

COMMUNITIES

B

People, 2B
Obituaries, 3B
Weather, 4B

City editor: Ron McCrea 252-6419
Area news editor: Karyn Saemann 252-6484

The Capital Times ■ Tuesday, April 29, 2003

E-mail: mccrea@madison.com
karyns@madison.com

HERE
THEREMount Horeb opening
youth, senior facility

MOUNT HOREB — An open house will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Mount Horeb's new Youth/Senior Center.

The center is housed in the village's former library building, 105 N. Grove St. Senior programming will be on the second floor and youth programming on the first.

The youth area will be dedicated at 6 p.m., with Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk speaking. The senior area will be dedicated at 6:30 p.m., with Rita Odegard, director of the Area Agency on Aging, the speaker.

For information, call 437-6780.

Capital City Trail
fee collection to begin

Beginning Thursday, users of the Capital City Trail who are on bicycles or inline skates and are older than 16 will need to purchase a state trail pass.

The fee of \$3 per day or \$10 per year will be used to fund trail maintenance. Trail passes may be purchased at DNR service centers, the Lussier Family Heritage Center and Dane County Parks. Trail users may also register at either end of the trail.

Call 261-3622 for information.

Gaza documentary
to be shown at MATC

"Gaza Strip," a new feature documentary by James Longley, will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday in Room D240 of the Madison Area Technical College Downtown Education Center, 211 N. Carroll St.

The showing is sponsored by the Madison-Rafah Sister City Project and is a benefit to help rebuild fresh water wells reportedly destroyed by the Israeli military in Rafah, a town and refugee camp.

Admission is free. For more information, call 827-6344 or send an e-mail to rafahsistercity@yahoo.com.

Compost bin sale
slated for Saturday

The city of Madison and Dane County will hold their annual home compost bin sale on Saturday. The Earth Machine Home Composter bins are \$33 each and will be sold at the following sites:

- Madison — Alliant Energy Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Stoughton — 515 S. 4th St., 8 a.m. to noon.
- Middleton — 7711 Airport Road, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Sun Prairie — 201 S. Bristol St., 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Fitchburg — 5520 Lacy Road, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Verona — 306 Railroad Drive, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The sites will accept cash and checks only. For more information, call 267-2088.

Traffic slowing set
for 3 Middleton sites

MIDDLETON — The city of Middleton is experimenting with traffic calming measures at three sites through the end of June. The purpose is to assess their effectiveness and, if warranted, make them permanent, said Assistant Public Works Director Toby Ginder.

The temporary effort will use a mix of barrels, cones and pavement markings to simulate traffic circles, medians, all-way stops and road narrowing. There may also be temporary speed bumps.

The three sites are Stonefield Road between Gammon and High Point roads; North High Point Road between Norwalk Circle and Parmenter Street; and Valley Ridge Road between Century Avenue and Sedge-meadow Road. For more information, call Ginder at 827-1070.

Stress center needs
child care, kitchen help

The Parental Stress Center, a child abuse prevention center, needs child care and kitchen help volunteers for Monday or Wednesday evenings.

Child care assistants will provide structured playtime; kitchen assistants would help prepare, serve and clean up meals. Co-facilitators for children in the Families United program are also needed. Families United provides free and confidential weekly support groups for parents.

For information, call 241-4888.

— Andrea N. Kinsaul

Black, white school gap widens

By Lee Sensenbrenner

The Capital Times

Efforts to close the achievement gap between white and black students in the Madison Metropolitan School District have continued to fail, and a new report suggests that the problem is getting worse.

In the third annual report in a six-year undertaking, the Madison Chapter of the NAACP showed Monday that despite some modest gains during the last two years, no substantial improvements have lasted and some troubling trends are emerging.

Previous statistics, for instance, projected that white students and black students someday would have equivalent scores on the ACT college entrance exam, but the gains were so slight that it wouldn't be until the year 2140. Now, the statistics actually show the two groups moving away from each other in performance on the test.

The national average on the ACT test is about 20.1, and black students in Madison have beat that mark a number of times in the last decade, but not in

District achievement plan failing, NAACP report says

the last four years.

Also, the gains that educators hoped to make in basic reading, algebra completion and other areas have failed to materialize.

Teachers
fight to keep
Macs. 4B

John Odom, chair of the NAACP's education committee, called the outcomes "miserable" as he addressed a committee of the Madison School Board.

He said that the evidence was so clear, the problem was so apparent, that more effort must be made to keep black children from underperforming. Odom said the crucial thing was to see black students make gains and head toward the benchmarks that have gone unachieved.

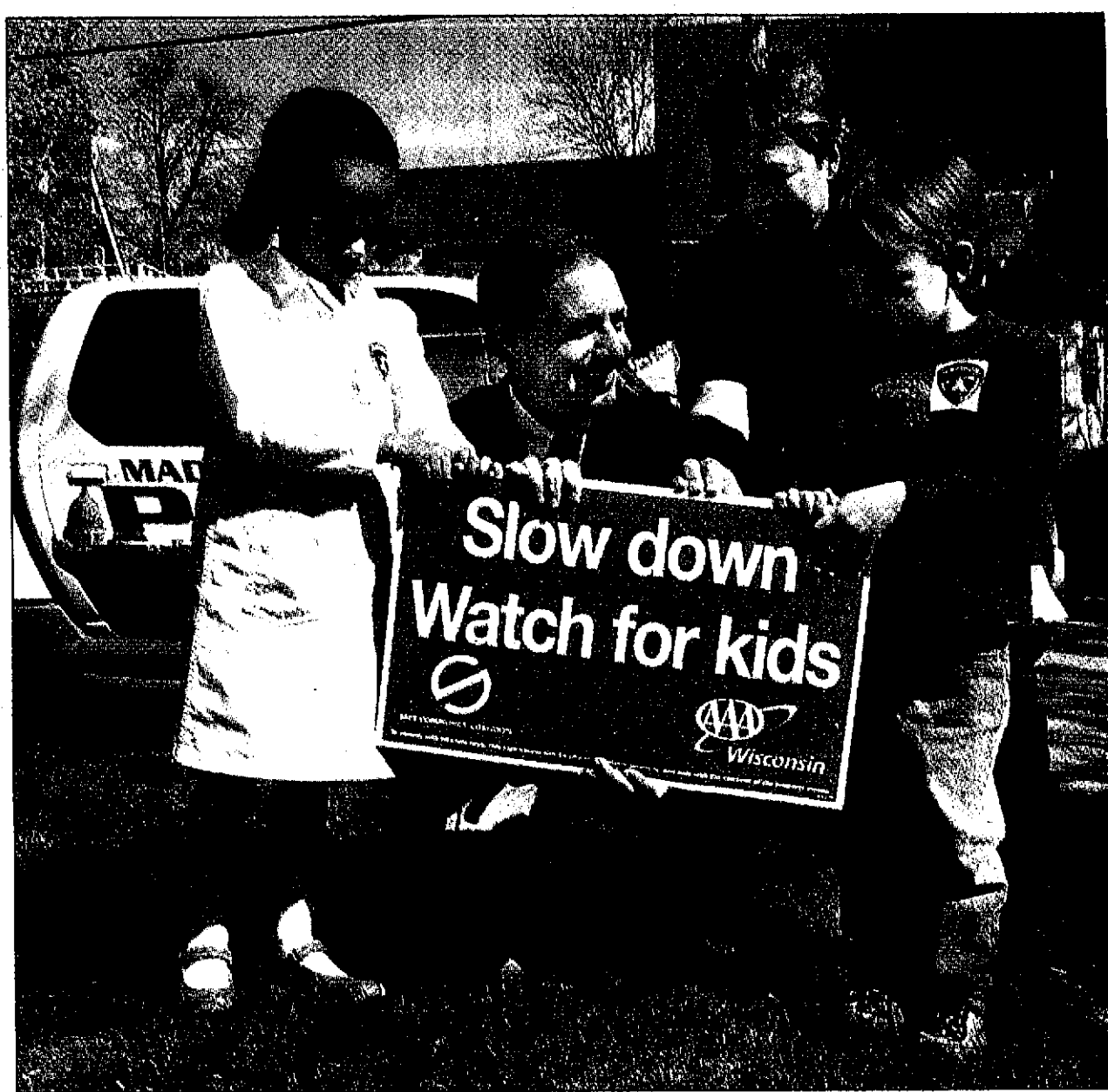
If, after that, some performance gap remains, Odom said at least strides will have been made.

But as it is, the statistics for black students showed a step back in many areas in 2002. Fewer black third-graders scored at proficient levels or higher on state reading exams, fewer black students completed algebra by ninth grade, and more dropped out of school.

The Madison School Board decided in 1998 to set a course of improvement to close the achievement gap. The idea was a concentrated effort over six years that would have white and black students performing similarly by the 2005-2006 school year.

Board member Ray Allen said he was frustrated with the lack of improvement and questioned how there could be no return on the time and money administrators say they've invested in the problem. Board member Ruth Roberts suggested tying minority achievement into the job evaluations of administrators.

E-mail: lsensenbrenner@madison.com.



DAVID SANDELL/THE CAPITAL TIMES

Watch for kids

In an effort to get motorists to slow down in neighborhoods where children may be playing, Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz helped kick off a countywide yard sign campaign sponsored by the Safe Community Coalition. Helping the mayor (second from left) post a sign in his front yard Monday are (from left) Carlen Kreighoff, Madison Police Officer Stacey Vilas and Seth Kok. A limited number of signs are available for pickup at the city's north, south and west police precincts as well as at police stations in Belleville, Black Earth, Cottage Grove, DeForest, Fitchburg, Maple Bluff, Marshall, Mount Horeb, Middleton and Oregon. A \$5 donation to the coalition is suggested for each sign. For information call 256-6713.

Madison teachers union ratifies new contract

By Lee Sensenbrenner

The Capital Times

Members of the Madison Teachers Inc. union have ratified a contract with the Madison school district that provides an annual 1 percent raise to the base salary and covers the next two school years.

"I think it's disappointing. I believe that our bargaining teams negotiated the best contract we could get, but we've been undercompensated for years," Maria Cavicchio, a kindergarten teacher at Lowell Elementary, said after the near unanimous vote Monday night.

"I know it's hard now. I think workers are getting squeezed everywhere," she added.

Including benefits, teachers' compensation increases by 4.51 percent next year and 4.36 percent the year after. District employees, who number

about 3,500, also will share \$3.29 million that the district was relieved from paying into a retirement account. This one-time bonus is not included in the percentage increase to compensation.

In addition to the vote to ratify, the 600 or 700 union members who met at the Alliant Energy Center also came together to begin pushing passage of a June 3 referendum that, if approved by voters, would raise up to \$12.3 million in taxes for the school district.

Fliers with arguing points for the referendum went out with summaries of the new contract, and Citizens for Investing in Madison Schools will host its first fund-raising event Friday evening at the Cardinal Bar.

John Matthews, executive director of MTI, said that if the referendum is not passed, it could mean layoffs for up to 200 of the union's members. It would not affect the salaries or benefits spelled out

by the contract, which is up for School Board approval May 5.

"We need to pass that referendum," said Dorit Bergen, an eighth-grade math teacher at Jefferson Middle School. "But even if it's passed, this referendum is just a stopgap measure until state school finance changes."

Board members said they decided to go to referendum as a means to avoid cuts to the district. Although they are not scheduled to come out with a list of specific scenarios until May 5, they have generally said that failing to pass the referendum will mean larger class sizes, fewer support staff and eliminated programs.

"This is the year people will feel it if the referendum doesn't pass," Donna Fogell, a teacher at Whitehorse Middle School said.

E-mail: lsensenbrenner@madison.com

DeForest ordered to pay \$444,972 to Illinois firm

By Kevin Murphy

Correspondent for The Capital Times

The DeForest Redevelopment Authority has been ordered by a federal judge to pay \$444,972 to an Illinois architectural firm for certain costs it incurred after the authority breached a \$12 million agreement to rebuild part of downtown DeForest.

Friday's order is in addition to the \$85,270 that U.S. District Judge John Shabaz awarded Levin Associates Architects of Des Plaines, Ill., in September 2001 after finding the Redevelopment Authority in breach of contract but not entitled to reliance damages for Phase III of the project.

Levin and the Redevelopment Authority both appealed Shabaz's initial order; Levin arguing that it was entitled to compensation for other

earning opportunities it lost in reliance on the contract that was breached and out-of-pocket expenses not recovered because it had to abandon the project before reaching Phase III. The Redevelopment Authority argued that it was not liable for these damages.

The federal appeals court in Chicago upheld Shabaz's decision except the damages he denied. Instead, it concluded that Levin was entitled to the reliance damages that Shabaz had called "fanciful" and returned to case to determine the amount.

Levin sought to recover \$494,363 based on the uncompensated hours its employees put in on design, engineering and construction in preparation of Phase III development. The Redevelopment Authority argued that Levin

See DeFOREST, Page 4B



FILE PHOTO

Modern apartments rise at Holum and Main streets in DeForest last August. They were built by a new developer after Levin Associates Architects of Des Plaines, Ill., walked away in 2000 from the village's ambitious project to raze and reconstruct much of downtown.