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— First Amendment

THE MONROE TIMES

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SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Times welcomes letters to the editor responding to news stories, letters, Our Views and events in the news. They must include the author's name and, for verification purposes

only, address and telephone number. Letters may be edited and republished in any format by The Times. One letter per 30-day period, please. Letters must be 400 words or fewer

and will be edited for clarity and style. The Times reserves the right to reject any letter.
Email: editor@themonroetimes.com

TIMES COLUMNIST

Highlight careers at job fair for students

Are you interested in hiring and mentoring a local high school student? Please consider participating in the Youth Apprenticeship Job Fair on Tuesday, April 26 at Monroe High School.

Hosted by the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB) and the Rock & Green County Youth Apprenticeship Consortium, the Job Fair is a great way to educate students and teachers about potential career opportunities at your business.

WHO SHOULD EXHIBIT?

Businesses that are interested in continuing or starting a Youth Apprenticeship program are invited to exhibit at the Job Fair. Students from Green County and other area schools will have the opportunity to speak with company representatives about Youth Apprenticeship positions and learn about future opportunities for careers.

The goal of this event is to connect students to compa-

nies that offer Youth Apprenticeship positions. Youth Apprenticeships are offered by employers willing to provide a mentor to help students master the knowledge, skills and competencies needed for career success in their industry. This paid on-the-job learning has the added bonus of earning certification from the State of Wisconsin in a chosen industry pathway. Youth Apprenticeship students work a minimum of 450 hours (generally a summer plus a school year) while receiving related educational training through school. Students can start a Youth Apprenticeship as early as the summer before their junior year and continue to graduation.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Area high school students who have decided upon a career path should attend to find opportunities in their chosen career. Their Youth Apprenticeship experience will give them the chance to

explore that occupation to make sure it is the right path for them.

AND

High school students who are undecided about their career path should attend to find out about the large number of opportunities in our area. From banking to bioscience, from electrician to engineering, from manufacturing to marketing, from hospitality to healthcare, from IT to insurance, undecided students will have the opportunity to talk with business representatives about their strengths and interests to find the best fit for a potential future career.

Youth Apprentices receive occupational-related instruction and on-the-job training as part of their regular high school schedule. They earn credits toward high school



Cara Carper

The goal of this event is to connect students to companies that offer Youth Apprenticeship positions.

graduation, and graduate with a state skills certificate and career-related work experience. These experiences are looked at favorably on college and job applications, and sometimes lead to a longer term job with an employer.

SIGN UP NOW TO RESERVE YOUR BOOTH

The Youth Apprenticeship Job Fair is Tuesday, April 26 from 10 am-noon, at the Monroe High School auxiliary gym (1600 26th Street, Monroe). Businesses will be set up by 9:45 am, and students will attend starting at 10 am. A table and chairs will be provided for each business. Due to COVID requirements, all students and business representatives will wear

a mask and demonstrate social distancing. Please contact Dana (Melahn) Leikness at SWWDB at d.leikness@swwdb.org to reserve your spot at the Green County Youth Apprenticeship Job Fair.

In the meantime, please encourage your local school district to invite students to attend the Job Fair, and if you are interested in hiring a Monroe High School student, please contact Cara Carper at caracarper@monroe.k12.wi.us or (608) 328-7573.

— Cara Carper is the Student Occupation & Academic Readiness (SOAR) Coordinator for the School District of Monroe. She can be reached at caracarper@monroe.k12.wi.us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We support our Democratic president

From Mr. and Mrs. LaVern Isely
Monroe

To the Editor:

My wife and I support Democratic President Joe Biden's handling of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, particularly if the people from Ukraine are trying to escape to neighboring countries such as Poland and Romania.

The invasion was massive and an all-out war to take over Ukraine. If communist Russia gets away with what they are up to, it could lead to an all-out World War III.

Democratic President Joe Biden is trying to put some sanctions on Russia, as well as other NATO countries are doing, to slow down Russia's aggression.

We also support President Biden's choice for the U.S. Supreme Court in naming the first black woman, Ketanji Brown Jackson, as his nominee.

These are some of our comments after listening to MSNBC television on February 25, 2022.

Visel running for school board

From Kevin Visel
Monroe

To the Editor:

For years, a common sentiment among parents of students in Monroe has been that our schools are "good enough". Sure, we've had our issues, but we have many incredible teachers and a healthy nostalgia and pride in the institutions of our city.

The last couple years have caused many of us to take a closer look. Take a look for yourself: Do a web search for "Monroe WI school rating" and you'll see what parents see when they consider moving to or away from Monroe. It's not pretty. The reports on our elementary schools are mostly positive, but by the time our students reach high school, they're in a school that is publicly scored at a 3 or 4 out of 10.

We're not terrible. We have good schools, but good can be the enemy of great. We need to come to terms with the reality that 69 more students open-enrolled out of Monroe this year

than in, favoring districts like Juda and New Glarus, and start asking why.

Why have our facilities fallen into disrepair despite a budget of approximately \$18,000 per student? Why are some of our best teachers leaving Monroe for other districts? We all want to support our teachers, but is the status quo really the best we can do for them?

During the last couple years, the decisions of the school board left many students, parents, and staff feeling abandoned and even bullied and discriminated against by a strong-arm administration, simply because of differing personal convictions. This became the wake-up call for many parents to stop saying "good enough" and to start considering how much better our school district could actually be. I am overwhelmed by the gratitude I have already received for standing up for the children from parents and school staff throughout the district who resonate deeply with this sentiment and are hoping for better.

I have a lot of respect for any-

one who offers the time and sacrifice that is required to sit on our school board, even those whom I might disagree with.

However, when it comes to educating our children and supporting our teachers, the good-old-boy mentality of preserving the status quo does not resonate with local parents. We don't need to protect our board; we need to improve it. Our children deserve the best, and that starts with putting children first, honoring the role of the parent, and taking better care of our teachers.

My name is Kevin Visel. I am a husband, father, property owner, and business owner in Monroe and I love our city. I have united my campaign for a seat on the school board with Camae Blackburn and Justin Hitchins because we are united in our purpose to put children first again in our schools. Making the children our first priority is the litmus test through which we are committed to making decisions for our school district. We truly appreciate your support and your vote on April 5th.

Many thanks for Christmas Stocking donations

From the Christmas Stocking Project Committee
Monroe

To the Editor:

The Christmas Stocking Project committee is grateful for the continued community support through these difficult Covid years. Without missing a step, you as a community were able to provide food, clothing and toys for those families experiencing difficult times. Though we did not use volunteers again this year for shopping nor did we do a toy collection, you as a community came through with your financial donations to the Christmas Stocking Fund. We continue to be humbled by your generosity.

Many thanks,
Christmas Stocking Project Committee

— Monda Hess, Terri Ingwell, Ann Doyle, Lynne Hendrickson, Kerri Steinmann, Jennifer Spielman, Mary Schmidt, Melissa Zettle, Samantha Stewart, Sue Armstrong, Cindy Ditter, Monica Schneider, Jennifer Coplien, Katie Coplien, Shelly Isely, Pan Drafall, and Marilyn Pfarr

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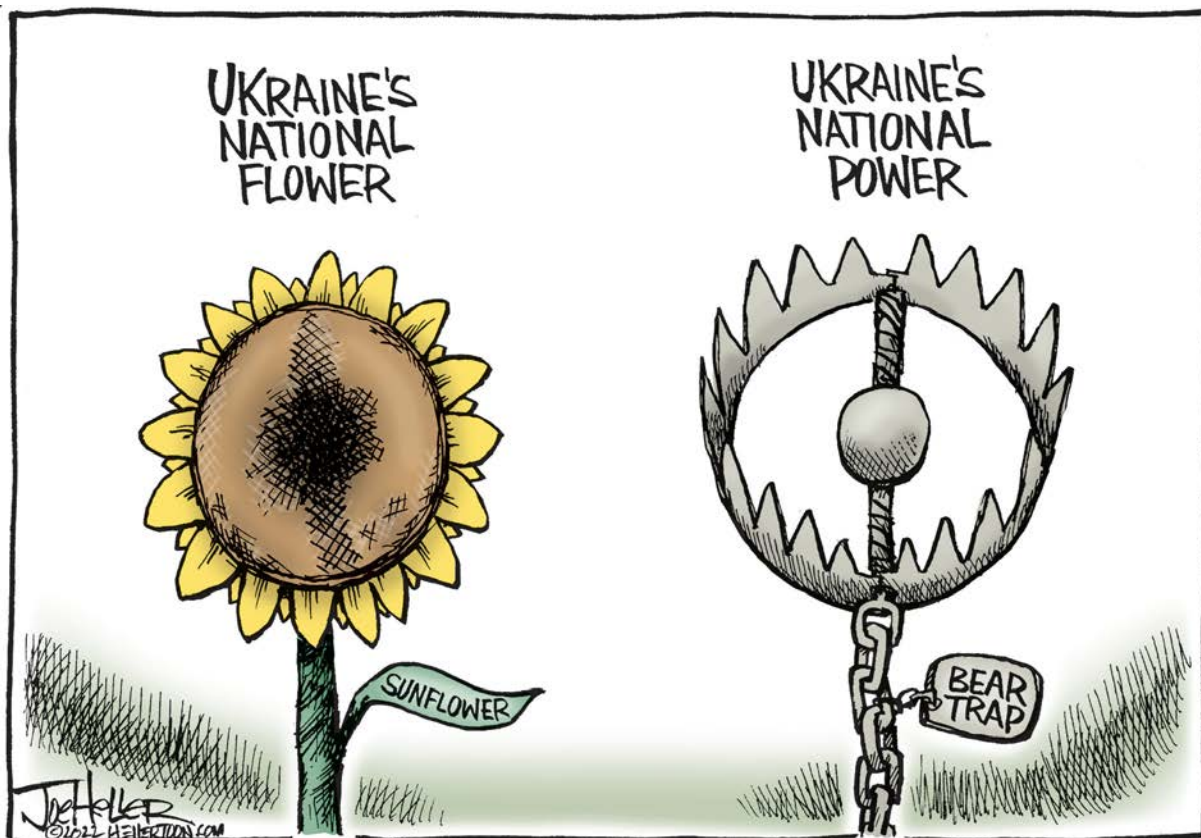
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JOE HELLER



Read more online: www.themonroetimes.com

The Earth is definitely round, and you might have to wear a mask

From Genevieve Kundert
Monroe

To the Editor:

Are masks a medical decision? They can be. So can shoes.

But when a public facility must decide whether or not to require them for the public good, they become a public safety issue. Just like shoes.

It's a mask. No one is oppressing you.

Is public school science curriculum a medical decision? That answer seems obvious, right? It couldn't possibly be... right?

I ask because, as a child, I was raised to believe that the science of evolution is a lie perpetuated by evil men in order to undermine an omnipotent God who created all of existence in exactly 6 Gregorian calendar days.

I'm not entirely sure where they stand on the subject now, but at the time, my parents were Creationists. And that's fine. It didn't traumatize me any more than anything else, as far as I can tell. They enrolled me in a private Christian school so that my academic curriculum would always be church-approved. Also fine. That's how private schools work, in my understanding.

What they did NOT do is enroll me in a public school, express disdain for its secular policies, and then form a coalition of like-minded individuals to run for the board of that school district.

It's a textbook. No one is oppressing you.