

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Mel's dinner and dance was a magical way to celebrate National Disabilities Awareness Month**

To the editor:  
In 1987, President Ronald Regan proclaimed March National Disabilities Awareness Month. The proclamation invites us to provide understanding, encouragement and opportunities to assist persons with disabilities to lead productive and fulfilling lives.  
On Saturday, March 4, an awesome dinner-dance for community members with disabilities was coordinated by the Cedarburg High School Community Service Program, along with Mel's Charities. Staff and volunteers from other organizations, including Portal, inc., also assisted.  
Following the pandemic gap, the dinner-dance returned providing magical moments of great music, food, dancing and friendship.  
Verna Myers, lawyer/author/trainer and inclusion strategist states, "Diversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being asked to dance. Belonging is dancing like no one is watching."  
Thank you Cedarburg High School Community Service students, teacher advisors — including Patty Clapper — and Mel's Charities for a memorable evening of welcoming and fun.  
On March 10, 2023, Portal, inc. celebrated 56 years in Ozaukee County providing services and support to persons with mental disabilities to be included by working, volunteering and enjoying community life in meaningful ways.

**Carole Stuebe**  
Executive Director  
Portal, inc./Gratton

**Francour and Barikmo will continue legacy of excellence at MTSD**

To the editor:  
This April 4th, we again have the privilege to select, by free and fair public elections, those who will lead our important public functions. After careful consideration of my choices, I write to share my support for the most qualified candidates to lead the Mequon-Thiensville School District (MTSD) by filling two available seats.  
Wendy Francour and Kate Barikmo both bring the skills and expertise to continue and expand upon the widely recognized tradition of academic success and organizational efficiency that the MTSD schools are known for. MTSD student's academic achievement consistently exceeds statewide averages and the district consistently exceeds expectation in the Department of Public Instruction report card. In the ultimate measure, students graduate from Homestead High School at nearly a 100% rate and with average ACT score significantly above state averages.  
These excellent outcomes are the result of thousands of engaged parents, hundreds of teachers and staff and the visionary and pragmatic leadership of the Board of Education. Wendy Francour's constant and thoughtful leadership for more than nine years has driven this success. She has earned the opportunity to be re-elected to continue her tireless volunteer work. Wendy's finger is on the pulse of board's priorities to continue our success.  
Kate Barikmo would bring a valuable and unique perspective and set of skills to the board. She is the only candidate who is an active teacher. Her Master's Degree from UW-Madison in curriculum and instruction will provide important insights to the board as they set tactical and strategic direction. Kate's full support of the MTSD Board's Vision of "Each Student, Every Time Empowered to Succeed" and the required support of both students and staff to achieve this, is what we need in our leadership.

**Bob Tattersson**  
Mequon

**A matter of life and death**

To the editor:  
When has an election been so important? Perhaps that day will be April 4th, 2023.  
Two candidates are running to be a deciding vote on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Daniel Kelly (a conservative, pro-life, constitutionalist) and Janet Protasiewicz (a liberal, pro-choice, activist).  
Before you cast your lot in this election, please seriously consider this. A justice is to be impartial and interpret the laws that were established by the legislative branch. Their position is not to make law from the bench. For them to do so is what leads to despotism, dictatorship and anarchy.  
It is also important that you watch out for key words designed to move people in mass. "Women's Health" is that new term. All people would agree that we should do everything possible to find cures for and help women that suffer from cancer, heart disease, diabetes and the like. Abortion, in my opinion, is a different issue all together. If it were to be treated as a disease, the prevention is simple, don't have sex or use contraception and lock up rapists in a very small cell. Follow-up care would involve self discipline and responsibility first for men and then women.  
I would like to add to this opinion piece a definition for two important words. "Kill" — Cause the death of (a person, animal or other living thing).  
"Murder" — The unlawful premeditated killing of one human being by another.  
Here is where you need to decide. Consider your vote with sincere thought and conviction. Beware of the political rhetoric and the stolen words and one-liners designed to move the masses like lemmings to their eternal destruction.  
Do not be fooled. This election is about abortion and the ending of a human life. Your vote may truly be a matter of life and death.

**Ben Glatzel**  
Gratton

**Kincaide and Erickson are best prepared to serve on Cedarburg School Board**

To the editor:  
Residents of the Cedarburg School District deserve to have a school board that will work to put our students and our community first. That's why I am supporting Connie Kincaide and Kate Erickson on April 4th.  
Connie and Kate understand that the role of a public official is to listen, to bridge differences and to work to ensure that every district and community is a place where everyone is welcome and can thrive. From their extensive involvement in our community, to their background and experience in education, Connie and Kate have demonstrated the passion and commitment that we should expect from our local officials.  
Our school board sorely needs people on it who understand what it's like to be in the classroom. We need people on that board who pay attention to the details and who are prepared for the job. We need people on that board who will listen to our residents and who will work to unite us rather than pushing policies or ideas that are meant to divide us. Connie and Kate are those candidates.  
If elected, Connie and Kate will work to make sure every student has the tools and resources that they need to succeed, that your hard-earned money is being used wisely and responsibly, that we are working to attract and retain our best educators and staff, and that our board is more open, responsive, and transparent.  
That's why I'll be voting for Connie and Kate and you should too.

**Dan Larsen**  
Cedarburg

**Francour keeps the excellence in the MTSD mission statement**

To the editor:  
We are staunch advocates for the reelection of Wendy Francour to the Mequon-Thiensville School District's Board of Education. She has been serving the schools, students, staff and community of the MTSD since 2016 with impeccable grace, grit, dedication and the utmost professionalism.  
With years of experience on the MTSD board, as a parent, volunteer and community member, Wendy has spent countless hours working to keep the word "excellence" in our district's mission statement. Wendy's modus operandi is to listen, learn, process and put into perspective ideas that are presented.  
Wendy's track record has proven that she represents the best interests of the MTSD; the goal and commitment to provide each student the opportunity to succeed in an equitable and safe environment, every day.  
With her experience, commitment and leadership, Wendy Francour will continue to work for the School Board's mission of excellence, its schools, students, staff and community. Please vote to reelect Wendy on April 4!

**Deb and Marty Choren**  
Mequon

**Wendy Francour has been an exceptional M-T School Board member**

To the editor:  
Wendy Francour is, without doubt or comparison, the best candidate to guide our school district as a Mequon-Thiensville School Board member. Wendy has served this community in that capacity for years through some of the most difficult times facing the school district. She has done so with a positivity and grace needed on our School Board. Wendy has a depth of knowledge second to none developed over her years of service and passion for education.  
We have been deeply involved in MTSD for many years: Robin was a teacher in the district for 35 years and a long-time MTEF Board Member; and we have been parents and are now grandparents of Mequon-Thiensville School District students. We can say without hesitation that Wendy Francour has always taken the extra steps to thoroughly understand not only the needs of the children, the parents, and the administrators, but the needs of educators who give their all every day. Wendy has served the district not just as a Board of Education member but has also volunteered her service directly to the schools and through participation in district organizations like the MTEF.  
Education is complex, involving a vast range of subjects, curriculum and standards, hugely diverse student needs and complicated budget concerns. Wendy has always devoted the full measure of time needed to understand these issues in depth, to analyze problems, to seek input from persons most knowledgeable, to welcome input from any citizen who would care to share their perspective and to fully inform her decisions without bias. She has not been afraid to make tough choices that support our students and our schools. Wendy Francour's only agenda is the welfare of our students — all students. She deserves our vote and yours!

**Robin and Howard Schlein**  
Mequon

**Bach is exceptionally qualified to represent Mequon's District 5**

To the editor:  
I am writing to share my support of the candidacy of Gregg Bach for the 5th District aldermanic seat. I have known Gregg for more than 30 years, primarily in his role as an educator. I watched him navigate extremely tough and sensitive issues within the school environment, always with an evenhandedness and rational approach considering all sides before making a decision.  
Gregg has also had to deal with significant issues involving school facilities, environmental concerns and budgeting challenges in

his role as an administrator. All of these positions have prepared Gregg for his decision to run for alderman. I can't think of anyone with Gregg's diverse skill set that would be more qualified to make important decisions regarding Mequon's future.  
I have total confidence that Gregg's experience will serve our community well as will his thoughtful approach to complex issues in our community. Please join me with your support of Gregg Bach.

**Michael C. Williams**  
Mequon

**Anti-Kelly ad is false, misleading and unethical**

To the editor:  
I am sure you have seen an ad on TV that states that Dan Kelly defended child sex predators and are shocked to learn this. It runs numerous times every day.  
This is the voice-over from that TV ad: "Dan Kelly won't keep our communities safe. As a lawyer, Kelly defended child sex predators who posed as ministers in order to prey on vulnerable young girls. They lured young children to locations they believe to be safe, only to sexually assault and molest them. And Dan Kelly defended those monsters. Do you want someone like that on the Supreme Court? Dan Kelly An extremist who doesn't care about us."  
This ad is false, misleading, and unethical. It is in reference to a 1986 trial of Kenneth Spaulding and his wife.  
First, Dan was a young lawyer who was hired by a commercial litigation law firm. For some reason, the firm took on the Spaulding defense. Early in the case, the firm assigned Dan Kelly as attorney of record from February 1986 to August 1986. He withdrew as the Spaulding's counsel and later left the law firm. Kelly had nothing to do with the defense at trial.  
Second, the ad makes it sound like Dan chose to represent the Spauldings or was involved some way in the crime. Absolutely false.  
Third, a jury convicted Spaulding and sent him to prison for 80 years.  
Based on Kelly's opponent's soft-on-crime stance, I imagine if the Spauldings were in Janet's courtroom, they would have received a light sentence.  
This ad is a lie, unethical, and should disqualify Janet Protasiewicz from being any kind of judge.  
Vote Dan Kelly for Wisconsin Supreme Court on April 4.

**Marie Graziano**  
Richfield

**Vote Gregg Bach for Mequon alderman**

To the editor:  
I wholeheartedly support Gregg Bach in his run for 5th District alderman in Mequon. I have known Gregg for more than 20 years, ever since I was a student in his sixth-grade class. I'm sure it came as no surprise to him that I entered a career in state government. Over the past decade I have held high-level positions in Madison and can tell you there are people who thrive in public service because they have the right skill set and the right values. Gregg Bach will be one of those people.  
Gregg is a lifelong community leader, an experienced manager and a dedicated Mequon citizen. He has been successful because he is a thoughtful listener. Gregg's willingness to listen helps him as a problem solver. It helps him as a leader. It will benefit him and the city of Mequon, as an alderman. Gregg will be a terrific public servant and I enthusiastically ask you to join me in supporting him.

**Michael Luckey**  
Lake Mills

**Are you a bully?**

To the editor:  
Let's look at some common definitions for "bully".  
A bully is someone who seeks to harm, intimidate or coerce someone perceived as vulnerable (maybe smaller than you, more productive at work than you, someone that doesn't like the same activities as you). It's someone who thrives in public service in a cruel, insulting, threatening or aggressive fashion. It's causing someone to do something they don't want to do by use of force or coercion.  
We often think that bullying happens in school — and it does; but bullying is not limited to school. For example, a co-worker might belittle another co-worker.  
Maybe someone was promoted, and you thought you should have been chosen. Maybe, you are jealous simply because someone is smarter than you.  
A person of one religious belief might criticize another's religion.  
Someone might denigrate another person's race or ethnicity or sexuality.  
These situations can result in bullying. Bullying can happen anywhere. But it shouldn't because it doesn't create a wholesome, friendly place to live. Bullying creates dislike or fear in schools and reduces teamwork and productivity in the workplace and can cause deadlock in the governance of our country.  
What can we do to stop bullying?  
If you see someone treating another person in an improper way, have the courage to talk to the "bully" and point out that calling someone a name or lying about them is hurtful; and, you don't want to see it continue. If you are the person being bullied, talk to a supervisor or teacher or your parents if you are a child and ask for advice or help.  
Let's make Ozaukee County a bully-free zone.

**Phil Ball**  
Cedarburg

**Gierl is honest and hardworking alderman**

To the editor:  
I ran into Alderman Mark Gierl at an edu-

cational conference this Sunday and asked him about his campaign. He said he spent three hours Saturday morning digging out and straightening 30 snow covered signs. Many were difficult to find and a few disappeared. I asked if he thought they were stolen, and he replied, "Over the years I purchased 200 signs and today I have only 80 left. It happens every campaign and I don't believe kids are involved."  
He then let me know that he received a few texts letting him know that internet trolls were accusing him of sign theft. Mark said he believed their signs haven't been shoveled out and when the snow melts, they will find them. It's amazing that when the truth comes out, there will be no apologies and it will be on to the next troll and the next.  
I then asked Mark about accusations by another troll that he was litigious. He replied, "It's an unfortunate reality in life, and the only remedy in a civil case when parties cannot reach a fair solution." He went on to say that some in the press report "Alderman Gierl sued..." "As an alderman I don't give up my rights as a private citizen and acted as such in both cases."  
Mark went on to say that at a recent "Meet and Greet," which I attended, he saw three attendees taking pictures of his campaign materials. When he went over to introduce himself, they were some of the same trolls who constantly post lies and half truths about him.  
It's amazing how some people can post such garbage without having even met the other person.  
Mark is an honest, hardworking and impartial alderman.  
Vote Gierl for alderman on or before April 4th.

**Dennis Becker**

**Francour for School Board**

To the editor:  
I have had the good fortune of working with Wendy over the years on a wide array of MT School District activities. She is an extremely effective collaborator and her commitment to supporting the education of our kids is obvious. Wendy has demonstrated an ability to stay centered in the midst of high tension, always maintaining a focus on what's best for kids.  
In this time of destructive partisanship, we need people like Wendy who will continue to make decisions and take actions that build consensus, and support an environment of collaboration and care in our community.  
I hope you join me in voting for her!

**Kim Ebling**  
Mequon

**Bach's commitment and drive impress all who know him**

To the editor:  
It is with great enthusiasm that I write to express my support for Mr. Gregg Bach, candidate for the alderman of the 5th District, Mequon. I am a resident in the 5th District, as well as a friend and former colleague of Mr. Bach. I believe Gregg is the best person to serve in this role.  
I began working with Gregg nearly 15 years ago and he made a strong impression on me immediately. Through our work on committees and projects, large and small, I had a first-hand view of how Gregg gets things accomplished — through open communication, collaboration and problem solving. Gregg is able to see the big picture, then work seamlessly with various teams on the details to accomplish the common goal. What a great quality to have in a leader!  
Gregg is committed and has exceptional follow-through. He consistently arrived early to meetings, spoke clearly and effectively to groups and always found a way to infuse humor in his communication. I can say with certainty, Gregg's attendance and commitment will impress us all.  
Like Gregg, my family and I love our Mequon neighborhood, and feel fortunate to be surrounded by wonderful neighbors and a beautiful natural environment. Gregg speaks passionately about our Mequon district and the joy he found in raising his children here. My family and I wish for a leader that is motivated to continue making Mequon a great place for all residents.  
It will certainly be my pleasure to cast my vote for Gregg Bach on April 4 and I hope you do the same.

**Claudia Fritz**  
Mequon



**Election letters deadline**

The deadline for receiving letters and Sound Offs related to the April 4 election is Monday, March 27.  
Please keep letters to 300 words.  
Email: letters@conley.net.com

**LETTERS POLICY:** Letters should be signed and include phone number and address so that we may verify authenticity. Neither phone number nor address will be printed when letters appear. We reserve the right to edit letters. Please keep letters to no more than 300 words. Generally, letter writers are limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters might appear in multiple Conley Media publications.  
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