

August 19, 2022



Dear friends,

August 19 marks World Humanitarian Day (WHD), a time to recognize aid workers who have sacrificed their own lives to help people affected by global crises. Since the deaths of 22 United Nations and relief agency staff in a Baghdad bombing 19 years ago, each year we honor the brave men and women who risk everything to help people in need. This year, 303 million people will require humanitarian assistance worldwide, a significant increase from the decades-high numbers from last year. The continued Covid pandemic, increasing conflicts, and worsening climate change are all to blame. The 2022 WHD will shine a light on the thousands of volunteers, professionals and crisis-affected people who deliver urgent health care, shelter, food, protection, water and much more.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Sew 'n Save is Racine Area's Go-To for Sewing Machines and Accessories AND Gives Back to the Community

Is your sewing machine in need of repair? Looking for just the right thread or fabric for that sewing project you've been working on? Stop in to Sew 'n Save of Racine, 3701 Durand Ave. Suite 335, in the Elmwood Plaza shopping center. Since 1984, their knowledgeable and experienced staff have been meeting all of your sewing needs. Visit their website, <https://www.sewnsaveofracine.com/>.

Recently, Sew 'n Save partnered with [Sporty Girl Accessories](#) to collect almost 10,000 diapers for the [Racine Diaper Ministry](#). These will go to low income families, free of charge.

In Case You Missed It



Biden Signs Inflation Reduction Act, Brings Big Benefits on Climate, Health Care, Economy

This week, President Joe Biden signed into law one of the biggest, most expansive and important pieces of legislation in recent memory. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 enacts many critical pieces of the Biden agenda on a range of issues, from climate change to prescription drug prices, while decreasing the debt and lowering inflation. One of the biggest changes the new law will bring about is

that, for the first time, the Medicare program will be allowed to negotiate with drug companies over prescription drug prices. This is huge and has been a priority of Democrats for decades. In addition to a new cap on out of pocket prescription drug costs for seniors, the savings will be tremendous. Read more about the Inflation Reduction Act [here](#).



Gableman Fired, “Investigation” Ends After Costing Taxpayers More than \$1 Million

After narrowly winning his primary contest, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) has canceled the contract of former State Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman, whom Vos had hired at taxpayer expense to “review” the 2020 election. Gableman’s tenure was a disaster from the start, as Gableman became the subject of several lawsuits, went way over budget, and produced absolutely no evidence of corruption other than wild conspiracy theories. Still, under pressure from former President Donald Trump, Vos continually renewed Gableman’s contract. The final straw likely came when Gableman endorsed Vos’s primary opponent.



UW System Expands “Tuition Promise” Program to Parkside, Several Other Schools

Underprivileged Students Will Be Able to Attend at Reduced or No Cost

In an announcement made this week on the UW Parkside campus, UW System President Jay Rothman announced that UW Madison’s popular and successful “Bucky’s Tuition Promise” would be expanding as the “Wisconsin Tuition Promise” to students at UW campuses in Milwaukee, Whitewater and Parkside. To qualify, students must be from Wisconsin; first time enrollees or transfers; and attending full time. The UW System says that students will “need to make sufficient academic progress each year” and have worked at some point during the previous year. While Bucky’s Tuition Promise is limited to students from families making less than \$62,000 a year, there is no specific

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income threshold for the Wisconsin Tuition Promise. As many as 8,000 students could qualify once the program is up and running; it will be funded initially by a \$13.8 million grant, and the System plans on utilizing private funding into the future.



Black Arts Council of Racine, NAACP Team Up for Free Back to School Haircuts

Twenty free back to school haircuts are available on Wednesday, August 31, thanks to a partnership between the Black Arts Council of Racine and the Racine NAACP. The cuts will be given at the NAACP Building, 1633 Racine St., Racine. As slots are limited, call to reserve your spot at (262)417-6951.



Take My 2022 Legislative Survey

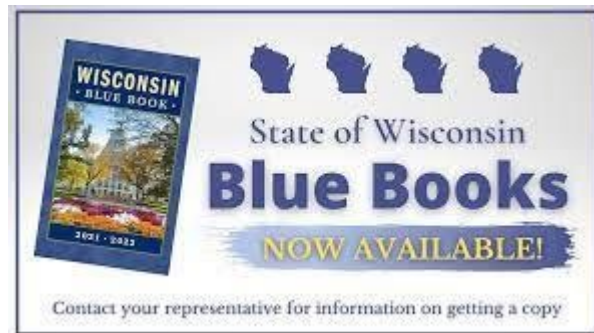
It's very important to me as a legislator to hear what you think about the important issues of the day. I've put together a survey on a variety of topics that I am hoping you will take the time to complete. You can find an online version of the survey at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/22/wirch/surveys-and-petitions/2022-legislative-survey>.



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.