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Images provided by JDog Productions, LLC

“Stage Presents” includes untouched footage from 2012 and cast interviews from both 2012 and now to show the impact that community youth theater can make.

The gift of theater

‘Stage Presents’ tells story about gifts received from local youth theater

ABIGAIL LEAVINS
Press Correspondent

Several kids in costume run down a hallway towards a dimly lit backstage area. They speak in hushed voices and adults shush them repeatedly.

This is the opening of “Stage Presents,” a short documentary about the Verona Area Community Theater’s production of “Seussical Junior” produced a decade after the performance by JDog Productions, an independent documentary production company.

Greg Jeschl, the director and founder of JDog Productions, and his main purpose of this documentary was to emphasize the shared experience that children got from this theater production.

Terry Dvorak, the director of “Seussical Junior” in 2012, reached out to Jeschl about doing this documentary because she had so much film from when they had done the show that they had done nothing with.

The project was intriguing to Jeschl because it was unlike anything he had done before.

“This is basically a little time capsule, a video that’s 10 years old and has not been opened yet,” he said.

Now, it has been selected for an



In the new documentary “Stage Presents,” follow Terry Dvorak (left) and the 2012 cast of “Seussical Junior” to learn how—now 10 years later—youth theater impacted the cast.

award at the Black Swan International Film Festival, which Jeschl said is an honor to just be chosen.

The documentary opens with a description of the inspiration behind the theater group. Dvorak said that there were virtually no platforms for kids to do theater before she started the kids community theater group.

“She wanted a place where kids could do theater even if they weren’t

the best at it,” said Alyssa Dvorak, Terry’s daughter.

The documentary is split into five parts. Jeschl used the clips from rehearsals and the show integrated with clips of interviews with the kid actors during the production. He also did interviews with four of the actors 10 years later and those clips are also

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City of Verona

Council discusses addition of new 656-multi-family development

Leads to larger discussion on what housing Verona needs

TARA JONES
Managing Editor

In its Monday, Nov. 14, meeting, the City of Verona Common Council held an initial discussion on a newly proposed 656-multi-family development.

Wangard Development, LLC, based out of Milwaukee, has proposed the construction of the development to be located north of CTH PD, east of Shady Oak Lane and West of Woods Road. The proposal includes 656 multi-family rental units as well as one commercial lot on the 57-acre lot. Currently, the property is vacant and

contains fields and woods along the ridge line.

According to the council board packet from the meeting, the applicant is proposing four buildings of rental townhomes for a total of 38 units that will contain two- and three-bedroom units; 12 buildings of garden-style two-story walk-up apartments with private entrances for a total of 240 units that will contain studios, one-, two-, and three-bedroom units; and four multi-story apartment buildings for a total of 378 units with three or four floors.

The agenda item was only up for initial discussion, so no action was taken, but it did bring about a discussion on what kind of housing options the city should be exploring moving forward.

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Dane County

Parisi signs \$853 million dollar budget

Prioritizing housing, mental health, conservation, restorative justice

supports, restorative justice, conservation initiatives, and more.”

Several local conservation projects have been funded for next year, including \$2 million to continue the “Suck the Muck” initiative at Door Creek and surrounding wetlands, \$3 million for the Yahara Chain of Lakes Sediment Removal Project and \$2.5 million to construct phase two of the Lower Yahara River Trail, a section from Fish Camp County Park through Lake Kegonsa State Park.

Touting the slogan, “Opportunity Out of Adversity,” Dane County Executive Joe Parisi signed the 2023 county budget on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

According to a county news release, the \$853 million dollar spending plan works to “prioritize life’s basic needs, housing, mental health

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