



A conference crown

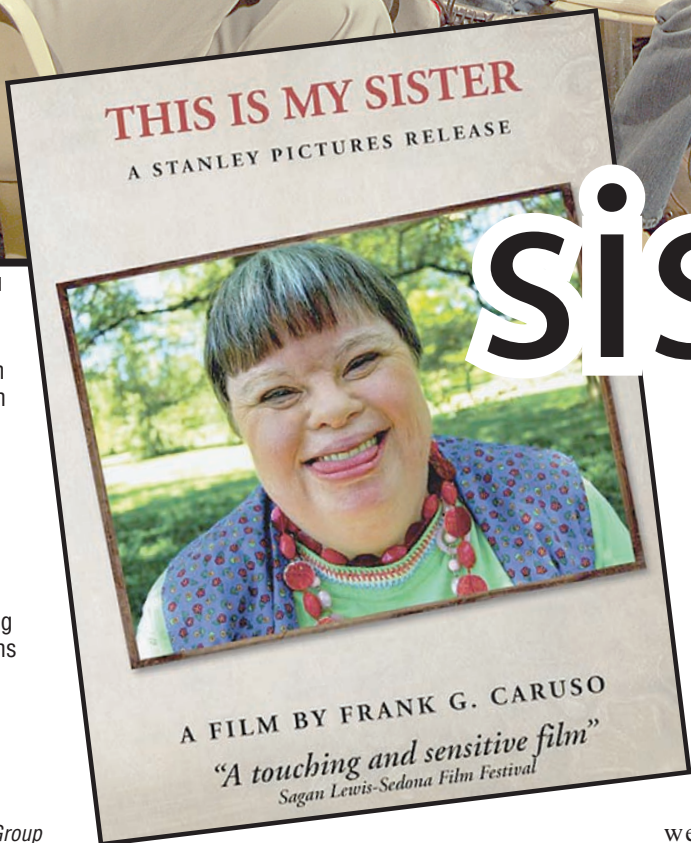
See page 9

A filmmaker's



tribute to the bond of

sisters



Photos submitted

Above, Oregon filmmaker Frank Caruso appears on "Director's Cut" on Wisconsin Public Television for an interview that will air next weekend.

He filmed "This Is My Sister" in the summer of 2010 and finished editing it about five months ago.

SETH JOVAAG
Unified Newspaper Group

Nearly six years ago, Frank Caruso was filming an event at a local elementary school when a volunteer said something that stuck with him.

The woman, Kathy Fischer Dauck, a longtime resident of the Town of Oregon, was at the school to teach about quilting for the annual "Pioneer Days" program that gives kids a glimpse of life in the 1800s.

During introductions, the teacher didn't mention a woman who was there with

Kathy. So Kathy stood up and did it herself.

"This is my sister, Mary," she said.

Mary Ann Fischer, who has lived in Stoughton since 1998, has Down Syndrome, and Kathy is her legal guardian. Caruso, who was filming for Oregon Cable at the time, quietly made a note of the exchange, which struck him as somehow emblematic of the strong bond sisters can form.

Years later, Caruso and his oldest daughter, Lili

Caruso, were going through journal entries he'd written about Lili during her childhood and teen years. When he came to the note about Kathy and Mary and explained why he'd jotted it down, Lili stopped him.

"She said, 'Dad, you should do something about this,'" Caruso recalled.

Caruso, who had already written several screenplays and co-produced a full-length comedy, "Going Great White" in 2009, heeded his daughter's advice. He called Kathy the next day and arranged to meet the

Caruso follows area family and creates film that will air statewide

two sisters at Oregon Family Restaurant for lunch. He told them he wanted to make a film about them and after some initial hesitation, they soon agreed to it.

"We hit it off," he said.

Over that summer, Caruso filmed Kathy, Mary and their other sister, Nora Fischer Johnson, who lives in Illinois. He spent hours in their homes and with Mary at her jobs in Stoughton.

During that time, what started as an exploration of sisterly bonds blossomed into a 61-minute

Turn to **Sister**/Page 12

Oregon School District

Staff will mull over first draft of handbook

BY SETH JOVAAG
Unified Newspaper Group

After months of deliberations, the Oregon School District unveiled a "first draft" of an employee handbook Monday that will soon replace decades-old collectively bargained agreements with its unions.

This week, the 53-page document is being shared with employees who will be able to give feedback over the next two weeks.

The handbook is a new requirement of last year's controversial Act 10 legislation that effectively stripped public unions of their bargaining powers.

In some districts in Wisconsin, the handbooks have caused an uproar by chipping away at long-held benefits for staff or mandating new rules for everything from dress codes to longer work days.

At first glance, Oregon's handbook preserves much of the former collectively bargained agreements that have long governed work rules and benefits for staff. But it also opens the door to big changes, such as reducing the importance of a teacher's seniority in the event of layoffs and possibly lowering thresholds for terminating or disciplining an employee.

The handbook was discussed Monday during a meeting of the board's human assets committee. Committee chair Steve Zach called it a "first draft" and a "work in progress."

"It's intended to be a starting point," he said.

The draft was to be made available to staff this week, and they will be able to email comments or concerns to Zach by June 1. He

Turn to **Handbook**/Page 3

Village of Oregon

South-side residents hear about development plans

New apartment complex proposed

BILL LIVICK
Unified Newspaper Group

A proposal to build a large restaurant/bar/volleyball complex on the village's south side isn't the only project in the works for that part of town.

At a meeting of the Oregon Planning Commission last Thursday, local businessman Jamie Bush outlined plans for his property at the corner of Wolfe Street and Concord Drive, but commissioners also heard about another potential development in the neighborhood.

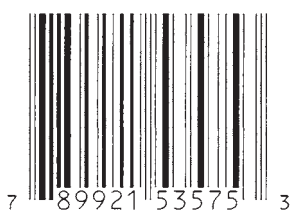
Adam Coyle presented

a conceptual plan to build an apartment complex consisting of three buildings, with a total of 92 apartments, at 1056 Park St. He and a group of partners own three lots totaling five acres between Rosewood Drive, Concord Drive and Park Street.

The property is zoned for commercial development, so Coyle would have to get the zoning changed to proceed with the idea.

Planning Commission member Jeff Groenier commented that the village doesn't have much property zoned for commercial development and that

Turn to **Development**/Page 12



The OREGON OBSERVER

Unified Newspaper Group Publications



TOM ABELL, OWNER

Are you paying too much for your insurance?
CALL ABELL TODAY!

ABELL INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC

Home | Auto | Business | Life

WWW.ABELLINSURANCE.COM

120 Janesville St. Suite 2, Oregon, WI 53575 | Local : (608) 835-9300 | Toll Free : (877) 835-9301

