



Performers rehearse for VACT's upcoming rendition of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*

Photo submitted

VACT to perform 'Hunchback of Notre Dame' Jan. 20-27

ALEXANDER CRAMER
Unified Newspaper Group

The Verona Area Community Theater is bringing *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* to the Verona Area High School Performing Arts Center at 300 Richard St. for two weekends this month, with performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, Saturday, Jan. 20 and Thursday, Jan. 25 through Saturday, Jan. 27. There will be one matinee performance at 2 p.m. Jan. 21.

Tickets are \$17, or \$12 for seniors over 65 or children/high school students.

Director Alyssa Dvorak cautions that the play touches on adult themes, and not everything works out the way a child might hope.

"Parents should be aware that

If You Go

What: The Hunchback of Notre Dame
When: Jan. 19, 20, 25-27, 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 21, 2 p.m.
Where: Verona Area High School Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St.
Cost: \$17, \$12 for those 65+ or children/students
Info: vact.org

although this show is partially based on the Disney animated film, it does contain a lot of adult themes and messages. Violence and abuse are

depicted as well as some foul language," she said in a news release.

Featuring a cast of over 50 players from the Madison area, the play, based on Victor Hugo's early 19th-century novel, remains instructive today, Dvorak said.

"The story is just so beautiful and so moving. Although it takes place in the late 1400s/early 1500s, the themes and messages are incredibly relevant today," Dvorak said.

Ryan Odorizzi plays Quasimodo, Karl Scheidegger the abusive Monseigneur Claude Frollo, and Abi Johnson joins as Esmeralda.

Contact Alexander Cramer at alexander.cramer@wcinet.com.

Ken Lonquist concert Jan. 20

Ken Lonquist will bring songs and laughter to all ages from 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at the Verona Area High School Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St.

His songs focus on nature, humanity, imagination and current events. His band, the Kenland, includes multi-instrumentalist Doug Brown specializing in guitar, fiddle and banjo, and Henry Boehm, who plays upright bass. They will also perform harmony vocals and lively banter, according to the school district website.

Free transportation can be provided to those in need. For information, call Marisa Kahler at 845-4869 or email at kahlerm@verona.k12.wi.us.

If You Go

What: Ken Lonquist concert
Where: Verona Area High School Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St.
When: 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20
Info: kahlerm@verona.k12.wi.us

Town of Verona

Comprehensive plan land use meetings Jan. 11, 18

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

If You Go

What: Meetings on future land use in Town of Verona
Where: Town Hall, 7669 County Hwy. PD
When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11 and 18
Info: town.verona.wi.us

The Town of Verona Plan Commission will hold a pair of meetings over the next week to discuss future land use.

The meetings, Jan. 11 and 18 at 7 p.m., follow more than a year of work by staff and residents on updating the town's comprehensive plan, most recently updated in 2006.

The Jan. 11 meeting will focus on areas west of Pleasant View Road and Hwy. 69, while the Jan. 18 meeting will focus on the other side of that dividing line.

Much of the town land is covered by extraterritorial jurisdiction or was deemed city growth area in the recent boundary agreement with the City of Verona. The rest, though, is a mix of agricultural, rural residential and a few urban residential pockets.

The town was divided into eight "areas" last year, with public meetings on each of the areas to discuss

with landowners what they saw as the best future use of land there. The comprehensive plan, which includes land use guidelines, plans for housing and transportation, is expected to be adopted this spring or summer, according to the town's website.

To see a draft of the comprehensive plan, visit town.verona.wi.us.

Contact Scott Girard at ungreporter@wcinet.com and follow him on Twitter @sgirard9.

Verona Area School District

Kindergarten meeting Jan. 11

SCOTT GIRARD
Unified Newspaper Group

If You Go

Parents of soon-to-be kindergartners in the Verona Area School District can start applying to choice programs Jan. 12.

First, though, the district is holding its annual informational night for those parents to help them consider the options, including three charter elementary schools and the Two Way Immersion Spanish program.

The Jan. 11 meeting will be from 6-7 p.m. at Badger Ridge Middle School, 740 N. Main St., and will include representatives from each of the schools, including attendance area elementaries.

Options in VASD are New Century School and Verona Area International School, both K-5; Core Knowledge Charter School, which serves K-8; and the Two-Way Immersion program, which is run within the attendance area elementaries.

The deadline for choice applications is Feb. 16. If a parent wants their student to attend their attendance area elementary — Country View, Stoner Prairie, Sugar Creek and Glacier Edge — they do not need to turn in a form.

NCS, which opened in 1995, has an environmental and science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics curriculum. All of the

What: Incoming kindergarten information night
Where: Badger Ridge Middle School, 740 N. Main St.
When: 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11
Info: verona.k12.wi.us

classrooms are multi-age, as well.

CKCS opened a year later, using the national "Core Knowledge" curriculum and a focus on the "direct instruction" method, which has students in small groups respond to questions at the snap of fingers or clap of hands before receiving immediate feedback from the teacher.

VAIS is the newest of the elementary charters, opening in 2011. The school offers a Chinese-language immersion program, with students spending half of their day learning in Chinese and the other half in English.

TWI is similar, but for Spanish. Classes are split between native Spanish-speakers and native English-speakers. Next year will be the program's first as a full K-5, and an expansion to middle school is expected the following year.



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