

August 4, 2023



Dear friends,

Can you even imagine a world in which Medicare and Medicaid didn't exist? That was the case until July 30, 1965. On that day, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Medicare and Medicaid Act into law, establishing the two programs. Debate over the two programs actually began two decades earlier when President Harry S. Truman sent a message to Congress asking for legislation establishing a national insurance plan; administrators in the Social Security system and others began to focus on the idea of a program aimed at insuring Social Security beneficiaries, which was a growing population. Between 1960 and 1965, the health coverage debate was one of the top issues before Congress; they considered dozens of proposals before coming to an agreement. In recognition of Truman's effort to establish a national health care plan, President Johnson signed the bill at the Truman Presidential Library with Truman in attendance. Here we are, 58 years later, still fighting the good fight for universal health care. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob

small business **SPOTLIGHT**



Baba's Standing Room Only

Craving a cheesesteak and fries? Baba's Standing Room Only – 635 75th St. in Kenosha - is the place to go. Formerly Big Lou's Standing Room Only, Baba's menu features nearly 10 different variations of the famous cheesesteak, plus burgers, hot dogs, fries, onion rings and more, all at a reasonable price. Check out Baba's on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/BigLouCheesesteaks/>, for more information.

In Case You Missed It



VP Harris Visits Kenosha County Business

On Thursday, Vice President Kamala Harris came to Wisconsin, paying a visit to Sanmina, a Pleasant Prairie company that designs and produces some of the most complex and innovative optical, electronic and mechanical products in the world. Harris was joined by U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimonde and U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin; the visit was meant to highlight the Biden Administration's investment in broadband. It was announced Thursday morning that Nokia would be partnering with Sanmina to manufacture broadband network electronics at the Pleasant Prairie facility, creating about 200 new jobs locally.



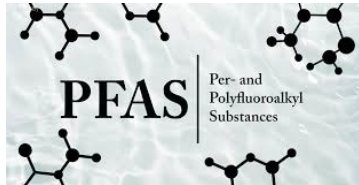
Facing Budget Deficit, UW Oshkosh to Cut 200 Jobs

This week, UW-Oshkosh Chancellor Andrew Leavitt and UW System President Jay Rothman announced that the school would cut 200 non-faculty staff and furlough others this fall to address an \$18 million budget deficit. The announcement comes less than a month after the 2023-2025 state budget was enacted. Republicans who control the Legislature and its Joint Finance Committee (JFC) cut \$32 million in state funding from the UW System in an attempt to eliminate campus diversity, equity and inclusion programs. This cut, added to more than a decade of underfunding from Republican budgets and combined with declining enrollments, have left ten of the UW System's 13 schools – including Parkside - with structural deficits ranging from millions to tens of millions of dollars.



Judge Janet Protasiewicz Sworn in as Newest Member of Wisconsin Supreme Court

In Tuesday, before a standing room only crowd in the Wisconsin State Capitol, former Milwaukee County Judge Janet Protasiewicz was sworn in as the newest member of the state Supreme Court. Protasiewicz was elected in April to an open seat created by the retirement of former Chief Justice Patience Roggensack.



Evers Announces More Money for PFAS Contamination

Governor Tony Evers and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced new funding available to help communities address PFAS (“forever chemicals”) contamination in wastewater. The funds were made available to Wisconsin through the federal infrastructure law, signed by President Biden. The state’s Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) is a state revolving loan fund that provides financial assistance to municipalities for wastewater and storm water infrastructure projects by providing reduced-interest rate loans, and in some cases, loan forgiveness. The CWFP includes funding dedicated to projects that address emerging contaminants, such as PFAS.

The CWFP currently has at least \$2.5 million in available funding for municipalities to complete wastewater or sewer system projects that reduce or eliminate PFAS contamination.



Wisconsin State Fair Open Now Through August 13

The annual Wisconsin State Fair is the state’s largest agricultural showcase and offers hours of family entertainment. Amusement rides, games, live music, and of course, the fair food are all part of the experience. The Wisconsin State Fair opened on Thursday, August 3, and runs through Sunday, August 13. Tickets are \$18 for adults and children 12 and older; \$13 for military and seniors; and \$13 for children ages 6 to 11. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

The State Fair opens at 10 am daily and ends at 10 pm Sunday through Wednesday and midnight Thursday through Saturday. Fairgoers younger than 18 entering after 5 pm must be accompanied by a parent or guardian 21 or older. Proof of age is required. Each parent or guardian may only chaperone up to six minors per day. Find a schedule of daily fair events at <https://wistatefair.com/fair/daily-schedule/>.



Call 534-202-5438 to reach Uplift WI

UpliftWI Providers Peers Willing to Lend an Ear

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has created a new phone line that allows all Wisconsinites to share their successes and challenges with a peer who will listen and offer support. Built by Mental Health America of Wisconsin under a grant from DHS for people

experiencing mental health and substance use concerns. UpliftWI can be reached at (534)202-5348 daily from noon to midnight, with 24/7 operation expected by the end of the year. This non-emergency service is free and confidential.

Callers to UpliftWI speak to certified peer specialists with diverse life experiences stationed across the state. A certified peer specialist is a person who has navigated their own mental health and substance use challenges, completed a training course, and passed a state exam that tests their skills and knowledge about how to support others. They use their personal experiences to help callers identify and pursue their own wellness goals and will share information about community resources, if requested. Callers are not required to provide their names, addresses, or other identifying information.

People experiencing mental health and substance use emergencies should call, text or chat the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. If the emergency is life-threatening, call 911.

Congratulations to Jeffrey Hines, Jr., who Achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout with a Whopping 121 Merit Badges



No, that *121* is not a typo. For the record, 21 merit badges are required for Eagle Scouts. Congratulations to Jeffrey and his family, and thank you for inviting me to participate in honoring this wonderful accomplishment.



Local Law Enforcement Warns of Prize Scams

Law enforcement officials in Wisconsin are investigating several cases where victims were told they have won the lottery or Publisher's Clearing House. In some cases, the scammers have provided documents to bolster the believability. The victims, who are often seniors, are convinced to send cashier's checks or wire money to cover taxes and fees. They are told the person receiving the money is an agent or somehow associated with the lottery or PCH. Banks often question the victim requesting the transfer of funds, warning them they may be the victim of a scam. However, scammers prepare the victims for this, saying the banks are required to make this statement. The scammers even give the victims a plausible response to share with the bank.

The funds are quickly withdrawn from the account, and the ability to recover those funds is very limited, often impossible. The scammers have developed a complicated system, making the money extremely hard to follow. Sadly, the recipients of the funds are also victims who have forwarded the money they received on to other accounts. The funds are eventually withdrawn from accounts by the fraudsters via foreign ATMs. Some Wisconsin victims have sent tens of thousands of dollars.

As much as you may want the call to be authentic, it's not. In the event of a legitimate lottery or PCH win, the lucky person would not be asked to transfer any funds. Before sending any money, people should contact the local police to help them investigate.