

November 19, 2021



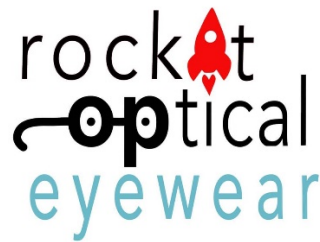
Dear friends,

Understandably, many of us are looking forward to Thanksgiving: the food, time with family, football, and the food, again. While this is a time to focus on all of the things we are thankful for, it also provides an opportunity to think about those less fortunate, who might not have big meals on their Thanksgiving tables or even roofs over their heads. That's why the week before Thanksgiving was chosen as National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week (HHAW). Locally, the Shalom Center and the Homelessness Awareness Prevention Partners are hosting a number of activities, running through November 21, to shine a light on the issues of hunger and homelessness. You can find more at <https://www.shalomcenter.org/hhw>. Stay safe, healthy and warm.

Sincerely,

Bob

In Case You Missed It



Kenosha's Rock It Optical Eyewear Has the Latest Trends and Styles

Are you tired of the same old look when it comes to your eyewear? Looking for something new, fun, unique? Rock It Optical Eyewear has got you covered. Owner Josie Rodriguez provides customers with a personalized experience so that they get just what they are looking for. Rock It currently operates a booth every Saturday at the Kenosha Public Market, 625 57th St., from 10 am to 1:30 pm, no appointment necessary; just be sure to bring your current prescription. If Saturdays don't work for you, Josie operates a by-appointment micro shop at 4625 Sheridan Rd. in Kenosha. You can find more information and check out some of their fashionable, unique styles on [their Facebook page](#). To schedule an appointment, call (262)671-8989 or email rockitopticaleyewear@gmail.com.



Governor Vetoes Republican-Gerrymandered Maps, Courts Set Timelines for Action

As promised, on Thursday morning, Governor Tony Evers vetoed the Republican-drawn, highly gerrymandered and criticized legislative and congressional district maps that were passed by the Senate and Assembly last week. The new maps were based on the 2011 maps, which were drawn in secret by Republicans and high-priced lawyers and which Republican legislators were required to sign secrecy pledges over. Those maps were frequently referred to by experts as the most gerrymandered in the country. The 2021 maps drawn by Republicans received an “F” rating from the Princeton Gerrymandering Project, citing “significant Republican advantage, advantages incumbents, and very uncompetitive relative to other maps that could have been drawn”.

The vetoes set the stage for courts to redraw the state’s legislative and congressional districts. Just this week, the state Supreme Court, which is considering one of the lawsuits brought over the issue, laid out a preliminary timeline for filings and arguments that could mean new court-drawn maps by early next year. Cases are currently before both the state Supreme Court, which features a conservative majority, and a federal three-judge panel. The federal court plans to put off action on its case until the state Supreme Court decides what it will do.



GOP Continues Circus of Election Conspiracies and Falsehoods

While the recent Legislative Audit Bureau report found that the state’s 2020 elections were fundamentally fair and secure, that hasn’t stopped Wisconsin’s Republicans from continuing with their conspiracy theories, sham “investigations” and attempts to delegitimize, and actually overturn, Joe Biden’s win in the 2020 Presidential election. This week, former conservative state Supreme Court justice Michael Gableman, who was hired by Assembly Speaker Robin

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Vos (R-Rochester) released an “interim report” detailing the results of his “investigation” so far. The report was long on innuendo, accusations and conspiracy theories and short on anything approaching evidence of fraud. You can read the “report” for yourself [here](#). Part of the report repeats the allegations of the Racine County Sheriff about absentee voting by residents of assisted-living facilities that he says were not mentally sound enough to vote. Meagan Wolfe, the non-partisan administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, refuted this claim, stating that only a court can decide that someone is incompetent to vote; this was backed up by Politifact Fact Check. Finally, taking the award for Most Out-There Legislation of the Week is a resolution offered by Rep. Timothy Ramthun (R-Campbellsport), a frequent conspiracy theorist, which calls for the state to “reclaim” its 10 electoral votes cast for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. There is no mechanism for doing so in either state or federal law, and a memo from the Legislature’s nonpartisan Legislative Council confirmed that this is not possible. The resolution also calls for ANOTHER audit of the 2020 election, despite the findings of multiple recounts and an audit already having failed to turn up any evidence of widespread or result-impacting voter fraud. As justification for the resolution and decertification of the election, Ramthun stated that “...over two-thirds of Wisconsin Republicans have no faith in the Elections Commission.” Read the resolution [here](#). Republican leaders have spent a year casting doubt on the election results, and then use the doubts of their supporters as reason to overturn the results. As I said, the circus continues.



Kenosha’s Own Melvin Gordon to Host Fundraiser Tonight for Kenosha Boys & Girls Club

Kenosha native and NFL star running back Melvin Gordon III is back in town today as the Denver Broncos have a bye week to host a fundraiser for the Kenosha Boys & Girls Club, where he will also make a \$10,000 donation to the club. The event, labeled as a meet-and-greet, will be held at the Boys & Girls Club, 1330 52nd St. in Kenosha, tonight, Friday, November 19, from 4 to 7 pm. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public. Free gift bags will be given to children 6 and older, while supplies last. Giveaways, including two \$500 cash prizes and Thanksgiving dinner gift baskets, are also planned. Attendees can participate in a raffle and get a picture or autograph of Gordon, with proceeds benefiting the club.



Covid Hospitalizations in Wisconsin Reach Highest Levels of 2021; Health Officials Urge Safe Holiday Celebrations

Unfortunately, we are in the midst of another Covid surge. Infection rate, case numbers and deaths all remain far too high, and this week, the Wisconsin Hospital Association reported 1,180 Covid-19 hospitalizations on a single day, a new high for 2021. The last time Covid hospitalizations in the state were that high was Dec. 23, 2020. With colder weather and holiday season hitting us, health officials are concerned and urge action to prevent further spread.

Currently, 58% of Wisconsin residents have received at least one dose of the Covid vaccine, including tens of thousands of recently-eligible children ages 5 to 11. Experts say that should help prevent a peak as high as what we saw a year ago, with an average of 6,500 new cases per day. Flu activity, though, is already higher than last year, so officials say don't forget your flu shots, too. The Department of Health Services recommends that you celebrate safely this holiday season; get vaccinated and boosted; wear a mask in public spaces or in large groups; get tested; stay home if you aren't feeling well; physically distance if you do go out; and gather outdoors where and when possible.



Thanksgiving Meal Giveaways in Kenosha and Racine

Kenosha County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Kenosha Area Family Services and the Kenosha Achievement Center will offer free Thanksgiving meals to Kenosha County residents age 60 and up as part of the Senior Nutrition Program. The meals will be available for pick up on Wednesday, November 24, from 11:30 am to 1 pm, at the Kenosha Achievement

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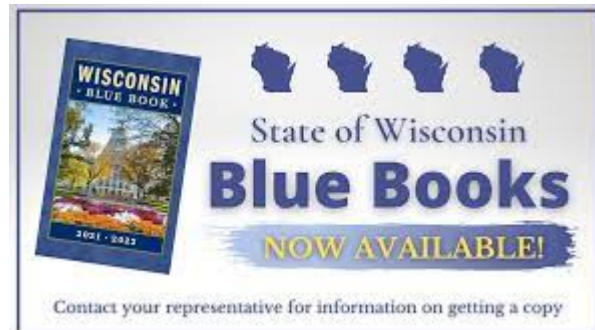
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Center, located at 1218 79th St. There will be a limited number of delivery options available based on need, and reservations are required. To make a reservation, call (262)658-3508.

In Racine, a group of volunteers has been busy assembling food packages for area families. The food will be distributed at two drive-up distribution sessions prior to Thanksgiving. Each family will receive a turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables and desserts in order to put a compile a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Holy Communion Lutheran Church's food pantry, 2000 W. Sixth St., will be open Friday, November 19, and Monday, November 22, from 12 to 3 pm. For more information, call (262)632-8802.



Reserve Your Copy of the 2021-2023 State of Wisconsin Blue Book

The latest edition of the State of Wisconsin Blue Book has arrived. If you would like to have a copy sent to you, contact my office at (608)267-8979 or sen.wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov. These books are free and contain interesting and valuable information about our state's culture, history and government.