talk about serving on previous boards and “simple conversations of hey, let’s put this on the agenda or let’s do this for this reason is somehow turned into a violation of state law. Okay. Which, I don’t see that living up to neither the spirit of what the law means.” He emphasized need for the special meeting and a legal counsel decision because of what “appears to be further board action that may take place before the next meeting.”

VanDomelen mentioned previous board discussions with a couple law firms that could be considered. He acknowledged there may be a need for citation, but “did anybody sit down like adults and talk with them and try to come to a resolution before getting your big legal club out?” VanDomelen stated his preference of having a conversation with people before sending in a lawyer. Brixy confirmed that a building inspector was involved on the specific parcel and had issued the Chair’s “cease and desist” order.

VanDomelen suggested the specific item be added to the December meeting agenda for a more detailed permitting conversation with the landowner. Brixy reiterated his preference to handle the legal questions now.

Discussion turned to legal costs. Brixy noted that one of three legal firms responded to his general inquiry. Regarding hiring a legal firm, Bellazzini noted the Chair should not engage counsel without board direction. Brixy again expressed the special meeting’s purpose was because of the need for legal counsel. He stated, “I didn’t pick the ground rules, whether they be under the Open Meetings Act or something else. A special board meeting was the only time.” Brixy then asked the other supervisors, “do you want to update Citation Ordinance 12, so that should any action in the future be needed, these questions and another meeting like this won’t be necessary?” He went on to say that there was a “lack of administrative work between 2014 and today.”

VanDomelen commented about the special meetings false premise. He articulated that in his view “all ordinances should probably be reviewed and brought up to date where needed” again noting earlier discussions with other law firms. At that time, the board chose not to take action. Brixy believes this is the “preeminent ordinance” that needs to be addressed now.

Winter suggested using a more organized approach for reviewing multiple ordinances in the future and ways of limiting costs. Should a firm be hired for review of the citation ordinance, Bellazzini and VanDomelen expressed the need for prior notification so as not to exceed \$500. Brixy agreed.

Based on Brixy’s recommendation, Bellazzini moved and VanDomelen seconded a one-time basis hiring of Sean P Griffin of West & Dunn for review and revision of Citation Ordinance #12. Motion carried 3-0.

On December 1st, the proposed 2026 Budget Hearing, review and approval of the proposed 2026 expenditures along with a Special Town of Electors meeting adopting the 2026 tax levy took just over 30 minutes. Joining the board and staff were four residents and a non-voting landowner.

For agenda item “Budget Presentation,” Brixy began by describing the public hearing notice and what was published. He then asked: “for anyone who reviewed the budget, from the public, did you have any overall questions or specific questions.” Landowner, Helen Kahl requested an explanation for the 2026 Taxes/Credits Received growing to \$409,845 from 2025’s \$330,479. Reasons given included the levy, new construction, payments on a road construction loan, and a fire department overage.

State of Wisconsin requirements were also explained.

Further back and forth discussion occurred on the necessity of loans when there are existing reserves. Also, potential reactions to property revaluations, debt service documentation, road maintenance fund reduction, levy limits allowed, new truck set-aside, budget balancing and “Supplemental Tax” and “Payroll other” components were reviewed.

VanDomelen initiated follow-up on past “sinking funds” conversations. It was clarified that in order to establish a sinking fund, the board needs to include it in the 2026 budget. The fund doesn’t actually exist and will not exist unless considered and approved at a later date. If not approved, the fund reverts to the General Fund.

The board and electors approved the 2026 Budget and set the 2025 Property Tax Levy at \$409,845.00. Further resolved was fund approvals for the New Truck reserve, Revaluation Reserve, Sinking Fund, and General Reserve.

On December 9, the Board held their monthly regularly scheduled supervisors’ meeting. After approving four previous meetings’ minutes, the board heard from Dane County Deputy, Haley Collins. Collins presented the 2025 January through November Town statistics along with safety and education information. There were 374 calls for service and 30 citations written within the Town’s boundaries. She emphasized that should someone accidentally call 911, don’t “hang up.” Rather, stay on the line and let them know you’re okay. Collins provided information on liaison responsibilities, municipal law response coordination and available resources.

Zoning matters began with VanDomelen describing a Highway E parcel site visit he and Winter completed. Discussion focused on possible options including appropriate zoning, plumbing, construction and conditional use permitting (CUP). After hearing input from the owner, the board approved the landowner moving forward. The decision included building inspector “electrical” sign off and allowing for a January meeting on the CUP.

Additionally, the board approved driveway construction on W Blue Mounds Rd and parcel boundary changes off Hwy Z. There were two concept discussions. The first involved JAR Storage, a relocatable self-storage unit business on High Ridge Road. Supervisors said they would followup with the Land Use Committee (LUC) on whether self-storage unit

ordinance updates are necessary, then include further discussion at the January board meeting. The second concept found the board reviewing and advising on new home construction off Blue Rock Road.

For Public Works, Ross Powers reported snow removal efforts, sign and guardrail fixes, and truck maintenance. VanDomelen asked for a new truck estimate. Powers responded between \$150,00 to \$160,000. Powers also brought up replacing the big brush mower and the possibility of saving \$2500 if ordered yet this year. Estimated total cost is \$26,000. Burghy requested also knowing repair costs. Brixy suggested getting numbers to Burghy and the board as soon as possible.

The board accepted the LUC Summary Report, submitted by Kevin Depies. There was mention of having board members meet with the LUC. Discussion could include revision of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan and consideration of a unified driveway ordinance.

The board also approved the 2026-2027 Election Cycle Poll Workers list and the 2026-2027 Capital Area Regional Planning Commission Agreement. Additionally, they received the GEC 2026 Standard Zoning Administration Services Fee Schedule.

Burghy mentioned she will be notifying people of a new “.gov” email address. A successful grant application will cover costs for the first five years.

The board approved Checks and Bill Payments of \$21,724.47 as of November 30, 2025.

Toward the end of the meeting, Brixy announced his resignation. Bellazzini opened discussion regarding the December 2025 to April 2027 Interim Chair position. VanDomelen expressed interest in the position with the belief that having one of the existing experienced supervisors step in and serve might be more beneficial. He also said it may be “much easier to find a supervisor; somebody willing to be a supervisor.” VanDomelen was appointed Interim Chair with Bellazzini’s nomination and Burgy’s second. Supervisors agreed to have more specific questions and simple resumes submitted from people interested in the Supervisor 2 position. The goal is to appoint a new supervisor at the January meeting, however, should it take longer, the board will continue with the existing two supervisor quorum. VanDomelen completed the oath of office.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is set for January 13, 7 p.m., 2026.



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AUCTION

continued from page 2

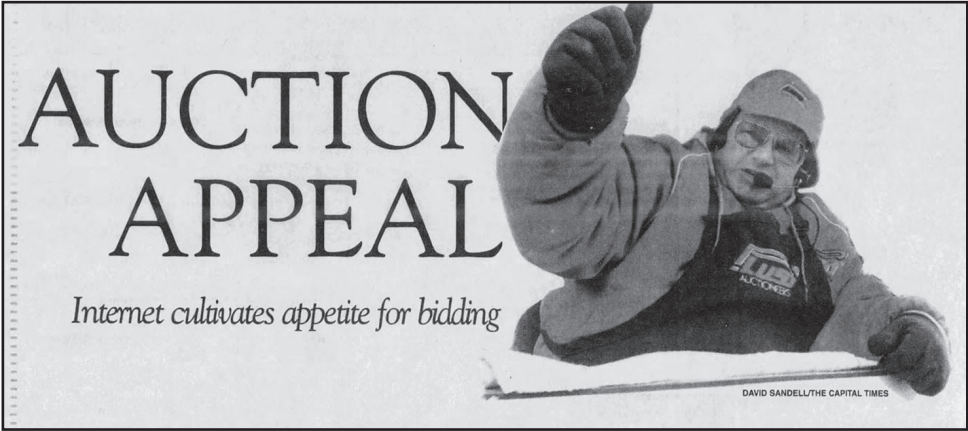
the sale of the same vehicle at a live auction. While they only held a handful of online auctions that first year, they steadily grew that portion of the business and had fully transitioned to the new business model by the end of the decade.

By 2010 they had also outgrown their existing office and storage space, so they purchased and remodeled the Birrenkott building at 104 South Grove Street, which is adjacent to the Front Street property where Richard first started the business.

They continue to work with the State of Wisconsin

to this day and now hold over 2,400 auctions a year online. The business sells everything from household items to surplus assets, tax delinquent properties, and real estate for not only the State of Wisconsin, but many municipalities, all 13 campuses within the University of Wisconsin system, businesses like Epic Systems, and the general public. They have conducted thousands of online auctions for clients in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, and Minnesota.

While the process has become streamlined, the variety of items that the Lust’s handle keeps the job interesting. They regularly auction firetrucks, school buses, ambulances, snowplows,



road building equipment, school desks, police cars, lawn and garden equipment, and a variety of fleet vehicles. They still enjoy a challenge, and Richard fondly remembers the tugboat they sold for UW Superior and a ship-to-shore crane that they sold to a buyer in Pennsylvania. Matt knew the online business was taking off when they were able to handle the sale of enormous propane tanks (propane included) for the Department of Military Affairs and when they sold a rest area previously owned by Wisconsin’s Department of Transportation for \$1.4 million.

Today the Lusts employ 40 people and have moved from their downtown location to a 23-acre campus on Highway 78, south of Mount Horeb. The property includes a shop, office, a 100x200-foot hoop building, and several storage units. 2025 marked Richard’s 80th birthday and his 50th year as an auctioneer.

The Lusts’ successful transition from live auctions to the online era was only made possible by the solid reputation established by Richard in the early days combined with Matt’s technical expertise and willingness to take the company into a new era. As Richard told historical society staff when we spoke with him in July of this year, “It’s not where the bid starts, it’s where it ends up,” and nobody would know that better than he would.

This article originally appeared in the Summer 2025 edition of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society’s Past Times newsletter. For more information, email mthorebahs@gmail.com.

Representative Roundup

Pharmacy Legislation

State Senator Howard Marklein recently issued a statement saying that healthcare costs are too high, and prescription drug prices are “a major reason why.” “That is why I am happy to co-sponsor legislation written by Rep. Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville), nicknamed ‘Cole’s Act,’ named after Cole Schmidt knecht from Appleton,” Marklein said. “Cole was 22-years-old when he went to the pharmacy for a routine pickup of his inhaler. He was shocked to learn that the price of his inhaler had increased from \$66 to \$539 without any prior notification. Cole decided to delay the purchase for a little bit so that he could pay his rent. Tragically, just a few days later, Cole died from an asthma attack. Sadly, many Wisconsinites have faced similar situations, encountering sudden increases in the cost of essential medication.”

Supporters said Cole’s Act addresses this problem, in addition to tackling predatory pricing practices commonly used by Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), a little-known third-party entity, that lead to higher drug prices. PBMs are the middlemen in the prescription drug supply chain. They work with drug manufacturers, insurers, and pharmacies to determine which medications are covered, how much patients pay, and how pharmacies are reimbursed. “The idea behind PBMs is not a bad one,” said Marklein. “In theory, they should leverage their buying power to deliver savings

for insurers and pharmacies that would be passed on to consumers. Unfortunately, their growing influence has placed significant pressure on small, local pharmacies as well as patients.”

“Local pharmacies are an important part of our healthcare system,” he continued. “They provide a convenient place to pick up prescriptions, offer advice on how to safely take medicine, and serve as a trusted location for vaccinations. Yet, because of the influence of PBMs, our local pharmacies are struggling. These middlemen often steer patients towards large mail-order or corporate-owned pharmacies. PBMs also reimburse local pharmacies below cost, which has forced many across the state to close their doors.”

Cole’s Act would require PBMs to reimburse local pharmacies at a fair rate so they can keep their doors open and continue serving rural areas. The bill would also prevent sudden mid-year changes in drug coverage, ensuring patients are not blindsided by unexpected cost increases. And it would guarantee that funds intended to support low-income and uninsured patients reach the people who need help most.

Baldwin Says Bailout is No Fix

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) released the following statement after President Trump announced a \$12 billion bailout to farmers who she says have been hurt by his own trade war: “Wisconsin farmers put in more

time and heart into their craft than just about anyone I know – and all they want is a fair shot to succeed,” said Senator Baldwin. “Trump knows that his trade war is crushing our farmers, and this chaos and hardship is a totally self-inflicted wound. Sadly, this package won’t even be enough to make our farmers and producers whole. We’ve spent years rebuilding relationships after Trump’s first trade war and fighting for American farmers to be able to sell their products across the world. Those markets are now gone, and this one-time check is not going to cover the years of lost business for farmers. If the President wants to get serious about helping our agriculture sector, he needs to start by ending this reckless trade war.”

Baldwin said that the Trump administration’s tariffs have made it difficult for Wisconsin dairy farmers to export milk products and for beef producers and soybean farmers to access Chinese markets. Trump’s trade war had led to China boycotting American soybeans, causing soybean prices to drop significantly and leaving farmers without places to sell their products. While China has since committed to purchasing American soybeans, Wisconsin farmers are still waiting for them to fulfill their agreement to purchase American soybeans at the promised levels.

Johnson Joins Slams Spending

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) joined U.S. Senators Rick Scott (R-Fla.)

and Mike Lee (R-Utah) in introducing a resolution opposing reckless spending in Congress.

This resolution “affirms the need for Congress to reign in overspending to help curb the inflation crisis that is crippling the families of the United States,” the senators wrote.

“As Senator Tom Coburn used to say, earmarks are the gateway drug to continued massive deficit spending and the mortgaging of our children’s future. Our nation is \$38 trillion in debt — America cannot afford irresponsible spending habits. The root cause of so many of our problems is the size, scope, and cost of the federal government. Eliminating earmarks is a step in the right direction,” Sen. Johnson said.

Jacobson On Schools

State Representative Jenna Jacobson (D-Oregon) responded to the package of bills passed in November aimed at closing rural schools: “On the last Assembly voting day of the 2025 Session, Legislative Republicans made clear their plans for education,” she said. “Their plans are closing public schools. This harms our kids and harms our rural communities. Don’t close our schools, fund them.”

Bill to Support Organic Farmers

U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Susan Collins (R-ME), and Representatives Derrick Van Orden (R-WI-03) and Andrea Salinas (D-OR-06) introduced legislation to give organic producers tools to

increase capacity, modernize their operations, and expand their businesses to meet growing demand. The *Domestic Organic Investment Act* would make a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program permanent that helps solve supply chain gaps for the organic market by providing grants to farmers and businesses. While certified organic sales have grown to over \$71.4 billion in 2024, domestic organic acreage has not kept pace with demand for organic products.

“Wisconsin is America’s Dairyland, and to keep that legacy, we need to support our farmers and make sure they can meet the demands of families. With the demand for organic foods continuing to skyrocket, we need to make sure that any farmer who wants to grow their business, has the tools and resources to do it,” said Senator Baldwin. “I’m working with Democrats and Republicans so more organic farmers can expand their operations, support good paying jobs, and continue to be the beating heart of our rural communities.”

The *Domestic Organic Investment Act* will codify the Organic Market Development Grant program administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service. Baldwin said the

development program will: Increase the capacity of the domestic organic product supply chain for producers, handlers, suppliers, and processors of certified organic products; Modernize manufacturing, tracking, storage, and information technology systems; Improve the capacity of eligible entities to comply with applicable regulatory requirements or quality standards required to access markets; Expand capacity for processing, aggregation, and distribution of certified organic products to create more and better markets for producers of certified organic products; facilitate market development for domestically produced certified organic products; Conduct feasibility studies and market viability assessments to inform organic transition strategies and opportunities; Address barriers to entry to organic product certification for historically underserved entities; Support market and promotional activities that help build commercial markets for certified organic products in the United States.

The *Domestic Organic Investment Act* is endorsed by Organic Valley and the Organic Trade Association.

CORRECTION: Tax overpayment policy

Last week’s article about the Springdale Town Board incorrectly stated that current law requires requests from the taxpayer for any amount under ten dollars. According to administrator and clerk Jackie Arthur, in actuality the town needs a policy for which small overpayments – under \$10 – require a taxpayer request, instead of the town automatically processing them. State law requires the town to refund any amount of an overpayment, no matter how small, if the taxpayer requests. The law merely allows the town to determine at which point they will automatically issue without a request, and the Springdale Board voted on \$10. Also in the article, chair Rosenbaum’s name was misspelled. The *Mail* regrets the errors.

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SPORTS

Sauk Prairie stuns Mount Horeb

Vikings suffer first loss of year

by DAN LARSON
Sports Reporter

PRAIRIE DU SAC — After all the back and forth, overcoming two big deficits and a night for the ages from Josh Manchester, it all came down to this: One shot.

One. Big. Shot.
And it wasn't attempted by Manchester, either.

Unfortunately for Mount Horeb's boys basketball team, though, it didn't go in.

Manchester rebounded a missed free throw with 7 seconds remaining and raced up the floor, finding a wide open Alex Chapman on the right wing. But the junior forward's 3-pointer clanked off the back iron, giving Sauk Prairie an 82-80, overtime win over the visiting Vikings on Dec. 12 in an early season Badger Small Conference boys basketball clash.

"I have 100 percent faith in Alex to hit that shot. He hits that shot eight out of 10 times wide open. We'll live and die with that," said Manchester, a senior who had school record 58 points in the contest. "I try to make it like it's a normal play. I don't try to go and be



Ethan Morrisard (2) and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team fell to Sauk Prairie, 82-80, in overtime on Dec. 2. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

the superhero. I've matured at that. My freshman and sophomore year I would have been like, 'I'm taking this shot no matter what.'

"We have so many other good players on the team. I know they can hit big shots."

On this night, though, they just didn't fall.

But for the Vikings, who fell to 4-1 overall and 1-1 in the Badger Small Conference, the fact they had a chance at the end was a testament to their will to win.

Mount Horeb, ranked

second in Division 2 according to the Bound Wisconsin/Zaleski media poll, trailed by 12 with a little less than 11 minutes remaining in regulation and then by eight with a minute to go in overtime.

"I liked what I saw, abso-

lutely," Vikings coach Todd Nesheim said of his team's fight. "The game was over two different times, and we came back and had a shot to win it.

"The kids kept battling. We needed a little help, obviously, and we got it.

I'm pleased with (the resilience)."

Sauk Prairie needed overtime to get the job done after Otis Andres had his mid-range jumper blocked by lanky senior Cal Odgers as time expired in regulation, sending the game to O.T. tied at 69.

The Eagles, though, played like they weren't fazed by the missed attempt at winning in regulation.

The Vikings (4-1, 1-1) scored first in overtime when senior post Hayden Anderson found Chapman cutting to the basket for a lay-up to make it 71-69.

But Andres, who had 18 of his 26 points in the second half and overtime, answered with a 3-pointer to put the Eagles ahead, 72-71. After a defensive stop, Boden Breunig, who had 25 points, drove to the basket to make it 74-71.

Sauk Prairie then went 7-of-8 at the free throw line to extend its lead to 81-73 with 1:02 left.

But Manchester wasn't going to let Mount Horeb bow out quietly. He answered with back-to-back baskets to make it 81-77 with 36 seconds to go.

Then after Sauk Prairie's Sam Patterson made one of two free throws, Manchester hit a step-back triple

continued on page 19

Gymnasts win Craig Invite

by ROB REISCHEL
Sports Editor

It's early, but Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics appear poised for another memorable season.

The Vikings won the highly-competitive, nine-team Janesville Craig Invitational on Dec. 13.

Mount Horeb finished with 135.125 points to out-distance runner-up Madison Memorial (130.875). Janesville Craig (129.75), Monona Grove (125.025) and Milton/Edgerton (120.15) rounded out the top five.

"It's still very early in the season," Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. "And I'm excited to

see our gymnasts keep improving as individuals and together as a team."

Mount Horeb's Sylviah Seeliger won the all-around competition with a 34.80, while Harper Hendrickson was second with a 34.475.

The Vikings opened on the floor exercise where Hendrickson was first with a 9.325 and Carmen Oglesby was second at 9.0. Avena Meyers and Averii Kalscheur tied for sixth place with an 8.725.

Seeliger was second on the vault with an 8.525, while the Vikings also counted scores from Meyers (8.30), Hendrickson (8.15) and Oglesby (8.025).

Seeliger won the uneven continued on page 17



Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team won the Janesville Craig Invitational on Dec. 13. Photo submitted

BADGER SMALL BOYS BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Mount Horeb picked to win league title

Vikings went undefeated in the league last season

Editors Note: This preview of the Badger Small boys basketball season was compiled by Maxpreps.com.

2024-25
STANDINGS

- 1. Mount Horeb, 14-0
- 2. McFarland, 11-3
- 3. Stoughton, 10-4
- 4. Baraboo, 7-7
- 5. Edgewood, 5-9
- 6. Sauk Prairie, 5-9 (12-13)
- 7. Reedsburg, 4-10
- 8. Portage, 0-14

Team Capsules
1. Mount Horeb

The Vikings went undefeated in Badger Small play a year ago and returned six key players from that squad, including one of the state's elite players in senior guard Josh Manchester. With Manchester leading the way, Mount Horeb ranks among the premier WIAA Division 2 teams in the state, and looks to match or surpass its 25-3 record of a year ago.

Joining Manchester, a four year varsity performer for coach Todd Nesheim as key returning players are seniors Kam Nesheim, Hayden Anderson, Cal Odgers and Nick Ibinger, along with junior Alex Chapman.

2. McFarland

The Spartans have the luxury of having two juniors who figure to play scholarship basketball of some kind at the next level. Forward Eli Krueger owns NCAA division one scholarship offers from Green Bay, Southern Utah and Toledo.

Wing Garrett Crull excels in football and basketball and figures to pick up some offers next spring and summer on the club circuit with Wisconsin Swing. Outside of Kruger and Crull, longtime coach Jeff Meinholdt looks for senior Ben Bosold and junior Kam Meinholdt to play important roles for the Spartans.

3. Stoughton

The Vikings might have the best backcourt combination in the Badger Small with senior Jacob Hibner and Jaren Vale holding down the guard spots for

coach Nolan Weber.

Hibner is a muscular wing with deep shooting range and a hard-to-stop off- the-dribble-game. He is committed to NCAA Division II Minnesota Duluth. Vail is a quick and competitive point guard who can push the ball and put good defensive pressure on opposing guards.

Weber has several other returning seniors who could emerge as key players, including Payton Danforth, Quinn Poole, Parker Sellnow, Moses Harris and Andy Perkins. Sophomore Holden Ackerman also figures to be in the playing rotation.

4. Fort Atkinson

Just when Fort Atkinson was getting acclimated to opponents in the Badger Large, an enrollment dip finds the Blackhawks switching spots with Baraboo and moving to the Badger Small.

All five regulars from last year's stellar 17-8 squad have graduated, but a very strong junior class returns for coach Mike Hintz.

Junior point guard Graeson Geiger is one of the better lead guards in the state's 2027 class, while junior forward Oliver Evans took major strides in his game in the spring and summer on the club circuit. Sophomore Carter Klopchic and juniors Nolan Quamme and Ryley Kloster also figure to play big roles.

5. Sauk Prairie

Shooting and guard play are the top assets for Sauk Prairie, which must overcome a lack of size.

Senior point guard Otis Andres and senior wing Jake Buckles are returning starters from a club that finished 12-13 under coach Sean McGann.

Senior Boden Breunig and juniors Brendan Marquardt and Lincoln Ganser figure to contend for starting roles after being key reserves last winter.

6. Madison Edgewood

Jackson Riley, a former Monona Grove athlete, was hired to replace Kevin

Schmotzer in September. He takes over a program in flux as both Timmy West and AJ Gnewuch left Edgewood for out-of-state prep schools.

Riley does have some returning talent, though, as senior Gannon Bagstad, junior Henry Clark and sophomore Caleb Oeth started at times a year ago. The offseason development of senior Evan Breidel and juniors Triston Mitchell, Owen Rist, Ben Morey and Drew Christensen gives Edgewood hope of improving on last year's 6-19 finish.

7. Reedsburg

Justin Kahnau, hired as the Beavers' head coach in September, needs to replace Reedsburg's top three players as Danny Pickel, Alek Southworth and Bo Bester graduated last spring.

Seniors Will Mikonowicz and Winston Alonso headline the list of returning players, although Kahnau figures to rely heavily on a talented sophomore class that includes Lincoln Benish, Ian McClure and Lucius Wells.

Seniors Jonah Williams and Luke Verch also could emerge as key players.

8. Portage

The Warriors have won just one conference game over the past two seasons, so there is plenty of room for improvement.

Coach Caleb Bohrer begins his second season at the school looking for just that behind the play of returning starters, Michael Nachreiner and Brody Kayatz. Seniors Donovan Navone and Wesley Krueger also return for Portage.

Top returning scorers

- Josh Manchester, Mount Horeb, 30.8 ppg
- Jacob Hibner, Stoughton, 19.4 ppg
- Garrett Crull, McFarland, 15.4 ppg
- Eli Krueger, McFarland, 11.4 ppg
- Otis Andres, Sauk Prairie, 11.0 ppg

Projected first-team all-conference
Josh Manchester, Mount



Todd Nesheim and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team are picked to win the Badger Small Conference. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Horeb	THE BIG FIVE	Best collegiate prospect: Josh Manchester, Mount Horeb
Garrett Crull, McFarland	Best shooter: Josh Manchester, Mount Horeb	Most improved player: Graeson Geiger, Fort Atkinson.
Eli Krueger, McFarland	Best rebounder: Eli Krueger, McFarland	
Jacob Hibner, Stoughton	Best defender: Jaren Vale, Stoughton	
Graeson Geiger, Fort Atkinson		

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Mount Horeb duo signs with Wisconsin

Leonard, Stevens will be Badgers

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb wrestlers Eli Leonard and Hunter Stevens recently signed their letters of intent with the University of Wisconsin.

Leonard is a three-time state placewinner and a two-time conference champion. Leonard posted records of 43-8, 47-3, and 48-1 over his first three seasons, earning Badger Conference Wrestler of the Year (2024-25) honors.

Nationally, Leonard is ranked first in Wisconsin (D2, 190 pounds) and sixth on FloWrestling at 175 pounds. His achievements include 2025 Fargo All-American (4th place) and 2025 Super 32 All-American (5th place) honors. Leonard also represented Wisconsin on both the 16U and Junior National Dual Teams in freestyle and Greco competition.

“I chose Wisconsin because of its exceptional wrestling program, strong coaching staff, and very

supportive team culture,” Leonard said. “It’s a place where I can continue to push myself on and off the mat.

“The coaches believe in developing not just great athletes, but great men as well, and have believed in me from day one. That’s exactly the type of environment I want to be a part of.”

Wisconsin head coach Chris Bono added: “We’re excited to welcome Eli to our program. It’s always special to add a talented local athlete who represents what our program standards are all about. The hustle, effort attitude that Eli brings to all phases of his life are unmatched.”

Stevens, a native of Linden, Wis., wrestled his freshman and sophomore seasons at Iowa-Grant, then sat out last year after transferring to Mount Horeb.

Stevens is a two-time WIAA state placewinner who captured back-to-back conference, regional, and sectional titles during his

freshman and sophomore seasons. He placed fifth at state in 2023 and followed it up with a third-place finish in 2024, compiling a 96-6 record in those two years.

Stevens has made his mark nationally as a 2024 16U Fargo finalist, 2024 Brian Keck Preseason National Champion, 2023 U.S. Open All-American, and 2025 Super 32 All-American (third place). Ranked first in Wisconsin (D2, 150 pounds), sixth nationally on FloWrestling (144), and ninth on MatScouts (144).

“I chose Wisconsin because the people, culture, and opportunities here will help me reach my full potential,” Stevens said. “I’m beyond excited to keep growing as a person, student, and wrestler. My goal is to make a lasting impact and enjoy every moment as a Badger.”

Added Bono: “Hunter has exceptional talent, the work ethic, and the character we are looking for in our program.”



Mount Horeb wrestlers Eli Leonard (top) and Hunter Stevens (above) recently signed their letters of intent with the University of Wisconsin. Submitted photos



Eli Maier (left) and Mount Horeb’s wrestlers finished in second place at the Tomah Invitational on Dec. 13. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Wrestlers second at Tomah Invitational

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s wrestlers finished second at the 23-team Tomah Scramble on Dec. 13.

Marathon finished first with 249 points, while Mount Horeb was second with 228 points. Regis/Altoona (188.5), Spring Valley/Elmwood (152.5) and Sparta (146.5) rounded out the top five.

The Vikings had five

wrestlers earn first place finishes: Freshman Maxton Stevens at 132, senior Hunter Stevens (150), junior Eli Maier (175), senior Eli Leonard (190) and freshman Havens Leland (215).

Maxton Stevens reached the finals, where he pinned Cashton’s Rylan Misna in 5:22. Hunter Stevens started with two byes, then pinned his next four opponents, including a pin of Regis/Altoona’s Jackson Wesner in 2:30 in the finals.

Maier rolled into the finals where he defeated Nolan Owen of Baraboo, 9-5. Leonard rolled into the finals where he pinned Nolan Hanke of Lancaster, 3:44.

Havens reached the finals where he defeated Jaren Hansen of Mauston/Nece-dah, 10-1.

Mount Horeb freshman Madden Bryce was second at 106 and sophomore Wyatt Bush was sixth at 285.

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Girls basketball team splits a pair

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team split a pair of games last week.

The Vikings fell to Madison Edgewood, 70-39, on Dec. 9. Mount Horeb then rolled past Prairie du Chien, 62-18, at the Platteville Jamboree on Dec. 13.

The Vikings are now 2-3 overall and 1-1 in the Badger Small Conference.

Here’s a recap of Mount Horeb’s week.

- **Madison Edgewood 70, Mount Horeb 39** — The Crusaders, ranked No. 5 in Division 2, rolled past the Vikings.

Mount Horeb led, 23-20, late in the first half. The Crusaders closed the half on a 12-0 run, though, and pulled away in the second half.

“Hopefully our girls can look at the first 15 minutes and realize if we play smart basketball with great shot selection we can play with them,” Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said.

The Vikings’ fast start against Edgewood — last year’s state runner-up — was impressive.

Edgewood scored on

six straight possessions, though, to finish the half. Edgewood then shot 72% from the field in the second half, while the Vikings shot 19%.

Edgewood’s Anna Miller — a University of Wisconsin recruit — led all scorers with 23 points, eight assists and nine rebounds.

Lauren Mester led Mount Horeb with seven points and seven rebounds, while Julia Straka also played well.

“We got another really good all-around game from Julia Straka, who has playing some really good basketball for us,” Leibfried said.

- **Mount Horeb 62, Prairie du Chien 18** — The Vikings had 13 different players score and they rolled past the Blackhawks.

Courtney Monroe led Mount Horeb with 10 points and Avery Monroe added eight. The Vikings led, 33-9, at halftime and kept adding to that advantage in the second half.

“Our pressure defense was just too much for them (being) down one of their best guards,” Leibfried said. “We didn’t shoot



Mount Horeb girls basketball coach Bart Leibfried saw his team split a pair of games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

exceptionally well from the field, but did manage to have all 13 girls score which was exciting for the team.

“I loved the bench energy from our upperclassmen when freshmen Isla

Odgers and Rae Olson scored. We had three freshmen and a sophomore on the floor the last nine minutes and got great leadership from Sammy Johnson directing them and getting them in the right spots.

Sammy can really help us as we get into the heart of our schedule when she plays with confidence.”

- **On deck:** Mount Horeb was at Reedsburg Monday and at Stoughton on Tuesday. The Vikings then head

to the New Berlin West Holiday Classic on Dec. 22-23.

MoHo swimmers 10th at Fort Atkinson Invite

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s boys swimming team began the new season by finishing 10th at the 11-team Fort Atkinson Invite.

Oregon won the meet with 420 points, while McFarland (352), Sun Prairie East (273), Monona Grove (264) and DeForest (226) rounded out the top five.

Mount Horeb finished with 40 points.

The Vikings’ top-20 finishes included:

- Jackson Ballew was sixth in the 100-yard freestyle and seventh in the 50-yard freestyle.
- The foursome of Ballew, Aidan Mulhern, Gavin Beglinger and Julien Moriera

MOUNT HOREB ROUNDUP

was 11th in the 200-yard medley relay.

- Mulhern was 14th in the 50-yard freestyle and 19th in the 100-yard freestyle.
- Beglinger was 17th in the 500-yard freestyle and 19th in the 200-yard freestyle.

HOCKEY

Stoughton’s co-op hockey team — which includes players from Mount Horeb — rolled past Oshkosh, 8-3, on Dec. 12.

That was Stoughton’s first win after it dropped its first five games of the season.

Givon Storkson had four goals for the Vikings, while Jacob Gardiner had a goal and two assists. Paxton Nelson and Jack Dedie both had a goal and an assist, while Cy Inderrieden had a goal.

Peter Heinecke had four assists, and Jaiden Hesselging had one assist.

- **On deck:** Stoughton hosted Monroe Tuesday, then hosts Reedsburg/Wisconsin Dells Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

The Vikings are then at Monona Grove Friday at 7:30 p.m.



Mount Horeb’s Harper Hendrickson was second in the all-around competition at the Janesville Craig Invite on Dec. 13. File photo

GYMNASTICS

continued from page 14

bars with an 8.50, while Macie Finley was third (8.30), Hendrickson was fifth (7.85) and Tessa Soppe posted a 7.65.

And on the balance beam, Hendrickson was first with a 9.15 and Seeliger was third (9.10). Oglesby scored an 8.30, while Meyers and Averi Kalscheur both had a 7.60.

“This Viking team executed very strong performances against some tough competition,” Koller Faust said. “Along with bringing home the first-place team plaque, our gymnasts earned several individual honors across all five events, highlighting the depth and competitiveness of our team.

“Our success not only comes from a strong work ethic, but also from the to-

getherness these gymnasts show every day in the gym. They each play an important role and their support for one another continues to make a difference.”

- **On deck:** Mount Horeb was at Baraboo Tuesday, then is off until Jan. 6 when they host a Badger Conference dual meet against Milton/Edgerton at 6 p.m.

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GARAGE DOORS AND OPENERS

Mount Horeb cruises past Watertown

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

You never know what you'll get early in a season. That's why Mount Horeb boys basketball coach Todd Nesheim was a little leery as he took his Vikings into Watertown on Dec. 8.

"A game on paper where it looked like we should win handily," Nesheim said. "However, they played at Waunakee (Dec. 5) and took them to the wire.

"They got an honorable-mention all-conference player back, as well. In addition, it was their home opener and youth night.

"For us, we had a half day of school and a long trip. I didn't like the way it was setting up."

Turns out there was nothing to worry about.

Senior guard Josh Manchester scored 35 points and the Vikings built a 22-point halftime lead on their way to a 75-57 win. Mount Horeb improved to 4-0 overall, while the Goslings fell to 1-4.

Nesheim knew a fast start would be critical, and that's just what the Vikings had.

Mount Horeb raced to a 25-4 lead just 5 1/2 minutes into the game. By halftime,

the Vikings' advantage was 45-23.

Manchester poured in 25 of his 35 in the first half. Junior wing Alex Chapman, who had 17 points on the night, had eight in the first half. And senior post Hayden Anderson had five of his nine points before intermission.

"I felt like we needed a really good start to the game," Nesheim said. "A really impressive showing by our guys.

"The first half was really impressive. I couldn't have been more pleased with our all-around game. We dominated all phases of the game.

"We really just talked about not letting them back in it and continue to do what we had been doing."

Mount Horeb maintained a comfortable lead for much of the second half, then Nesheim pulled his starters around the nine-minute mark. By the 3-minute mark, Watertown had closed within 15 and Nesheim put his starters back in to stem the tide.

"I put the starters back in to break the press and finish the game off, which they did," Nesheim said.



Cal Odgers and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team defeated Watertown on Dec. 8. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb heads to 60Eight tournament

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's boys basketball team suffered a tough loss against Sauk Prairie on Dec. 12.

But the Vikings have a chance to get back on track by making a major statement at the 60Eight Basketball Tournament held at Madison College.

Mount Horeb faces Slinger Saturday at 6 p.m. in a matchup of state powers. The Owls are ranked No. 1 in Division 2, while the Vikings are ranked No. 4 in the latest Bound Wisconsin/Zaleski Sports Boys Basketball Media Poll.

Slinger is 3-1 with its only loss coming to WIAA Division 1 two-time state champion Wisconsin Lutheran. The Vikings are 4-1 with their only loss coming to Sauk Prairie.

Slinger has reached the state tournament just once in school history, that coming in 1977. Mount Horeb is looking for its first trip to state since 2015 — when the Vikings won the state title — and the fifth in school history.

Here's a schedule of weekend games:

608 SCHEDULE
Dec. 19 — Appleton North vs. Oregon (Semifinal #1), 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 19 — Madison La

Follette vs. Yorkville Christian (Ill.), 8 p.m.
Dec. 20 — Freedom vs. Stoughton, 1:30 p.m.
Dec. 20 — Loser Semifinal #1 vs. Loser Semifinal #2 (Consolation Game), 3 p.m.
Dec. 20 — Winner Semifinal #1 vs. Winner Semifinal #2 (Championship Game), 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 20 — Mt. Horeb vs. Slinger (Showcase Game #2), 6 p.m.

New

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

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BOYS BB

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with 19 seconds left to cut it to 82-80.

Mount Horeb got a stop and the Vikings' Max Grundhal was fouled on the ensuing possession. But the senior missed both free throws, setting the stage for the game's dramatic conclusion.

"The hilarious part was before the game I told our coaches our goal was to hold (Manchester) and Chapman below 55. (Manchester's) an absolutely incredible player," McGann said. "By the end of the second half and going into overtime, we literally just started sending two guys at him, doing anything in our power to make someone else make a play. He's that good that he still can score on two (defenders)."

Added Andres: "We just knew that only one guy was going to beat us, which he hit some pretty big shots down the stretch. But everyone stepped up when they needed to."

The trouble for Mount Horeb on this night was that Manchester had to carry virtually the entire scoring load. Anderson

and Chapman scored eight points apiece, but the others combined for just six.

The Vikings didn't have the same scoring balance as the Eagles, who in addition to Andres and Breunig saw Brendan Marquardt hit double figures with 10 points and Lincoln Ganser (nine points) and Patterson (eight) both come close to double figures.

"I learned that we need some more scoring from other guys," Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said of his biggest takeaway of the night.

There were 12 first half lead changes prior to Patterson's buzzer-beating 3-pointer that gave the Eagles a 35-29 lead at the break.

But perhaps the biggest win of the half for the Eagles wasn't on the scoreboard but, in fact, in the scorebook — where fouls are tallied.

"Otis and Boden both had two fouls in the first half, and we didn't just sit them. He got us in foul trouble really early," McGann said of the challenge of defending against Manchester, who attacks the basket relentlessly. "They probably played six-ish minutes in

the first half with two fouls and did not get the third. That was really, really critical for their ability to play free in the second half."

Sauk Prairie methodically added to its lead early in the second half, claiming its biggest advantage when Ganser scored on back-to-back possessions, one from in the paint and then a 3-pointer from the right wing to make it 42-33 just 3 minutes into the half.

A pair of free throws by Manchester cut the lead to 45-40, but then Andres struck — twice.

The senior canned a 3-pointer from the right corner to make it 48-40, then pulled up from 26-feet in transition to make it 51-40.

A heat check? "A little bit," he said. "I've shot it so many times, I just pulled up and knew it was going in."

Ganser went one of two at the line with 11:32 remaining to make it 52-40, then after Manchester scored cutting to the hoop, Patterson made a pair of free throws to make it 54-42.

That's when Manchester decided enough was

continued on page 20



Alex Chapman and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team fell to Sauk Prairie, 82-80, in overtime on Dec. 2. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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BOYS BB

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enough.

After Anderson hit a cutting Odgers to make it 54-44, Manchester went on a personal 11-0 run — on a steal and breakaway dunk, a 3-ball from the left wing, an and-one, and a step-back 3-pointer from the left wing — to give Mount Horeb a 55-54 lead.

“I don’t really realize it when I’m doing it. I’m just trying to play the game, make every right read and let the game come to me,” Manchester said of taking over. “But down 12 (in the second half), I know I’ve got to try and get to the rim and put pressure on the defense more.”

Manchester admitted, though, that the Vikings must avoid digging such a large hole.

“I think we’re used to being the hunted, so we get kind of used to that where we’re almost trying not to take the first punch, when we should be punching first and going after people,” Manchester said. “We got off to a slow start and it cost us in the end.”

On the flip side, the Eagles were able to avoid crumbling in the face of Mount Horeb’s one-man comeback.

“Just trusting each other that the next guy is going to go make a play and get us

a bucket,” Breunig said of the key to weathering the storm. “Coach always says to weather the storm and I think we did a really good job of that tonight.

“It would get close, and then we’d break away again. It was good that we could do that.”

Marquardt made a free throw to stop Mount Horeb’s 13-0 run. And there would be four lead changes and three ties down the stretch in regulation, the last tie coming at 69-69 after Andres’ game-winner was blocked by Odgers.

“Their guys made shots. Give them credit. They had a response. That’s how you win a game in a game like this,” Nesheim said of the Eagles’ ability to endure every punch his Vikings threw at them and in fact punch back even harder. “I think that team is as good of a team as we’ll see in our league.”

McGann agrees.

On the heels of a 67-60 loss to Lake Mills, ranked No. 7 in Division 3, three days earlier, the Eagles coach was confident Friday night’s game would, at the bare minimum, be close.

“I told our guys, we can compete with this team. We can beat them,” McGann said. “This game wasn’t necessarily won in practice. These guys have been jelling with each other since summer. I’m just super proud.”

These two teams, who along with McFarland figure to be in a season-long fight for conference supremacy, will meet again on Jan. 29 in Mount Horeb.

For Sauk Prairie, the goal now becomes building on this big victory in order to make that game in a month and a half equally as important as this one was.

“Am I excited about the win? Yes,” McGann said. “But our season can now go one of two ways. We can say, there’s our defining win and we can coast and be average. Or we can continue to get better.

“It makes us happy (that we won) and it shows us that the things we’re doing are working. But we’re going to show up on Monday and keep working.”

Meantime for Mount Horeb, the goal now is to bounce back and find a way to be a more complete team.

“We just have to come out and play every game like it’s our Super Bowl,” Manchester said of knowing his team is going to get everyone’s best shot. “We should score more than eight points in the first 10 minutes. We’ve got to play better than that.

“We just have to start punching first. We can’t sit back and take the first punch and then we have to claw our way back. It’s got to be the other way around, where we’re trying to sustain the lead.”



Mount Horeb senior guard Josh Manchester had 58 points in the Vikings’ 82-80 loss to Sauk Prairie on Dec. 12. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

And part of that is playing better defense.

“Defensively we weren’t good enough,” Nesheim said. “Our standards are way higher than that. We gave up 82 points. That’s not going to win you a conference championship.

“We’ve got to get a little better defensively. I think the offensive piece will kind of take care of itself.

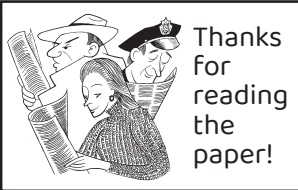
“It was a tough loss. We’ve got to learn, we’ve

got to bounce back, and we can’t let one loss turn into two. We’ll respond.”

SAUK PRAIRIE 82, MOUNT HOREB 80 (OT)
Mount Horeb 29 40 11 — 80
Sauk Prairie 35 34 13 — 82
MOUNT HOREB — (fgm ftm-fta pts) Ethan Morrisard 0 1-2 1, Josh Manchester 19 15-18 58, Hayden Anderson 4 0-3 8, Cal Odgers 2 0-0 4, Evan Leibfried 0 1-2 1, Alex Chapman 2 4-5 8. Totals: 27 21-32 80.
SAUK PRAIRIE — Lincoln Ganser 3 1-5 9, Jake Buckles 1 0-0

2, Brendan Marquardt 4 2-4 10, Otis Andres 8 4-4 26, Sam Patterson 1 5-9 8, Boden Breunig 8 4-4 25, Jameson Paukner 1 0-0 2. Totals: 26 16-26 82.

3-pointers: MH 5 (Manchester 5), SP 14 (Ganser 2, Andres 6, Patterson 1, Breunig 5). **Total fouls:** MH 21, SP 24. **Fouled out:** Anderson (MH).



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