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September 2023 Hope Newsletter

Story of Hope:

Judge rules in favor of youth plaintiffs in landmark Montana climate case

Sam Wilson, Racine Journal Times, August 14, 2023

A Montana district court judge ruled Monday that a state law barring its agencies from considering the impacts of climate change when issuing permits is a violation of the state Constitution's right to a "clean and healthful environment."

The ruling comes two months after the conclusion of a seven-day trial in Helena that attracted national attention as one of the first to challenge a state's fossil fuel policies on constitutional grounds. A group of 16 young Montanans filed the lawsuit in 2020, alleging that Montana's laws supporting fossil fuel development are contributing to climate change, the impacts of which are violating the plaintiffs' constitutional rights.



The 16 youth plaintiffs outside the Lewis & Clark County Court House in Montana.

"Montana's (greenhouse gas) emissions and climate change have been proven to be a substantial factor in causing climate impacts to Montana's environment and harm and injury to the youth plaintiffs," Lewis and Clark County District Court Judge Kathy Seeley wrote in the order.

She continued, "Plaintiffs have a fundamental constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment, which includes climate as part of the environmental life-support system."

The state Legislature is specifically tasked with protecting that “environmental life-support system” under Montana’s Constitution. In the legislative session that concluded earlier this year, Republican lawmakers amended the Montana Environmental Policy Act, or MEPA, to prohibit consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in permitting decisions. MEPA guides the environmental review process for permits, such as those granted for coal mine expansions or new power plants. That prohibition within MEPA, passed as Senate Bill 557, is now invalid, under Seeley’s decision. To learn more, click on this link: [Montana youth win climate trial, first of its kind in US \(journaltimes.com\)](https://journaltimes.com/story/news/politics/2023/08/28/montana-youth-win-climate-trial-first-of-its-kind-in-us/7044444002/)

Hope-Filled Organization:

Gateway Technical College program changes lives of 1,000 students

Racine Journal Times, August 28, 2023



Alexus Seay was among the first students to participate in the Gateway Promise program.

She said the program helped her pay for and navigate Gateway Technical College, where she earned a degree in early childhood education and entered the career field shortly after.

Seay, of Racine, has become a champion for the program that’s touched so many student lives.

“Especially with those larger programs, sometimes you have to cut hours at work to go to class, and it’s hard,” Seay said. “The Promise program helps a lot. It means you can focus on your coursework and not have to take out loans along the way.

“There are some people that tell me they can’t go to school because they can’t afford it — I tell them about the Promise program.”

A thousand lives touched, and still going strong Six years and more than 1,000 students later — 369 from Racine County as of spring 2023 — the program continues to open doors to college that many students thought impossible at first, said Cyndean Jennings, Gateway dean of the School of Pre-College and Momentum Programs. To read more of this article, click on this link: [Gateway's Promise program changes lives of 1,000 students \(journaltimes.com\)](https://journaltimes.com/story/news/education/2023/08/28/gateway-promise-program-changes-lives-of-1000-students/7044444002/)

Gateway Promise Programs

Gateway offers two unique opportunities for eligible students to attend Gateway tuition-free. The high school Promise program is for seniors and Promise 2 Finish is for returning adult students. Gateway's Promise programs open the door to cutting-edge programs, classrooms and learning opportunities at Gateway and cover the gap between financial aid and tuition and fees, allowing Promise students to earn their degree tuition-free. For more information on these programs, click on this link: <https://www.gtc.edu/admissions/gateway-promise-programs>

The Arts:

Wonderful World of Sunsets

Beauty inspires us to be hopeful. Here is a link to a Facebook collection Of pictures called the Wonderful World of Sunsets: [\(20+\) Facebook](#) And here are two examples of the beautiful pictures on the Facebook page. Give it a look.



Story of Hope and a Hope-Filled Organization:

'You do not have to suffer alone' New nonprofit provides transitional assistance

Alex Rodriguez, Racine Journal Times, Sept 28, 2023

RACINE — A new nonprofit organization hosted a block party Saturday at Pritchard Park to celebrate its launch and introduce itself to the community.

[Lovingkindness](#) Transitional Services, which provides assistance to individuals transitioning from homelessness into housing, is a branch of Lovingkindness Homes. Both were started by Lakesha Davis.

About 25 years ago, Davis moved to Wisconsin to escape domestic violence and found herself homeless.

While staying at the Shalom Center in Kenosha, Davis decided to find a way to create a better environment and “create a clear path toward success.”



“From that point, I started to educate myself financially and with education to learn how to get myself out of that situation,” she said. “I just took it all in and want to give it back to people. This is how you move from homelessness to home-owning to business-owning. This is the blueprint and I just wanted to share that with everyone.”

Related to her not for profit work described above, Lakesha and her husband started an LLC in 2020 which provides a broad range of services to individuals and families to live in and eventually own their home. It is called Loving Kindness Homes.

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Related to her not for profit work described above, Lakesha and her husband started an LLC in 2020 which provides a broad range of services to individuals and families to live in and eventually own their home. It is called Loving Kindness Homes.



Here is a link to their business, Loving Kindness Homes, LLC: <https://lovingkindnesshome.com/>

Story of Hope:

Tony’s Community Meals offers free healthy meals weekly to Union Grove residents

by Emma Widmar, The Racine County Eye, August 16, 2023

UNION GROVE — Tony Stephens Jr. spends every weekend grocery shopping, meal prepping and cooking as a way to provide healthy meals to his neighbors in Union Grove, who are in need.

The resident, who moved to the area about three years ago, has taken his love for cooking and pays it forward through what he crafts in his kitchen.

Stephens, who works 12-hour days during the second shift as a full-time CNC machinist, began what is now known as Tony's Community Meals through work.



Chicken teriyaki stir fry is just one of many examples of the delicious, from-scratch cooking available through Tony's Community Meals in Union Grove. — Credit: Tony Stephens Jr.

Meal prepping has always been a part of his routine and during the pandemic, he found himself cooking for his coworkers due to the difficult times.

Even with cooking for himself and others, there were still meals that had gone uneaten.

“At the end of the week, I’d have a bunch of meals. I don’t wanna throw them away, so I started giving them out,” explains Tony.

Tony began paying it forward to his neighbors.

“I started seeing people in the Union Grove Newsletter, people that needed them, so I started giving them to them, rather than throwing them in my freezer, or throwing them away,” says Tony. To read more, click on this link: [Tony's Community Meals offers free healthy meals weekly to Union Grove residents | Racine County Eye](#)

Hope-Filled Organization:



Luxury Bug Hotel on Milwaukee Riverfront!

By Catie Petralia With photographs by the author (CP) and by Eddee Daniel (ED)

A team of volunteers and students recently renovated the River Revitalization Foundation's (RRF) five-star luxury riverfront bug hotel!

A Bug Hotel, also known as an ‘insect hotel’ is a habitat structure that supports insects and small creatures through the seasons, especially the Midwest’s unpredictable winter. It is an urban sanctuary for pollinators and all insects that face habitat loss, a changing climate, and pollution. Insects help stabilize the ecosystem, as integral links of the food chain and important pollination agents.

We built our original bug hotel almost ten years ago, so the structure needed some love. The original location was also now overgrown by stinging nettle (a native plant with irritating fibers), so it was moved about 200 yards north, right off the southern end of the Beerline Trail near the North Avenue pedestrian bridge.



The new and improved bug hotel has many diverse types of rooms with a variety of habitats for specific species. These include stacked hollow stems (cut from the invasive Japanese Knotweed plant) for solitary bees; metal chicken wire grates for earwigs; deadwood for beetles, fungi, centipedes, woodlice, and spiders; pinecones, straw and stacked twigs for ladybugs; cardboard slots for butterflies and lacewings; stones and tiles for amphibians. The structure itself was made from old wooden shipping pallets, roofing tiles left over from our sheds, other found materials, and secured with nails. To learn more about this creative and fun project, click on this link: [BLOG: LUXURY BUG HOTEL ON MILWAUKEE RIVERFRONT](#)

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Hope From the Bottom Up website link: <https://hopefromthebottomup.com/>
 Or send me an email (robert@robertbeezat.com) with the name and email address of the person you think would be interested. I will then contact them. **Thank You!**