

COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022 | lakegenevanews.net | SECTION D

A trying time for many

Just as the winter weather has turned bitter and we worry for those who do not have sufficient safe shelter, we have been blessed with another matching grant opportunity



SAL DIMICELI

that will help us keep up with the overwhelming need for poverty relief in our communities. The Duane DeYoung \$50,000 Matching Grant in Memory of Linda DeYoung will

bring much prayed for assistance to so many. We are eager to bring our life changing assistance to those living in desperate need thanks to this matching grant opportunity!

Dear W.C.,

I am writing to see if you can help my sister-in-law. Her husband left her two years ago with her son who is six years old and autistic. We have not seen him since he left, and he rarely sends any child support. She came down with Covid and was hospitalized for the past three weeks.

My husband and I have been taking care of her son as we have no other family that can help. She is really struggling now that she has been off work and works paycheck to paycheck. I help her out when I can, but my husband and I caught Covid from our nephew who came here with only the sniffles, so we were off work for two weeks each, with no pay. My sister-in-law has just been released from the hospital and is so weak she is staying with us to allow her to regain some strength. She is so stressed about her bills that I worry she is hampering her recovery. I truly wish we could do more than make her meals and watch our nephew, but even that is stretching our budget. We do not have enough room in our one bedroom condo for them to move in fulltime. This is becoming stressful for all of us. I thought of The Time is Now to Help and hoped you could help.

Dear Readers,

We know so many people who are sick or recovering from Covid right now. It is a trying time for sure as we had all hoped and prayed this virus and the additional pains of illness and poverty it causes would be behind us.

I called the woman to see how we could help. I asked her what she knew about our charity work, and she shared that she had read our column several times and looked us up on the internet. I did not need to explain to her how we worked together to provide poverty relief. I could tell she had done her homework.

I asked about her sister-in-law and how she was doing after a few more days of recovery. She said the sister-in-law was still living with them due to her continued weakness and inability to care for not only her son but herself as well. She was too weak to even prepare meals or do laundry, so she continued to sleep with her son on their couch.

I spoke with the weak sister-in-law for a few minutes and listened as she still struggled to speak for even that short time. I asked if she would be able to go over her budget and she asked if I could do that with her sister-in-law. When the woman returned to the phone, we went through the outstanding bills that were causing the woman so much stress.

Together we provided rent for the sister-in-law, car payments and a utility payment to prevent her from falling further behind. We also provided grocery gift cards for when she returned home and for her to help with

EDITORIAL

Legislature fails again

LAKE GENEVA REGIONAL NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

The clock is ticking before the next election and we as a state have failed again to take action — putting us again in position to have last-minute election drama.

Going into an election with multiple races, all candidates and races should be subject to the same rules. Those rules should be clear. And election officials shouldn't have to worry about the rules changing at the last minute.

That is not the case. The spring primary is about four weeks away on Feb. 15, followed by the April 5 spring election.

This is not a presidential election year and statewide

general elections are not until November. But the April elections are just as important, with residents deciding who runs cities, counties and school districts. Here in Lake Geneva, we have a mayoral primary. Now more than ever those races are so important.

Yet there is still uncertainty going into the elections, on issues like voter drop boxes and how clerks can correct absentee ballots missing a witness' full address.

There are too many last minute changes.

For instance, on Wednesday, Jan. 12, the Wisconsin Election Commission's website stated it's up to each municipality if they want to use ballot absentee ballot drop boxes.

"The use of secure absentee ballot drop boxes is an accepted elections practice in the United States that far predates the 2020 elections cycle ... Until the courts or legislature address this matter that remains a local decision," the Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC) states on its website.

Then, on Thursday, Jan. 13, a Waukesha County judge ruled that the drop boxes cannot be used.

As for how to fix an absentee ballot with missing witness information there is also ambiguity.

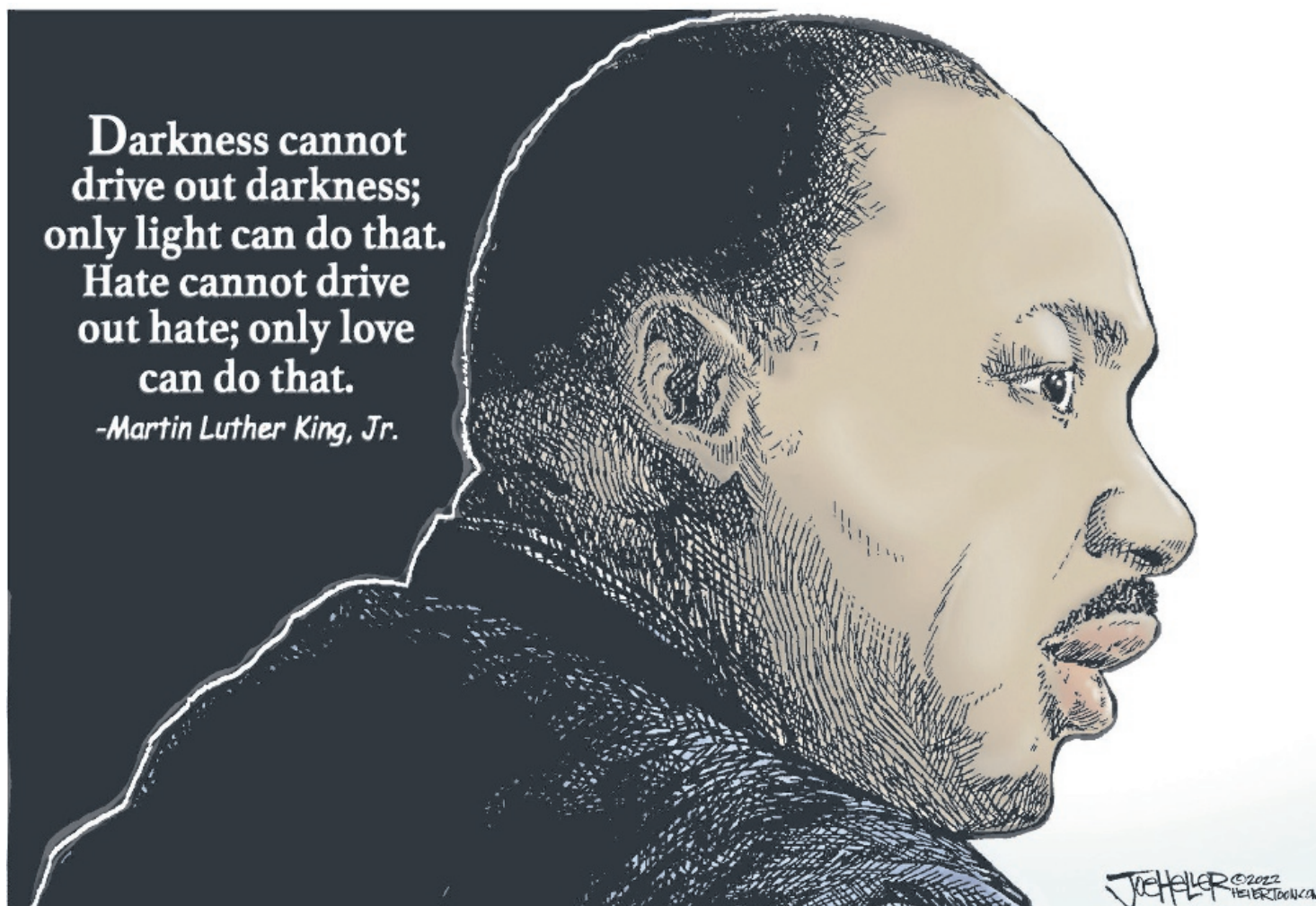
When the Wisconsin Election Commission met in December they directed staff to prepare drafts with guidance, one that mirrors current guidance and

a best alternative proposal. Both were to be prepared for the March 9, 2022 commission meeting, which is about a month after the February primary.

On top of that, the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, of which Sen. Steve Nass, R-Whitewater is the co-chairman, voted on Monday, Jan. 10, to require the WEC to submit emergency rules within 30 days or cease issuing directives on ballot drop boxes and guidance on correction of errors and omissions on absentee ballots.

And if the WEC does make rules, Nass has warned that his committee has the power

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

End Nass' war on COVID pandemic responses

Since the pandemic began Sen. Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) has used his co-chairmanship and partisan advantage of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) to halt or limit efforts by Gov. Evers, Wisconsin Department of Health, UW System and now the Wisconsin Election Commission to protect Wisconsinites from the ravages of COVID-19. After the Republican-controlled Legislature refused Evers's call for "special legislative actions," the governor issued executive orders for protective measures to be taken. Nass insisted that the governor's actions required JCRAR approval, even during a worldwide health pandemic. Nass used the JCRAR to limit the effectiveness of these protective directives.

The Wisconsin Department of Health issued preventive actions to safeguard Wisconsinites from COVID. Nass once again demanded these actions, even during a health emergency be brought before his committee. Nass became the self imposed czar of any efforts to safeguard Wisconsinites claiming that government pandemic responses were an attack on individual freedoms.

UW President Tommy Thompson issued emergency COVID directives across the state university system. Sen. Nass ordered Thompson to submit his directives for JCRAR approval despite only 14% of the UW System budget comes from state funds. Thompson informed Nass that UW had the authority to take nimble and reasonable steps to

Letters

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keep campuses open and safe. Thompson reminded Nass that the health and safety of the students, faculty and staff during a global pandemic were Thompson's responsibility, not the JCRAR.

Recently Nass announced that the Wisconsin Election Commission's emergency guidance to utilize vote drop boxes, allow nursing home residents to vote without special voting deputies present [nursing homes were closed to all visitors due to the pandemic] and allow election clerks to correct clerical omissions on absentee ballot envelopes failed to gain JCRAR approval. Nass directed the WEC to submit to his committee's authority.

Sen. Nass insists that even short term emergency directives used in a crisis must gain his JCRAR approval. During a worldwide health pandemic we do not need a Wisconsin legislative committee reeking havoc on state agencies as they battle to keep Wisconsinites safe and alive. The appropriateness of a handful of partisan legislators invoking roadblocks to commonsense governing during crisis situations needs to be examined as this ongoing pandemic continues.

Jerry Hanson, Elkhorn

Salvation Army coordinator stepping down

Thank you to all the organizations and individuals who rang the bell at Daniel's Foods this year. I also want to thank the businesses who places a counter kettle near their cash register. The total raised this year was \$13,804.92, compared to \$16,063.40 in 2020. Eighty-five percent of this money stays in Walworth County and I'm quite sure the other 15 percent and more is needed to pay one Salvation Army employee who serves our area.

Madeline Zindrick, church secretary at Walworth Immanuel United Church of Christ, writes the vouchers for Fontana, Sharon, Walworth and Williams Bay. Her annual budget is typically \$12,000 a year. Voucher writers in Walworth County do not discriminate for any reason. Vouchers are written for one reason only — need. That need is almost always rent, utilities or medical emergency. Vouchers are only denied because of a lack of funds or previous abuse of the system. Very accurate records of who receives vouchers and who has abused their use are on file. Vouchers are never made out to an individual. They are made out to the establishment involved. If the Walworth County total is down this year, Madeline will run out of funds in 2022.

After having been coordinator of Walworth area bell-ringing for over 15 years, it is time for me to step down. This is a plea for a new team of people to step forward and take over this most worthwhile cause. Willing folks should call Madeline at 262-275-3252 or write to An-

gela Swinehart at P.O. Box 766, Mukwonago, WI 53149. God bless.

Gary Ruskell, retiring coordinator

'Vote extreme Republicans out or lose our democracy'

You can debate today's so-called complex political climate. Is it backlashes to political correctness, immigration, abortion, gay rights, etc.? What's the real issue underneath it all in our country?

It's quite simple. One party stands for an inclusive democracy where all have an equal voice while the other stands only for a white male-dominated system at any cost; one where the upper 1% make the policies. To today's GOP it doesn't matter what that system is, it could be authoritarian, an oligarchy, even a monarchy. The cost can be anything, even the burning down of our democracy. If you're following what's coming out of the House Judiciary Committee then you know that the jig is up. Email, texts, and testimony show that scores of members of Congress and the GOP White House participated in the disaster that became the insurrection of Jan. 6, 2021.

If the majority of the American people had their way, we'd have sane gun control, health care for all, real climate policy, a voting rights bill, and tax policy where all pay their fair share. The choice is simple; stop letting social media manipulate you and vote extremist Republicans out or lose our democracy.

George Wen, Delavan

Please Help

There are many coming to us in desperation. Our good fellow creations need our compassion. Together we make a big difference. Make checks payable to: The Time Is Now to Help, P.O. Box 1, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. The Time Is Now to Help is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization licensed in the states of Wisconsin and Illinois. You will receive a tax deductible, itemized thank you receipt showing how your donation provided assistance for the poverty stricken.

A Very Special Thank You: Give A Hand Up Matching Grant donors, Paul Ziegler, Ziegler Charitable Foundation, Wayne and Beverly Hilbelink, Jeff Martin, John and Valerie Lincoln, Dorothy Nietfeldt, Electronic Specialties, Inc. Landon Petrie Jr. and Nancy Schwab, Lake Geneva Area Realty, Doris Kushch, Ernest Roy, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schuberth, Kunes Country Auto Group, William H. & Lois J. McEssy Foundation, Martin Group, John Stensland and family, Edward McCarthy, Shawn and Kristin Heffernan, Linda West, James and Cathy Beierle, Edward Hechmann, Donald Schwab, Joan Thompson, Shawn and Kristin Heffernan, Heidi Salas, Steven and Deidred Trumble, Dr. Mark and Cynthia Brower, Steve and

Mary O'Connor, Paper Dolls, John and Peggy Tueting, Stephen and Lois McPartlin, Sarah Logterman, Wingfield Watson Trust, Lake Geneva Economic Development, John and Darlene Milne, Larry and Kelly Happ, The Mimi Rasch Family, Margaret Rifken, Charlotte Anderson, David and Genevieve Bliss, Charlotte West, Sarah Wootton, David Greenawalt, Melissa Gehrke, Felix Castro, Barbara Heatley, Paula Harris, Matthew Anderson, Richard and Christine Costa, Gregory Kerwood, Ronald and Carolyn Bloch, Shari and James Loback, Joseph and Arlene Wachal, Cheryl Davis, Jacqueline Schaal, Craig and Karen Munter, Rosa Tadeo, Robert and Sharon Foscatto, Vena Bodine, John and Joann Koronkiewicz, Doris Kranitz, John and Rita Race, Lawrence and Dorothy Hensel, James Dyer, Beth and Jody Rendall, Richard and Mary Lou Huelskamp, Richard and Carol Kerkman, Richard and Ann Weber, David and Janice Powell, Francis Fish, Duane Harma, Gary and Jackie Heiligenthal, John and Karla Zils, Kevin Eulgen, Karin Collamore, Marjorie Rappold, Roger Seymour, Richard Green, Jeffrey Arnold, all of our anonymous donors and ALL of you who support The Time Is Now to Help donation boxes. Anyone who would like a Time

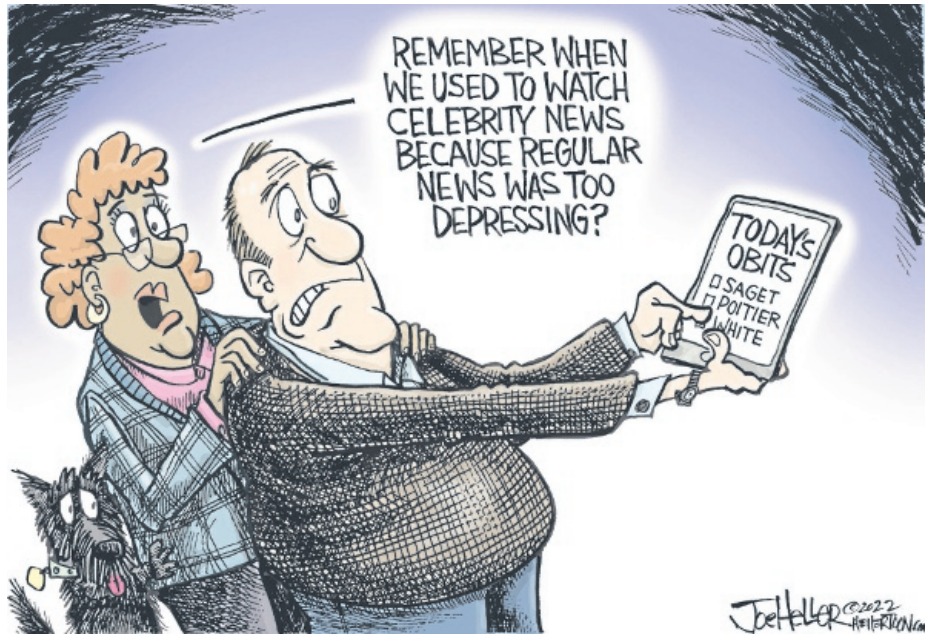
Is Now donation box in your business, please call (262) 249-7000.

Honoraries: Phil and Barbara McMahon in honor of their daughter and son-in-law Susan and Shawn Ahlers.

Memorials: Colleen Heffernan in memory of Dotsy Heffernan. Dolores Piotrowski in memory of her beloved best friend Martha "Dee" Valentine and beloved parents Gene and Lottie Piotrowski. James and Pat Herda in memory of the Lux Family. Barbara Giovannoni in memory of Klaus Heinrich, Bruce Nelson, Bub Hansen, Les Malsch, and Dick Giovannoni.

Prayer Chain: The power of prayer and positive thoughts comes from the true healer, our Lord answering our prayers. Please pray for healing for the following people: Brian, Talyn, Mike, Sylvia, Richard, Jennifer, Jayden, Maria C., Alex, Lily, Kaitlyn, Sheila, Rhonda, Deda Lee, Betty, Marilyn, Helen, Dennis, Mary, Joseph, Jordan, Jean, Tom L., Dr. Peter, Alyce, Matthew, Pam E., Jenene B., John S., Patricia H., Darlene, Ron K., Marian K., Judy, Wendy, Eric, Anthony, Mary, Charlie, Tom P., Christina, Billy, Mike, Cheryl, and Ellie.

Please visit: www.timeisnowtohelp.org



Time

From D1
all the food that was being prepared for her and

her son. This assistance would allow them all to rest easy and heal from their long debilitating illnesses.
Thank "You" and God

Bless "You" for your support that allowed us to provide this assistance.
Health & Happiness, Love & God Bless Everyone, Sal

Editorial

From D1
to suspend parts or all of those rules if the committee determines the agency lacks statutory authority. The WEC is was sched-

uled to meet Jan. 28 to consider the committee's recent request to draft emergency administrative rules or withdraw existing guidance related to drop boxes and fixing absentee ballot errors, according to Riley Vetterkind, public

information officer for the WEC. That leaves a lot of uncertainty leading up to the spring primary and election. It shouldn't have been this way. It shouldn't have come down to the wire like

this. Our state leaders need to do better. We don't need this drama leading into elections.



Bridal showcase
Geneva Lake 2022

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11AM-2PM

The Ridge Hotel
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Come out for a day of wedding planning in a one-stop-shop for everything you need on the most important day of your life! The best wedding professionals from SE Wisconsin will be on hand to help you plan the wedding of your dreams.

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