

December 10, 2021



Dear friends,

“Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere.” That quote is from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and it’s appropriate for today as we recognize International Human Rights Day. In 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document which proclaims the inalienable rights that we as human beings are all entitled to. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world. This year’s Human Rights Day theme is “All human are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” The principles of equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of human rights. Human rights abuses can and do happen anywhere, even in the most “civilized” or “democratic” countries. Find out more on International Human Rights Day and the pursuit of universal human rights at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>. Stay safe, warm and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**

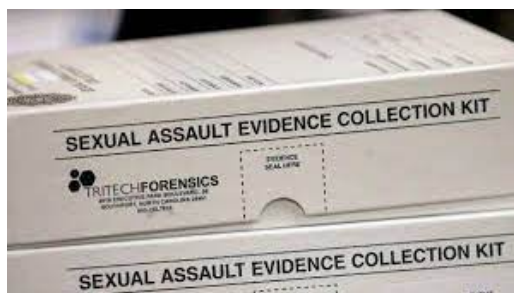


Innovation and Passion Make Total Cyclery Unique

Total Cyclery has taken “full service” to a new level. Owner and local cycling legend Robby Gauss, partnering with former employee Joel Richardson, has created a mobile repair shop that will come to you to fix your bike, whether you’re at home or out on a ride. The mobile trailer was the brainchild of Richardson and has been a huge hit during the Covid-19 cycling boom.

It’s also a way to introduce new customers to the business. Labor and parts pricing for the mobile unit are the same as in-shop service, with a \$30 mobile fee. Total Cyclery itself has been around since 1986, when Robby’s father, Marty, opened the shop with his wife, Caroline. Robby took over in 2014. Total Cyclery’s brick and mortar store is located at 5039 6th Ave. in Kenosha. Find more [here](#).

In Case You Missed It



Sexual Assault Kit Legislation Signed into Law

Two bills that will streamline the collection and processing of sexual assault kits and allow survivors to track the processing of their kits have finally become law, thanks to Governor Evers’ pen and Attorney General Josh Kaul’s advocacy. While both bills initially had bipartisan support, Republican objection delayed passage of the bills for more than two years.

In 2014, the state discovered a backlog of nearly 7,000 untested sexual assault kits, some dating back to the 1980s. When he took office in 2019, AG Kaul made eliminating the backlog and preventing this from happening again a cornerstone of his administration. Kaul and a bipartisan coalition of legislators developed the two bills. The State Senate passed both bills without objection in 2019, but the Assembly's Republican majority refused to bring the bills to the floor for a vote. Fast forward to 2021, and again, the State Senate unanimously passes both bills. Again, Republicans delayed and dragged their feet before relenting due to public pressure. Governor Evers then wasted no time in signing the bills into law. Thank you, Governor Evers and AG Kaul, for your leadership and your commitment to public safety.



Wisconsin Conservative Group Finds No “Big Steal” in 2020 Election

The Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty (WILL) is a far-right organization known for the many lawsuits it files against policies like Safer at Home and mask requirements; absentee voting drop boxes; a Brown County sales tax; and a school district's use of trans students' preferred pronouns. The most out-there suit WILL has brought to date was a 2020 challenge to a Madison ordinance requiring certain buildings be constructed using glass that prevents birds from colliding into them. It is not known for fairness or impartiality. That's what makes a report the organization issued this week even more significant. The report concluded that there were no indications of widespread fraud in the 2020 election; voting machines operated properly; and there was nothing suspicious about voter turnout or the timing of the vote tally.

The report followed a 10-month review of Wisconsin's 2020 elections conducted by the organization. The report even went so far as to say it was “shameful” and “embarrassing” for Donald Trump to call on Congress to at least delay counting electoral votes. Of course, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos ignored these parts of the report, focusing instead on recommendations for minor changes to election administration and using them as justification for his taxpayer-funded electoral witchhunt led by Michael Gableman. You can read the full report [here](#).



With Hospitals Statewide Stretched to the Max, Contract Workers and FEMA Help Fill in the Gaps; Omicron Found in Wisconsin; Ron Johnson Continues Spreading Covid Misinformation

Hospitals around the state are reaching levels not seen since late 2020, and in some cases even higher, as Covid cases continue to surge. To fill gaps in health care staffing, contract health care workers are being dispatched to health care facilities; federal assistance in the form of FEMA personnel are expected to arrive in the coming weeks to fill in, as well. In a joint statement earlier this week, Kenosha County Public Health, Advocate Aurora and Froedtert Kenosha Hospital urged the public to take precautions and sounded the alarm on growing case numbers and hospitalizations in the area. The statement said that inpatient levels were nearing their 2020 peak and that almost all of the patients were unvaccinated.

While officials say that more than 99% of current Covid cases are a result of the delta variant, the omicron variant has been identified in Wisconsin and number of other states. It appears that omicron is more contagious than previous variants; it may be less virulent, but more research is needed.

Finally, U.S. Senator Ron Johnson never ceases to amaze with how low he will go. Known for spreading misinformation about Covid-19, treatments and vaccines, he took it to new depths this week. First, he accused Dr. Anthony Fauci of overhyping both Covid and HIV/AIDS, which he incorrectly stated was not a threat to everyone. Second, he asserted that gargling with Listerine was a preventive measure against Covid infection. What an embarrassment to the good people of Wisconsin.



Tis the Season for Holiday Scams

With the holiday season here, many of us are scrambling to cross those last few gift purchases off our lists. Not only is this a busy time of year for retailers, but it's busy – and lucrative – for scammers, as well. These are red flags you should look for and steps that you can take to protect yourself from being scammed out of your hard-earned money.

- **Shopping online:** Watch out for too-good-to-be-true offers and fake e-commerce sites while doing your holiday shopping. Online holiday scammers often feature in-demand products like electronics, the hottest toys and fashion items. Crooks use fake websites, online marketplace sites, social media messages, and text or email blasts that trick you into downloading harmful material or gather your personal information.
- **Gift cards:** These have been used as the bait in many social media, text message and email scams. Watch for phony surveys that promise a gift card in exchange for your personal information. Scammers sell your personal information without sending a gift card. Do not click any links in unsolicited messages or internet ads that promise a free gift card. Always buy gift cards directly from the retailer or authorized merchant. If you are considering buying an unused card secondhand, only buy from someone you know and trust. Avoid online auction sites selling discounted or bulk gift cards as these cards may be tampered with or expired.
- **Delivery confirmations:** Watch out for emails or texts that warn you about a problem with a delivery, request account information for security purposes, or ask you to open an attached “shipment label” to claim a package from a local office. Scammers often use the names, logos, and color schemes of major shipping companies and retailers to add legitimacy to their messages, and may spoof the company’s web address in the sender’s email address.
 - You can find more tips from the [Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection](#).
- If you have been the victim of a scam, report it by [filing a complaint online](#), emailing datepho@wisconsin.gov, or calling DATCP’s Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-422-7128.



Kenosha Kingfish, Racine Raiders Awarded Grants by Governor Evers

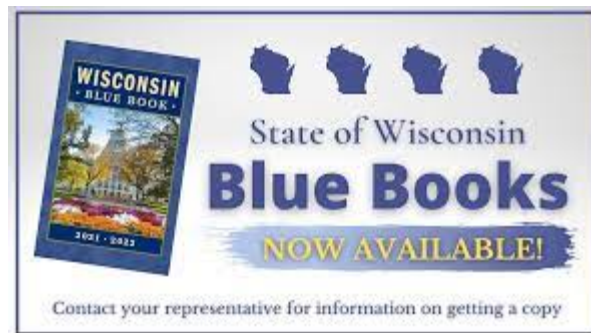
Both the Kenosha Kingfish baseball team and the Racine Raiders football team were among the recipients of the most recent round of Minor League Sports Assistance Grants announced by Governor Tony Evers. The Minor League Sports Assistance Grant Program has provided \$2.8 million to 17 minor league teams across the state, utilizing federal pandemic-relief funding to help teams recoup lost

revenue during 2020. In this round of awards, the Kingfish received \$200,000, and the Raiders were awarded \$91,100.



RIP Kenosha's Carl the Turkey

Kenosha residents were stunned and saddened this week as local legend Carl the Turkey was struck and killed by a motorist. For years, Carl was a fixture of the Forest Park neighborhood, providing smiles and entertainment to many during that time. He became so well-known that he even has his own Facebook page. Carl will be missed.



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.