



**High-Speed Internet coming to the Town of Perry**

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**Report from the village utility commission**

By ERIN HERNDON  
Mount Horeb Mail

Mount Horeb Utilities department heads reported to the Utility Commission on their May activities. The Commission met June 9 for its monthly meeting, where it approved May's meeting minutes, reviewed its finances and received

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**Blue Mounds talks liquor licenses**

By ABIGAIL KARBUSICKY  
Mount Horeb Mail

The village board agreed it would need to be more firm with liquor license approvals going forward, and approve only if applicants got their applications and fees in within the deadline.

The board conditionally approved several licenses

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# Going out with a bang

**Police conduct tactical training at soon-to-be razed Karakahl hotel**



Pictured above, officers detonate an explosive charge before storming Room 141 at the out of business Karakahl Country Inn on Thursday, June 18. Photos by Matt Geiger.

By MATT GEIGER  
Mount Horeb Mail

The Dane County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team and Madison Police conducted emergency training at the Karakahl Motor Hotel on Thursday of last week. The first responders performed an array of drills, including using explosives to breach the hotel's heavy metal doors and more. The Tactical Re-

sponse Team is an on-call tactical unit that consists of 23 deputies, detectives, and supervisors, in addition to six Tactical Medics. Tactical Response Team members train 16 hours a month. They also have a 40-hour block of training in the fall. Training during this time has been done at Fort McCoy, Volk Field, Milwaukee, and around Dane County. In addition to the monthly

training, team members go to numerous seminars and training courses offered in Wisconsin and around the country. Located at 101 Perimeter Road, the Karakahl Motor Hotel first opened its doors in 1964. Designed by architect John Steinmann, who also crafted the Wisconsin Pavilion for the New York World's Fair, the building featured a dramatic, swoop-

ing saw-tooth roofline, a swanky restaurant that looked like it had popped out of a Raymond Chandler novel, a sunken rock garden, a large pool, and walls covered in audacious colors. It was designed "with the Norse culture of the community" in mind, according to an article in the *Capital Times* that said it would "aid [the] Mt. Horeb economy." Behind the project was C.S.

Gonstead, the famous chiropractor who worked out of the similarly Frank Lloyd-Wright-inspired clinic located just behind the inn. The newspaper in 1964 said it was the only motel in the area to offer dining accommodations. Madison-based developer JT Klein Company Inc. plans to raze the aging buildings and construct apartments there.



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# COMMUNITY

## Historical Society Celebrates Brian Bigler and His 51 Years of Service



Guests were asked to wear plaid as a special nod to the guest of honor's signature style. Bigler is in the front row, sixth in from the right.

As part of its year-long 50th anniversary festivities, the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society hosted its final Legacy Volunteer Reception in honor of co-founder Brian Bigler. On Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, nearly

one hundred community members gathered at the Society's downtown Driftless Historium in tribute to Brian's impressive fifty-one year (and counting!) tenure.

Starting when he was just nineteen years old, Brian has

spent decades shaping and strengthening the Society by serving as President, Board member, exhibit designer, event planner, curator and tour guide. Undoubtedly, his most enduring legacy is MHAHS's diverse and

comprehensive collection. Because of his outreach efforts—and countless hours spent at estate and garage sales, nearly every aspect of Southwestern Dane County history is represented. In recognition of his dedica-

tion, the Folk & Outsider Art Collection has been named in his honor.

Founded in 1975, the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society collects, preserves, and shares the stories of southwestern

Dane County.

For more information about MHAHS and how to join its volunteer team, call 608-437-3486 or email [mthorebahs@gmail.com](mailto:mthorebahs@gmail.com).

## Town of Perry to Receive High-Speed Internet Service from TDS Telecom

TDS Telecommunications Inc. has announced it will bring high-speed internet service to residents of the Town of Perry.

In a January 10, 2024, letter to State Senator Dianne Hesselbein and Representative Mike Bare, TDS committed to upgrading Perry's existing low-speed copper wire network by building a new broadband fiber optic network in the town. The new network will offer speeds exceeding 100/20 megabits per second (Mbps). The average speed in Perry is 13/4 Mbps.

The project represents a significant multimillion-dollar investment by TDS, supported by federal funding to improve broadband connectivity in rural communities, including the Town of Perry. The multi-year effort will affect approximately 700 addresses in the town and a total of 1,480 addresses, including those around the town. Under FCC rules, the project must be completed by 2028.

On June 2, 2026, a Groundbreaking Ceremony was held at the old Perry Town Hall, which had historically served as a schoolhouse. The Town Hall was built in 1854, twenty-two years before Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, famously calling his assistant, saying, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you."



Pictured holding groundbreaking shovels, from left to right are: Jaron McCallum, Dane County Broadband Coordinator, Dane County Planning and Development Department; Angie Dickison, Senior Manager, State Government Affairs, TDS Telecom Inc.; Kit Beyer, Director of External Affairs and Communications, TDS Telecom Inc.; WI Senator Howard Marklein; Roger Kittleson, Chairman, Town of Perry; WI Representative Jenna Jacobson; Stephanie Zwettler, Town Clerk and Treasurer, Town of Perry; Mark Eastman, Patrolman, Town of Perry; and Mick Klein Kennedy, Supervisor Two, Town of Perry. Not pictured are: Ken Hefty, Supervisor One, Town of Perry; and Doug King, CEO of The Madison Group LLC, the pro-bono consulting practice which lead the five-year year campaign to successfully secure the federal, state, regional, county and corporate support needed for the project from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); National Telecommunications and Information Administration; Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program; U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin; U.S. Representative Mark Pocan; WI Senator Jon Erpenbach; WI Senator Dianne Hesselbein; WI Representative SONDY POPE; WI Representative Mike Bare; WI Senator Howard Marklein; Wisconsin Public Service Commission; Governor Tony Evers Task Force on Broadband Access; Dane County Broadband Task Force; Dane County Supervisor Pat Downing; Dane County Department of Planning and Development; Mount Horeb Telephone Co.; Madison Region Economic Partnership; Wisconsin State Journal; Madison Capital Times; TDS Telecom Board of Directors and Executive Management for State Government Affairs, Investor Relations, and Corporate Relations.