

July 1, 2022



Dear friends,

Happy Independence Day! This year, recent events have reminded us of how precious and fragile our democracy is. As they say, democracy is not a spectator sport. It is more important now than ever that we have an active, engaged citizenry. That being said, have a safe and happy 4th with your friends and families.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Candy Lane Milkshake Bar in Kenosha Holds Grand Opening

Dairy rules here in Wisconsin, and who doesn't love a good milkshake? Area residents have a new option that promises to "make your sweet dreams come true". That's the claim of the Candy Lane Milkshake Bar, 515 57th St. in Kenosha, which recently held its Grand Opening. They offer a variety of unique, themed milkshakes and other desserts to satisfy every taste.

Visit their [website](#) and [Facebook](#) for more details.

In Case You Missed It



State Supreme Court Allows Walker Appointee to Remain on Natural Resources Board

Dr. Frederick Prehn, a Wausau dentist who was appointed to the state's Natural Resources Board (NRB) by former Gov. Scott Walker, can remain on the board, even though his term of office expired more than a year ago, thanks to a ruling by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. In a 4-3 decision that split along ideological lines, the Court ruled that Prehn, who has refused to step down from his seat since his term ended in May 2021, can stay in his position indefinitely as long as his replacement isn't confirmed by the Republican-controlled State Senate. Prehn was appointed by Walker in 2015. Members of the NRB serve staggered six-year terms. Last May, as Prehn's term was set to expire, Governor Tony Evers announced his replacement, an educator from Ashland named Sandra Naas. The Senate's Republican majority has refused to

even hold a confirmation hearing for Naas, and Prehn refuses to step aside to allow Naas to fill the seat pending confirmation, as is precedent.

The NRB is the policy making body for the Department of Natural Resources. Prehn's refusal to leave has allowed Republican appointees to maintain a majority on the board, elect a Republican appointee as board chair, and influence major decisions on water quality and hunting regulation issues.



Dahlia Alanis Becomes Kenosha County's First Female Eagle Scout

2022 Indian Trail Graduate Dahlia Alanis has become the first female in Kenosha County, and just the eighth from the Three Harbors Council, to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. She is also the first Native American female from the Council to become an Eagle Scout. Dahlia is the daughter of Isidro and Yolanda, and her twin brother, Diego, has also earned the rank of Eagle Scout. As part of her service project, Dahlia built three moveable planting boxes for Hawthorn Hollow; another part of her project will aid in educating children on healthy eating. During her time in the Scouts, Dahlia has earned 21 merit badges and held a number of leadership positions. Dahlia's Scout Master, Marie Mentink-Lindquist, praised her confidence, character and leadership abilities. I was honored to be invited to attend Dahlia's Eagle Scout Court of Honor and to present her with a citation recognizing her achievement. Congratulations to Dahlia and her entire family.



Evers, Kaul Suit to Block 1849 Criminal Abortion Ban

Governor Tony Evers and Attorney General Josh Kaul have filed a lawsuit challenging the state's criminal abortion ban, enacted in 1849 but unenforceable for nearly fifty years because of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v Wade* decision. *Roe v Wade* was overturned last week by the court's conservative majority. The lawsuit argues that the 173 year old ban is still unenforceable because it conflicts with a separate law passed in 1985, which bans abortion after a fetus is considered "viable". It also states that the state has passed dozens of other laws regulating abortion since the original law was enacted and questions how the 1849 ban can be enforced with these other laws on the books.



New Report Finds Climate Extremes Could Lead to Toxic Contamination of Lake Michigan Shoreline

High water levels along Lake Michigan could lead to toxic contamination along the shoreline as storms become more intense due to climate change, says a new report released by the Environmental Law and Policy Center. Three Wisconsin communities – Two Rivers, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan – were among a dozen areas identified as particularly vulnerable. The contamination would come from industrial facilities located along the lakefront, which may become flooded as a result of increasingly strong storms. You can read the full report [here](#).



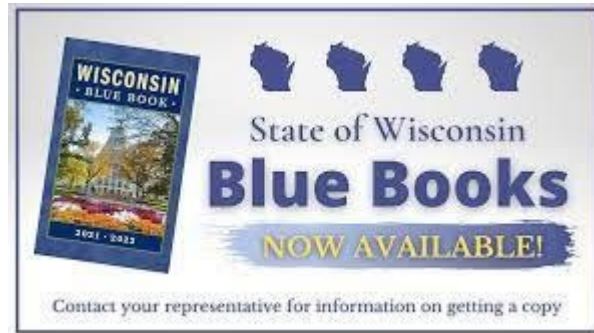
U.S. Supreme Court Limits EPA's Ability to Regulate Greenhouse Gases

The U.S. Supreme Court has issued another controversial, regressive 6-3 ruling, this time limiting the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate carbon emissions from power plants. This is a serious blow to the federal government's ability to slow climate change. More broadly, the ruling casts doubt on the authority of any federal agency to issue regulations in situations where a law passed by Congress is ambiguous, especially when there are major economic or social impacts. In the past, federal courts tended to defer to agencies. You can read more about the ruling [here](#).



EIGHT MORE Free Covid Tests Available

With Covid cases again on the rise, the Biden administration has is offering households eight additional at-home Covid tests, free of charge. You can order the eight tests at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>; you can also use this site to find nearby testing locations. The administration had previously made four at-home Covid tests available per household; you can still claim those using the same link if you haven't already done so. Additionally, because of actions by President Biden and Governor Evers, your health insurance provider may be required to cover up to eight at-home rapid tests per month.



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.