The Grassroots Gazette fosters community dialogue and participation throughout Southwest Wisconsin.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN REEDSBURG, DODGEVILLE AND HIGHLAND

<u>Thurs., Feb. 12, 7 to 9 p.m. (Reedsburg)</u> THE FUTURE OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS – a panel discussion Sponsored by The Madison Institute and the [Reedsburg Area Concerned Citizens](#), this important public discussion will address topics such as private voucher schools, school accountability, standardized student testing, school finance, teacher qualifications and local control of schools.   Moderator is Ruth Conniff, editor of The Progressive magazine.   Invited to participate in the panel are Reedsburg School Superintendent Tom Benson and state legislators including Senators Howard Marklein and Kathleen Vinehout and Rep. Sondy Pope Roberts and Dave Considine   LOCATION: <u>Westside Elementary School, Gymnasium, 401 Alexander Avenue in Reedsburg.</u>   For further info, contact Judy Brey at 608-963-1473 or jbrey1957@gmail.com.

<u>TOMORROW AND THURSDAY -- Wed., Feb. 11 and Thurs., Feb. 12 (Dodgeville) KNOW SOMEONE WHO STILL DOESN'T HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?</u> Grassroots volunteers are available for the LAST TIME this week to help people enroll in the Federal Healthcare Marketplace (enrollment deadline is Feb. 15).   Free Help Sessions are available <u>Wed., Feb. 11, from 2 to 6 p.m</u>. at the Computer Center in Piggly Wiggly Mall (316 Spring Street) and on <u>Thurs., Feb. 12, from 2 to 5 p.m. </u>at the Community Connections Free Clinic (101 E. Fountain Street) in Dodgeville.

<u>A REMINDER: Fri. Feb. 13, 2 p.m. (Highland) GRASSROOTS CITIZENS FOR PEACE group will view Robert Reich's powerful film "INEQUALITY FOR ALL"</u> Everyone is invited to this free film viewing at 2 p.m., to be followed by the monthly Citizens for Peace meeting where plans for future events will be discussed. All are welcome. LOCATION: The home of Fr. Jim Murphy, 1023 Dodgeville Street in Highland. For more info, contact Bryan Walton at bryanwalton2007@gmail.com

CONCERNED ABOUT CUTS IN GOV. WALKER'S BUDGET? TAKE ACTION NOW

In his 2015 budget, Gov. Walker calls for <u>major cuts</u> to many of our public institutions – to Wisconsin public broadcasting, to the University of Wisconsin system, to SeniorCare and to Family Care. *WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?* Now is the time to contact your state legislators. To find the contact info for your State Senator and State Representative go to http://legis.wisconsin.gov/ . Focus each of your messages on one budget item at a time – but call or email on as many issues as you want. Legislative staffs are tallying your opinions.

LOCAL CAMPAIGN TO HELP REBUILD THE PHILIPPINES – how you can get involved.

More than a year after the latest Philippine typhoon -- which affected 16 million people -- a dedicated group of SW Wisconsin volunteers is combining their talents and treasure to help rebuild the ravaged country.   Leading the effort are Paul Ohlrogge from Iowa County's UW-Extension and Wally Orzechowski of SWCAP, both former Peace Corps volunteers in the Philippines.   They are organizing a new microfinance program which will provide small loans, from $100 to $300, to enterprising Filipinos unable to get credit from traditional lenders. This program is a collaboration between a group of Wisconsin Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), UW-Madison's Wisconsin Microfinance program, and a cooperative network called VICTO.   Initial efforts will target one village called Loay, which suffered severely not just from the typhoon but weeks earlier from a powerful 7.2-magnitude earthquake.   Says Ohlrogge, "We are looking for 1,000 people to give $20 each, a sum that will ensure the program can last forever, impacting hundreds of thousands of lives." For info and to donate, go to http://wisconsinmicrofinance.com/philippines/ OR send a check (made out to Wisconsin Microfinance Philippines) to Paul Ohlrogge, 3922 County JJ, Black Earth, WI 53515.

<u>Fridays, Feb. 27 to March 31, 2 p.m. (Dodgeville) CHANGING WEATHER AND CLIMATE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION: a facilitated on-line discussion series</u> The Dodgeville Public Library, in partnership with our Sustain Iowa county group, has joined forces with UW-Madison, the Wisconsin Library Services and 20 public libraries in Wisconsin to deliver a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the topic of "Changing Weather and Climate in the Great Lakes Region." The series is being offered at no cost, in conjunction with facilitated discussions and events at local libraries around the state. These facilitated discussions will be held on Fridays at 2 p.m. at the Dodgeville Library.   For more info, go to the Grassroots Sustain Iowa County page or register at http://moocs.wisc.edu/.

More community events

Tues., Feb. 17, 7 p.m. (Dodgeville) IOWA COUNTY BOARD MEETS
Iowa County Board of Supervisors will meet in Regular Session in the Community room at the Health and Human Services building, 303 W. Chapel St.   Go to http://iowacounty.org/countyboard/committees/countyboard.shtml and click 2015 to get the agendas and minutes of the last meetings.

Thanks to all of you who have already made your 2015 contribution to Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin. To contribute, go here

Find out more about our organization by going to our website .

GRASSROOTS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN, an energetic group of over 1000 people in Iowa, Sauk, Crawford, Richland, Lafayette and Grant Counties who are interested in taking an active role in improving government and promoting rational discussions of local, state and national issues. For further information, or to add a friend to our mailing list, please contact: Shirley Barnes, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin, 2473 Mt. Hope Road, Dodgeville, WI. 53533, 608-623-2109, e-mail: grassroots@merr.com.

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