



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

CONTROVERSIAL EDUCATION BILL NEEDS YOUR VOICE.

REGISTER NOW TO RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICES

Other important local news



Thurs., Dec. 17, 10 a.m. (Madison) STATE ASSEMBLY WANTS TO TIE HANDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES EVEN FURTHER: Vital Education Committee hearing on controversial legislation is Thurs., Dec. 17 in Madison Let your legislators know what you think about Assembly Bill 481 which would place significant restrictions on the ability of school boards to hold referendums. The bill takes away local control at a time

when school districts have seen state aid decrease over the last five years. Check out the details [here](#). If you don't like what you read, please email, write or call State Rep. Todd Novak and State Senator Howard Marklein. For their contact info, go to the [Grassroots website](#). The Assembly Committee on Education hearing on Assembly Bill 481 is Thurs., Dec. 17, 9:30 a.m., GAR Hall, 417 North Street, Madison.

GOOD CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE ARE NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER. Deadlines are fast approaching - in very early January -- for running in the Spring Election for vital local offices such as County Board, School Boards and other municipal offices.

Contact your County Clerk or your school district now for details as to when the deadlines are and how to register.



PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT ELECTRIFIES LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS Coming in the next year will be a new local website that will be the on-line resource for those looking for organizations, activities, businesses and events that promote a sustainable lifestyle in the greater Iowa County area. Watch for more details as this initiative unfolds.



The Sustain Iowa County group is talking with Upland Hills Medical Center about ways they might work together to raise public awareness about environment-related health issues and also to improve sustainability practices at the medical facility. For more information about how to get involved with this active group, contact Chuck Tennessen at twotens@yousq.net

SAT., JAN. 9, 11 a.m. (Dodgeville) MONTHLY MEETING OF CITIZENS CLIMATE

LOBBY. Join this committed group at the Country Kitchen, 1202 North John Street in Dodgeville for its monthly international conference call with a well know expert. Past speakers have been the Special Envoy for Climate Change at the World Bank, a Naval Admiral and the president of NISKANEN, a national libertarian think tank. This group continues to focus its efforts on educating our local community and our state and local representatives about the importance of passing carbon fee and dividend legislation. Want to know more? Contact Chuck Tennesen at twotens@yousq.net for more info.



FREE LOCAL HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR ENROLLING IN THE FEDERAL HEALTH CARE EXCHANGE through Jan. 31

If you or someone you know still needs health insurance, free local help to sign up for the Federal Healthcare Exchange is available this Wed. and Thurs. and every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through Jan. 31 **AT NO COST TO YOU.** Once you have healthcare coverage, you may consistently seek the preventive and follow up care you need and deserve. If you signed up last year, you may find there is a less expensive policy in 2016.

On Tuesdays, 1 to 7 p.m. and Thursdays, 2 to 5 p.m. Volunteers are available at Dodgeville's Community Connections Free Clinic, 101 East Fountain St. Make an appointment by calling 608-930-2232.

On Wednesdays from 2 to 6 p.m. Drop in for free assistance at the Southwest Tech Outreach Center in Dick's Supermarket Mall, 316 W. Spring St in Dodgeville,

COME PREPARED - bring a pay stub, birth dates and social security numbers for all wage earners in your household. (Past tax returns work great if you have them.) For more info - check out the [Grassroots Health Care Task Force page](#) on the website.



OUR ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) PROGRAM CONTINUES TO EXPAND

To encourage self-sufficiency and confidence among recent Hispanic immigrants to our area, our English as a Second Language (ESL) volunteer tutoring program has recently expanded into Lafayette and Grant Counties -- building on our existing Iowa County program.. Our trained volunteer tutors work one-on-one or in small groups. The program not only addresses the isolation many of our students feel, it enriches the tutors' lives through cultural exchanges and friendships. To learn more about becoming a volunteer ESL tutor, please contact:

- In Grant County, Karen Rundell at rrundell@centurytel.net, 608-348-5583
- In Lafayette County, Kathy Chase at mkqdchase@hotmail.com, 608-732-2512
- In Iowa County, Ana Karina Burton at ana.karina@iowacounty.org, 608-642-1753

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.

To unsubscribe from our e-mail list, please click on "Reply" and write "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.