

# New Holstein's MT Glass changing owners

**By Dave Kohls**

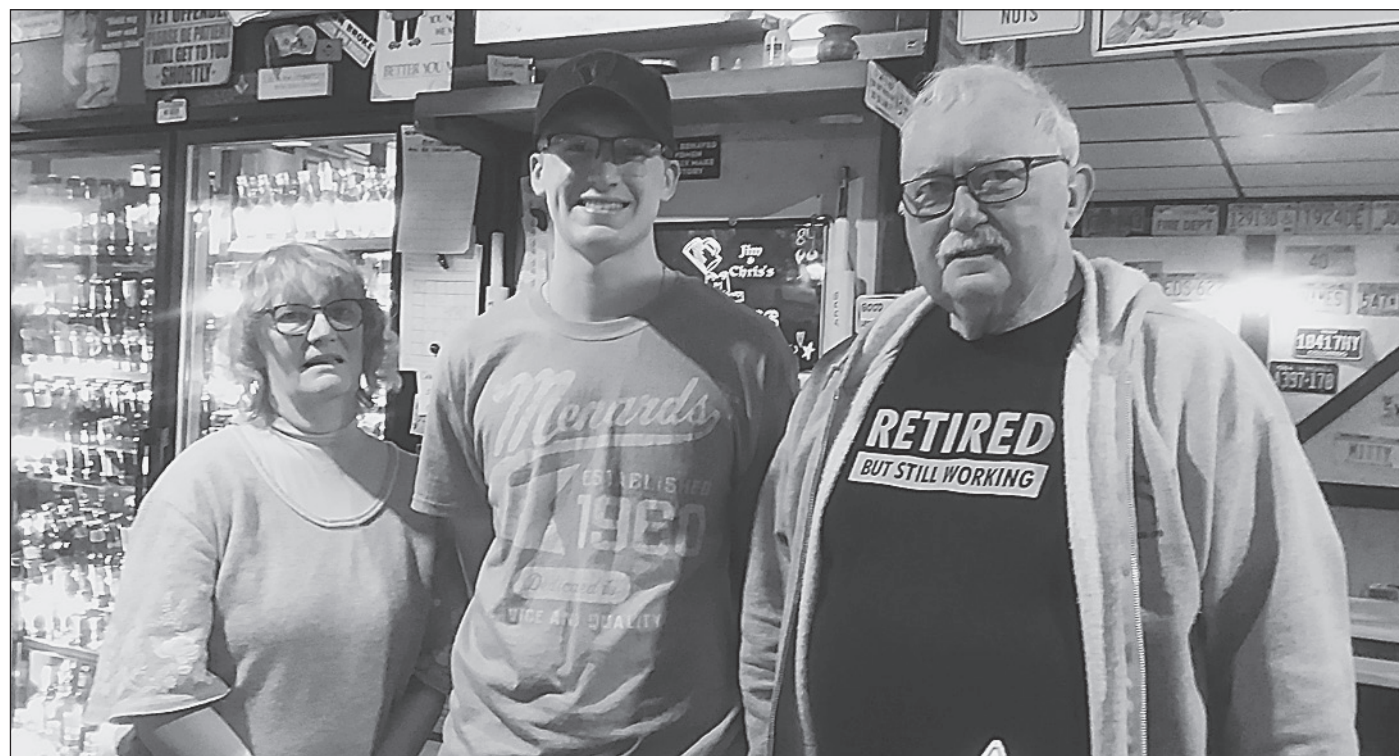
Jim and Chris Leavitt have announced that it is time for retirement by transferring ownership of the MT Glass Bar to new business owner Isaac Beirne.

For 18 years Jim and Chris have poured everyone's favorite refreshments, along with preparing burgers, fries, Friday fish fries, and more. Jim said he had been looking for some time for the right person to transfer ownership to, and Isaac was the right person. Jim also reflected on the bravery of Isaac's decision. Jim said, "It is more than impressive to have a young person offer to buy the business in these uncertain times. Isaac is looking forward to serving you with a new menu and youthful enthusiasm."

When asked to reflect on those 18 years, Jim jokingly said, "It took me 18 years to know that I should not have owned the business." As the laughter quieted a bit, he went on to say that the last couple of years were tough, but they had many good times too.

Jim's wife and business partner Chris reflected on the meals catered to the airport during the annual fly-ins as being one of many happy times. She also was so thankful for the many friendships developed over the years. Jim wanted to express his appreciation directly by stating, "Thank you to our patrons, for the opportunity to serve you over the past 18 years. We have enjoyed our time at MT Glass and hope you will continue to support this small business in New Holstein."

Typically, when someone new acquires a business, the new owner wants to put their mark on that business; however, when asked what changes Beirne intends to make to the business or menu,



**Isaac Beirne (center) has purchased M-T Glass bar and grill in New Holstein from Jim and Chris Leavitt.** *Dave Kohls photo*

he replied, "The name will be Isaac's MT Glass, but beyond that stay tuned for more information." Leavitt shared that the food menu will likely be cut back, but the Friday fish fry still will be available. Beirne, a quiet young man of few words, went on to say that he wants to "carry on what Jim and Chris started."

Asked what prompted him to buy a bar—particularly during a worldwide pandemic—Beirne said, "Owning a business has always interested me and when the opportunity came along, I couldn't pass it up. I look forward to having a business where the community

is welcoming." Beirne, though quiet, appears full of energy, enthusiasm, and optimism. Some businesses have started on a lot less. Leavitt said he is confidently optimistic that Beirne will be successful with the help of the community.

For the next few weeks Leavitt and Beirne will be working together. Leavitt, being a former teacher, will be teaching and assisting Beirne with all details and tasks that are necessary in operating a successful business. In fact, for the last couple of weeks, Beirne has been frying all the fish for the Friday night fish fry and Leavitt said with a huge grin, "and

nobody even noticed." Jim and Chris will still stop in from time to time to check in on their protégé, but they will have more time to take life a bit easier, with bit less stress.

An interesting fun fact: While Beirne is no stranger to New Holstein, having relocated here from La Crosse in 2008, the Beirne family knew the Leavitt family many years ago through their La Crosse family connections. As we stop in to congratulate Beirne in his new endeavor, that might be an interesting ice breaker conversation.