

July 14, 2023



Dear friends,

Glioblastoma is an aggressive form of brain cancer best known as the cancer that took the lives of Ted Kennedy, John McCain and then-Vice President Biden’s son, Beau. Glioblastoma is the most common and most fatal primary brain tumor in adults. Almost 15,000 Americans are diagnosed with glioblastoma each year, and about 10,000 will die from it. Currently there are only four FDA-approved drugs for treating glioblastoma, and the cause remains unknown. To raise awareness of both the illness itself and the critical need for more research, July 19, 2023, has been declared Glioblastoma Awareness Day. Learn more about glioblastoma and how you can make a difference at <https://braintumor.org/events/glioblastoma-awareness-day/>.

Sincerely,

Bob



Eli's Café and Pancake House Now Open in Kenosha

Eli's Café and Pancake House, 2731 18th St. in Kenosha, opened its door for the first time on Monday, July 10. Owners Misael and Juana Albiter say the restaurant will feature traditional American breakfast and lunch offerings, as well as a variety of Mexican options. Both have extensive experience in the restaurant business. Misael first worked in a restaurant at age 15, and together the couple has run two other restaurants. They named Eli's Café after their grandchildren, Eliana and Elias. Restaurant hours are 6 am to 3 pm; find out more and take a look at their menu at [here](#).

In Case You Missed It



Office Hours Next Saturday

Saturday, July 22, from 1 to 2 pm, I'll be holding an "Office Hours" listening session in Activity Room A of Kenosha's Northside Library, 1500 27th Ave. Stop in to share your thoughts on the happenings in our state, including the state budget.



Milwaukee Common Council Approves 2% City Sales Tax

On Tuesday, the Milwaukee Common Council approved, on a 12-3 vote, a 2% citywide sales tax. The ability for both the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County to levy a sales tax was granted by a bill passed in June by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Tony Evers. Milwaukee leaders said that the additional sales tax was needed to help the city and county stay solvent as they deal with rising unmet pension obligations. If it was not approved, Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson warned that essential services would have to be cut by as much as 40%, and current and former city and county employees could lose up to 40% of their pensions. Under the state legislation, the sales tax proposal required the approval of 2/3 of the Council; that means 10 out of the 15 alders had to support it for it to be enacted. The Milwaukee County Board is still considering its own additional sales tax; a 2/3 vote is needed in their case, as well.



Evers Veto of Republicans' Tax Cut for the Rich Leaves State with \$4 Billion Surplus

The partial budget vetoes issued by Governor Tony Evers, including vetoing Republican tax cuts for earners in the top two tax brackets, leave the state with a \$4 billion surplus, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau. With divided government, it is unlikely any big spending measures will pass during the remainder of the legislative session, meaning the \$4 billion surplus will roll over into the next budget cycle.

Scene from Racine 4th Fest Parade



I was happy to catch up with my colleagues from the Assembly, Rep. Tip McGuire and Minority Leader Greta Neubauer, as we walked the Racine parade.



Kenosha Giving Circle to Host Duelling Pianos Fundraiser

Each year, the Kenosha Giving Circle distributes Christmas and holiday gifts to about 200 local families. That sort of undertaking requires a year-round effort to raise money; identify families in need; and obtain and distribute the gifts. The group is holding a fundraiser on at St. Mary's Church, in Bell Hall, on September 29 to raise money to purchase gifts. The event will feature Duelling Pianos. Two pianists will be on hand, and people can make a donation to request a song – or to stop a song from being played. A sit-down dinner; dessert bar; wine, beer and soda; a silent auction; and a 50/50 raffle will also be featured. Tickets are \$30 if purchased before September 15 and \$40 after that date through St. Mary's parish, by calling Kenosha Giving Circle Chair Kathy Holtz at (262)694-2051 or by emailing kenoshagivingcircle@gmail.com. The group is currently looking for more sponsors and silent auction donations for the event, as well; donations for the silent auction will be accepted through August 25.



Hit TV Show “Top Chef” to Film Upcoming Season in Wisconsin

The Emmy Award-winning reality cooking show “Top Chef”, which airs on the Bravo network, has announced that it will be filming its upcoming 21 season in Madison and Milwaukee, as well as Door County and other parts of Wisconsin. The show brings together accomplished chefs from all walks of life to compete in various challenges until just one is left standing and declared the “Top Chef”. In recent seasons, the show has traveled to various locations – Portland, Chicago, Kentucky, Boston, London and San Francisco, to name a few – and highlighted regional cuisine and ingredients. The show is expected to start shooting the new season in late summer/early fall, with an airdate likely in spring or early summer 2024. The Evers administration, specifically the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and state Department of Tourism, partnered with a number of statewide and regional organizations to bring “Top Chef” to Wisconsin.



State Officials Alert Consumers to Misleading Home Warranty Mailings

Officials with the state’s Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI), Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) and Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are alerting consumers about a surge of suspicious mailers being sent regarding home warranties.

The mailers often warn consumers that their “home warranty may be expiring or may have already expired,” and ask for payment. The mailers are scams and should not be answered. Some letters may even include the name of your mortgage company to make the solicitation

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seem more legitimate. Do not let this fool you; the name of your mortgage lender and servicer are public records and can be found online.

Look for these red flags when encountering suspicious home warranty mailers:

- Use of threatening language or unnecessary urgency (such as “final notice”, “immediate response requested”, “we reserve the right to revoke your eligibility for service coverage after 5 days”)
- It appears to be from a government entity but does not include specific details (for example, “home warranty division” or “lender services”)
- Information that does not match your circumstances (like stating that your home warranty may be expiring when you don’t actually have a home warranty)
- There is no return address and the only contact information given is a phone number
 - A fake check is included in the mailer.

The safest course of action is to not respond. Do not call the phone number listed on the mailer; the person on the other end of the line is likely seeking your personal information.

Contact OCI with questions or to report issues regarding disputes over an extended warranty plan or service contract at oci.wi.gov/complaints or (608)266-0103.



Veterans Have Until Aug. 9 to Apply for Backdated Disability Payments under PACT Act

The federal Pact Act has been called the most significant expansion of benefits and services for toxin-exposed veterans in more than 30 years. It was signed into law by President Biden on August 10, 2022. The Act removed the need for veterans to prove a service connection if they are diagnosed with certain cancers or respiratory conditions; under the law, the conditions are presumed to be connected to veterans’ exposure to burn pits, Agent Orange or other toxins during their service. This makes it easier and faster for impacted veterans to collect disability benefits and receive VA health care for their illnesses.

An important date related to the PACT Act is quickly approaching. Veterans and survivors who file a VA claim – or complete an “Intent to File” form - before August 9, 2023, will be eligible to receive disability payments retroactive to August 10, 2022, when Biden signed the bill into law. For more information, visit <https://explore.va.gov/intent-to-file>.