

May 19, 2023



Dear friends,

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The commemoration pays tribute to law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. We should also remember the families of peace officers, who sacrifice, as well, knowing what their loved ones potentially face when they go to work each day. No tribute or memorial can ever fully recognize these tremendous sacrifices, but we can honor them by committing ourselves to creating a safer and more just nation. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Joey's Yardarm Bar and Grill

Formerly known as the Yardarm, Joey's Yardarm Bar & Grill brings a nautical theme to high-quality, made from scratch pub food. Their menu is a mix of seafood, traditional American fare and healthy options, all made using quality ingredients. Owners Joey and Anna LeGath have decades of experience in the bar and grill business, and they're continuing family tradition with Joey's Yardarm. Check out their website, <https://www.joeyyardarm.com/>.

In Case You Missed It



Republican Rift Puts Shared Revenue Bill in Jeopardy

Republican-authored legislation to increase the amount of state aid to counties and municipalities hit a potential roadblock this week, as Republicans in the State Assembly passed their version of the bill, while Republicans in the Senate said they do not support the Assembly version and would pass their own bill. In order for a bill to make it to the Governor's desk, it has to be passed in identical form by both the Senate and Assembly. Governor Tony Evers also weighed in, siding with Senate Republicans in calling for more negotiation on several provisions of the expansive bill.

As amended, the bill passed by the Assembly would:

- Guarantee every county or municipality receives at least a 15% increase in their shared revenue, weighted heavily toward smaller towns and rural areas, many of which would see thousand-fold increases in their funds
- Allow both the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County to institute an additional sales tax ONLY IF approved by the voters via referendum

- Prohibit counties and municipalities from holding advisory referendums, such as those recently held to gauge public support for nonpartisan redistricting, BadgerCare expansion, minimum wage increases, and the Kenosha casino
 - Require Milwaukee Public Schools to accept police officers on their campuses
 - Create “maintenance of effort” requirements for local governments related to law enforcement, fire protection and emergency services. Should this requirement not be met, a county or municipality could face a 15% cut in its state aid.
- Place restrictions on the abilities of local health officials when it comes to outbreaks or pandemics.

These are just a few of the strings placed on the funding by the Assembly Republican legislation. Opponents are concerned by what they say is the likely failure of the Milwaukee referendums, which could possibly lead Milwaukee into bankruptcy.

Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) said on Wednesday that Senate Republicans will either amend the bill to remove the referendum requirements for Milwaukee or take up their own bill that doesn’t include the referendum. Governor Evers has said he would likely veto legislation with the referendum requirement.



Republicans Refuse to Act as Nation Nears Debt Ceiling; Critical Services at Risk

This week, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen reiterated her warning that the federal government could run out of money as soon as June 1. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and his fellow House Republicans have refused to vote for a debt ceiling increase until their long list of demands is met. Meanwhile, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has released a memo on the potential ramifications of agreeing to the Republican proposal. As a result of steep cuts being championed by Republicans, people waiting on Social Security disability benefits could face wait time of months longer or more; less funding would be available for affordable housing vouchers; the maximum Pell Grant award for financially disadvantaged college students would be cut by \$1,400; veterans and homeland security services could face 30% cuts; potential steep cuts would be made to Meal on Wheels, the National Institutes for

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Health, and other important programs and services; and more. Failure to increase the debt ceiling would send the financial markets into chaos and likely send the economy into a recession.



Finance Committee Continues Votes on State Budget

This week, the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) met on both Tuesday and Thursday, taking votes on funding for the state court system, including district attorney and public defenders; the Department of Natural Resources; the Environmental Improvement Fund; and the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The sessions featured some bipartisan agreement, as the committee unanimously approved pay increases for public defenders and district attorneys. After a delay of several hours, the Thursday session kicked off just after 6:30 pm, with the committee approving \$125 million to combat PFAS. The motion came with some controversy, though. Democrats on the committee opposed the motion because it simply puts the PFAS money into a JFC account, meaning further legislation would be needed before the money could be spent. Dems offered their own motion, which would have mirrored the Governor's budget language, putting the PFAS money into a municipal grant program to help local governments pay for PFAS testing and mitigation and to help clean up firefighting foam, which is one of the sources of PFAS. That motion was voted down by Republicans.



Kenosha Sportfishing Hosting Family Event This Saturday

The Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association will host its annual Kids Fish N' Fun Day this Saturday, May 20, from 9 am to noon at Anderson Pond, located next to the Anderson Park Pool, 8730 22nd Avenue in Kenosha. The event is open to kids 4-12, accompanied by an adult. Preregistration is not required, and complimentary rods and reels will be available while supplies last. Free hot dogs, chips and water will be handed out, as well as environmental educational materials; recreational and education activities will include lure selection, casting,

bait selection, fly tying, DNR ecology, catch and release, and fish cleaning. For more information, go to www.kenoshasportfishing.com or email fishnfun@kenoshasportfishing.com.



Racine’s DeltaHawk Receives FAA Certification for “Game Changer” Engine

DeltaHawk, an advanced design piston engine manufacturer based in Racine, has won FAA certification for its 180 horsepower DHK180 piston engine. The engine is assembly using 40% fewer moving parts than other engines in its category. It is highly responsive and produces more usable torque than traditional aircraft engines in its class, all while burning significantly less fuel and with a resulting lower net carbon footprint. The engine has been called a “game changer” in aviation. It is the first American-designed and –made small/experimental aviation engine to receive FAA certification.



Ford Issues Truck Recall Over Air Bag Issue

Ford is recalling more than 310,000 trucks in the United States because the driver’s front air bag may not inflate in a crash. The recall involves certain F-250, F-350, F-450 and F-550 Super Duty trucks from the 2016 model year. According to the company, dust can accumulate in a cable inside the steering wheel, interrupting the electrical connection. Dealers will replace the steering wheel wiring assembly at no cost to owners, who will be notified starting July 5.



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>.