

5-27-09

Library supporters plan march, 'read-in'

Backers oppose restrictions on Young Adult books

By **DAVE RANK**
Daily News Staff

A march, read-in and potluck supper will be held Friday to show support for the West Bend Community Memorial Library and to oppose efforts to restrict certain books now in the Young Adult section of the library.

The event is being organized by West Bend resident Jacob Jurss, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, using the Facebook social networking site on the Internet.

Inside The event has garnered support from the citizen group West Bend Parents for Free Speech, which arose in recent months to counter efforts by another citizens group to remove and restrict access to certain books that contain sexual references now offered in the young adult section.

"I call for the people and students of West Bend to join me in supporting our right to read controversial books," Jurss wrote to explain the reason why he proposed Friday's event. "I posted a suggestion of a community library sit-in to show support for the library, support for those who were rejected from the library (board) and for banned books in general."

In April, the West Bend Common Council refused to confirm the reappointment of four current Library Board members because of the ongoing controversy over the young adult books. Last week, the council refused to reconsider that April 5-3 vote.

In February, town of West Bend Common Council members

Please see **LIBRARY/A7**

Sister city cancels st

Concerns over flu outbreak closes schools in Japan, ends travel plans

By **DWAYNE BUTLER**
Daily News Staff

Travel plans have changed for a group of Japanese exchange students and their chaperones.

A recent wave of new confirmations in the number of

influenza A (H1N1) cases in Japan has prompted the government to order the closure of schools and the cancellation of all international student travel in and out of the country.

Twenty students and four chaperones from Aisho-cho, Shiga, Japan, West Bend's sister city, were scheduled to make a week-long trip to the city in early August.

Nobi Sacia of West Bend, who is involved in the sister city project, received the disappointing news from the

mayor of Aisho-cho.

"He called me twice; one was the day before they were going to have a meeting to let us know what was going on, and then the next day he called and told us that the trip was going to be cancelled," Sacia said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

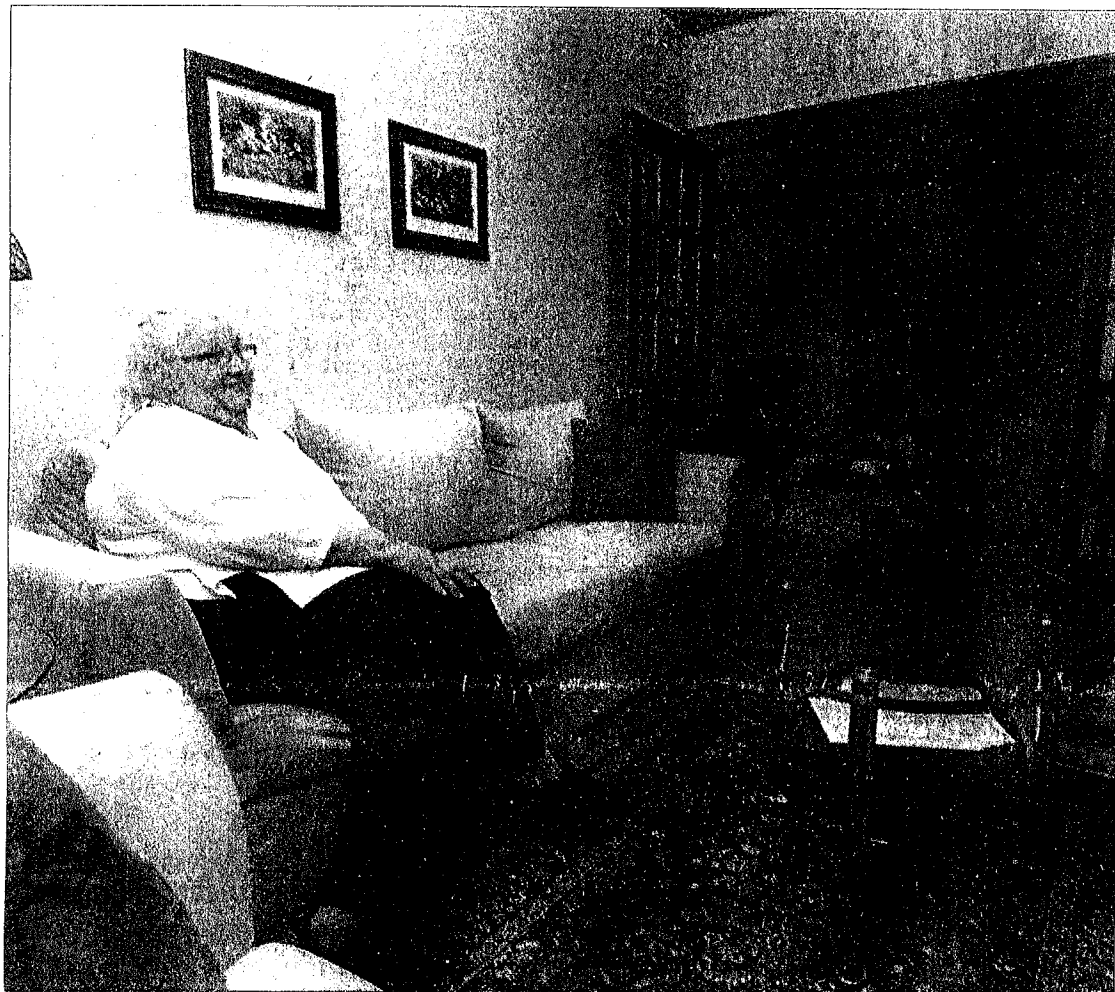
As of Tuesday, the World Health Organization announced that 46 countries have officially reported 12,954 cases of influenza A (H1N1), including 92 deaths.

Globally, Japan (350) ranks

fourth States and C; cases.

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Kris Fassa/Daily News

Program coordinator Linda White relaxes in the "great room" at The Youth & Family Project Inc. Tuesday afternoon in West Bend.

Family Corner gives

FROM THE FRONT

Library: 'Read-in' planned

Bend residents Ginny and Jim Maziarka presented a complaint about books with homosexual content in the young adult section of the library. Since then, the complaint has been replaced by a petition campaign organized by the Maziarkas and their West Bend Citizens for Safe Libraries group. They now want books with sexual content moved from the young adult section to the adult section and labeled, among other demands.

A counter-petition campaign, started by West Bend resident Marie Hanrahan and her group West Bend Parents for Free Speech, also is under way.

"I think it's quite an appropriate time for this type of event," Hanrahan said. Several members from West Bend Parents for Free Speech will participate Friday, she said.

"Many members of the community are upset about the events going on (about the

library)," Hanrahan said.

"The current complaint to the library did begin with a demand to ban certain books," she said, and while that demand has morphed into a call to move and label books, "it's still a form of censorship. It's a call to limit material from some section of library patrons."

West Bend Parents for Free Speech will have a petition drive during Friday's event, wrote member Astrid Palma in an e-mail to the Daily News.

The event will start at 3 p.m. and end with a march from the library to Regner Park at 6 p.m. when the library closes, Palma wrote.

"Everyone is invited to bring a picnic to the park and enjoy the evening with friends and family," Palma wrote.

The purpose of the read-in and march, wrote Palma, is to "show the City of West Bend that we support the library and also do not agree with any kind of censorship."

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