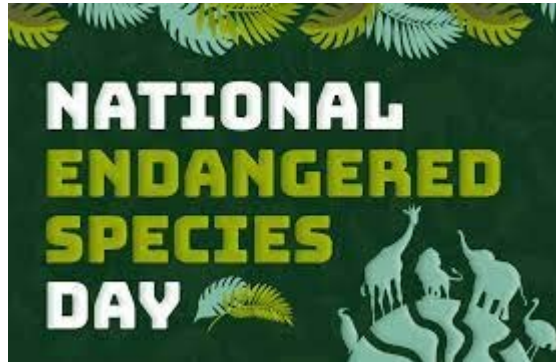


May 21, 2021



Dear friend,

Every year, the third Friday in May is recognized as National Endangered Species Day. This is a day to consider the dwindling populations of certain animals and consider what we can do to help. While environmental conservation first gained traction in the mid-1800s, the American Endangered Species Act of 1973 sparked both domestic and international conservation by providing a framework for protection.

This was a busy week in the news. Check out the articles below for updates on BadgerCare expansion, the return of unemployment work search requirements, the Governor's announcement on broadband, and more. As always, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

In Case You Missed It

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Kenosha's Twisted Cuisine Offers Fine Dining in a Casual Atmosphere



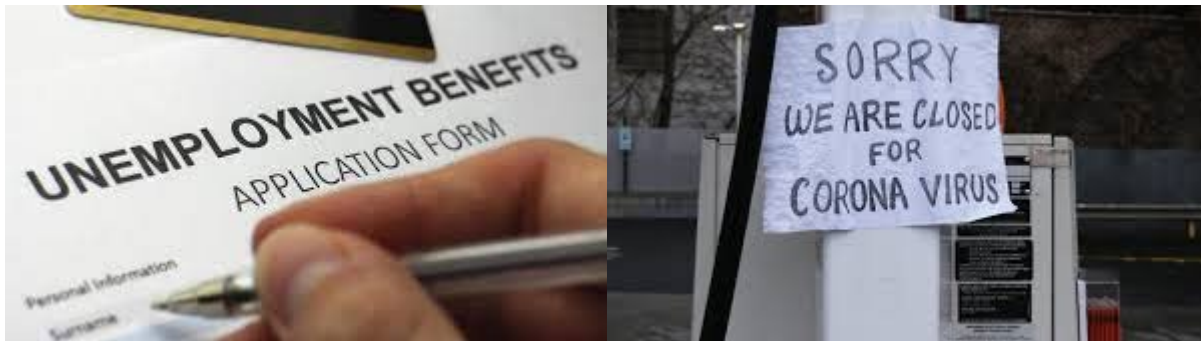
Craving a gourmet meal but don't want the stuffy atmosphere? Twisted Cuisine is just what you are looking for, serving fine dining dishes while making you feel at home. As the name implies, the menu serves classic dishes with a "twist" - some usual ingredients or wild combinations. With seasonal menus, full and have size entree portions, and a variety of small plates, there is something for everybody. Twisted Cuisine also offers catering services. Take a look at their menu and hours on [Facebook](#) or the [website](#).



Governor Evers Calls Special Session on Healthcare; Would Expand BadgerCare and Use Funds on Badly-Needed Projects Across State

With the Republicans on the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee again shooting down BadgerCare expansion and the \$1.6 billion in federal money that comes with it, Governor Evers is taking another

approach. On Wednesday, he called a Special Session of the Legislature on the issue. The bill released by the Governor's office as part of the special session would allow the state to take the full Medicaid expansion, which would result in a \$1.6 billion cost savings to the state. Under the bill, part of this savings would then be used to address more than 50 critical economic development projects around the state, including \$53 million toward the establishment of the Racine Community Health Center (RCHC). Other projects include \$200 million for broadband expansion; \$100 million toward lead lateral replacement; \$50 million in veterans housing grants; and \$2.7 million to fight the opioid and meth crises. In addition to the extra \$1.6 billion, full BadgerCare expansion would allow coverage for 90,000 more of our friends and neighbors who need it. Unfortunately, and perhaps unsurprisingly, immediately after the announcement, Republican leaders said in a joint statement that they plan to "gavel in and gavel out" of the special session without taking any action.



Work Search Requirements for Unemployment Insurance Claimants Back in Effect; GOP Seeks to End Federal UI Benefits for Wisconsin Jobless

With many businesses still getting back on their feet from the Covid-19 pandemic, and some workers struggling to find jobs or affordable child care, the Republican majority in the Legislature took two kicks at the state's unemployed this week. On Wednesday, the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules voted by party-line to reinstate a requirement that Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants complete four work searches per week in order to receive their benefits; this mandate had been waived since early in the pandemic. The reinstated requirement begins on Sunday. Earlier in the week, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) and Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) began circulating legislation that would end federal enhanced unemployment benefits for Wisconsin jobseekers. In both instances, GOP legislators said their actions were meant to address reported struggles of employers in finding workers. However, several economists say that this worker shortage is primarily a result of trends predating the pandemic; in fact, Wisconsin's workforce participation rate is roughly the same now as it was pre-Covid shutdown. The workforce in the state, and nationwide, is flat and has been for some time, and blaming the problem on availability of unemployment benefits simply masks a need to address the underlying causes.

br**o**adband forward! Community

\$100 Million in Federal ARPA Money

Broadband access, or lack thereof, has long been an issue in certain parts of the state. Governor Evers announced a big step forward in addressing that issue with a \$100 million allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for grants to expand broadband access. The funds would be available through a program similar to the existing Broadband Expansion Grant Program, which helps local governments fund projects that expand internet access to unserved and underserved parts of Wisconsin. Grant applications for the ARPA money will be open June 1 and due by July 27. Wisconsin currently ranks 30th in the nation for broadband access. More information on the grants and applications can be found [here](#).



Bend and Brew Offers Free Outdoor Yoga in Racine

Downtown Racine Corporation's "Bend and Brew", a popular relaxation and meditation program, will continue through the fall, weather permitting, due to popular demand. Yoga sessions are offered on Wednesdays from 6-7 pm and Saturdays from 9-10 pm at the east end of Christopher Columbus Causeway by Reefpoint Marina. After every session, participants receive a certificate to use towards a free coffee or beer at participating businesses. Registration is not required, and sessions are led with people of all ages and skill levels in mind. The sessions are free, although a \$5 donation toward Yoga Roots Racine is appreciated. Participants should bring their own mats or towels and water. Keep an eye [here](#) for starting date and more details.



More than Forty Percent of State's Population Fully Vaccinated

Forty-two percent of people living in Wisconsin are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, placing Wisconsin twelfth in vaccination rate, while nearly 50% have received at least one dose.

Kenosha County operates a Covid-19 Vaccine Call Center. The call center is open to people who don't have access to schedule a vaccination appointment online. These people can call (262)605-6799 to speak with someone who will walk them through the appointment process, if they are eligible. The online list of Kenosha County Covid vaccine providers is still available, at <http://bit.ly/KCCOVIDHub>, as well. The new Kenosha County Covid Vaccination Clinic site, located inside the former Shopko at 5300 52nd St., is now operational. You can use the above link to find appointment times.

People in Racine can sign up for email updates on vaccination progress at <https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine>. A list of Racine area vaccination providers is available at <https://crchd.com/covid-19-vaccine#Locations>. Festival Hall has been opened up as a vaccination clinic site. Use the first link to receive information on vaccination appointment availability.



Local Covid Testing Options

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882 • (608) 267-8979

Toll-Free Office Hotline: 1-888-769-4724

Email: Sen.Wirch@legis.state.wi.us • Website: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen22/news> • Fax: (608) 267-0984
(262) 694-7379

Printed on Recycled Paper

There are a number of options locally for anyone looking to get tested. Your primary health care provider is always an option, but there are many community testing sites available, as well.

CVS Pharmacy: Drive-through testing available at CVS in Kenosha (3710 57th Ave.) and Racine (3915 Durand Ave.); advance registration required at <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

Froedert South: Drive-through testing is available to those who qualify after completing an initial phone evaluation at (262)671-7777 between 8 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

Kenosha Community Medical Center: A drive-through testing site at the former Chase Bank, 5506 Seventh Ave., is open to patients who complete a quick registration process at <https://www.kenoshachc.org/covid-19-resource-center/>. Testing is conducted Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 am to 4 pm.

Old Kenosha Fire Station No. 3: Free, drive-through testing will be offered during the following hours at the former No. 3 Fire Station, 2121 Roosevelt Rd., Kenosha: Tuesdays, 2-6 pm; Thursdays, 2-6 pm; Saturdays, 9 am - 1 pm. This testing is being offered in a partnership between locally-owned Modern Apothecary, the Wisconsin DHS, and the Kenosha Fire Department. An appointment and preregistration is strongly encouraged, with appointment times available at <https://modernapothecary.10to8.com> and registration available at <https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>. Anyone who lives or works in Wisconsin, ages 5 and over, can be tested.

UW System schools statewide, including Parkside, have been provided with a limited number of rapid-result Covid-19 tests. These tests provide results in 15-30 minutes. The tests are free of charge and available to the public, and you don't have to have symptoms to get a test. A positive rapid test will need to be confirmed with the regular Covid-19 test but will provide you some guidance on whether or not you need to quarantine during that period. Registration at <https://www.doineedacovid19test.com> is required. The tests are administered in De Simone Gym in the SAC on the Parkside campus Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 5 pm, and Friday, 9 am - 1 pm. Testing is expected to last at least several weeks.

<https://www.uwp.edu/explore/news/surge-testing.cfm>

The logo features the words "BADGER" and "BOUNCEBACK" in large, bold, white capital letters. "BADGER" is set against a blue background, and "BOUNCEBACK" is set against a dark blue background. The background has a torn paper effect on the right side.The logo consists of the words "LIVE SESSIONS" in white capital letters, centered within a red rectangular box.

Budget News and Details

To read a detailed and in-depth analysis of Governor Evers' budget proposal, you can visit the Department of Administration's Executive Budget page, <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/2021-23%20Executive%20Budget.aspx>. You can also find a nonpartisan analysis of the Governor's budget proposal by the Legislative Reference Bureau at https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/010_2021_budget_bill_analysis.pdf and follow Joint Finance Committee action on the budget at <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/committees/joint/2293>.