

January 20, 2023



Dear friends,

Okay, now usually in this space I recognize some important observance or event. This week is a little different. Today, January 20, is recognized a National Cheese Lover's Day. This is certainly less serious, somber or historic as some of the other observances, but being in Wisconsin, it's definitely something to celebrate.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

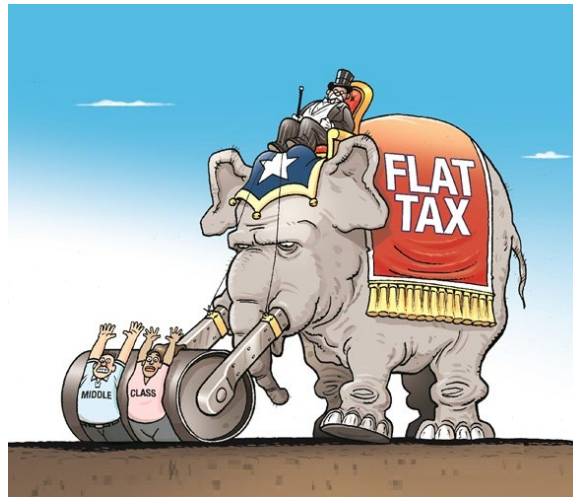
small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Creative Flex Painting Studio Helps You Connect with your Inner Artist

If you have a bit of an artistic itch you need to scratch and are looking for something new and fun to do with friends or family, you can kill two birds with one stone at Racine's Creative Flex Studio, 305 Main St. Owned and operated by Alexis Lockridge, the studio supplies you with paints, brushes and a canvas; all you have to do is create. Find out more at <https://creative-flex-llc.square.site/>.

In Case You Missed It



Republicans Introduce Flat Tax Plan Weighted toward the Rich

State Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahiue (R-Oostburg) has introduced legislation that would establish one flat income tax rate of 3.25% in Wisconsin. Under current law, the state has a progressive income tax structure, starting at 3.54% for the lowest earners up to 7.65% for those with the highest incomes. Just based on those numbers alone, you can see how the wealthiest Wisconsinites would benefit far more from this plan than those families living paycheck to paycheck. In addition, the plan would cost the state \$5 billion per year, which

would suck up almost all of the current budget surplus and have to be made up for with cuts elsewhere in future budgets. Governor Evers has expressed opposition.



Mitchell Steppers with Coach LaMarquez Luckett

Kenosha, Racine Recognize MLK, Jr. Day

Both Kenosha and Racine are known for their Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations, often drawing big names like Governor Evers, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Rev. Al Sharpton and Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver.

I was fortunate to attend the celebration held at Gateway, where one of the highlights was watching the Mitchell Steppers. Led by Mr. LaMarquez Luckett, the Steppers are made up of students in grades 5 through 8. The Steppers kicked off the Gateway celebration with an incredible performance and made it to Racine to perform at the gathering there, as well. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and execute these terrific events.



DNR's Free Fishing Weekend This Saturday and Sunday

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a Free Fishing Weekend this Saturday and Sunday, January 21 and 22, 2023, to share the fun of winter fishing. No fishing license or trout and salmon stamps are required. Anglers can fish state waters where there is an open season. All other fishing regulations apply, such as limits on the number and size of fish you can keep and any seasons when you must release certain fish species.



OWN YOUR FUTURE!

Three square images are arranged horizontally. The first image shows a young man with long blonde hair, wearing a grey cardigan over a blue shirt, holding a laptop in front of server racks. The second image shows a healthcare setting with a patient in a hospital bed, a male doctor in a white coat, and a female nurse in blue scrubs. The third image shows a close-up of a person wearing a blue welding mask and yellow gloves, working on a metal object with a welding torch. Below the images is a red banner with the text 'Earn FREE College Credit in High School!' in white and yellow.

Earn FREE College Credit in High School!

Gateway to Hold Virtual Presentation on “High School Academies” Program

On Wednesday, January 25, from 6 to 7 pm, Gateway Technical College will host a virtual meeting to educate students and parents about its “High School Academies” program. The academies are a way for high school students to earn college credits in an in-demand career field **at no cost to the student**. The virtual meeting will go more in-depth on the various course offerings and different learning options available to the students. The courses are open to rising high school freshmen through seniors. The meeting is free to anyone interested; participants should register [here](#) before the meeting.



Downtown Racine Corp. Recognizes Local Businesses with Annual Achievement Awards

At a ceremony held on January 17, the Downtown Racine Corporation presented a number of local businesses and individuals with awards for their work in 2022. Winners included: Hotel Verdant with the “CPR Award”, for the development of a downtown building or property that has helped enhance and revitalize the overall downtown; Marci Bruley with the “Downtown Champion Award”; and the Carriage House Pedal Tavern with the “Best New Small Business Award”. Additionally, in a presentation during the ceremony, Downtown Racine Corporation announced that a record-breaking 35 new businesses opened in the Downtown area in 2022.

You can view the entire ceremony and presentation [here](#).



Racine County Economic Development Corp.

Racine County Economic Development Corp. to Host Economic Outlook Presentation

The Racine Co. Economic Development Corp. (RCEDC) will host an economic outlook presentation, featuring Wisconsin’s Department of Revenue (DOR) Secretary Peter Barca on Wednesday, January 25, from 8 to 9 am. The meeting will be both in-person and virtual. Sec. Barca will provide an overview of Wisconsin’s business initiatives, and the meeting will conclude with a Q&A session. Whether you plan to participate in-person or virtually, registration is required. You can register for the program at <https://rcedc.org/2023-racine-county-economic-outlook-roundtable/>.

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

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Lincoln Middle School presents:

Tamale Making Night

Families are invited to learn about Mexican and Hispanic cultures and holidays. Learn how to make tamales and sample other authentic Hispanic foods!

Thursday, January 26, 2023

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Lincoln Middle School Cafeteria

6729 18th Avenue

Spots are limited!
Registration is
required no later
than 1/22/22



Questions? Contact Maya Lopez
mlopez@kusd.edu 262.359.6296



KUSD

Sponsored by KUSD's
Community School Relations Office

KUSD's Lincoln Middle School Holding Tamale Making Night

The public is invited to join Kenosh's Lincoln Middle School for a Tamale Making Night on Thursday, January 26, to provide education and experience with Hispanic and Mexican cultures and holidays. Participants will get hands-on experience in making their own tamales.

Registration is required no later than January 22 [here](#).



Wisconsin Families Can Get 5 Free Covid Tests Each Month

Wisconsin residents can now get Covid-19 tests sent to them free of charge from the state. The Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services (DHS) says that the [Say Yes! Covid Test website](#) is now live and operational. The site allows households to order five rapid tests for free **each month**.

Households can still get up to eight rapid Covid tests per month through their insurance providers, as well.



Take My Legislative Survey

It's very important to me as a legislator to hear what you think about the important issues of the day. I've put together a survey on a variety of topics that I am hoping you will take the time to complete. You can find an online version of the survey at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/22/wirch/surveys-and-petitions/2022-legislative-survey>.