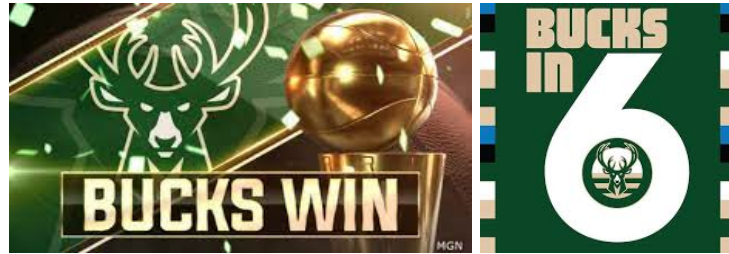


**July 23, 2021**



**Dear friend,**

**What a week for the City of Milwaukee and the entire state of Wisconsin. After 50 years, the Milwaukee Bucks are once again NBA champions. Giannis, Khris Middleton and the entire team did the state proud, facing difficult situations but persevering to come out on top in the end. With everything going on in the country and world today, it's been such a joy watching this team entertain and bring the state together. We all needed a little good news, so thank you, Bucks. I hope you all enjoyed this run as much as I have. Stay safe and healthy.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

## In Case You Missed It

# small business **SPOTLIGHT**



### *Tommy's Homerun is a Can't-Miss for Any Meal*



Owners Tommy and Vicki Sbarounis know their way around a breakfast menu, and it shows, as the breakfast menu at Tommy's Homerun is a local favorite. Eggs, pancakes, etc. may be what they are most known for, but any meal is a "home run" at Tommy's. Using fresh, quality ingredients, they pride themselves on the fact that all of their items are prepared right there in their own kitchen using their own recipes. Combined with excellent service, Tommy's is the total package. Dine in, or call ahead for carry out. Find more on their [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).



### *Covid Cases Increase Across State, Country as Delta Variant Continues to Take Hold*

The 7 day average of new confirmed Covid-19 cases in Wisconsin has increased by 160% over the past two weeks, and the percent positivity rate by test is up over 2%, the highest it has been since the end of May. This is in line with trends seen across the country, with the more contagious Delta variant of Covid-19 quickly becoming the dominant strain. Health officials are increasingly worried about spread of the Delta variant and encourage anyone who hasn't already done so to get vaccinated. It is less likely for vaccinated individuals to test positive for Covid, even if exposed, and those who do are much less likely to get very sick or even die than those who are unvaccinated. Dr. Ryan Westergaard, Chief Medical Officer for the state Department of Health Services, says the vast majority of new Covid infections are among those who are not vaccinated.



## ***Scammers Posing as DWD, DOR Target Wisconsin Residents***

Two types of scams involving state agencies have been increasingly popping up throughout Wisconsin. Officials are warning residents to be wary of communications that they receive claiming to be from the state Department of Workforce Development (DWD) or the state Department of Revenue (DOR). The DWD scam typically involves a person receiving a text message or email saying that there is a problem with his or her unemployment insurance claim and providing a link to follow to correct the problem; many times the person receiving the communication hasn't even filed a claim for UI benefits. In the DOR scam, a person receives a letter claiming to be from the Department of Revenue, or even the IRS, stating that he or she are delinquent in their taxes and that actions are being taken. In some cases, the targets were people who were listed in online databases as having tax collection cases filed against them. The letter contains a number to call to "avoid enforcement". In any situation, if you receive a communication from a state agency that you find suspicious, contact the agency directly to make sure that it is valid; people should never use the contact information provided in the communication. If you have been the victim of a scam, report it by filing a complaint online at

[https://datcp.wi.gov/pages/programs\\_services/fileconsumercomplaint.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/pages/programs_services/fileconsumercomplaint.aspx), by sending an email to [datcphotline@wisconsin.gov](mailto:datcphotline@wisconsin.gov), or by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-422-7128.



## ***AG Josh Kaul Announces Settlement with Purdue Pharma, Sackler Family over Opioid Crisis; State to Receive \$65 Million***

State Attorney General Josh Kaul has announced the settlement of a multi-state lawsuit against Purdue Pharma, makers of OxyContin, and the family that owns the company, the Sacklers. The settlement is worth \$4.3 billion in total, with Wisconsin expected to receive \$65 million of that; 45 states were involved in the suit, and 15 have currently agreed to the settlement. The

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company and the Sacklers were accused of downplaying the risks of OxyContin, which played a large part in the nationwide opioid epidemic. AG Kaul said that Wisconsin's share of the settlement funds will be used to fight opioid abuse throughout the state. Also as part of the settlement, the Sacklers and Purdue Pharma will release tens of millions of documents related to their role in the opioid crisis; it will also require Purdue Pharma to be wound down or sold by 2024, ensure that the Sacklers are banned from the opioid business, and require the Sacklers to turn over control of family foundations to an independent trustee to address the opioid epidemic. A federal judge must still sign off on the settlement, but AG Kaul is confident that will happen. Under 2017 Wisconsin Act 369, which Republicans passed in a lame duck session in late 2018 to strip incoming-Gov. Evers and incoming-AG Kaul of some of their powers, the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee must sign off on DOJ settlements; because this proposed resolution is part of a bankruptcy proceeding, it is not subject to that requirement.



## ***Shop Local This “Independent Retailers Week”***

July 18-24 is recognized as National Independent Retailers Week, a time when consumers are asked to support their community establishments and pledge to shop locally over the course of the seven days. According to the Census Bureau and Small Business Administration, independent retailers employ approximately 51% of the U.S. workforce, excluding non-farm workers. In addition, they often supply products and services normally not found in big box stores. Independent retailers also support their communities by offering flexible employment, both full and part time. They are the people sponsoring local events, school and youth sports, and many other organizations in the community. By shopping at an independent retailer, you are also supporting our community. [RelyLocal](#) is a great source of information on local small businesses in the Racine and Kenosha areas.



## ***City of Racine Receives \$1.6 Million for Removal of Lead Pipes in City Homes***

Through the state Department of Natural Resources' Safe Drinking Water Loan program, the city of Racine has received \$1.6 million to use toward replacement of lead pipes in private

homes. The Racine Water Utility says that they have a goal to replace at least 400 private lead service water lines with the funding. In the last twenty years, the city has replaced more than 1,000 lead lines; however, replacing water service lines on private property has been cost-prohibitive until recently.



## ***Federal Child Tax Credit Payments Have Begun***

Payments for the federal child tax credit have begun going out to families across the country. Many people have questions about whether their families are eligible for the credit, how it works, etc. Here is a bit of information that might be helpful:

- The federal Child Tax Credit was expanded and made refundable by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed into law by President Biden. ARPA raised the maximum credit in 2021 to \$3,600 per child under age 6 and to \$3,000 per child ages 6 through 17. Qualifying families will receive half of their credit in advance, divided into monthly payments, and the rest as a refund on their 2021 income tax return. Because the credit is now fully refundable, eligible families can get it even if they owe no federal income tax.
- ARPA also lowered income limits for the Child Tax Credit. Qualifying families will have incomes less than \$75,000 for a single-filer parents; \$112,500 for head of household filers; or \$150,000 for joint filers. Above these income amounts, the credit is reduced by \$50 for each \$1,000 over these limits.
- To qualify, a child must be under age 18 at the end of 2021. The child must be your own child; a stepchild; or a foster child placed with you by a court or authorized agency. You can also claim your brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister. You can also claim nieces, nephews and grandchildren if they meet all other requirements.
- To qualify, a child cannot have provided more than half of his or her own financial support during the tax year.
- To qualify, you must claim the child as a dependent on your tax return. The child must also be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or a U.S. resident alien.
- Finally, the child must have lived with you for more than half of the tax year for which you claim the credit, with limited exceptions.
  - You can find more about the credit and how to qualify [here](#).

- **If you or someone you know is eligible for the federal child tax credit but hasn't begun receiving payments or think there is a problem with your credit, contact Congressman Bryan Steil and his staff for assistance. Congressman Steil has offices in Kenosha (262-654-1901) and Racine (262-637-0510); you can also email him through his website, <https://steil.house.gov/>.**