

EDITORIAL & OPINION

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

A hand up for local business — and local media

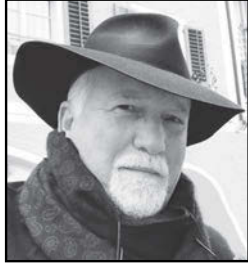
Dear Reader,

During the last Wisconsin legislative session, our state lawmakers considered passing Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 762 which would have created an income and franchise credit for businesses that purchase advertising in local media outlets. Had this bill become law, it would have boosted small businesses by helping them pay for advertising to market their products.

This bill would have also boosted local media such as this publication's weekly print edition newspaper and daily online reporting via website, which are heavily invested in bringing the hyperlocal news to you every week and have been doing so for many decades.

The bill is going to be re-introduced next year. We will keep you updated on its progress, with an eye to all working together to contact legislators and push it across the finish line.

Thanks in advance for your support... because you and a vibrant community matter.



PATRICK J. WOOD
PUBLISHER

Author of "Dear Reader" and "Tapestry of Love and Loss"



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Character Matters

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin published *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, highlighting the characteristics of great leaders; two Republicans and two Democrats.

All had one thing in common, a moral purpose.

Now more than ever character matters.

Locally we have the opportunity to vote on a State Senator.

One candidate has a track record of spreading misinformation as Chair of the Human Services of Children and Families Senate Committee.

This resulted in premature deaths from COVID-19.

In Brown County alone there were over 590 deaths, and they continue.

More than 590 families will forever have one less place at the table at Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays and anniversaries.

So many preventable deaths.

Another of his policies denies self-determination for family planning, forcing families and individuals into compromised health.

His policy support for no firearms restrictions feeds the black market and illegal gun profiteers, while increasing violence on our streets.

Is this the judgment you can trust for the safety of you and your family?

An alternative is Andrea

Gage Michaels, a lawyer who has a track record of courage, intellect and humanity as noted by former Senator Caleb Frostman.

Michaels supports individual freedom (not state control) for families to plan for their future, and she does not impose conflicts for the wellbeing and health of family members.

She plans to work towards clean water for both rural and city dwellers alike.

She understands the need for broadband internet access as modern-day infrastructure.

There is a great need for both education and economic opportunity for rural and underserved communities.

As a former Senate staffer, she understands the inner workings of government to get the job done for her constituents.

Colonel Brian Biggs of the Air Force Reserve, who dispatched refrigerator trucks and body bags during the pandemic and delivered COVID-19 vaccines said, "Andrea Gage Michaels has a spine of tempered steel, unimpeachable integrity and a fire for justice."

Aren't those the qualities we want in our Senator?

Thomas Jefferson said "the government you elect is the government you deserve."

— Judy Nagel
DePere

Make climate the hot topic this election

Burning fossil fuels heats the atmosphere and changes climate and weather patterns.

We've all seen the catastrophic damage that results.

What can an individual do?

People from all political persuasions care about the planet.

If we believe that the Earth is our home, not just a resource for fossil fuels and waste disposal, then

we must get together in a respectful way, educate ourselves, discuss sensible solutions, and pass ideas on to friends, neighbors and elected officials.

A national movement is taking place to hold a second Earth Day each year in October.

One day a year in April simply isn't enough.

A group of local, non-profit, nonpartisan organizations, including Citizens' Climate Lobby,

ESTHER, the League of Women Voters and PopEarth are celebrating "Earth Day: Election Edition" on October 22 at Pierce Park in Appleton from 12:30 to 2:30 pm.

The theme is "Make climate the hot topic this election."

Display tables will have materials to show what individuals can do.

Appleton singer Christopher Gold will entertain, and Ligia Rivera of

the League of Women Voters is the keynote speaker.

She will speak about the League's two-year study on local climate impacts and adaptations for our communities' climate resilience.

The event will end with a short march across the Memorial Drive Bridge to Veterans Park and then back to Pierce Park.

— Laurel Last
Green Bay

Questions remain on Pulaski school referendum

Pulaski School District representatives came to Hobart's Oct. 4 village board meeting to answer questions about the district's upcoming referendum.

Unfortunately, many questions remain.

First, why are non-resident students from outside the district still allowed to open-enroll into school buildings that are already overcrowded?

While the school district publishes pictures of teachers at Hillcrest Elementary using storage closets as office space and portable trailers installed as classrooms, there are currently 66 non-resident students from outside the district enrolled at that school.

The school district published a Community Growth and Projections Report dated Nov. 4, 2021

which projects enrollment over the period from 2021 to 2035.

Hillcrest Elementary is projected to increase by 46 resident students over this 14-year period.

Why does the school district's referendum proposal double the size of Hillcrest School for an increase of only 46 resident students?

Wouldn't a more cost-effective solution be to deny open enrollment to non-resident students?

Should taxpayers in the Pulaski School District pay for building expansion to accommodate students who don't even live in the district?

The Village's plans for development in northern Hobart have been well-known for over 10 years, so the school district can't claim this enrollment crisis snuck up on

them.

The same questions should be asked regarding the district's proposal for Sunnyside Elementary — which according to the report currently has 40 non-resident students from outside the district and a projected increase of 90 resident students over the next 14 years.

The proposal also doubles the size of this school.

So while we are being asked to double the size of two elementary schools (Hillcrest and Sunnyside), both Fairview and Glenbrook Elementary Schools are projected to remain below each building's lower limit capacity through 2035; and the Lannoys Elementary School won't exceed its lower limit capacity until 2035.

Does this plan maxi-

mize the efficient use of existing buildings?

Additionally, why isn't the pool at the middle school removed and that space repurposed for the projected enrollment increase at that building?

The age, cost and inefficiency of that pool has been a concern for decades, so why hasn't this been offered as a solution?

The upcoming Pulaski School District referendum crumbles under the weight of its own data.

The district wants \$69.8 million for school building expansion and improvements, yet its own data raises many questions as to why this much money is really needed.

Read the report and vote on Nov. 8.

— Donna Severson
Hobart

Former board members support Green Bay school referendum

As former members of the Green Bay Area Board of Education, we are encouraging support for the \$92.6 million school referendum on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Voters in the Green Bay Area School District will be asked to approve spending for the following:

- \$43.4 million for delayed facility projects,

energy efficiency, and student and community safety.

- \$48 million for secondary school upgrades.
- \$1.2 million for playground improvements.

Throughout our own service on the School Board, we — along with our administrative and teaching staffs — worked diligently to provide the

best educational opportunities possible for our students, while mindful of the financial demands placed on our taxpayers.

We believe this referendum does that.

The school district will be paying off enough existing debt to allow a decrease in the tax rate for school purposes, even if this referendum passes.

More information on the referendum can be found at gbaps.org/referendum2022.

Please consider a "yes" vote on the Nov. 8 referendum.

— Mike Blecha, Brenda Warren, Katie Maloney, Jean Marsch, Dotty Juengst, Judy De Cleene, Judy Crain

The Press Times welcomes readers to share their thoughts and opinions as a letter to the editor.

Letters must be no more than 400 words and be emailed to nwood@mmclocal.com with the subject line "letters to the editor."

Letters can also be mailed or dropped off to our office located at 310 West Walnut, 4th floor, Green Bay, WI 54303.

Letters must be received by Monday in order to be included in the Friday edition.