

# Guys & Dolls

Oregon Straw Hat Players present the musical on Friday and Saturday July 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. in the OHS Performing Arts Center

## This Week In the Star



### Fair results

See how area 4-Hers in the Maple Grove Lads and Lassies and Fitchburg Fireflies did at the Dane County Fair — Page 9



### F.A.C.T.

Fitchburg Access Community Television won eight awards in a recent state contest — Page 2

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## Fitchburg STAR

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# Fitchburg STAR

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Goodbye to Crime Day  
Sponsored by the Fitchburg Police Department  
A parade at 1 p.m.  
pig and corn roast at McKee Farms Park from 2-5 p.m.  
Sunday August 1

## OSD: School Board hears Citizens Committee space recommendation

By Leon Duquette

The Citizens' Planning Committee study was presented at the recent meeting of the Oregon School Board, with recommendations for addressing middle school space and Early Learning Center initiatives.

The school board did not take any formal action on the recommendations, but will be reviewing the data in preparation for the annual meeting on July 26.

While the Citizens' Planning

Committee is finishing this portion of its work, with the possibility of reconvening in the fall, the options now fall on the school board.

Planning Committee chair Ray Mandli presented the report to the board, and explained the final recommendations, which call for the potential construction of a new fifth and sixth grade building and later, if needed, a new sixth-eighth grade building. Mandli explained the potential building of another sixth-eighth grade school to the board by saying, "You may end up building

that second six-seven-eighth school building. It's very difficult to project, because for that second six-seven-eighth building to be practical, and the only way it's really going to happen is if you bring in the Nine Springs (development). If that's the case you need to build it closer to the Nine Springs neighborhood."

Board members discussed the traffic issues that would come up with new buildings and arrangement of school sites. Many board members felt the traffic increase at County MM and Pleasant Oak, as

well as the intersection of County MM and Janesville Street, has become a real concern since the building of the middle school. There has not been a school-related traffic collision at those sites yet, but several board members concurred that it is only a matter of time before there is one, and they want the traffic flow considered in any recommendation.

Board President, Dave Williams asked that the school board review

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## VASD readies budget for annual meeting

With the budget hearing set for the annual meeting to be held on Monday, August 2 at the Verona Area Middle School, the school district has released preliminary budget figures for the 1999-2000 school year. If found suitable this budget would be approved by a public vote at that meeting, and a tax levy is certified by the school board on October 18, 1999. It is important to note that the general fund budget does not reflect the recently passed school building referendum.

The amount of the proposed 1999-2000 budget is \$30,335,118, an increase of 7.57% over last year's \$28,201,586 budget. The 1997-98 budget was \$26,035,737.

This increase coincides with an increase in student enrollment from 4,049 to a projected 4,140, or 5.2%. The estimated cost per student also increased from \$6,965 to \$7,255.

As is always the case the majority of the proposed general fund budget will be used to cover personnel costs. \$17.6 million will be needed for teachers' salaries this upcoming year, and an additional \$846,591 has been allocated for new positions. Total personnel expenditures for 1999-2000, including extra curricular pay, teaching

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## Assault suspect apprehended

A suspect in the sexual assault that occurred on July 12, on Anton Drive was arrested the following day. The suspect is currently in the Dane County Jail booked on charges of Sexual Assault of a Child. According to reports 23 year-old, Lenin Tapia-Cacales, from the Town of Madison, is acquainted with the victim, convinced the 15-year old to allow him into her home. The crime was interrupted when the victim's parents returned to the home. Police working off of a partial name were able to track down Tapia-Cacales and arrested him on Tuesday, July 13 at his place of employment.

If convicted, Cacales could face up to \$10,000 in fines and 20 years in prison.



## Greek art is rich in tradition and human spirit

By Ann Waters

The current art show at the Biopharmaceutical Technology Center of the Promega Corporation at first glance seems to center around religion - both as ceremony and as celebration. On further inspection that interpretation is off. What it really centers around is people and their relation to each other, through participation in interactive opportunities, such as religion, ceremonies and celebrations.

The two artists that are represented in this current exhibition are

Greek photographer, Georgios Katsagelos, and Wisconsin muralist and iconographer, David Giffey. Both are well represented by a wide selection of their works.

"I took 15,000 photos as the basis for this exhibition. At first I thought the center of the subject matter would be the church, but then I began to realize that the real subject is the people and their relation to each other through opportunities presented by the church," explained Katsagelos.

Katsagelos holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Brooklyn

University and his mastery of the technique, from composition to lighting, shows in each photo. His is the work of a true master artist. Photography, probably more than any other medium, brings the viewer's perceptions and life experiences into the interpretation of the photos. A true master can alter that perception through focus, scale, composition and use of color or black and white imagery and its gradations.

I suggest that if you want to view the work of a master photographer

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pher/artist, this would be the exhibition to be sure to experience. He has chosen his subjects, framed them, and captured tremendous passion, grief and the entire scale of human emotion in the collection of photographs, most of which center on the human involvement in religious ceremony.

They reflect a foreign landscape to Americans, and are peopled with subjects that remind us of our ancestors from the Old Country. They are the Old Country! This is the original gene pool, unmixed and still pure Greek. The faces he has chosen are treasures infused with character and individuality. When he was living in Greece, Katsagelos saw these images as "everyday" and "uninteresting". It took the time he spent away from his home, when he was attending Brooklyn University, to regain as he puts it, "a sense of perspective and newness." Upon his return home, the images and ceremonies showed themselves to him in a new light. Katsagelos realized that these everyday landscapes of the human experience were important images to record.

This exhibit, his second in the United States, is the result of his editing and fine tuning the 15,000 original photographs. He has chosen well. These are strong pictures showing strong emotions, strong personalities, strong faith, devotion and strength that are derived through living the human experience that connects us all to each other. He has captured us well.

This exhibit is not David Giffey's first foray into Fitchburg. Many know him as the artist who

lives for his art, and has had, as he puts it, the "privilege of being able to make his living through his art."



lives for his art, and has had, as he puts it, the "privilege of being able to make his living through his art."

A member of the Greek Orthodox Church by conversion, he has painted icons for their church along with others throughout Wisconsin. Icons are the, "images used to recall spiritual and physical events worthy of memory." These are images we love to look at in the churches - beautiful paintings in gold leaf, crowning rich, living, vibrant colors.

He learned icon painting in Greece, from master iconographer, Ioannis Carussos and his father,

who as Giffey explains, first showed him what true icon painting embodied. Prior to that time, Giffey feels that his understanding of iconography was limited to very flat, mono-dimensional, unemotion-

al painting encased totally in tradition and perhaps, limiting. After meeting and studying with Carussos, he was gifted with the understanding of passion and the experience and understanding of transcendence of the self through creation. From that time on, Giffey felt he could truly paint icons as they should be painted - with passion.

Giffey is especially pleased with this exhibit as it shows creation - the work in process. His initial design drawings are including in the exhibit alongside pictures of the finished colorful icons. The process shown for each designed icon is a dictionary for our use in understanding the final painting. Giffey loves the rich colors of icons and is especially fond of dark blue.

Giffey says that his art is political. What are his politics? Art, to Giffey, is a, "combination of work and life. Art is a bridge to understanding. It's communication." Giffey is a great communicator, for his mission is to create those bridges that can cross over through common experiences and shared respect using the positive energy that can come from that interaction and understanding. Through understanding comes connections and through connections comes compassion.

Both men, though artists by choice, are actually architects, bridge builders for humanity. Their chosen art forms, at first sight so different, build those human connections.

Religious Photography and Icons, the title of the exhibit, will be open for viewing at the BioPharmaceutical Technology Center, 5445 East Cheryl Parkway, in Fitchburg. The show will run through September 17. The exhibit is open to the public Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. To schedule a tour, call 277-2669.



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