

Fitchburg Star

Thursday, February 18 1999

Vol. 25 Number 07

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District voters say **NO!**

THE REFERENDUM VOTE

Unofficial results Question 1
Authorizing Bonds

	Yes	No
City of Verona	1050	1321
Verona Twp.	284	487
City of Fitchburg	876	732
Springdale Twp.	56	130
Montrose Twp.	27	44
Middleton Twp.	4	11
City of Madison	204	125
TOTAL	2501	2850

by Karl Curtis

After rejecting more expensive proposals twice within the last fifteen months, voters in the Verona Area School District said no again to a \$19.4 million building referendum on Tuesday and a second referendum question authorizing the school district to override the State imposed revenue cap by \$1.3 million to cover operational costs in the new buildings. The final tally for question one was 2850 opposed, 2501 in favor. The second question lost 3108 to 2204.

The school district had asked voters for authority to build two identical elementary schools, one in both Verona and Fitchburg, remodel Savanna Oaks Elementary School to a middle school, remodel Country View Elementary School to high school space, and remodeling the gymnasium at Sugar Creek Elementary School. Construction would have

been completed by the opening of the 2000-2001 school year. The cost to taxpayers would have been an estimated \$2.30 per \$1000 of assessed property value.

The referendum was billed by some as a referendum on how the Verona Area School District does business. The failure of the referendum probably means significant changes including likely increased class sizes and changed grade configurations at the school sites.

"The Verona school community has always supported its children," Superintendent Robert Gilpatrick said. "At this time it is important for the divergent factions within the community to pull together for the sake of the children."

Now comes the work of how to carry on with educational programming in the wake of the no vote. The District Wide Educational Forum will discuss the topic at its next meeting.

THE REFERENDUM VOTE

Unofficial results Question 2
Exceed Revenue Cap

	Yes	No
City of Verona	909	1446
Verona Twp.	264	503
City of Fitchburg	777	814
Springdale Twp.	51	135
Montrose Twp.	27	44
Middleton Twp.	2	13
City of Madison	174	153
TOTAL	2204	3108



African Art...

A new art exhibit has opened at the Promega Biotech Center. The exhibit is exclusively of art from Africa. See story on page 2.

Fitchburg with a school district of its own

by Lucas J. Piper

There was a time when Fitchburg was host to a number of schools, the remnants, such as Dogtown, are still seen dotting the countryside of the city. "At one time, Fitchburg had 13-14 schools scattered throughout the township. At various times they've come and gone, been consolidated and closed," said Fitchburg Mayor, Doug Morrisette.

It was in the early 1960's, when the state mandated unified school districts that students of Fitchburg were divided up into the three school districts of Madison, Oregon and Verona. This situation continues to exist today and will most likely continue for several

decades to come, even though the state legislature, last year, passed Wisconsin Act 286, a law that gives Fitchburg the opportunity to form its own school district.

The opportunity may exist, but such a project would be a massive undertaking that will devour vast amounts of time, effort, and of course, money. Speaking about Act 286, Fitchburg Mayor, Doug Morrisette said, "It's a very complex and involved law, that requires referenda being passed by the school districts and the municipality. In the case of Fitchburg it would require six referendums to pass in the affirmative vote to create our own school district."

Those six referenda would

include one for the Fitchburg voters in the Oregon School District, and a separate referendum for the entire Oregon School District. The same referenda would need to be voted on by the Fitchburg residents in both the Verona and Madison school districts, and there would be separate district wide referendums for the Verona and Madison school districts.

"I believe that the laws, the way they currently are, it could not happen. Those who would be left in the district would have a huge liability, as well as those leaving the district," said Superintendent for the Verona Area School District, Bob Gilpatrick.

"Financially it would not be- see DISTRICT, page 13

MAYORAL PRIMARY

Top two vote-getters
advance to April election

	Morrisette	Vivian	Jones
Ward 1-5	536	306	102
Ward 6-10	614	598	205
TOTAL	1150	904	307

Business

African Lifescapes -contemporary African art exhibit at Promega's Biotech Center

by Ann Waters

Promega Corp. is providing the public with a rare opportunity to glimpse the African experience, unfiltered through western eyes, via their latest art exhibit at the Biotech Center. Daniel Swadener, the show's creator, collected these contemporary African works of art during a 1994-1995 stay in Kenya.

"Each picture tells a story", explains Swadener. "Story-telling is part of a rich cultural heritage in Africa." The artist, David Kamani, portrays both rural and urban life in his oil paintings. A scene from rural Kenya depicts a native driving a cow past thatched roof huts. The picture next to it shows a modern soccer game in progress. Swadener relays that in Africa, people from rural areas flocking to the cities. One painting is of a street scene with kids playing in the streets, smoking cigarettes, sniffing glue and playing in cardboard boxes. "Nairobi

Gamblers" shows a poker game in progress - real life in motion-stopping reality. Kamani's portrayal of his people in everyday situations, gives outsiders (westerners), a rare glimpse at a society as it sees itself. His perspective is such that the viewer is always on the outside looking in, not an invited guest to take part or experience the scene, but just a view from a window. But a privileged view from the window of a resident.

The prime piece in the exhibition is a colored pencil picture titled, "The Fishing Lake" by Joel Oswaggo from Kenya. His technique for definition, clearly illustrated and softly colored, showcases a world class talent. Swadener related that Oswaggo has been discovered by publishing houses and has illustrated several books. His pictures are now also being made into limited edition prints, following in the tradition of many other fine artists. Unfortunately,



There is only one other piece from this fine artist in the exhibition, it also is in colored pencil on paper, entitled "Termites".

"Contemporary African Art" showcases works in many mediums, including wood sculpture on permanent installation at the Biotech Center by Francis Nnagwenda (along with several of his large paintings), many prints (both wood blocks and intaglio), watercolor, crayon, and oil on paper, canvas and leather. There is also a large collection of photographs of the artists in Africa, taken by Daniel Swadener.

Through the photographs, the art becomes a more personal, living and connecting experience. In the photos, taken at the artists' homes and studios, the artists relax with friends. Swadener's addition of these photographs to the exhibit was a generous sharing of his friendships with the artists.

The variety of works on display makes for an interesting delving into the contemporary African art experience. The exhibit showcases many of the important African artists today, and displays a variety of styles and mediums. Well-known artist Theresa Musoke from Uganda is represented by a very strong woodblock print of a woman and child. Meek Gichugu, known for his eccentricity, is represented by a very interesting oil

see ART, page 20

Sylvan Crossings at Chapel Valley holds open house



A ribbon cutting ceremony marked the opening of Sylvan Crossings at Chapel Valley on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

"It's been a delightful experience," said Pat Treinen, welcoming everyone to the open house held at Sylvan Crossings at Chapel Valley. "I'm extremely happy, and I have to tell that this day is one of the nicest days that I've experienced as director of Touchstone Senior Services."

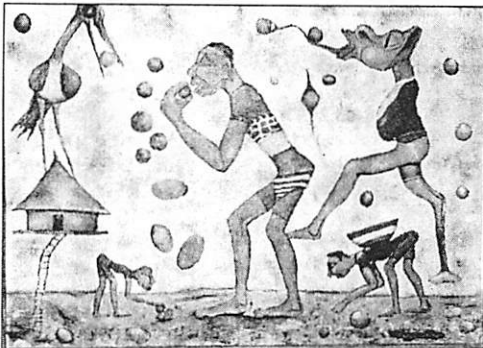
Sylvan Crossings at Chapel Valley is the third of the Sylvan Crossings prototypes to have opened. In Nov. 1997, we opened Sylvan Crossings of Jefferson, in March 1998 we opened Sylvan Crossing of Hunter Ridge in Beaver Dam. "It's my delight today, that we open our third here, at Sylvan Crossings at Chapel Valley," she said.

Also on hand for the grand opening were Fitchburg Mayor, Doug Morrisette and President of the Fitchburg Chamber of Commerce, Kim Hart. "I was thinking back to six years ago when I first got elected, we had zero opportunities for seniors as a community. Now we have a number of facilities. It's a great increase and a great opportunity to take care of our seniors and provide that service. I'm delighted to participate today, wish you well, and look forward to working with you in the future."

"I want to add my congratulations to Dan Fleming and what you're doing here," noted Hart. "You're filling a need in this community, as in all communities to have quality housing for people as they move through the various stages of their lives. As a business, one of things that we need to recognize and encourage, and again, in different phases of life, people have different needs in the community. I hope that we can fill those needs, just as you are."

Sherri Olson, the Director of the two Sylvan Crossing locations in Fitchburg added, "This is a great accomplishment and a great day for our staff. We're looking forward to March 1, when residents move in." Sherri went on to introduce Nina Gonzales, who is the assistant director at Sylvan Crossings at Chapel Valley. "I'm just really excited about being a part of this new facility. I think it's a nice addition to the area. I've been looking forward to opening day. There are a lot of people really interested in this type of facility and I'm really proud to be part of it. We are really looking forward to opening up and serving the residents."

Sylvan Crossings at Chapel Valley is located at 5765 Chapel Valley Rd. The phone number is 277-7586.



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SWEET SUCCESS...

by Lorill Bean, President of Support for Success

Defining the Entrepreneur

Entrepreneurs come in all shapes, sizes, and ages. A current magazine advertisement shows two women, one about 25 years old and one about 50. The text describes how she's in control, taken charge of her dreams, launching a new company -- you've guessed already that it's the 50-year-old.

Although I had previously run a small business, my present company is my first incorporation. Incorporating unleashed a lot of free advice as companies promoted their services to me. A packet from a large accounting firm included a self-quiz to help me decide if I was cut out to be an entrepreneur (OOPS, wish I had that before the incorporation). I did pretty well on most things and poorly on some. What troubled me was that there was a checklist at all. I guess they'd seen a lot of companies fail and had tried to separate the winners from the losers, but the whole thing seemed too close a study of the losers.

I wanted to know what made entrepreneurs succeed. The first step was to define them somehow. Taking these questions to all sorts of business meetings, sometimes discussing them and sometimes just observing, I was amazed how difficult it was to pigeonhole the entrepreneur. Some were dynamic and outspoken; others were quiet and steady. Some swore by their business plan; others hardly knew what a business plan was, save it must be something dreary. Some of each type were financially successful.

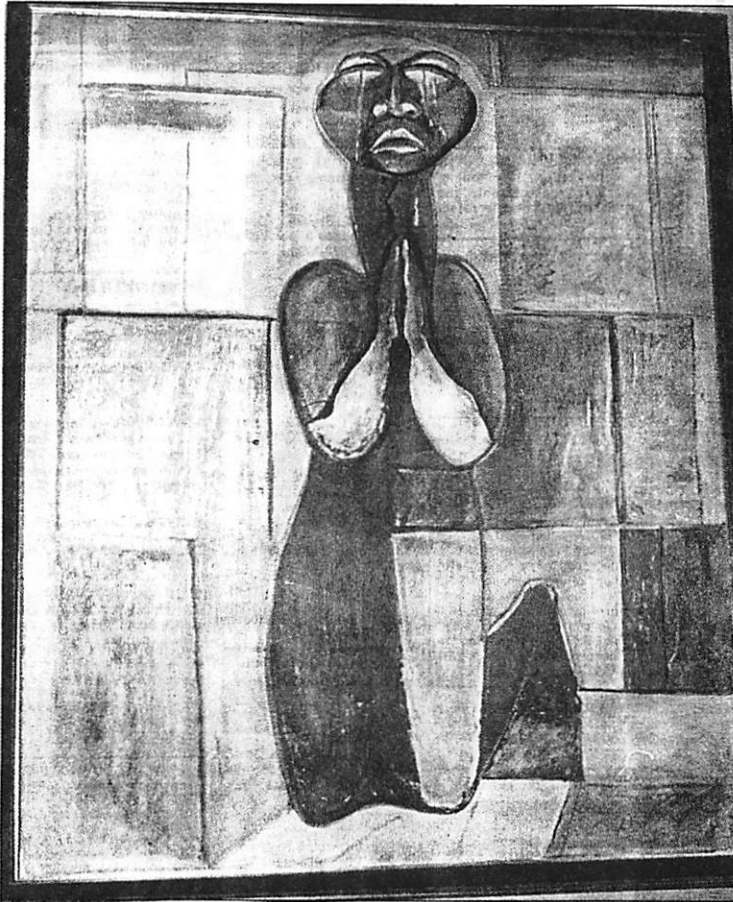
Rieva Lesonsky and Gayle Stodder, from "Entrepreneur" magazine, interviewed the "Young Millionaires" for their book of that title (If you've ever wondered whose business cleans up crime scenes or who started the magnetic poetry craze, you'll find it here.) They boldly state entrepreneurs "tap into a force

much more formidable than magic," but they also say entrepreneurs aren't much different from most folks. Rejecting the checklist approach, they encourage every would-be-entrepreneur to do it and do it now, whatever "it" is. Why? Because "you don't have to be seasoned or wealthy or connected - or sane. Whether you know it or not, you already have everything you need."

The words of David McNally are posted on the frame of my computer screen. I see them every day. They sum up the common theme that I've found in my conversations with entrepreneurs. It's something not too different from what Lesonsky and Stodder are saying. "A true commitment is a heartfelt promise to yourself from which you will not back down." This promise to yourself, not to the banker or to your shareholders or to supporters or to critics... this heartfelt promise from which you will not back down - for me, this defines the core of the entrepreneur.

Share your story: if you have overcome obstacles in your business, work, or personal life or if you know someone whose story would inspire and inform us, please contact me at Support for Success, Inc., 278-1729, or 2918 Market Place, Suite 211, Fitchburg WI 53719. If you prefer, email to lbean@gateway.net. In addition, your comments about the column are always welcome.





ART, from page 2

on paper fantastic realism piece depicting grape-eating creatures. Taking the walking tour through the exhibit is truly a walk on the wild side. These are African artists depicting life as they experience it. The typical animals they see everyday are the lion, zebra, giraffe and elephant - the big four, as they are known. But they don't paint them as a westerner would, with romantic realism. They paint the zebras doing flips and animals dancing or being pulled down by lions in cartoon-like print. They are lifescapes, not landscapes. Swadener tells of visiting the artists in their studios and finding that some paint and draw in near darkness. These artists know their subjects so well they don't need

photographs to tell them how to draw animals. Although not anatomically perfect, they are brought to life through the artists' visions. Africa remains the Dark Continent for a majority of people who have not had the opportunity to visit there. What we learn about the country is filtered through a western vision, and we experience to little of this continent where, it is said, life began. This exhibit is a rare opportunity to be able to pull back the curtain and be given a glimpse of Africa as the native people see themselves. As Swadener says, every picture tells a story and many paintings in this exhibit tell political stories. Historically, these paintings will become a record of the uprisings and struggle of a people

at war and as refugees in a period of flux in their homeland. One piece that depicts a family's arrival in a refugee camp shows smiles on faces, not hardship and sadness. This reflects the happiness and joy they feel as they arrive at their place of refuge and safety. Perhaps this is a wish for their future and all of Africa, to find peace and safety after years of unrest and danger. People may take this African Safari at the Promega Biotech Center located in the BioPharmaceutical Technology Center at 5445 E. Cheryl Dr., in Fitchburg. The exhibit is open for public viewing Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit will be on display through April 9. For more information call 277-2669.

1999 Neighbor Saver CPR Day scheduled for Feb. 20

The American Heart Association and Meriter are sponsoring the 1999 Neighbor Saver CPR Day, offering 500 people the opportunity to learn CPR. The training will take place on Saturday, Feb. 20, 8:30-noon, at the University of Wisconsin Field House. "Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in adults," says Joseph Bellissimo, M.D., UW Health - Physicians Plus cardiologist at Meriter Hospital and chairman of Neighbor Saver Day. "As a bystander you are a crucial link in responding to a heart attack emergency - knowing and administering CPR greatly improves a heart attack victim's chances of surviving." CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, performed properly and promptly has saved thousands of

lives. It is a simple emergency procedure that saves lives, yet only about one-third of adults are trained in CPR, most in younger age groups. And only about 25 percent of people who have a family member with heart disease have been trained. Participants in Neighbor Saver will learn CPR through lecture, demonstrations and hands-on practice. This is meant to be an educational experience, participants will not be required to pass a test. Because space is limited, pre-registration is recommended. Registration information can be obtained by calling Meriter Hospital at 267-6640. There is a \$5 registration fee. Registration forms are also available at the UW Health University and Physicians Plus clinics.

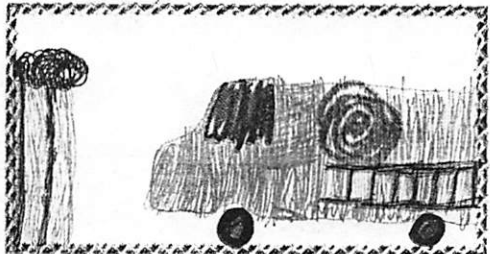


Skindrud seeks input on school start date

According to State Representative Rick Skindrud, Senate Bill 13 has been introduced and would establish a uniform start date for public schools in Wisconsin. Under the bill, no public school may start its official school year until after Sept. 1. "Should the state mandate a uniform school starting date that's after Labor Day or should we let each local school district make that decision?" Skindrud asked. Skindrud said the tourism industry and others are pushing for a uniform school start date. Since Local school districts have generally been opposed to a uniform school start date because they say the proposal takes away their local control. They contend that not all communities are alike and believe that the local officials (school board members) are better able to determine when school should start. Please send your responses to Rep. Rick Skindrud, P.O. Box 8953, State Capital, Madison, WI 53708 or call 266-3520.

FITCHBURG ACCESS COMMUNITY TELEVISION (FACT) SCHEDULE...

February 18: Thursday
 8-4 pm: YOUR REQUESTS
 5 & 7 pm: Madison Schools: Capitol Connections: Teach Wisconsin
 6 & 10 pm: Fitchburg Trial Court of 2/8.
February 19: Friday
 9:30 am: Senior Exercise
 12-4 pm: Fitchburg Seniors Meriter Senior Health Fair
 4 & 6 pm: Rec Game of the Week: Basketball Boys Grade 2 & 3 Maroon vs Teal
 5 & 7 pm: Rec Game of the Week: Basketball Boys Grade 2 & 3 Purple vs Navy
 8-10 pm: Focus on Fitchburg: Thank-You Firefighters - Si Hertzler Interview
February 20: Saturday
 9-11 am: Oregon H.S. Basketball Girls vs Monroe
 11-1 pm: Oregon H.S. Boys Wrestling vs Stoughton
 1 pm: Verona School Board
 3 pm: Madison School Board
 5 pm: Oregon School Board
 7 pm: Oregon H.S. 2nd Annual Talent Show of 1/25
 9-11 pm: Local Music-TV worth watching: The Band Bergin Riley/Country Folk
February 21: Sunday
 10 am: ECANKAR/This Gentle Flame of Love
 11 am: Christ Memorial Service
 1 pm: Reading, Writing and Ripped Off
 3 pm: Dane County Board
 6:30 pm: Focus on Fitchburg: Thank You Firefighters - Si Hertzler Interview
 7:30 pm: Plan Commission replay of 2/16
February 22: Monday
 11, 5 & 8 pm: Madison Schools Series: Teacher Feature: English Teachers
 9 am & 9 pm: ECKANKAR/This Gentle Flame of Love
 2, 4 & 7 pm: Madison Schools Series: Talented and Gifted
 10 am & 10 pm: Navy, Marine & Air Force Updates
February 23: Tuesday
 12:30-6 pm: UW Hospitals Series: Living & Working with ADD
 6:30 pm: Focus on Fitchburg: Thank-You Firefighters - Si Hertzler Interview
 7:30 pm: City Council "live" on ch 12
February 24: Wednesday
 9-11 am: Christ Memorial Service
 2-11 pm: City Council Replay of 2/22
Kids & Schools: The Madison School System is airing several of their series on Monday and Thursday. The Monday School board meeting can be seen - Saturday at 3 pm. Teacher Feature: English Teachers can be seen Monday at 11, 5 & 8 pm. At 2, 4, & 7 pm on Monday, The Talented and Gifted Series will be shown. On Thursday Capitol Connections - Teach Wisconsin, airs at 5 & 7 pm. Verona School Board begins at 1 pm Saturday. Madison is at 3 pm and Oregon School Board airs Saturday at 5 pm. Government: Plan Commission meetings air Tuesday live, with replay on the following Wednesdays 10 am - 10 pm on ch. 6. Traffic/Trial Court at 6 & 10 pm. Dane County Board is Sunday at 3 pm. Specials & Series: Friday from 12-4 pm is the Meriter Senior Health Fair at the Fitchburg Community Center. Sunday at 1 pm, Reading, Writing, & Ripped off is about the incredible tragedy of Whole Language philosophy in public education today. "Focus on Fitchburg" brings Thank-you Fitchburg Firefighters! An Interview and Farewell Tribute to Si Hertzler, Friday 8-10 pm and Sunday and Tuesday at 6:30 pm. Watch Monday at 10 am & 10 pm for military update programs from the Navy, Air Force & Marines. "Picture of Health" U.W. Series: Living and Working with Attention Deficit Disorder goes out to the community on Tuesday from 12:30 pm until 6:30 pm. Christ Memorial Services will be cablecast on Wednesdays at 9 am and Sundays at 11 am.



Young artist

In an ongoing program to showcase artwork created by young area residents, we bring you this week's feature piece created by Thomas, a third grader from Madison's east side. If you have a young artist (12 or younger) you would like to see spotlighted in the Fitchburg Star, send his or her work to:
Fitchburg Star
 5930 Seminole Center Court
 Suite H
 Fitchburg, WI 53711

Coming soon...
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