



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

CHECK OUT OUR NEW HEALTH CARE REFORM *BLOG*

HERE'S INFORMATION ABOUT THE BLOG!

Interested in understanding what's in the new HEALTH CARE REFORM law? Do you have opinions about how it might be improved in the future? Go to our local Health Care Reform Blog at <http://www.citizensforhealthcarereform.blogspot.com>. You'll find a lively conversation waiting for your input and questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, APRIL 6. DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! Important Iowa County Board elections are coming up as well as a contested race for Iowa County Circuit Court Judge (see info about this race below) and for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals-District 4. Check out the Court of Appeals contenders Brian Blanchard and Ed Leineweber by visiting their websites at <http://www.brianblanchard.net> and <http://www.judgeleineweber2010.com>. A recent Isthmus article about the Blanchard-Leineweber race can be found at <http://www.isthmus.com/isthmus/article.php?article=28511>.

WED., MARCH 31, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Madison) SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE DAY Become part of the team working to help Create Jobs in Southwest Wisconsin. Join a group of your neighbors who will spend the day in Madison meeting with legislators and learning how to lobby on behalf of our region. The day starts at 9 a.m. at the Wisconsin State Capitol, Room 417 North -- for coffee and rolls. A welcome follows at 9 a.m., with lobbying tips and a review of the key issues relating to bringing jobs to Southwest Wisconsin. You'll visit legislators from 10:30 to 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch with legislators from our region. Cost is \$20, including lunch. For information, contact Eileen Nickels, tenickels@centurytel.net or 608-778-2959.

TUES., MARCH 30, 5:15 TO 6:30 P.M. (Dodgeville) REP. RON KIND AND LT. GOVERNOR CANDIDATE SANDERS will be guests at the Quarterly Democrats meeting next Tuesday at Susan VanSicklen's home, 3862 Evans Quarry Road, in rural Dodgeville. You'll hear about the critical role Ron Kind played in the final hours of the Health Care Bill deliberations at the White House, which resulted in a fairer compensation system for rural hospitals and a push for a pay-for-quality reimbursement system rather than pay-for-procedure, which will be a major force in ultimately bringing down medical care costs. Call 935-9392 for directions.

THURS., APRIL 1, 6:30 P.M. (Dodgeville) MEET IOWA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE CANDIDATE RHONDA HAZEN Not since 1998 have Iowa County voters faced a contested race for Circuit Court Judge. To learn about the candidates you are invited to meet contender Judge Rhonda Hazen (currently municipal judge for the Barneveld, Blue Mounds and Ridgeway Joint Court) -- at a house party hosted by Sharon Nicholas, 4368 Park Ridge Road, north of Dodgeville. Learn about her views at <http://www.hazen4judge.com>. To learn about her opponent, Iowa County's current long-time Judge Bill Dyke, check out his website at <http://billdyke.com/>.

THURS., APRIL 8, 7 P.M. (Dodgeville) THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS IS THE TOPIC Join the third Great Decisions discussion at the Dodgeville Library -- part of a national effort to collect people's thoughts on critical issues. For more information or to sign up, contact Vickie Stangel, Library Director at <http://dodgevillelibrary.com>

FRI., APRIL 9, 3 P.M. (Dodgeville) CITIZENS FOR PEACE MONTHLY MEETING The group will be talking about plans for the coming year at the home of Judy James, 3455 Rowe Road in Dodgeville. For more information about the agenda and the group, contact Jane Kavaloski at kavaloski@countyspeed.com or 935-3007.

THURS., APRIL 15, 7 P.M. (Dodgeville) US-CHINA SECURITY RELATIONS will be the final discussion in the Dodgeville Library's Great Decisions series.

THURS, APRIL 15, 5 to 7 p.m. (Dodgeville) SET UP YOUR OWN SOCIAL MEDIA SITES Here's a great FREE opportunity at the Dodgeville High School Business Education Department. The Business Education Department staff is having an open house -- to help you set up your own Facebook page and teach you how to use it -- so you can leap into the 21st century. Contact Sue Reukauf to register at sreukauf@dsc.k12.wi.us.

SAT., April 17, 9 - 11 a.m. or THURS., APRIL 22, 6 to 8 p.m. (LONE ROCK) HELP BUILD A GARDEN FOR THE HUNGRY FOR EARTH DAY Learn from and work with Roger Reynolds, local gardener, as he expands the lasagna/deep mulch gardens at the Lone Rock Library, where the harvest is donated to local citizens. Bring the children, wear gloves and work clothes. Lone Rock Library, 234 N Broadway Street, Lone Rock, 608-583-2034.

THURS., APRIL 22, 7 p.m. (Dodgeville) LEARN ABOUT PRACTICAL SOLAR APPLICATIONS Local solar expert Michael Dearing will celebrate Earth Day by making a presentation on Practical Solar Applications at the Dodgeville Public Library, 139 S. Iowa St. The public is welcome.

THE GRASSROOTS GAZETTE IS THE VOICE OF THE 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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