

Mount Horeb Area Veteran Memorial Wall Now Accessible Online Thanks to Local Eagle Scout Project
-Page 7-



Tried and true

Heirloom Craftsman Restoration & Woodworks breathes new life into old things

By MATT GEIGER

Mount Horeb Mail

Once viewed as a conspiracy theory, planned obsolescence is now a mainstream business tactic.

Most of the things Americans spend their hard-earned money on in 2025 (and soon 2026) are intentionally designed to break, fail, or stop working as quickly as possible. To make sure consumers are compelled to buy a replacement when that happens, they are carefully designed to be impossible to fix. Everything from phones to furniture is expertly engineered to fall apart and never go back together again.

"They don't make 'em like they used to" has never rung quite so true as it does today.

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Dennis Hiorns opened Heirloom Craftsman Restoration and Woodworks at 212 E Lincoln in Mount Horeb on December 16. Working primarily with hand tools, he restores antiques the old fashioned way, for current and future generations to enjoy. Photo by Matt Geiger.



Dark skies and housing development

By CATHY SCOTT

Mount Horeb Mail

The Plan Commission meeting on December 17 included two agenda items, a concept plan for a cottage housing development and discussion of Dark Sky standards for the exterior lighting section of the zoning code rewrite. All members were present, less Jill Remmert-Willis.

Developer Chad Wuebben of Encore Homes presented a concept plan for phase two of the Brookstone Hills neighborhood, called Cottages at Brookstone Hills. The plan includes twenty-

one single family one- and two-story homes, sizes ranging from 1200-1800 square feet, a two-car garage, a porch, a private drive, and green space. The Cottages would have a condo association. When the plan is submitted formally, it will include a request to approve a change to the property zoning from Agriculture to a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The primary reason for the PUD application versus a pocket neighborhood is due to needed flexibility for the rear yard setback. The zoning code requires a ten-foot setback,

and the plan includes only a two-foot setback, deviating from the existing code. To meet the standard, Wuebben said the topography of some homes would require steep driveways and about an 8 ft elevation of the front porch steps. He also explained that all his homes include wires for both a solar system and an EV charging station, mentioning that the homeowner would be responsible for purchasing the systems if he/she so elected either during construction or later.

Although Commissioner Destinee Udelhoven understands the need for the

setback variance, she expressed concern for a variance request when one of the primary intentions of the zoning code rewrite is to incur less variances, thus PUD requests, and opined if the development had less units perhaps the development could work within the

code, despite the topography challenges. She questioned if maximizing the number of units creates more profitability to developers, not specifically pointing to Wuebben.

Commissioner Sarah Best agreed, asking if removing unit ten from the design

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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)

Intermediate Center Participates in 21st Annual Giving Tree



Pictured above are Daleyza Alcaraz Lopez, Shirly Alvarenga Portillo, Naomi Baumann, Max Beer, Ivy Christiansen, Madysen Docken, Grady Eustice, Lyla Goninen, Emma Groom, Emma Israngkun Na Ayuthia, Jordy Johnson, Frankie Klein, Aubree Kools, Finley Maerz, Bekett Massey, Beau Nelson, Charlotte Payne, Quinn Sponem, Lucia Svin-gen, Mason Symons, Wesley Vande Velde, Crosby Williams, Otto Wyse and Rhaya Zwolanek.

Last week, the Mount Horeb Intermediate Center gathered for a beloved tradition that continues to reflect the heart of our school community: the annual Giving Tree Assembly. It was a moment filled with gratitude, pride, and a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish together.

Over the course of two weeks, students, families, and staff came together to donate more than 1,000 items in support of the Mount Horeb Giving Tree. From essential hygiene items to books and special treats, each contribution represented an act of kindness and a shared commitment to caring for others.

The assembly was led by the incredible Mrs. Fredrickson and her class, who took time to thank everyone who participated and helped bring this initiative to life. In addition, all fourth-grade students played a special role by decorating the bags that will be used to deliver these gifts—adding a personal touch to every donation.

This year marked the 21st consecutive year that Mrs. Fredrickson’s class has led the Giving Tree tradition, creating a lasting legacy of generosity and service within the school.

The District is incredibly proud of its students, families, and staff for their compassion and generosity. Together, they turned simple donations into meaningful moments of connection and hope for the wider community.

Local Rotarians delivered 99 turkeys on Thanksgiving

Mount Horeb Rotarians load their coolers for delivery on a blustery Thanksgiving Day. Rotary and Neighbors Helping Neighbors worked with the Mount Horeb Senior Center to deliver a whopping 99 turkey dinners to people who were home for the holiday. The effort begins with the Mount Horeb Senior Center taking orders and Richard Skaife and his crew at the Hi Point Steakhouse doing the cooking. Lynn Forshaug at the Senior Center said she received many compliments on the high quality of the food. Thanks also to Rotarian emerita Dixie Burns, who for many years ran the delivery, and this year was willing to forgo her own meals so that others who weren’t on the list could have meals. Thanks to the crew at Hi Point, who whipped up a few more meals, Dixie had her turkey personally delivered by School Superintendent Steve Salerno. Happy Holidays to all.





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Making Your Property Tax Bill Make Sense

By RENAE KROLL
Finger Publishing

Each property owner in the State of Wisconsin receives a real estate property tax bill annually for each parcel they own. Wisconsin state law (Statute 74.01) requires that real estate property tax bills be mailed out no later than the third Monday of December by the municipal treasurer. This year all tax bills must be mailed by December 15, 2025. The back of your tax bill carries some very important information as does the municipal insert/newsletter that might be included in the envelope. If you do not receive a tax bill in the mail they are available to look up online at www.adamscountylandrecords.com under the tax and assessment system link. According to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 74.09(6), failure to receive a bill does not exempt any property owner from paying penalties and interest in the event of late payment.

In the state of Wisconsin taxpayers are allowed to make your Property Tax payment in installments, but only if you make the first installment by January 31st. If your bank is escrowing your property tax you should always check that they made the payment on time, not just by looking at your bank but checking the county records online. All delinquent taxes are subject interest to 1.5% per month from February 1st until paid and according to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 74.47 may

be subject to additional penalties.

Remember if you move or change your address the tax property records must be updated with the county treasurer’s office to ensure your property tax bill is mailed to the correct location.

Making your tax bill make sense is easy if you know where the numbers come from and how to read the bill- lets break it down with information from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Wisconsin State statutes and the Wisconsin County Treasurers Association and its members.

Assessed Value - assessed value of the parcel’s land only as set by the assessor. Assessors are hired by the municipality in which the property lies. If you own parcels in two municipalities, you may have different assessors for each parcel.

Assessed Value Improvements - assessed value of all improvements/ all buildings on the parcel as set by the assessor.

Total Assessed Value - total value of the parcel set by the assessor for land and buildings (this is the value used when figuring net assessed value tax rate and ultimately property taxpayment amount Due)

Average Assessment Ratio - this represents the relationship between the total assessed value of all taxable property in the municipality compared to the total assessed value state

all properties in the state. This ratio number should be between 90% and 110% of all taxable property in the state. When the property value falls below 90% of the state fair market the property is deemed under assessed by the State department of revenue; and when the property value above the 110% of the state fair market the property is deemed over assessed by the State department of revenue.

Estimated Fair Market - the assessed value divided by the average assessment ratio – showing an estimated value of your property on the open market if you were to sell.

Taxing Jurisdiction - this is a list of all jurisdictions that you pay property taxes to. Although you do not pay them directly to each jurisdiction a portion of your total tax bill by the collecting entity is paid to each jurisdiction. All parcels/ properties in Adams County include the jurisdictions of Adams County and your municipality. You will also see the School District in which your property is located, A Technical College and possibly A Lake District if applicable.

Past & Current Years Estimated State Aids Allocated Tax District - these are credits allocated by the state to each of the different taxing jurisdictions (your municipal one includes things like transportation aid and shared revenue), which reduce the amount of property taxes you owe to each jurisdiction.

Past & Current Year’s Net Tax - the amount you have paid or owe to each taxing jurisdiction based on your property assessed value multiplied by that jurisdictions net assessed value rate (formerly known as the mill rate).

% Tax Change - this is the % of increase or decrease your net tax has changed by each taxing jurisdiction compared to the previous year.

Totals - your totals of past and present state aids, net tax and %tax change before credits are applied

Gross Property Tax - this is your total assessed value multiplied by the net assessment value rate before credits

First Dollar Credit - an automatic state credit given to each property with real property improvements (buildings or structures). This amount is subtracted from your gross property tax.

Lottery And Gaming Credit - a credit given to parcels which are the taxpayer’s primary residence as of January 1 of that tax year. This credit is determined and generated annually by the Wisconsin lottery and gaming department from state “gambling” revenues. This amount is subtracted from your gross property tax.

Net Property Tax - this is the total property taxes per parcel you owe after all credits have been applied

Specials - these are special assessments/ charges levied by local governments

than can include garbage pickup, fire signs, Lake districts, illegal lottery credits, rural development, road improvement projects, and others as determined by the local municipality. This amount is added to your net property tax total to determine your total tax due.

School taxes reduced by school levy tax credit - a credit automatically applied to every taxable property by the state and based on the parcels assed value as a percent of the municipalities total assessed value. This credit is not an additional subtraction but subtracted from the gross tax and reflected in the school’s net tax on you tax bill.

Property Description - legal description of the property the tax bill covers. You should contact the county treasurer’s office if you think this information incorrect

Net Assessed Value Rate (also known as the mill rate) - This is the total net tax rate of all taxing jurisdictions. Each taxing jurisdiction has its own gross tax rate calculated by the municipal clerk, but they are not listed on the tax bill, only the Net Assessed Value Rate is listed. Many towns have more than one school district- so the Net assessed value rate will vary based on the school district where the property is located. When you multiply the Net Assessed Value Rate by your properties total assessed value it should equal your gross property tax before credits.

Total Due – this is your total property tax bill payable to the treasurer’s department, after credits have been applied and special assessments have been added. Payments made by January 31, annually; either the 1st installment or full payment, are sent to your municipal treasurer as listed on the mail in stub at the bottom of your tax bill. Second installments due July 31 annually will be made to the county treasurer’s office. Payment options are broken down on your tax bill. When mailing in payments be sure to include the appropriate tax stub with your payment, and if you want a receipt include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your tax payment. When paying by check your taxes are not considered paid until the check has cleared all banks.

For information purposed only – voter approved temporary tax increase – this section is for taxpayers’ information only and shows additional tax totals for the current year from referendums approved by voters. This information shows the total additional taxes for the jurisdiction as well as the total additional taxes applied to the property/ parcel for the current year and the year the increase ends. The total additional taxes are NOT added to the total due but included in the gross property tax total.

PLANNING

continued from page 1

would allow for more room to meet the rear yard setback standard.

Wuebben said, “I think there is a need for a first-time home buyer in town for a lower priced, good product.” The intention of the development is to maximize affordability and put people in homes. Asked for the approximate cost of a home, he said from the low to mid \$400,000.

Commissioner Ben Vondra advocates that flexibility allows for greater creativity and thinks it is important that the Village zoning codes are not too restrictive.

Dark Sky Standards

Ben Rohr, Village planner, opened the discussion, explaining the Commission updated the exterior lighting standards at its October 29 meeting, bringing the Village closer to Dark Sky practices, intensity of illumination and fixtures and luminous outdoor lighting facing downward.

The Sustainability and Natural Resources (SNR)

Committee reviewed the proposed enhanced exterior lighting changes to the zoning code at its November meeting and forwarded a draft of Dark Sky standards prepared by Scott Lind, an electrical engineer with Mead & Hunt as well as owner of Redshift Electric in Ontario WI. Lind volunteers his time to help municipalities consider DarkSky practices to align fully with best practices.

Rohr reviewed the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) Standards and said if adopted, it would require an annual subscription, allowing the Village’s standards to evolve over time without needing amendments. On the flip side, all Village staff would need to have access to enforce and administer the ordinance as well as developers when applying for a project. The Village’s preference is to stay away from standards requiring outside sources, allowing staff, residents, and developers to have convenient access to its ordinances.

Rohr also mentioned implementing lighting level standards of the IES would

give Mount Horeb the strictest standards within Dane County. This probably would receive pushback from both property owners and developers.

Lastly, Rohr mentioned that our current exterior lighting standards only apply to new construction development projects that require a Site Plan Review. Again, using the IES standards all modified or replaced fixtures for existing properties would need to come into compliance which would require a new process to enforce the strict Dark-

Sky requirements, resulting in additional staff regulating modifications and replacements.

Tim White, chair of the SNR, was in attendance and asked to provide his feedback during the discussion. White said, “We do not want it (lighting standards) to get worse over time but have them get better.” Continuing, White said lighting affects wildlife, human health, and the sense of wonder that we are losing. Ninety-five percent of the US population cannot see the Milky Way and every kid should be able

to go out on a starry evening and see it.”

Ryan Czyzewski, Chair, said he prefers to have a balanced approach to exterior lighting standards, requiring review for new construction and retaining what is now in the code for modification.

The result of the discussion was to retain the original changes to the existing lighting standards set by the Commission in October with the understanding that the Village continues to promote Dark Sky benefits through education the ben-

efits of color temperatures and footcandle averages on-site and property lines.

Rohr reported the updated schedule for the zoning code rewrite. The Village Board will continue its discussion of the rewrite draft at a special meeting on January 26. The Plan Commission will have its regularly scheduled meeting on January 28. There will be a Public Hearing on the zoning code rewrite at the February 25 Plan Commission meeting.

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DISPLAY AD DEADLINE: Thursday noon, week prior to publication

NEWS DEADLINE: Monday noon

PUBLISHERS: Tom Finger

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Matt Geiger

SPORTS EDITOR: Rob Reischel

PROOFREADER: Christine Swiggum

ADVERTISING SALES: Lisa Kueter-Anderson

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$49/yr.; \$98/2 yrs.; Out-of-state: \$64/yr.; \$124/2 yrs.

Gleanings

140 Years Ago- Dec. 23, 1885
Ole Granum, Jr. has his feed mill running in full blast, and can give satisfaction. Give him a trial.
A tame goose exhibited aerial locomotion to an extent that would do credit to its wild relatives. It flew a number of miles about the town and finally landed near the residence of G.E. Mickelson at East Mount Horeb. At latest accounts it had not been captured.
L. H. Lewis is breaking ground on Main street for a new building.
Mrs. Margaret Dolohnanty breathed her last Monday morning, Dec. 21st, after a long, tedious sickness, at the age of 59 years. her friends and relatives have the sympathy of the entire neighborhood.
Gilbert Holsteinson, who has been seriously indisposed for a number of months past, is now confined to the house.

140 Years Ago- Dec. 30, 1885
As per contract, the tobacco warehouse is about completed and now presents an elegant view.
A team belonging to Pat Kelleher left Pat and the hitching posts last Saturday evening and made for home in a rather hasty way. Tough

roads made the affair a dangerous one, the wagon being heard thundering along the road for a long time after the team made their start.

130 Years Ago- Dec. 26, 1895
The Academy students performed a praiseworthy act the last day of school which closed the first winter term. They all contributed a nickel each towards the happiness of one lovely home in this village that of Olia Skuggen's.
This last years' improvements at this place exceeds any other year in the history of our rapidly growing village. It was over forty-five thousand dollars.
A free library is one among the necessities promised this place in the near future. This moment should meet with the heartiest support from our citizens, the place selected is one of the elegant room in the third story of the opera house, a splendid locality for a reading room.
Our readers, who have been looking for Hood's Calendar for 1896 will be glad to know that it is out and may be obtained from the druggists or by sending 6 cts. in stamps to C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.
Call on Lewis Martin for a look at those Anti-Button

Busting suspenders made from cherry leather and will last a man a lifetime if he dies when people should die.
The bell for the Catholic church arrived in time for Christmas. It is of Milwaukee manufacture, purchased at a cost of 230 dollars and has a very deep and elegant sound. The bell will peal forth its beautiful vibrations three times a day at 6 o'clock in the morning, at high noon and at 6 o'clock in the evening. Fred Riphon who manipulates the rope, it is hoped will have his tie piece well regulated.

120 Years Ago- Dec. 21, 1905
The electric people have put a couple of 500 candle-power arc lights in Hoff's Store, which illuminate the place nicely.
Benson and Lee have resolved partnership, A.P. Lee will retire and G.A. Benson will continue in business.
Melvin Thompson left Monday to take in the fat stock show at Chicago. Melven is one of the progressive young men of this community and believes in keeping abreast with the times. A.E. Solvie and Charles Gesme also attended.
As George Leatch Jr. was going home Friday evening at a late hour, and just outside the village someone laying in ambush fired several shots, frightening the young man very badly. He knows now who

the thoughtless parties are and it will be greatly to their own benefit if they will call on Mr. Leatch and make proper amends before the heavy hand of the law is laid upon them.
Gust Mennes is still carrying his hand in a sling and is still laid up from work.
A few weeks ago a newly married couple arrived here from Illinois and took up their abode at the Mt. Horeb House. After a time the husband mysteriously disappeared and has not been heard of since. The abandoned young wife is broken down in spirit and health and needs the care of some charitable institution.

120 Years Ago- Dec. 28, 1905
Eye glasses at A. Hoff's. The style now in use are nose pinchers. A thorough examination of the eyes, the fitting of the glasses, and the glasses, all for one cent. A sure cure of concussion of the brain, digestion of fudges, a help in geometry and German. The glasses are guaranteed to last as long as they do not wear out.
The local telephone central was a very busy place Christmas morning. It took two operators to make the necessary connections for the numerous greetings of "Merry Christmas."
The rural mail carriers made their usual trip on Christmas day and were loaded down with packages of all description.

110 Years Ago- Dec. 24, 1915
Lars Lynch was taken to Milwaukee Saturday for treatment.
The Mount Horeb Hardware Co. has put a new front on their building.
The village has installed nine meters and considerable water is being used.
We welcome to our village Mr. and Mrs. Ole Syverson with their large family of bright and healthy boys and girls, 10 in number, several of the boys have learned the carpenter trade and will available to help build up Mt. Horeb bigger and better.
Six young elm trees, seedlings from one of the trees planted by George Washington at Mt. Vernon on the Potomac, have been received by Secretary of State Donald and next spring will be transplanted at Mt. Vernon, Wis., one on the school grounds and five on the public square.
The high school building is this week undergoing a thorough renovation and disinfecting process under the direction of health officer Dr. Thompson so that when school opens on Jan. 3 after the holiday vacation conditions will be absolutely perfect as to sanitation.
Read our 130 local items this week.
The local telephone company have up to the present date 570 telephones in service which keeps the troubleshooter on the go in all

kinds of weather.

100 Years Ago- Dec. 22, 1925
The Mt. Horeb streets and stores were crowded early Saturday afternoon with shoppers and the children who had come to see Santa Claus. The boys and girls were not disappointed either as promptly at 2 o'clock, amid shouts of the youngsters and the jingling of bells Santa came in his sleigh and driving one of his white horses. He visited all the stores and distributed bags of candy and nuts to the hundreds of children who were waiting to see him and then went on his way.
G.P. Nace has just completed the 5th year of testing for tuberculosis in his fine herd of pure bred Holstein cattle and as has always been the case, not a single reactor was found out of 115 head.
Mr. Leo Sutter, Jr., has purchased a partnership in the Mt. Horeb Millworks and after Jan. 1st he will be on hand to help Mr. Komplin the shop and to sell the Crescendyne, Federal and Cleartone radios.
A man by the name of Austin from around Riley has rented the John Riley farm.
Jas. Gesme has ordered a Studebaker funeral car from the Mt. Horeb Auto Co.

Letter to the Editor

Local taxes skyrocket

What is the greatest lie that local government tells us? Growth will spread the tax burden among more taxpayers and thus lower taxes for everyone.
Wow! A 21.9 percent tax increase this year and I read that local government might be looking to a referendum to ask for more money in 2026 or 2027.

Plus, get ready for the utility and water/sewer rates to see inevitable increases with the new needed infrastructure.

I wonder what the surrounding Towns and Village (in the area school district) tax increase was?

I think it is time the village starts charging fees at least double of the village resident rate for any use of village property or services by non-residents.
Between the school and village, my modest (under 1400 square foot) home will be paying over \$100 in increased escrow taxes on my monthly mortgage. I wish good luck to those who will find living in the village no longer an affordable option.

Marty Morin

Zoning Code 'Violations'

Each of the lines below is a zoning code violation in

Jeff Grundahl's mixed-use building proposal that will be voted on by the Village Board in January. Taken together, this long list of violations clearly illustrates how and why this building would be so out of place.
Take special note of the last item – "Evidence that the development will not adversely affect values of surrounding properties." No such evidence has been provided. This is an affront to the landowners in the area. How would you like being ignored if you were one of them? Some people reading this ARE them.

The Village Board will not be acting in the best interests of the community if this proposal is approved. I sincerely hope our elected officials have the courage to do the right thing and vote no.

The below are items in the Zoning Code that are not being met in the proposal:

Not less than 15 percent of the land area in a PUD shall be designated as open space,

The PUD follows the basic intent of the underlying Central Business zoning district in which apartments are only allowed as an accessory use, defined as incidental.

44 apartments are not incidental to 9,000 square feet

of commercial.

On site parking is an accessory (incidental) use. 55 parking spaces is not incidental to 9,100 sf of commercial.

No direct access should be taken from a local residential street or residential collector street.

Bulk standards for R-3 Multi Family which is proposed to be a permitted land use and is less than 35% of the code standards of lot space needed for the 44 apartments.

The development produces an aesthetic desirability and complies with the Master Plan which calls for the village to respect the historic character.

New developments correspond with the special character of downtown including building width, heights and proportion of new buildings to old.

All considerations pro-

mote the historic and architectural quality of downtown and act to preserve its original character.

A complete list of zoning standards that will be more than met by the Planned Development

Evidence that the development will not adversely affect values of surrounding properties.

Sincerely,
Michelle Kelley

Editor's note: The zoning rules cited in this letter are from the way the land in question is currently zoned. The village board on January 7 is expected to take up the planning commission's recommendation to re-zone the land, which would change the restrictions and allow the proposal to be build.

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Obituaries

Sara Elizabeth Kittleson

June 22, 1939 – December 15, 2025



MOUNT HOREB - Sara Elizabeth Kittleson, age 86, of Mount Horeb, passed away on Monday, December 15, 2025. She was born on June 22, 1939, in Preston, Minn., the daughter of Ted and Edrie Severson.

Sara graduated from Preston High School in 1956 and Luther College in 1959. She was united in marriage to Kendall Kittleson on December 17, 1960, in Preston, Minn.

Sara worked as a teacher for her entire career. She began in Beloit, later moved to Evansville, and spent most of her time in the Mount Horeb Area School District. She was always thoughtful and had a calming presence. Many of Sara’s students had reached out and let her know she was a memorable and impactful teacher.

Sara enjoyed being a part of Wild Women, a group of women who gathered up north in a cabin every year. They would play cards, shop and share meals together. One year the men decided to come, and the women were NOT happy! The Wild Women even had boat/trailer parked across the road saying, “Wild Women Only!” Sara’s faith was central to her life, guiding her both personally and within her community. She was a devoted member of the Mount Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church. During Bible study at the church, she often gave perspectives on difficult themes. She also held an active role in Rebecca’s Circle for all the years they were at the ELC.

Sara had many friends at the church who would drive her to and from dialysis appointments three times a week for several years. They all agree that she will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered for her quiet strength, grace, and unwavering kindness. Despite life’s many challenges, she faced each day with resilience, a gentle sense of humor, and rarely a complaint. She formed deep connections with those around her—whether through time spent on drives to appointments, reminiscing about her Min-

nesota roots, or simple conversations that brought comfort and laughter. Sara was a beautiful soul whose warmth touched many lives, and her love and devotion to Kendall were evident to all.

Sara is survived by husband, Kendall; son, Craig (Kerrie) Kittleson; sisters, Dorothy, Phyllis and Janice; brother, Richard; grandson, Isaac Kittleson and Tyler (fiancée, Andora) Kittleson; and sisters-in-law, Delores and Cheryl. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Scott; grandson, Lucas Kittleson; and sister-in-law, Rosie.

A memorial service was held at Mount Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church, 315 E. Main St., Mount Horeb, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, with Pastor Karen Hofstad presiding, followed by a luncheon at the church. Visitation was held at the church from 9 a.m. until the time of the service on Tuesday. Burial will take place at Mount Horeb Union Cemetery at a later date.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Helen Kahl, who graciously organized, and to all those who helped transport Sara to and from Dodgeville Hospital for dialysis over the years. Your generosity and dedication will always

be remembered. A special expression of gratitude is also given to Sarah Jacobson—like a daughter to Kendall and Sara—as well as caregivers Kristen Gilbertson, Allie, Sara, Rae, Kelly, Lux and Skylaar. Your care, compassion, and unwavering support meant so much to Sara and her family, bringing comfort and strength during challenging times.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Mount Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

Gunderson Camacho Mount Horeb Funeral & Cremation Care 500 N. Eighth St. (608) 437-5077

James Leo Kirch

February 23, 1934 - December 16, 2025



MOUNT HOREB - James Leo Kirch, age 91, of Mount Horeb, passed away on Tuesday, Decem-

ber 16, 2025. He was born on February 23, 1934, in Arena, Wis., the son of Robert and Kathryn (Lloyd) Kirch.

James graduated from Mount Horeb High School in 1952. He married Karen Duffy on April 4, 1959. They were only married for seven months before Karen tragically passed away in a car accident. He married Ellen Ruppert on his birthday, February 23, 1963, and they were together for 62 wonderful years.

James suffered a tremendous amount of heart ache in his life; he also lost his beloved son, Scott, in 1986.

James served in the U.S. Army from 1954-1956. He worked as a Master Plumber for the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 28 years.

He was a quiet man, very welcoming and always had a nice thing to say about everyone. He liked to hunt and fish, and he enjoyed a good round of golf with Ellen. Traveling was a huge part of his and Ellen’s life. He was very good with his hands and was very creative. James was a very humble man, and he loved to spend time with his family.

James is survived by his wife, Ellen; daughters, Roberta (Douglas Whitmore) Kirch and

Renee Kirch; granddaughters, Danielle Kirch-Whitmore and Rachel Kirch-Whitmore; step-granddaughter, Ashley (Bryan) Crosser; step-great-grandson, Will Crosser; step-great-granddaughter, Ellie Crosser; and sisters, Carol (Tom) Cleary and Joann Carden. He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen; parents, Kathryn and Robert; son, Scott Kirch; sisters, Rosemary (Warren) Wooten, Donna (Gene) Roche, Kathleen (Ellard) Kelly and Judy (Jim) Westphal; and brothers, Bob (Bette) Kirch and David Kirch; and brother-in-law, Denny Carden.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH, 109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 23, 2025. Burial was held at St. Ignatius Calvary Cemetery. Visitation was held at the church from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the Mass on Tuesday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Agrace HospiceCare. Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

Gunderson Camacho Mount Horeb Funeral & Cremation Care 500 N. Eighth St. (608) 437-5077

Police Report

NOVEMBER MONTHLY SUMMARY

911 Disconnect – 9
911 Open Line Count – 3

Accidents – 8
Accident – 2
Hit & Run - 1
Property Damage – 3
MV / Deer - 2
Adult Arrest -1

Police were dispatched to a residence for the report of an individual who barricaded himself in a garage. Mount Horeb Police Department, along with other area agencies, were able to take the subject in to custody. The subject was arrested on a parole violation, resisting and obstructing police, failure to comply with police, possession of drug paraphernalia, and disorderly conduct. The subject was transported to the Dane County Jail.

Animal Complaint Disturbance - 1

Animal Complaint Stray – 6

Assist Citizen – 11
Assist Citizen – Vehicle Unlock - 3
Assist DCSO – 10

Assist Fire/Police – 2
Assist Other Agency - 4
Check Person - 17
Check Property – 51
Civil Dispute – 2

A citizen called to report that her dog had been kidnapped. After talking with the reporting party, it was found that the incident took place outside of the Mount Horeb Police Department’s jurisdiction.

A possible child custody issue was called in the police department. Contact was made with both parents outside of one of the schools, who could not agree on who was to have the kids. After talking with all parties involved, the children decided which parent they would go with. The parents were advised to get child custody agreements set up with their lawyers to avoid further issues.

Disabled Vehicle - 5
Disturbance Call – 3

Police were dispatched to a business for the report of a disturbance. Contact was made with the reporting party, who stated she got in to a verbal argument with the driver of a vehicle

that she was a passenger in. During the argument, and as the reporting party was getting items from the back seat of the vehicle, the driver pulled away, knocking the victim to the ground. The driver of the vehicle left the scene. Eventually the driver turned himself in to the Iowa County Sheriff’s Office where he remains.

A resident came to the police department to report a disturbance that took place in the laundry area of an apartment complex. The reporting party stated he was verbally attacked, and was also hit by a door that was being shut. The subject was also interviewed, who stated the verbal disagreement was by both parties and there was nothing physical. Both parties were warned to stay away from each other and follow the apartment rules.

A resident reported that he was pushed to the ground by a motorist after a verbal confrontation regarding the motorist speeding. Contact was made with the motorist who confirmed the verbal altercation occurred after the reporting party came out into the middle of the road. Due to conflicting stories, and both individuals not wanting charges pressed, this case is informational.

Domestic/Family Trou-

ble – 2

A resident called to request transportation to a business in the Village of Mount Horeb while he waited for his mother to pick him up. Upon the mother’s arrival, the male subject became agitated, and a disturbance occurred. The male subject was ultimately arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Resisting and Obstructing. The subject was transported to the Dane County Jail after receiving medical clearance.

Police were dispatched to a residence for the report of a domestic disturbance. Interviews were conducted and the predominate aggressor was arrested for Disorderly Conduct and transported to the Dane County Jail.

Drug Incident – 1

During a routine traffic stop for speeding, and upon contact with the driver, officers noted the odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. A record check of the driver showed he had an outstanding warrant out of Pennsylvania. A consent search of the vehicle was conducted which yielded multiple THC items. Due to the warrant having a 300-mile restriction, the driver was not arrested for the warrant. Verbal warnings were issued for the speed and pos-

session of THC.

EMS Assist – 47
Fingerprints – 1
Follow Up - 6
Foot Patrol/Check Property -61
Found Property – 3
Fraud – 4

A report of a fraud came in to the police department. It was determined that an employee was charging items to the business without consent. At the time of this report, this case is still active.

A resident came in to the Police Department to report her email being hacked. She received an email stating that she needed to purchase Bitcoin in order for this to stop. The victim also noticed some unauthorized charges on her credit card. The reporting party has been in contact with her credit card company, IRS and Social Security Administration to have her information flagged. Geek Squad will be contacted for assistance.

A fraud was reported to the police department. After interviewing the victim, it was found the fraud happened in another jurisdiction, and was referred to that police department.

A resident came in to report a fraud of a large sum of money. This case is still active and being investigated.

Graffiti Complaint- 1

The police department was advised of graffiti under the 6th Street bridge. There are no suspects.

Information – 19

Juvenile Complaint – 2

Police responded to a business for the report of juveniles ringing door bells on buildings, multiple days, and multiples times per day. Contact was made with the juveniles matching the descriptions, along with the mother of a juvenile. The juveniles denied any involvement.

A business owner called to report juveniles that were riding e-bikes and electric scooters through the business property and causing damage. The juveniles were identified and talked to regarding this behavior and the damage that was caused.

Lost Property – 2

Parking Ticket Warning - 2

Parking Tickets – 18

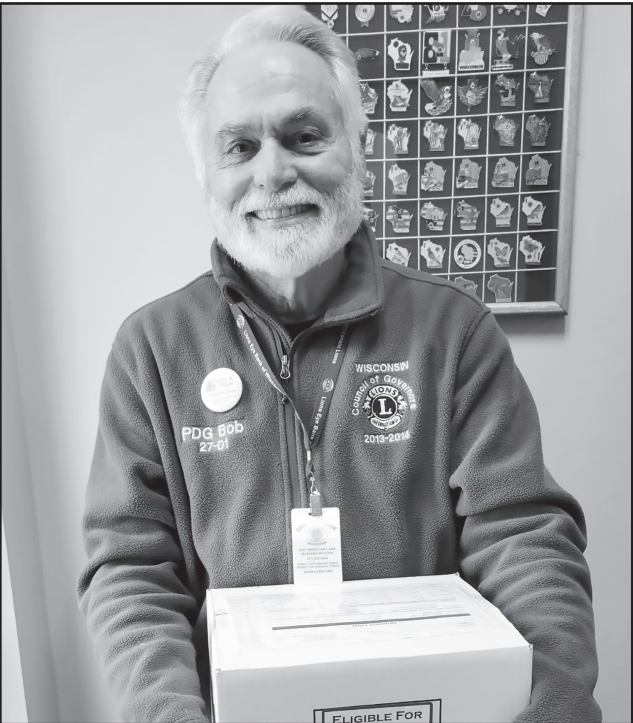
Phone Call – 13

Preserve the Peace –3

A resident requested a preserve the peace in order to obtain payment for an item sold where the original check bounced. An officer stood by while a new check was collected. No issues were observed

continued on page 6

Lions Club makes series of important donations



Lion Bob Faliveno preparing to transport cornea tissue from the Lions Eye Bank in Madison to Beaver Dam Hospital for a transplant surgery the following day in Appleton.



Faliveno presenting the annual \$1000 donation to Kim Watrud from the MARC center.



Faliveno presenting the club's annual \$500 donation to Jerry Hook from American Legion post 123 for the annual Badger Boys and Girls state program.

Agard announces new pilot program to keep youth out of jail

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

The program was developed at the request of Judge Everett Mitchell and shaped by Interim Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent

Albert Watson, drawing on successful models from other Wisconsin counties and tailoring them to meet the needs of Dane County youth.

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

Participants will be housed in a dedicated wing of the Juvenile Detention Center and will have access to employment opportunities, community service, skill-building, and individual and family therapy through a partnership with Anesis.

As youth progress, they may earn home visits or overnight stays and, in some cases, attend their traditional school.

POLICE

continued from page 1

Officers stood by as property was collected from a residence. No issues were observed.

A preserve the peace was conducted while an individual picked up work items from a residence. The items were picked up without incident.

Repossession - 1
Safety Hazard - 4
School Related Incidents - 10
Assist Citizen - 1
Event - 3
Juvenile Complaint - 1

Special Events - 2
Threats Complaint - 1
Truancy - 2
Special Events/Community Relations - 1
Officers patrolled the route during the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. No issues.

Suspicious Person - 3
Suspicious Vehicle - 5
Traffic Arrests - 22
Traffic Complaint - 2
Traffic Incident - 1
Traffic Incident / Road Rage - 1
Traffic Warning - 60
Unwanted Person - 2
Police were dispatched to a local business for the

report of an unwanted person. Upon contact, it was found that an employee was terminated and asked to leave. Police made contact with all parties involved. The employee left the scene without incident.

During a planned protest, a business reported that the protesters were too close to the entrance. An officer arrived and spoke to a male who was near the entrance and asked them all to be mindful of traffic and the businesses. No further action was taken.

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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St. Michael The Archangel Parish
~St. Ignatius Catholic Church
109 S. Sixth St., Mount Horeb
608-437-5348
Mass: Sunday 10:30 am
Tuesday, 5:30 pm,
Thurs-Friday, 8:00 am;
Sat. 5:00 pm
~Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
10070 Spring Valley Dr., Mount Horeb
Mass: Sunday 8:00 am

New Hope Evangelical Free Church
639 S. Eighth St., Mt. Horeb
Phone: 608-437-3273
www.newhopeefc.org
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

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

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

West Blue Mounds Lutheran Church
2962 Church St., Blue Mounds
608-437-3493
Vicar: James Ranney
Worship: Every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month, 10:00 am

Mt Vernon United Church of Christ
1693 Washington St. Verona
608-832-6677
Sunday Worship, in-person and on Facebook Live, 10:15 am
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Evers Signs Bipartisan Bills to Bolster EMS Professionals

Gov. Tony Evers signed two bipartisan bills on October 21, to bolster emergency medical services (EMS) in Wisconsin. Senate Bill 182, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 35:

Requires the Wisconsin Technical College System

(WTCS) Board to award grants to each technical college that provides an EMS program that trains and prepares individuals for initial certification or licensure as an emergency medical responder or an EMS practitioner;

Requires the WTCS Board to develop and provide district boards with a standard template for a con-

tract for access expansion services;

Requires the Higher Educational Aids Board to develop a reimbursement program for individuals or employers for tuition and materials relating to completing an EMS program at a Wisconsin technical college for initial certification or licensure as an emergency medical responder or an EMS practitioner; and

Authorizes the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs to develop a live 911 pilot program to distribute funding through a grant program to enable real-time video and multimedia communications between public safety professionals and those who call emergency services.

Senate Bill 183, now 2025

Wisconsin Act 36:

Directs the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to increase the maximum reimbursement allowed under the Medicaid program for ambulance response and treatment without transport to \$175;

Requires the Emergency Medical Services Board, in consultation with DHS and the WTCS Board to annually submit a report to the Legislature on state and national changes to the scope of practice of certain EMS professionals and how those scope-of-practice changes may affect training in the state; and excluding levy limit adjustments for fire/EMS districts from the eligibility calculation for the Expenditure Restraint Program.

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Mount Horeb Area Veteran Memorial Wall Now Accessible Online Thanks to Local Eagle Scout Project



Noah Koltz, a member of Mount Horeb Troop 62, expanded online access to the Mount Horeb Area Veteran Memorial Wall through his 2025 Eagle Scout project.

The Mount Horeb Area School District is proud to announce expanded online access to the Mount Horeb Area Veteran Memorial Wall, made possible through the 2025 Eagle Scout project of Noah Koltz, a member of Mount Horeb Troop 62. The community can access this online version by going to bit.ly/3MAg2BJ.

Reflecting on the inspiration behind his project, Noah shared: "With my Eagle Scout rank being an important milestone to hit

currently in my life, I was sifting through a lot of options for the project. This project has been on the minds of the veterans of the VFW and American Legion in Mount Horeb for about the past six years. Since I was confident in using technology, I thought I would be able to help them. After a lot of planning and work over the past 8 months, a virtual version of 'The Wall of Remembrance' was created. This was very helpful for them since the online

database could be accessed from anywhere, and they didn't have a physical log of who was on the wall. I really enjoyed this project—while it was a lot of hard work, it made me happy that I could assist the veterans who have protected this country."

"This project ensures that our veterans' stories and sacrifices are honored and preserved for future generations," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Salerno. "We are grateful to Noah for his dedication, leadership, and

service to our community."

The project was completed in partnership with VFW Post 9511 and American Legion Post 113 of Mount Horeb, organizations that have long supported local veterans and their families.

Community members seeking more information or wishing to submit details for the Memorial Wall can reach out to Cullen Steck, District Contact for the Veteran Memorial Wall at 608-437-7597.



Signs of the times?

The morning of December 13 local citizens took part in a "Freeze Out Fascism" event. Braving sub zero weather they presented 18 "warning signs of fascism" and motorists were left to decide which ones are prevalent today in America. Photos contributed.



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TRUE

continued from page 1

One man, a former drug enforcement agent from Chicago turned internationally-trained expert antique restorer, is quietly bucking that trend. Dennis Hiorns opened Heirloom Craftsman Restoration and Woodworks at 212 East Lincoln Street in Mount Horeb on December 16. There, he works somewhere around 60 hours per week. For the most part, the busy shop is devoid of the screeching machines most people associate with woodworking. Instead, Hiorns does nearly everything by hand. The air fills with motes of sawdust dappled with the scent of hide glue that has been used for centuries and the earthy scent of stains and paints.

“It’s the generational aspect of it that I like,” he said. “Most furniture today is made to predecease the owner. But much of what I work on is 150 years old or more and it still has a ways to go.”

Working with a 120-year-old Bedrock plane and other tools, he spends hours breathing new life into old pieces. Each story starts in a different time or place, and the rich, dark luster of the wood tells a thousand tales. A tiny seed that fell to the ground and took root, growing into a mighty tree that lived alongside kings, queens, tribes, clans, aurochs and other creatures long since vanished from the face of the Earth. The tree turned by the work of human hands into lumber, the lumber carefully crafted into a chair, a table, a dresser or a desk. That item living



Dennis Hiorns examines an English Elm chair at Heirloom Craftsman Restoration and Woodworks.

its own life, surrounded by the crackle of a fire at the hearth, the chatter of humans as they ate and spoke of their days. Through generations, the item was used, day after day. The world changed. People abandoned horses for cars. Airplanes and the internet made their arrivals. Yet these wooden items persisted.

The armrest of an old chair showing more wear on one side than the other where someone held a baby, smoked a pipe or read a book. The desk drawers holding scrawled joys and pains. All the way until today...

“I’ve always been some-

one who likes to fix things,” he explained. “And a lot of that has been furniture.”

“It’s important to learn how to make things,” he added. “Because you can’t take furniture apart right unless you know how to put it together.”

The word “antique” often conjures a sense of frailty, of items too weak to withstand the rigors of the modern world, but in reality some of the strongest things in modern life are actually the oldest.

Hiorns has worked on everything from hand crafted peasant furniture to elegant family heirlooms, and antique dealers regularly trust

him with highly valuable pieces from all over the country that need to be carefully repaired. He says he works for those “who love their furniture and wish to pass it on to the next generation.”

Part of his secret to success is the fact that, until the rise of planned obsolescence, most items were intentionally designed so that they could be taken apart and put back together over and over again. The wood, nails and glue were all carefully selected so that they would stand the test of time for centuries. For instance, the hide glue Hiorns uses today – with roots stretch-

ing back to Ancient Egypt – is as strong as the wood it holds together, but no more powerful than that. Using a modern adhesive would mean that, if the furniture underwent excessive strain, the wood would break before the glue did. But with his hide glue, which he always has bubbling in a pot nearby, the adhesive will give way before the wood does, saving the furniture from real damage.

Hiorns completed multiple training courses on woodworking and antique repair, including the Peter Thomas Beginner Antique Restoration Course in Exeter, England, the John Lloyd Advanced Antique Restoration Course in Sussex, England, and the Unplugged Workshop

at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship in Rockport, Maine. He has published two articles in *Quercus Magazine*, an international hand tool woodworking publication based in the United Kingdom. He is also a member of the British Antique Furniture Restorers’ Association (BAFRA).

While Hiorns has always been interested in woodworking and carpentry, it wasn’t until he learned how to use old fashioned hand tools that he says he was really able to refine his skills. He said that using old handsaws, chisels and hand planes teaches the ancient concepts of “true” and “square.” He sometimes uses power tools for his work, but if he has a choice, he always prefers the old methods.

“I work almost entirely with hand tools,” he said. “If the sun is shining, you could turn off the electricity and it wouldn’t affect us.”

“At first it can be really intimidating to work on really old pieces, but once you realize you can fix just about anything you gain confidence,” he added.

Hiorns recently moved to Mount Horeb, looking for a small community that would fit his old school philosophy. In the Troll Capital of the World, he found it, and his workshop and home are both located just a stone’s throw from a variety of people who make things with their hands, from art and furniture to cider and ale.

“My wife and I just moved into town over the summer, and we absolutely love it,” he said.

Heirloom Craftsman Restoration and Woodworks also offers classes for those who want to learn more about this ancient craft.

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year

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Cowboys get revenge on Pipe Benders in Sugar River showdown

By STAN HOOK
Sugar River Euchre

With both the Norsk Cowboys and the Kurniki's Pipe Benders ending the first half of the regular season with a seven and two record, a playoff match was required to determine the first half winners. The Pipe Benders defeated the Cowboys earlier in the season, so they got to play host at the beginning of the playoff match. This worked to their advantage as they jumped out to an 11 point lead, only to



1st Half Champs Keith Legler, Ferdie Schmitz, Randy Schmid, Marvin Thompson, Dean Disch, Steve Dower, Harold Schlingens and Wes Parks.

mean they would remain seated and the Pipe Benders would have to move after each game. At this point the Cowboys could rest their horses thereby hoping to change the results of each round. Right away they got their wish. With a 28 point difference in scoring in the fifth round in favor of the Cowboys, they took a two-point lead. Suddenly everyone heard pipes rattling and creaking in the background, and just like that the Pipe Benders worked hard to regain a 1 point lead. The Cowboys cut a new trail and out flanked the Pipe Benders in the seventh round to take an 8 point lead. No matter how many joints the Benders put together, they just couldn't finish the job. With

a 17 point lead after eight rounds, the Cowboys took their revenge for the previous defeat in the season. Congratulations once again to the Cowboys.
Even if you don't read this article each week, which I don't understand why not, I still want to wish you a Happy Holiday Season!

Schedule for Jan. 8
Shufflers at Pipe Benders (7:00)
Express at Pranksters (7:00)
River Rats at Hay Shakers (7:00)
Cowboys at Trolls (7:00)
Cheese Eaters at Uff-da (7:00)

Grace Larson is new Recreation Coordinator



Larson

The Recreation Dept. is excited to introduce our new Recreation Coordinator! Meet Grace Larson, she is here to help with program registration and to answer any recreation questions!

Give yourself a midday self-care break with **Slow Flow Yoga!** Enjoy this intermediate-level yoga class where you will leave feeling grounded and relaxed, yet energized. This program runs Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30 pm starting January 5 and ending February 9. Cost is \$60 for residents and \$70 for non-residents, and the registration deadline is December 29.

Does your child enjoy LEGOS? Sign them up for **Bricktopia Catapults!** Students will build a catapult, dragster, and a scale with LEGO bricks and challenge themselves to problem-solve and innovate. This class runs Thursdays from 5 pm to 6 pm, January 15th

through February 29th. The registration deadline is January 3rd. \$94 for residents and \$104 for nonresidents.

The Rec. Dept. has added **Adult CPR/AED/IST AID** along with **Adult CPR/AED/IST AID** to our winter offerings. 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.

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
- 1/14, YEL Grandmasters of Chess Sess. 1

WAYNE SUTTER
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He said no party, but we know he'd love to get birthday wishes.

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309 South 5th Street
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572
Emails sent to: wsutter2@mhtc.net

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR HELPING MAKE WAYNE FEEL SPECIAL!

'Guilty Pleasures' monologue takes place January 13 at the Mount Horeb Public Library

Indulge in confession and hilarity with Guilty Pleasures from Forward Theater Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mt. Horeb Public Library. This sampling of performances from Forward's eighth Monologue Festival offers a delightful journey through the joys, embarrassments, and sweet reliefs that come from embracing secret delights. Free. Recommended for ages 16-plus.

Forward Theater Com-

pany was founded in 2009 "to provide Madison-area audiences with exceptional theater productions, and local professional artists with an artistic home base." They say they are "inspired by the Wisconsin Idea of service to the broader community, and we tie our onstage work to expansive engagement efforts throughout each season. The plays we produce are fresh, fun, and thought-provoking, bringing the very best of

contemporary theater from Broadway and beyond to local audiences."
Made possible with the support of Beyond the Page, National Endowment for the Humanities and Madison Community Foundation and the Green Bay Packers Foundation.
No registration necessary. For more information about the library, its programs and services, visit www.mhpl.org or call 608-437-5021.

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SPORTS

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Vikings fall to Slinger

by DENNIS SEMRAU
Sports Reporter

MADISON — Mount Horeb’s matchup with Slinger at the fifth annual 60Eight Tournament hosted by Madison College last Saturday evening was listed as a ‘Showcase Game’

The stars were certainly out, too, with Josh Manchester for Mount Horeb and Slinger’s Kohnen brothers — Jack and Joey — a trio of NCAA Division I prospects.

Another player to watch was Mount Horeb’s Hayden Anderson, also an NCAA Division I football commit, who drew the Vikings within a bucket on his 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer.

Slinger, though, showed off not only its high-level talent, but also its experience in pulling away for a convincing 61-45 victory over the Vikings in the finale

of the six-game basketball tournament.

Mount Horeb fell to 4-2, while Slinger improved to 5-2.

“It was a great opportunity,” Anderson said of the non-conference matchup of two top 10 Division 2 teams. “We always have great competition here. It’s really a test for us every year just to see where we line up against the best teams in the state. So, it’s really a good opportunity.”

Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said in scheduling the competitive matchup the Vikings were looking at the big picture in March come state tournament time.

“This stretch of games is for March,” Nesheim said. “(This) week we’ve got SPASH and Oshkosh West. Those are for March games. We got a lot of nice answers tonight on some really good

things. We know we can now compete against that level.”

Manchester, who was averaging 41 points a game entering the contest, but was held to 13 by the Owls, agreed.

“A game like this makes us tougher,” Manchester said. “Even when things aren’t going our way, we can still step up and make it a game. We just had one bad stretch, honestly, in the second half which cost us the game. If we fix that up, we’ll be fine.”

Manchester’s personal 9-0 run staked Mount Horeb to an early 9-8 lead before Slinger tightened up its defense, holding him to just four points the rest of the way.

Joey Kohnen and Colton Mantz, two of the Owls’ better defenders, took turns

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Alex Chapman and Mount Horeb’s boys basketball team dropepd a 61-45 decision to Slinger last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb’s best of 2025

Vikings had a plethora of highs during a big year

Conference championships.

State tournament appearances — and titles.

And memories to last the rest of their lives.

Mount Horeb athletics had it all in the past year. And that meant one highlight after another.

We’ll look at No. 9-12 this week, and reveal the top eight over the next two weeks.

9) Nicewander qualifies for state

It’s not how you start, it’s how you finish.

It can refer to a lot of scenarios, but usually it’s a synonym for perseverance.

That was certainly the case for Mount Horeb senior Delaina Nicewander, who became just the second Viking in school history — and first since 2003 — to qualify for the WIAA Division 1 girls state golf tournament.

Nicewander found herself 6-over-par after just four holes during her first round at University Ridge on Oct. 13.

But she righted the ship. Nicewander collected her



nerves, finished her day by playing her last four holes at 1-over for an 18-over 90, then returned on Oct. 14 to shoot an 85, the third-lowest score of her high school career.

“It was pretty fun,” Nicewander said after wrapping up the two-day tournament. “The 78 (at sectionals this season) was probably the best, but an 85 here for me is really good because it’s a much more difficult course than anything I’ve ever played, and then also the nerves.”

Nicewander was on her way to an even worse back nine in round one than her front nine, with double bogeys on Nos. 10, 11 and 12 followed by bogeys on Nos. 13 and 14.

But she reined it in.

“It made me a lot happier,” she said of how she finished that round. “I was

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Mount Horeb’s Delaina Nicewander became just the second player in school history to qualify for the state tournament. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld



Lauren Mester and Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team won a pair of games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

MoHo girls cruise to a pair of wins

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls basketball team rolled to a pair of wins last week.

The Vikings defeated Reedsburg, 57-31, on Dec. 15. Mount Horeb also downed Stoughton 62-44, on Dec. 16.

Here’s a recap of the Vikings’ week.

- **Mount Horeb 57, Reedsburg 31** — Lauren Mester poured in a team-high 14 points as the Vikings rolled past the Beavers. Jami Chapman added 12 points and Nalia Craven had 10.
- “It’s a strange game environment, since Reedsburg has varsity only at 6 p.m. with little to no fans,” Mount Horeb coach Bart Leibfried said.
- The Vikings did a terrific job picking apart Reedsburg’s 1-3-1 defense. Mount Horeb had 10 assists and just three first half turnovers and built a 22-6 lead at the break.
- “Our returning players did a great job of being patient, finding the open spots and hitting open shots,” Leibfried said of attacking the 1-3-1.
- Mount Horeb’s pressure defense was terrific in the

second half, and the Vikings’ defense continually led to offense. Junior guards Courtney Monroe and Julia Straka led the defensive charge.

“Courtney and Julia were fantastic with on ball pressure, not reaching and just letting the Reedsburg players make mistakes or getting deflections that their teammates cleaned up for run outs and scores,” Leibfried said. “Julia doesn’t typically score a lot of points but she plays great defense, plays extremely smart and has been playing great all around.”

- **Mount Horeb 62, Stoughton 44** — Nalia Craven poured in 17 points, while Courtney Monroe and Magali Forlines both chipped in 15 points.
- It was Mount Horeb’s third road game in four days and it started slow, falling behind, 8-1, early.
- “The one thing I have learned about this group is they don’t panic and they are very coachable,” Leibfried said.
- After a Mount Horeb timeout, it went on a 22-2 run and surged to a 36-18 lead by halftime.
- “We played our best 15 minutes of basketball this season,” Leibfried said.

Mount Horeb shot the 3-pointer well and Nalia Craven did a terrific job of getting some easy scores in transition.

“We knew we would be able to get a lot of 3-point looks against their defense and talked about how we needed to make sure they were inside out looks with our feet and hands set which we did,” Leibfried said.

Mount Horeb struggled shooting in the second half, when it made just 19% of its shots. But the Vikings were 11-of-12 from the free throw line in the second half (91.7%).

“We did a good job of running offense and clock in the second part of the second half,” Leibfried said. “Once again Sammy Johnson and Julia Straka played great defense and made great decisions with the basketball in their hands.”

- **On deck:** Mount Horeb was at the New Berlin Holiday Classic Monday and Tuesday. The Vikings faced Menomonee Falls Monday and Muskego Tuesday.

Vikings’ gymnasts roll past Baraboo

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb’s girls gymnastics team rolled past Baraboo, 139.05-128.125, in its first Badger Conference dual meet of the season on Dec. 16.

“I’m very pleased with our varsity team scoring a 139 in its third meet of the season,” Mount Horeb coach Martha Koller Faust said. “All four varsity events recorded season-best totals with room for continued improvement. We also had several athletes competing for the first time this season and it was rewarding to see the team rally together in support of one another.”

Here are the Vikings’ finishers in each event:

- Uneven bars (33.05 points)**
 - 1st place — Macie Finley, 8.675
 - 2nd place — Sylvia Seeliger, 8.575
 - 4th place — Tessa Soppe, 7.975
 - 5th place — Harper Hendrickson, 7.825
- Vault (34.15 points)**
 - 1st place — Sylvia Seeliger, 8.85
 - 2nd place — Avena Meyers, 8.55
 - 4th place — Harper Hendrickson, 8.4
 - 5th place — Averie Kalscheur, 8.35
- Floor exercise (36.1 points)**
 - 1st place — Harper Hendrickson, 9.35
 - 4th place tie — Averie Kalscheur and Carmen Oglesby, 9.025
 - Avena Meyers, 8.7
- Balance Beam (35.75 points)**
 - 1st place — Sylvia Seeliger, 9.225
 - 2nd place — Harper Hendrickson, 9.025
 - 3rd place — Averie Kalscheur, 8.9
 - 5th place — Avena Meyers, 8.6

MOUNT HOREB ROUNDUP

WRESTLING

Mount Horeb’s wrestling team won its own 12-team invitational last Saturday.

The Vikings finished with 352.5 points to easily outdistance runner-up Fennimore (192.5). Pecatonica/Argyle (145), Whitewater (139.5) and Madison Memorial (101) rounded out the top five.

Mount Horeb had six first place finishes: Bryce Madden at 106, Hunter Stevens (150), Easton Kammerud (165), Eli Maier (175), Eli Leonard (190) and Leland Havens (215).

Gavin Reynolds (285), Timmy Kruse (138), R.J. Emmanuel (126) and Drew Droessler (120) all finished second, while Ryan Nolan (126), Nick Bureson (144) and Landon Kahl (157) were all third.

Madden pinned Fennimore’s Nathan Czepleski in 1:42 in the championship match, while Stevens pinned Fennimore’s Jerrin Glasbrenner in 2:22 in the first place match.

Kammerud pinned Madison Memorial’s Colletti Hill in 1:18 in the championship match, while Maier defeated Waylon Miles, 16-0, in the first place match.

Leonard pinned CJ Mulkey of Madison Memorial in 1:07 in the title match, while Havens pinned Samuel Shaffer of Poynette in 1:25 in that first place battle.

HOCKEY

Stoughton’s boys hockey team — which included players from Mount Horeb, Barneveld and Luther Prep — dropped a pair of games last week.

The Vikings are now 1-7 on the year.

Stoughton fell to Monroe, 5-2, on Dec. 16, and dropped a 5-0 decision to Monona Grove on Dec. 19.

Stoughton grabbed a 2-0 lead against Monroe after goals by Oliver Shambeau and Silas Sawacki. But the Cheesemakers answered with five unanswered goals and pulled away.

The Vikings then fell to Monona Grove three days later.

- **On deck:** Stoughton is at Beaver Dam Saturday at 3 p.m., hosts Viroqua Monday at 3 p.m. and hosts Baraboo/Portage Tuesday at 3 p.m.

All-Around

1st place — Sylvia Seeliger, 35.125

3rd place — Harper Hendrickson, 34.6

Carmen Oglesby, 32.025

- **On deck:** Mount Horeb is off until Jan. 6 when it hosts Milton/Edgerton at 6 p.m.
- “Over winter break, we’ll focus on connecting skills, building confidence in our routines, and adding difficulty to our routines and vaults,” Koller Faust said. “I’m pleased with where we are at this point in the season and excited to see what the new year brings.”
- **JV:** Mount Horeb defeated Baraboo, 121.55-102.9. Here are the Vikings’ top finishers in the JV meet.

Uneven Bars (27.3 points)

1st place — Tori Schilling, 7.2

2nd place — Averie Kalscheur, 6.9

3rd place — Elise Hooks, 6.7

4th place — Evie Wyse, 6.5

Vault (32.6 points)

2nd — Evie Wyse, 8.3

3rd place ties — Elise Hooks, Tori Schilling, Kate Van Gorden, 8.1

Floor (31.1 points)

1st place — Elise Hooks, 8.1

2nd place — Kate Van Gorden, 8.0

3rd place — Ava Bilse, 7.6

5th place — Tori Schilling, 7.6

Balance Beam (30.55 points)

2nd place — Tori Schilling, 7.85

4th place — Jacey Morin, 7.75

5th place — Ava Bilse, 7.7

Elise Hooks, 7.25

All-Around

1st place — Tori Schilling, 30.55

2nd place — Elise Hooks, 30.15

3rd place — Kate Van Gorden, 28.3

Evie Wyse — 29.3 (* combined all-around)

Ava Bilse — 27.3 (* combined all-around)

* — combined all-around means some events were JV 1 and some were JV 2

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BOYS BB

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guarding Manchester. But they had plenty of help from their teammates. “They did a great job,” Manchester admitted. “But (Slinger) also had two guys waiting for me when I dribbled. I was just trying to make the right play, make the right read and get my teammates open shots.”

There were three ties and four lead changes in the first half until Slinger used a 17-9 surge to grab a 27-20 lead with just under 3 minutes remaining in the half. After Manchester sank two free throws and Alex Chapman scored off an offensive rebound, Jude Siikarla’s layup pushed Slinger’s lead to 29-24. Anderson then sank a 3-pointer at the buzzer to pull Mount Horeb within 29-27 at the break. “It was a big confidence booster for him,” Manchester said of Anderson, who finished with a team-high 14 points, including 2-of-4 from long range. “We need him to start playing like that. “He played great today. When people are going to give him scenarios to score, ways to score, he took advantage. He made big shots that kept us in the game.” With the Vikings in search of a third scorer to go along with Manchester and Chapman, Anderson has the tools

to get the job done. “It felt great,” said Anderson, who finished with four rebounds and three steals. “I started off cold, thinking anything wasn’t going in. Then, it was a great moment for our team to go into the second half with. “Everyone contributed today. It was great to get everyone going.” Manchester sank a jumper to open the second half to tie the game at 29-29. That ignited a 10-3 run that gave the Vikings their largest lead of the game at 37-32 at the 15:12 minute mark. But following a time out, Slinger countered with a 10-2 run of its own to grab a 42-39 lead on Jack Kohnen’s fastbreak dunk off a Mount Horeb turnover. Anderson’s layup drew Mount Horeb within 42-41 with 9:31 to play. The Vikings never got any closer the rest of the way, though. “They had some guys to make some shots when they needed to make some shots,” Nesheim said. “We did in the first half, as well, but we didn’t do that in the second half.” Slinger, which returned all five starters from last year’s 25-3 squad, used a 14-0 run spanning 7-plus minutes to put the game away. Mount Horeb missed all six field goal attempts and committed six turnovers in that span.

“I thought we did a really good job of getting the ball inside,” Slinger coach Alex Lavine said. “We spread them out, got downhill, got into the paint. Our shot selection was really, good in the second half. “Then defensively, it was when do we start to apply some pressure to speed them up? We wanted to speed them up, and we weren’t able to do that in a half court setting. So, we needed to do that in a full court setting.” Mount Horeb finished with 16 turnovers, of which Slinger turned into 19 points. “The shot discipline, getting shots in the paint coupled with the defensive pressure flipped the game,” Lavine said. Jack Kohnen’s driving layup gave Slinger its largest lead of the game at 57-41 with 2:39 to play. Anderson then ended a 7-minute, 9-second scoring drought with two free throws with 2:22 to play. Nesheim said despite the loss, the Vikings learned some valuable lessons. “In the first half, we had contributions from just about everybody who played,” Nesheim said. “We had momentum going into halftime. “The turnovers that led to easy baskets for them (in the second half) were the difference for them. We missed some shots to get it back to

a one- or two-possession to three or four. That was the difference in the game.” Joey Kohnen scored a game-high 18 points to lead four Owls in double figures. Bryson Fogle added 17, while Jack Kohnen and Brett Palm chipped in 11 apiece. “We’re at our best when we have four guys in double figures,” Lavine said. “The ball moves and we are able to spread it around a little bit. The Kohnen brothers draw a lot of attention. So when Brett (Palm) or Bryce (Fogle) can impact the game offensively, it’s big for us. “Brett made two really, big plays, too, taking charges, and he didn’t have a turnover. We had steady guard play.” That was especially true on defense. “I thought we were sharp, especially in the second half, making it tough on Manchester. It was well below his average in general,” Lavine said. “We talked about showing him bodies. He’s going to score. He’s going to make plays. We just tried to make it tough. I’m glad we were able to do that.” Manchester said he had been looking forward to matching up with the Kohnen brothers. “We play together (in AAU) with Team Herro,” Manchester said. “All three age groups basically, we’ve

been together and basically been on the same team. They’re great guys. “I knew coming in, I was probably going to have two or three guys on me most of the game. But it’s fun playing against them. They’re great players, but even better people to be around, just great guys.” Lavine admitted that Slinger didn’t take Manchester or the Vikings for granted. “(Josh) Manchester is an efficient player,” Lavine said. “He’s not taking a gaudy number of shots. But one thing that impresses me about Mount Horeb is they’re disciplined to how they play. “On offense and defense, they know their roles. Everybody has a role and they play within themselves. Teams like that maximize their growth.” Nesheim pointed toward Chapman — who nearly recorded a double-double with seven points and 10 rebounds — as a key player for the Vikings this season. “Alex has done a lot of nice things, and he’s going to have to step up even a little bit more,” Nesheim said of Chapman. “We’re going to need him to knock down a few more shots than he’s been knocking down. And he’s capable. He’s worked at it. He knows he can do it.” Nesheim said Slinger provided a measuring stick on

what the Vikings need to accomplish. “We competed,” he said. “We had a rebounding advantage at half. We handled defensively the stuff the scout team worked on. There were a lot of great things. “Their breakout opportunities, the shots they hit near the rim, they weren’t getting in the first half. They had a lot of clean looks.” • **On deck:** Mount Horeb will compete at the Sentry Classic on Dec. 28 and 29. The Vikings face host Stevens Point Dec. 28 at 7:30 p.m. and battle Oshkosh West on Dec. 29 at 5:15 p.m.

Dec. 20	
Slinger 61, Mount Horeb 45	
Slinger 29 32 — 61	
Mount Horeb 27 18 — 50	
SLINGER — (fg ft-fth pts)	
-- Joey Kohnen 8 2-6 18, Colton Mantz 0 0-0 0, Jack Kohnen 4 3-4 11, Bryson Fogle 6 4-4 17, Brett Palm 4 2-2 11, Devin Berger 0 0-0 0, Jude Siikarla 2 0-0 2, JJ Feilbach 0 0-0 0, Noah Pressley 0 0-0 0. Totals 24 11-16 44.	
MOUNT HOREB — Kam Nesheim 0 0-0 0, Josh Manchester 5 2-2 13, Hayden Anderson 5 2-3 14, Cal Odgers 2 0-1 4, Alex Chapman 3 0-0 7, Nick Ibinger 0 0-0 0, Max Grundahl 2 0-0 4, Ethan Morrisard 1 0-0 2, Kyle Freitag 0 0-0 0, Mason Williams 0 0-0 0, Owen Schultz 0 0-0 0, Aiden Aeschlimann 0 0-0 0, Henry Jennings 0 0-0 0. Totals 18 4-6 450.	
3-point goals: S 2 (Bryson Fogle, Brett Palm). MH 5 (Josh Manchester 1, Hayden Anderson 2, Cal Odgers 1, Alex Chapman 1).	
Total fouls: S 15, MH 15.	

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MOUNT HOREB’S BEST OF 2025: NO. 9-12

2025 continued from page 10

telling myself 90 was my max. I could not get above that. So being able to stay consistent on those last four holes really helped.”

Indeed, she didn’t go above 90.

And because of how she finished, she had momentum on Day 2.

Starting at No. 10 in her second round, Nicewander avoided anything worse than a bogey and made the turn at 5-over 41.

“The familiarity, the fact she had played here three days straight now (with the practice round on Oct. 12) and just that comfort level and then having nothing to lose gave her a lot more freedom,” Mount Horeb coach Nolan Krentz said.

She didn’t finish quite as strong, with a triple bogey on No. 9 to fall to 13-over, 85 for the day. Nicewander ended the tournament in a three-way tie for 41st at 31-over, 175.

But it was still a solid round and a definite bounce-back from how things looked for her out of the gates.

“She drove the ball really well (in Round 2), hit nine

fairways,” Krentz said of her second round. “It was a really good day ball striking — hit 10 greens in regulation.”

For her part, Nicewander said she also started putting better near the end of round one, which carried into round two.

“I think I just started acclimating to the greens better,” Nicewander said. “I started being able to read distance and read the greens better.”

Nicewander said her middle irons were a problem for much of the tournament, though.

“My 100 to 130 range, those clubs I guess should have warmed up more,” she said. “I struggled not really with distance but left to right, not getting on the green.”

Nicewander certainly had an eventful opening round.

For starters, that triple bogey on the par 5 second hole began with a near perfect drive.

“She was only 160 (yards) out and then yanked it into the junk and it just spiraled from there,” Krentz said.

That wasn’t the case on No. 15, a 278-yard par 4 that doglegs around a large tree.

On that hole, Nicewander

wrapped her tee shot around the tree perfectly to just off the green, chipped it on and two-putted for par.

And chipping was a big key to her postseason run, which began with a career low 77 at Coachman’s Resort during regionals and was followed up with the 78 at Lake Windsor Country Club during sectionals.

“The practice before regionals I asked (coach Krentz) to help me with my chipping and he switched a few things up in my swing and it started landing right in that makeable putt range,” Nicewander said. “It was leaving me 5-foot putts that I could drain.”

The other shot Nicewander said she’d remember from her two days at state also came in round one on the 81-yard, steep downhill par 3.

She landed her tee shot 7 feet from the cup.

“I missed the birdie putt, but it was really exciting,” she said.

Nicewander certainly wasn’t a lock to make it to state when the postseason began, but her two career-low rounds buoyed her to University Ridge.

Everything clicked at exactly the right time.

“Oh jeez, I have no idea,” she said of how she found her groove. “I would say, not here, but at regionals and sectionals, it was my putting. I made a good three or four 15 to 20-foot putts.”

And hearing her name called as a state qualifier at Lake Windsor will be something she’ll remember for a long, long time.

“That was probably the highlight (of my season),” she said. “I was right on edge — I knew I was either going to make it or miss it by a stroke or two. Once that happened, it really set in that I was going to state.

“It was crazy because freshman year I would not have thought of going to



Mount Horeb’s Delaina Nicewander had an impressive showing at the WIAA Division 1 state tournament. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

state. Even the day of sectionals, playing Lake Windsor, I had high hopes but I didn’t think I could break 80 again after the 77 (at regionals).”

But she did.

“It’s pretty impressive to do it when your best is required,” Krentz said. “It shows her competitive greatness.”

Prior to her 77 at regionals, Nicewander’s career best was an 86.

She toppled that score not once, not twice, but three times on her going away tour.

The fact that she did it for a third time, after carding a 90 the day prior, will be Krentz’s lasting memory.

Nicewander didn’t let University Ridge beat her. She came back for the final round of her career and showed that she was better than her round-one effort.

That’s what stood out the most to her coach.

“Her resilience,” Krentz said. “The finish (in Round

1) was really good to kind of build momentum for (Round 2), and then she got off to a solid start (in Round 2) and kept battling. There were a lot of really good things to cap her career.”

10) Girls track shines at state

Mount Horeb’s girls track and field team was well represented at the state meet in June.

The highlight came when the Vikings’ 3,200-meter relay team of Katherine Straka, Kira Buttner, Willa Vigliotta and Julia Straka finished sixth at state in 9:29.92. A foursome from Bloomer won the race in 9:18.14.

Mount Horeb’s quartet earned a spot on the podium (top six finish) and was just 0.60 away from setting a new school record.

“I was really proud of this group for their performance,” coach Dave Chancellor said. “Katherine gave

us a fantastic leadoff leg and Kira was able to keep us in the race with her fastest split of the season.

“Willa gave us a strong third leg before handing off to Julia. Julia put in a blazing first lap to pick up a couple of spots and held on enough to get the team on the podium.”

While Chancellor was extremely proud of all four members, he was particularly thrilled with the emergence of Buttner.

“We had a lot of question marks around the 4x800 going into the season,” Chancellor said. “We knew we had a really strong group of three in Katherine, Julia, and Willa, but with star freshman distance runner Mia Caygill dealing with a longer term injury going into the season, we weren’t sure if there was going to be a fourth runner who would emerge to take that fourth spot.

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MOUNT HOREB’S BEST OF 2025: NO. 9-12

2025

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“A lot of the story of this relay was freshman Kira Buttner’s emergence in the 800 over the last month of the season. Kira started the season running around 2:50, but gradually began to take time off her runs, mostly with a really spicy kick in the final 200 meters. Coach Alexa Richardson and I kept working with her on her strategy and pacing and were blown away as Kira started to run times in the high 2:20s, which told us that we had a real shot at placing well at state with this group.”

Senior Isabel Munoz qualified for state in two events and performed well in both.

Munoz was fifth in the high jump with a leap of 5 feet, 4 inches. Munoz was also 13th in the preliminaries of the 300-meter hurdles (46.60), but only the top-10 qualified for the finals.

“Isabel was our only athlete who qualified to the meet in two individual events,” Chancellor said. “Although she didn’t make it to finals (in the 300 hurdles), she ran a personal best by nearly a half second.

“In the high jump, she jumped 5’4” to land on the podium for fifth place. Isabel is a senior and an important leader on our team, so as coaches we were really happy to see her have a successful last meet.”

Sophomore Willa Vigliotta added an 11th place

showing in the 3200-meter run with a time of 11:23.06. Vigliotta bested her previous top time by more than 10 seconds.

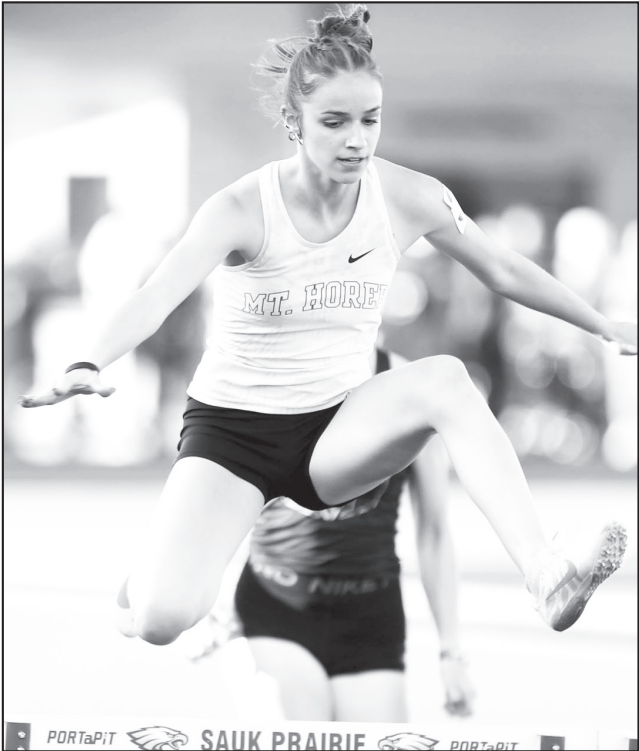
“Willa has run a bunch of 3,200-meter races over the last half of the season, but for many of them, we’ve treated the races tactically and have encouraged her to only run as fast as she really needed to meet the goal of the race,” Chancellor said. “This race at state was the first in several weeks where she’s really been able to go for it. She raced it really well and improved on her personal best time by over 10 seconds.”

Senior Katherine Straka finished in 13th place in the 1,600-meter run. Straka competed in mostly 400- and 800-meter runs in recent years, but made the switch to the 3,200 and shined.

“If you had told me at the beginning of the season that she would be competing at State in the 1600, I would have been surprised,” Chancellor said. “It’s been incredible what she’s been able to do over the last month in the event.

“Just a few weeks ago, her fastest 1600 time ever was around 5:28. She brought that down to around 5:19 at regionals, took about another second off at sectionals, but then ran 5:09.78 at state. That kind of improvement is really remarkable.”

And sophomore Julia Straka fell down in the 800-meter run, but recovered to finish the race where she placed 16th.



Julia Straka (left) and Isabel Munoz (above) qualified for the WIAA state track and field meet. File photos

“Julia came into this race with big goals,” Chancellor said. “The 800m in division 2 was really tight this year and Julia missed out on being in the fast heat by a fraction of a second. I think that all of the girls in her heat of the 800 were approaching the race with a do or die attitude and it showed with some of the aggressiveness in the first lap of the race.”

“This was a tough one for Julia, who fell after a girl behind her got tangled up. Julia was able to get up off the track and catch the pack, but it cost her a lot of energy. Julia is capable of so much and I think this will give her a lot of fuel as we beg

11) Softball has another terrific season

One of these years.

That’s how Mount Horeb’s girls softball program must feel.

For the fifth straight season, the Vikings won a regional title and advanced to sectionals. For the fifth consecutive year, though, the Vikings’ dreams of making the state tournament for the first time in school history fell short.

West Salem defeated Mount Horeb, 6-0, in a WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinal on June 3. Jefferson then bested West Salem, 6-0, in a sectional final on June 5.

Mount Horeb, champions of the Badger Small Conference, finished the year 23-6.

“As for our year I couldn’t complain,” Mount Horeb manager Jeramie Holman said. “We set another team record for wins (23).

“For the past four years, each year we’ve broken our own record for wins. So that shows a lot for our girls because each year we lose a ton of firepower and the girls just keep winning.”

The Vikings could never get their offense going against West Salem’s Josie Brudos, though. The Vikings did have six hits, but had just one inning in which they had multiple base runners.

though, as Brudos struck out nine, didn’t walk a batter and threw strikes on 77 of 110 pitches (70.0%).

“Brudos is a very solid pitcher,” Holman said. “We got six hits off of her. The bad thing is only three girls got the hits.

“She’s one of the harder throwing pitchers we faced this year. We had some good swings on her where we were just missing the ball. We definitely weren’t intimidated by her.”

Jayse Holman, meanwhile, struggled on the mound, allowing four runs in three innings and taking the loss. Holman gave up five hits, walked two and struck out four.

Pitcher Jayse Holman had a terrific day at the plate, going 3-for-3 with three singles. And left fielder Jozie Clifton went 2-for-3 with two base hits.

The rest of the Vikings combined for just one hit,

West Salem struck for two runs in the first inning, then added solo runs in the second and third innings and built a 4-0 lead.

Clifton replaced Holmen in the fourth and worked the final four innings. Clifton allowed two unearned runs, three hits, struck out three and walked one.

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January 14, 6:00 p.m.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the electors of the Village of Blue Mounds, in Dane County, State of Wisconsin, that a Caucus for said Village will be held at the Village Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

Nominations for candidates will be taken for two village trustees. To be qualified to be nominated, candidates must be village residents. A qualified elector of the Village is authorized to make nominations at the caucus. Offices will be voted on at the spring election on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Mary Jo Michek
Village Clerk/Treasurer
Posted: 12/22/2025
Publish: 12/25/25 **WNAXLP**

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“Our pitchers pitched good enough to win the game,” Jeramie Holman said. “We just had to put runs on the board to put some pressure on them and who knows what could’ve happened.”

Despite the loss, Mount Horeb enjoyed another terrific season.

The Vikings were 2-3 and 4-4 early in the year.

Mount Horeb then ripped off 13 straight wins, jumped into the state polls and surged to the top of the Badger Small Conference. The Vikings dropped a late season game to McFarland, then embarked on another five-game winning streak before falling to West Salem.

“The senior group will leave the program winning

79 games,” Jeramie Holman said. “That is one heck of a run — darn near 20 wins a season.”

Seniors Jayse Holman and Ruby Dahlk, along with sophomore Jozie Clifton and freshman Lauren Mester were all named first-team all-conference. Seniors Ellie Larson and Morgan Monroe, along with junior Delaina Nicewander were named second-team all-league, while senior Hallie Klein was named honorable-mention all-conference.

“We are going to miss the ‘Fab Five’ ” Jeramie Holman said of Jayse Holman, Dahlk, Monroe, Klein and Larson. “These girls had 500 hits, 17 home runs 250 RBIs, 59 doubles and scored 350 runs.

“They combined for 15 all-conference (awards) and had the two-time pitcher of the year. They were four

times regional champions, two-time sectional finalists, two-time conference champs and had 79 wins in their career.”

12) Girls swimmers qualify for state

The podium is a special place at the state swimming meet.

The top six finishers in each event are called there for pictures and to receive their medals.

On Nov. 14, Mount Horeb freshman Lucy Peterson and senior Caitlin Patrick-Stern both found themselves on the podium after the 500-yard freestyle, making their trip to the WIAA Division 2 state meet at Waukesha South extremely memorable.

“To be able to get both Lucy and Caitlin to podium

continued on page 16



Jayse Holman and Mount Horeb’s softball team had another terrific season in 2025. File photo

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in the 500 is incredible,” Mount Horeb coach Jalen Butteris said. “I know it’s something they both wanted and nothing was going to stop them once they put their mind to it.”

Peterson was fourth in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5 minutes, 21.14 seconds. Whitefish Bay’s Anne Dickinson won the event in 4:44.09.

Patrick-Stern was sixth in the 500-yard freestyle in 5:22.39, giving the Vikings two individuals on the podium.

Mount Horeb finished in 18th place overall with 35 team points. Whitefish Bay won the team title with 382 points.

“I think Caitlin and Lucy both making podium is almost poetic in a way,” Butteris said. “It feels like a passing of the baton to the next chapter for Mount Horeb swimming. Caitlin was one of the inaugural members of the team when we became a stand-alone program and has set a stan-

dard of what success looks like. And now Lucy gets to help usher in the next wave of swimmers.”

Peterson was also 10th in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:00.17. That was 0.19 seconds faster than her seed time.

Whitefish Bay junior Aibhy King won the event in 54.92 seconds.

“I think the girls did a fantastic job,” Butteris said. “What a truly great way to end the season. They have worked so hard in and out of practice and it is special to see them rewarded for their hard work.

“It has been amazing to watch Caitlin grow over these past three years as her coach. I am so proud of the swimmer and person she has become in that time. She is one of the hardest workers I’ve seen on the team and I know she’ll go off to do amazing things.

“Lucy is just starting her high school career and she started it with a bang. I am so excited to see the journey she’s about to take.”



Mount Horeb’s Caitlin Patrick-Stern was sixth in the 500-yard freestyle at the WIAA Division 2 state swimming meet in November. File photo

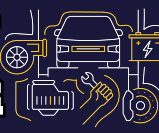
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