

Issues/Programs Report WQPC/WPRE

QTR 3 2021

Prepared by: Gabe Buch (Operations Manager)

WQPC airs produced news reports at 7am, 8:00am, 8:30am, 12:30pm and 5:00pm. A community affairs/interview program airs weekdays at 9am.

WPRE airs produced news reports at 7:15am, 8:15am, 8:45, and 12pm. A community spotlight interview program airs at 10am.

A number of significant local news stories were covered. Some of the highlights include:

July

1- Mayo Clinic of La Crosse Start Covid Vaccines but stop Covid Testing

With the lower number of Covid cases in the area the permanent Covid testing site at Mayo shut down. If patients needed to be tested they will be offering out patient and primary appointment testing along with the opportunity to make appointments for the Covid Vaccine.

2- Sen Brad Pfaff 1 of 3 Democratic Senators to Vote Yes on State Budget

He said he voted yes on the GOP budget that was the final version so the state could receive crucial Covid funding for schools. Pfaff said there were key parts missing but felt confident that Gov Tony Evers would be able to use his line item veto to make the budget workable for the federal funding.

6- Bagley Train Death

An unresponsive male was found near the railroad tracks in Bagley. When the police arrived they identified the man and declared him dead. It appeared that he was struck by a south bound train when he was walking home from the town's celebration.

7- Gundersen Health Center Changes Visitor Guidelines

Visitor Guidelines loosen as the Covid rate in the area has dropped. 2 Visitors can visit a patient at a time. They say that they can change this back if rates being to climb. They also encourage visitors to get vaccinated.

12- Job Center Created at Prairie Du Chien Correctional Institutions

The job center gives inmates an opportunities to job search, career readiness programs, resumes development, and registered apprenticeships. This program helps them with the transition from the Institution and helps Wisconsin employers find employees and grow their businesses.

21-Lancaster Council Hears Proposal from Premier

The common council heard a presentation from Premier to replace their current facility and make a 4 million dollar investment into the community. After the presentation there was a discussion to about a tax increment district #7. The council decided to ask the speaker to come back the next meeting with more information on the TID #7.

22- Tammy Baldwin to Vote on Major Infrastructure Bill

The Bill will help roads and bridges, water safety, locks and dams, and plenty more that will help address years of neglect and encourage maintenance to the infrastructure. This bill will also help create jobs.

29- Governor Evers Declares a State of Emergency After Severe Storms

Executive Order 128- Down trees, road closures, power out were all reasons that Governor Evers called the State of Emergency. By calling the State of Emergency the effected areas can have National Guard support, state agencies utilized, and state funding.

30- State Senator Brad Pfaff discusses State Budget and Local Road Award

He said the budget provided much needed assistance to the people of Wisconsin in many ways. State Highway 35 along the Mississippi River was designated the Great River Road. He tells how the recognition of this helps our local area grow.

August

6- Lancaster Mayor Running for Lieutenant Governor

David Varnam announced he would be running for Lieutenant Governor to reduce taxes for residents and businesses, stand up for the unborn, and list to the needs of the communities. Varnam has been the Mayor of Lancaster since April of 2016.

9- Congressman Ron Kind Not Running for Office Again

After nearly 25 years in politics he has decided this will be his last term. He said he was honored to be able to represent the people of the 3rd district. He ran against Derrick Van Orden last election. Van Orden has already announced his election campaign this spring.

13-Town of Boscobel Does a Community Cleanup Weekend after Tornado

Volunteers were asked by the Grant County Emergency Department asked on their social media after an EF 3 Tornado hit the town hitting 6 homes and 11 buildings but nobody was injured.

-Representative Loren Oldenburg Authors Bill

Bill 85 was signed into law to give the WI DNR to create a general permit for hydraulic restoration projects. It speeds up the permit process for smaller projects for watershed and with recent flooding issues.

16- The Driftless Art Festival Cancels Due to Delta Variant

The organizers of the event announced that the event would be canceled for the second year in a row. They discussed the concerns and uncertainties that go along with the variant. They wanted to make sure the artist were safe along with the community. They said they would feature the artists work online and on social media.

17- Additional Vaccines available for Immunity-compromised Patients.

The third dose is available for those who fall into the category. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine was not approved. The Crawford County Health Department has appointments available with the Pfizer Vaccine.

18- New Richland Center Sheriff Appointed

Governor Tony Evers appointed Clay Porter as the new Richland Center Sheriff filling the vaccinate position left by the resignation of former Sheriff James J Bindl. Porter will complete the remainder of the term which ends January 2 2023.

24- Senator Baldwin Visits Viroqua Businesses

The Senator toured 4 businesses and a local Montessori preschool. At each stop she discussed how the businesses started and how it was effected during Covid. While at the preschool she discussed the new child tax credit that had started.

-Derrick Van Orden Complained about Library Pride Display

The candidate for the 3rd congressional district complained to a female library worker in Prairie Du Chien about the “offensive” display and wanted to teach whoever put it up a lesson. Van Orden checked out all of the available books in the display.

September

3- La Crosse Catholic Charities Assists with Collecting Clothing Items for Refugee Supplies

Governor Evers encourages people to donate clothes and personal items to the refugees at Fort McCoy because they were only able to come with items that they had with them. Other donation centers were being set up in the area.

-\$100 Voucher Vaccination Program Extended

Governor Evers announces that Wisconsinites will have a little bit longer to get their first Covid Vaccine and be eligible to get a \$100 gift card. The vaccination has to be completed by September 19th. The form can be found online and information will be used to verify the first vaccine.

6- Refugees Have the Option to Receive the Covid Vaccine

Refugees arriving at Fort McCoy had the option of receiving the Covid 19 vaccine. Between 300-500 people are being seen at the fort and most are choosing to get vaccinated. Close to 8,000 refugees are staying at Fort McCoy currently.

13- Viroqua Mayor, Karen Mischel Running for Assembly

Current Viroqua Mayor announces that she will be running for the Wisconsin 96th assembly district. Mischel was elected in April of 2018 to be the Mayor. Mischel was key in developing Viroqua's business park and was essential to Viroqua's Covid response. The current 96th assembly seat is held by Loren Oldenburg.

17th- Reminder of the Art Festival Canceled.

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22- Lancaster Common Council to Create Tax Increment District #7

The district will be in effect for 20 years and at least 50% of the property in the district is suitable for mixed use development. It also says that less than 35% of district is land proposed for newly

platted residential development. Among the 22 parcels included in TID District 7 are Premier Cooperative which is proposing a renovation and expansion of its agronomy facility.

In addition to the coverage of significant news stories and community issues, WQPC/WPRE continued to broadcast interviews with local and regional elected officials, candidates, including (but not limited to):

- Brad Pfaff

Interviews with people from various departments, such as:

- Alice In Dairyland
- Alzheimer's of Wisconsin Walk
- Prairie du Chien Chamber Director Bob Moses
- Prairie du Chien City Administrator Chad Abram
- St. Wenceslaus Picnic
- Remembering Red Show Brian Hoffman
- Crawford County Dairy Royalty
- Weekly Interview with Prairie du Chien Police Chief Kyle Teynor
- Weekly Interview with Prairie du Chien Parks & Recreation Director Mike Ulrich
- Weekly Concerts on the River Band Features

Report prepared on October 6, 2021 by Gabe Buch