

**May 13, 2022**



**Dear friends,**

**May is National Foster Care Month, a time to recognize the role we all can play in enhancing the lives of children and youth in the foster care system. The purpose of National Foster Care Month continues to evolve based on the needs of the time. Current activities focus on increasing visibility of the needs of the more than 400,000 children and youth in foster care and celebrating those who make a meaningful difference in their lives. If you are a foster parent, thank you. If you know a foster parent, share your appreciation.**

**Stay safe and healthy.**

**Sincerely,**

*Bob*

## small business **SPOTLIGHT**



# Plush Clothing

### ***Racine's Plush Clothing Makes Its TV Debut***

Yolanda Coleman, owner of Plush Clothing in Downtown Racine, will make a TV appearance on this week's episode of "Project Pitch It", sort of a Wisconsin version of "Shark Tank".

Coleman started Plush after more than 30 years in retail when she realized that plus-sized women didn't have a lot of options when it comes to fashionable clothing. "Plush" stands for Pretty, Lovely, Unique, Sexy and Happy, and Coleman says the store's mission is to empower women to be and feel their best by looking their best. "Project Pitch It" airs locally on WISN at 10:35 pm Saturdays and provides financial and mentoring support to local entrepreneurs. Find more about Plush [here](#) and [here](#). If you aren't able to catch the episode when it airs, you will be able to find it streaming at <https://projectpitchit.com/season-6/> after the television airing.

### **In Case You Missed It**



### ***AG Kaul, Dept. of Justice Secure \$2.37 Million for Wisconsin Consumers Deceived by TurboTax***

This week the Wisconsin Department of Justice, led by Attorney General Josh Kaul, announced that it had secured more than \$2 million for Wisconsin consumers as part of a multistate settlement with Intuit, makers of the TurboTax tax preparation software. Intuit was accused of deceiving consumers into paying for tax services that should have been free. In addition to the restitution, Intuit must suspend TurboTax's "Free, free, free" ad campaign that had lured

customers with promises of free tax preparation services, only to deceive them into paying for services.



## ***Vos Allows Gableman to Receive Taxpayer-Funded \$5,500 Monthly Salary While Election “Review” is on Hold***

Just a few weeks ago, the contract signed by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos to authorize a taxpayer-funded “investigation” into the 2020 Presidential election came to an end, and Vos chose to renew it. According to new reporting, the “investigation” is currently on hold while legal cases questioning the legality of the probe move forward. Under the amended contract, Gableman is to receive a \$5,500 monthly salary, plus \$2,500 per month for office rent and “reasonable expenses”, indefinitely, during the holding period, with the possibility that the review could start back up again in the future. That means that taxpayers will be paying Gableman a sizable monthly salary to do virtually nothing, with no set end date. If this isn’t a scandalous waste of taxpayer dollars, I don’t know what is.



## ***Biden Administration Announces Affordable Internet Plan for Low-Income Families***

Earlier this week, President Joe Biden announced that his administration had reached an agreement with twenty of the top internet service providers to provide discounted services to people and families with low incomes. The program will effectively make tens of millions of households eligible for free service through an already existing federal subsidy. The \$1 trillion infrastructure package passed by Congress last year included \$14.2 billion funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides \$30 monthly subsidies on internet service for

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millions of low-income households. According to the announcement, a family of four earning about \$55,000 annually, or those including someone eligible for Medicaid, will get a \$30 monthly credit, meaning about 40% of Americans will qualify.



## ***Wisconsin DNR to Host Free Fishing Weekend June 4 and 5***

Last weekend was the official kickoff to the 2022 fishing season, and in just a few weeks, the DNR will host a Free Fishing Weekend across Wisconsin. On Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5, all state waters will be open to residents and nonresidents, with no license required. Regulations such as size and bag limits, as well as species restrictions, will still be enforced. The DNR will have 52 tackle loaner sites across the state to help those in need of equipment; you can find information on the closest sites [here](#). State park admissions fees will also be waived that weekend.



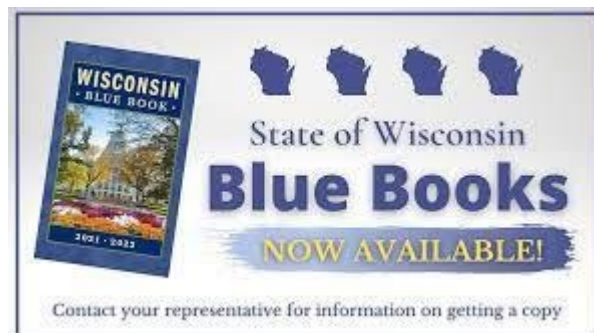
## ***Thank You, Nurses***

May 6-12 was recognized as National Nurses Week. These dates were chosen for a reason. May 12 is the birthday of Florence Nightengale. The theme for this year's week was Nurses Make a Difference, and after the last couple of years, we all know just how true that is. Throughout history, nurses have been on the front lines of all the major health care challenges that our society has faced, including wars, pandemics and natural disasters. We appreciate everything nurses do for us, day in and day out. Their passion and hard work are an example to us all.



## ***Free Covid Tests Available***

You can sign up to receive two (2) sets of four free Covid-19 tests per household, thanks to an order from the Biden administration. With just your name and address, you can order the tests for your household at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>; you can also use this site to find nearby testing locations. If you already ordered your first set of 4, you can use the above link to order your second set. Additionally, because of actions taken by both President Biden and Governor Evers, your insurance may be required to cover up to eight at-home rapid tests per month. If someone you know either doesn't have or doesn't use a computer, please call my office at (608)267-8979 for assistance ordering your household's tests.



## ***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](mailto:sen.wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov). These books are free and contain interesting and valuable information about our state's culture, history and government.