

Editorial

## We are all in this together

By Diane Everson, publisher

These past few weeks have been tough. We also feel a sense of heaviness for the future of our economy and our citizens. As of this writing, there are three confirmed cases of coronavirus in Rock County.

Now, as in the rest of the country, those of us in Edgerton have been thrust into a surreal world of sheltering in place, practicing social distance, working from home and paying attention to our personal hygiene and the hygiene of others as never before.

Here at the Edgerton Reporter we are covering the virus, which businesses are open or closed, cancellations, where to get help and governmental decisions affecting us all. There are no school activities, sports, big events or many other items of interest. Like everyone else, we have had our lives turned upside-down in recent days. The bigger questions are how long will this last, and will a coronavirus world stop our drive, passion and happiness?



We think not. Here is some advice from experts that is important for all of us. One of the most important concerns, in addition to your health, is your mindset. Keep positive no matter how life may appear otherwise. Here are some key points:

1. There is light ahead of us. We're being forced into paths we did not intend to take. But it's a long, winding road – not a stop sign.
2. Our world depends on those who can step up in times of need. Let us know how we can help you. While some businesses are struggling to keep their doors open, know that all our businesses want to serve you. Please support them and shop locally. Do not take that responsibility lightly.
3. Kindness and empathy are needed now more than ever to keep our community vibrant. This can happen from a distance via your phone, Facebook or other social media. We need to take care of each other.

The new saying is "we need to be together by being apart." (Social distancing for those that didn't understand the quote.)

*"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."*

–Henry Ford

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*

–Helen Keller

*"It's like peanut butter and chocolate. Each is great, but they're better together."*

–Richard Whitehead

We are all in this together, and by working together, we will get through this challenge.

*The Edgerton Reporter editorial reflects the opinion of publisher, Diane Everson and the legacy perspective and worldview of Harland and Helen Everson.*

## Note to readers

### Dear Readers

A few items for you:

**1. Anchor closed down.** There is a sign on the Anchor's door closing it. It is from a state-employed Inspection company. The closure is for not having a state-approved construction plan and local building permits. We were not able to reach Kevin Brown for comment. We will have a more complete story next week.

**2. Open and closed businesses.** A new announcement Tuesday from Gov. Evers has required some businesses to not open during this crisis. As we learn more we will post the information on our Facebook page. As of this writing, this is what we know. Closed: Hair Doctors, Eleven on Swift, Bonnie's Beauty, Café on Main, Anytime Fitness, Sara's Health and Fitness, Once Upon a Blossom, C&M (will answer email), Blue Gilly's and Buckhorn. Serving carry-out: Lakeview, Yetti's, El Patron, Winchester and A&W. Carry-out by phone: Subway. Serving carry-out and delivery: Mario's, Beacon Inn, 2 Brothers and Red Baron. Open: Edward Jones, Deegan's, Nelson-Young, i-90, Hemp 1848, Steve's 51, Ted's Auto, Piggly Wiggly, Kwik Trip, Casey's, Stop-N-Go, Grams, Edgerton Hospital, Dean Clinic, Mercy Clinic, and Steponkus Tax. Drive-thru: Edgerton Pharmacy, Blackhawk Community Credit Union, Bank of Edgerton and Culver's.

**3. Red Cross.** Blood donations are still urgently needed. Please donate.

*We want to produce the best weekly newspaper possible for you. Let me know your ideas.*

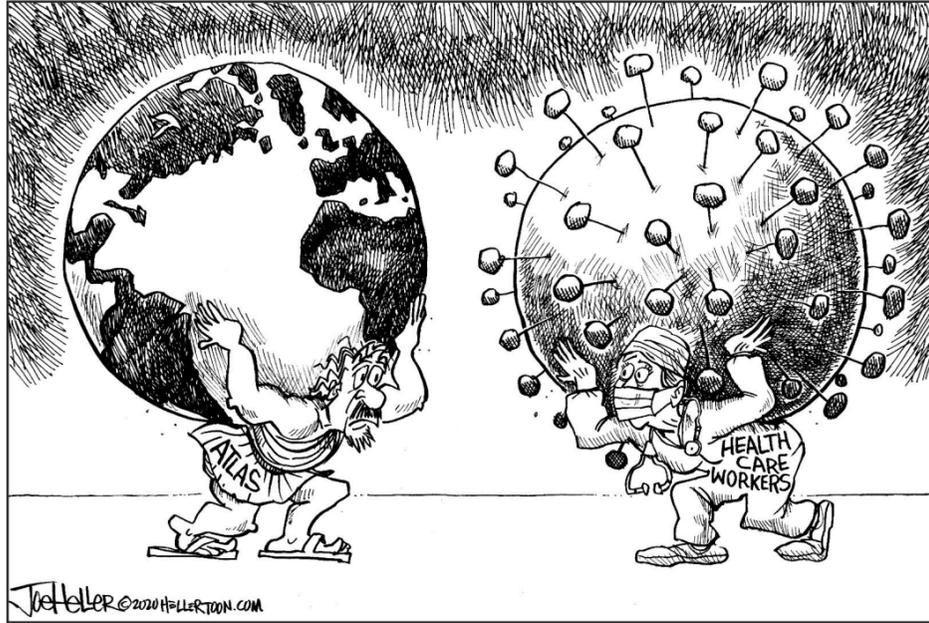
–Diane Everson, publisher

## THE EDGERTON REPORTER Letters to the Editor Policy

The Reporter welcomes Letters to the Editor, however, letters must have a written signature, address and telephone number in order to be published.

Letters must be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday for Wednesday's publication. We will run as many letters as possible each week, but space is limited. For that reason, letters must not exceed 350 words. Letters will be run as soon as possible. We give priority to letters from area residents. We reserve the right to edit letters as necessary. Letters submitted to The Reporter should not be personal attacks, but should concern issues.

Letters on political issues will not be run in the publication the week prior to an election of candidates or referendum. This will prohibit someone from raising a question about a candidate or issue without allowing time for a response.



## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My name is Christopher Manakas, I live in the area with my wife and our family and work as a doctor. Over the last four years, my wife and I have had the pleasure of getting to know Kate McGinnity through our shared community work.

We're lucky to have Kate in our community. She's a smart, capable problem-solver who has been stepping up to serve our community for decades. She's volunteered for the Fair Housing Council, the Dane

County Jail and the Family Support and Resource Center. She's chaired the Cambridge Art Fair, was a longtime member of the Cambridge PTO, and so much more.

I've never known Kate to be anything but positive, reasonable, efficient, and resourceful – which is why I believe she'll make an excellent Dane County Supervisor for District #37. She will connect with and listen to people to understand a problem and then learn how to fix it.

For example, she heard from neighbors about the unacceptable lack of rural broadband access around District #37. Then, she took the initiative to work with a neighboring county to apply for a grant to bring improved broadband access to the families that need it most. This is what she does as a private citizen – imagine what she can do as an elected Dane County Board Supervisor! Kate's the person you call when you need something to get done. Vote for Kate on April 7.

### Guest Opinion

## As Sunshine Week drew to a close, an order of secrecy from the U.S. Labor Department

By Dean Ridings, CEO of America's Newspapers

The economic toll from the COVID-19 pandemic is open and obvious all around us: The shuttered restaurants, closed department stores and malls, empty schools and universities, and public transit trains and busses pulling up to deserted stops.

And then there is the personal economic catastrophe: Your neighbor, your relative, your spouse, son or daughter, perhaps you yourself are suddenly jobless with no clear outlook for a return to work.

How many other Americans are in that same boat? The U.S. Labor Department doesn't want you to know just yet.

In a Wednesday, March 18, email to state labor officials, the administrator for the Labor Department's Office of Employment Insurance, Gay Gilbert, instructed them not to release precise numbers of the unemployed in their states.

Instead, Gilbert said they should "provide information using generalities to describe claims levels (very high, large increase)" until the Labor Department makes public the total number of unemployment applications on March 26 – more than a week later.

A Labor Department spokesperson later claimed that these numbers are "regularly embargoed," though at least one state unemployment agency was so taken aback by the demand that it consulted the state's attorney general on the matter.

All of us should be similarly disturbed by this attempt to delay the release of public information collected with the public's tax dollars.

The fact that this demand from the federal government came during Sunshine Week, the annual initiative to raise awareness of the importance of open government to all Americans – a week that was celebrated in a ceremony at the U.S. Justice Department two days before – makes it all the more galling.

The official justification is that the release of state numbers would roil the markets even more, as if investors would be spooked even more than they have been already as they drove the Dow into bear market territory and beyond. The Labor Department itself had already reported that, in the second week of March, 281,000 Americans had filed for their first week of unemployment – a surge of 33% from the week before.

Now Labor Department administrator Gilbert is a civil servant who has worked for both Republican and Democratic administrations, and there is no apparent indication she was under political pressure to make the demand on the states.

But it is disturbing that in a crisis that entangles public health, macroeconomic cratering and personal financial tragedy, the federal government reflexively chose secrecy, however temporarily, over transparency in a matter of overwhelming public interest.

As we enter into a new era with the coronavirus pandemic, it is more important than ever to maintain an open government and for the news media to be vigilant in protecting this important right.

*On behalf of its approximately 1,500 newspaper and associate member companies, America's Newspapers is committed to explaining, defending and advancing the vital role of newspapers in democracy and civil life. We put an emphasis on educating the public on all the ways newspapers contribute to building a community identity and the success of local businesses. Learn more: www.newspapers.org*



## Legal News Today



Full text of these legal notices appears on 14 & 15

- Town of Fulton updated open book
- Town of Fulton voting machine test
- Town of Fulton and Town of Albion road posting lifted
- City of Edgerton dog and cat licenses
- Town of Sumner resolution 2020-0319
- Town of Sumner proclamation
- City of Edgerton request for proposals
- Consolidated Koshkonong Sanitary District notice
- City of Edgerton voting machine test
- City of Edgerton ad for bids

## THE GRAMMAR GUY

by Curtis Honeycutt

### Technologically speaking

Did you get my text? I texted you; why didn't you text me back? And don't tell me you didn't get it. You got it.

While many people grimace when they see a noun get verbified (verbified is a word, by the way), once the word becomes part of common parlance it's hard to get rid of it. It's as if the concrete is drying and you've got to live with the fact that someone's footprint made its way into that square of sidewalk. It's there; deal with it.

This is the case with the word "text." "Text" started out as "send a text message," where "send" is a verb and "text message" is a compound noun. But, since we demand efficiency (or laziness—you tell me) in our language, we shortened the phrase to "send a text" and then simply "text." You see how this saves us time, don't you? After all, we can't be wasting our precious syllables or Twitter characters.

Naturally, the next question is this: Now that "text" is a verb, what is its past tense form? I'm glad you asked. Believe it or not, new English words get a "standard" treatment, where any irregularities simply don't occur because the words themselves are so novel. Because of this, the past tense form of "text" is "texted." I told him he shouldn't have texted me those lurid, classified details; doesn't he know that texts can be used in the impending trial?

I'm trying to imagine Irish monks holed up in their silent scriptoria all day. After hours upon hours of copiously duplicating the Gospel accounts in Latin and by candlelight, I'm sure they didn't say things like, "I texted all day. Boy, my wrist hurts. But, hey, that sure was some high-quality vellum. You should've seen it! Holy cow!"

Although the monks didn't use "text" as a verb, late sixteenth century Brits certainly did. The word shows up as a verb in 1590, meaning "to write in text letters," where "text" is distinguished as larger letters (as opposed to smaller letters you would use to write notes). Of course, that use of the word "text" as a verb died out, only to be reborn with a new meaning in our new smartphone-centric world.

I'll leave you with this: now that "text" is a commonly accepted verb, how about this one: "at." Yes, as in, "I know many of you will argue about this on Twitter; don't 'at' me." Basically this means "don't try to argue with me" or "don't reply to me," especially on social media networks like Twitter. I don't think pineapples belong within 500 feet of a pizza. Don't "at" me; don't snap, TikTok, tweet, or text me about it, either.

Active member - Wisc. Newspaper Association

**SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS**

**Inland Press**

Member Press Association and The National Editorial Association. Established 1874

**WNA**  
THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF WEEKLY NEWSPAPER EDITORS

**Publisher** .....Diane Everson  
**Editor, Advertising Manager**.....Diane Everson  
**Bookkeeper**.....Deena Weltstein  
**Production** .....Barb Flore, Jason Francis, Susan Siemens, Lynn Skau, Toni Turnquist, Sharon Wright, Peggy Luther, Ellen Knutson  
**Photographer** ..... Toni Turnquist  
**Contributing Writers**.....Jeff Brown, Sam Martino, Tristan McGough, Jack McLaughlin, Janice Redford, Carol Stai, Steve Slack, Cynthia Swanson, Amy Trees, Dean Landers, Bob Samuelson  
**Delivery** ..... Stacy Teniente  
**Best of Kosh reader Choice Awards** .....Laurie Dies, Megan Purzell, Tristan McGough

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Edgerton, WI

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
**PRINT:** Edgerton address \$48 per year, \$28 six months. State of Wisc. \$50 per year, \$30 six months. Out of State \$52 per year, \$32 six months.  
**ONLINE:** 1 week \$3, 1 month \$9, 3 months \$21, 6 months \$35, 1 year \$65.  
**PRINT & ONLINE:** Edgerton address \$68 per year, \$38 six months, \$24 three months. State of Wisconsin \$70 per year, \$40 six months, \$27 three months. Out of State \$72 per year, \$42 six months, \$30 three months.

**EDGERTON REPORTER**

Mission: To be the Best Community Newspaper  
Published weekly by The Reporter Co., Inc.  
21 N. Henry St., Edgerton, WI 53534 • Phone 608-884-3267 • Fax 608-884-8187  
e-mail: info@edgertonreporter.com USPS # 167-900