

Problems/Programs Report WQPC/WPRE

QTR 4 2020

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:

October

2- Rep. Ron Kind Votes in Favor of the HEROES Act- The bill would help the people of Wisconsin, small businesses, industries struggling with the pandemic by expanding unemployment benefits, an additional \$1,200 stimulus check, and additional funding to the state.

A) News Stories Oct 2 and 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

5- Grant County Sherriff's Department Grant- The department applied for two grants: one to help with traffic safety and the other for new equipment and disinfecting supplies for the county jail. The grant was just over \$30,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for the traffic safety and the second grant was for \$60,000 for jail supplies from the WI Department of Justice.

A) News Stories Oct 5th,6th,and 7th 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

6-Governor Tony Evers Issues a New Public Health Order- Limiting the size of public gatherings to no more than 25% of a room capacity. This excluded essential buildings and operations.

A) News Stories Oct 6th,7th,and 8th 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

27- Lancaster Trash Update- The common council improved an amendment for a spring cleaning day in 2021. Residents will be allowed to dispose of items that are not regularly accepted or do not fit in the container. There was a limited size you could dispose of, there was also a list of prohibited items. This raised the garbage fee to \$11.

November

8- Wisconsin DNR reminds on Water Safety and Life Jackets- With hunting season and changing of weather the WI DNR reminds to be aware and know your surroundings, have proper safety equipment with them, and be aware of the weather.

A)News stories on November 8, 9, 10, 11 at 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

11- JB Van Holland, Former WI Attorney General- Van Holland discussed the results of the 2020 General Election and how record numbers of absentee ballots were cast in the state. He also talked about the results will be able to be seen in the canvassing when it comes to individual political parties results in the election.

A) Interview was taped and replayed

B) News stories on November 11 and 12 at 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

Grant County Broadband Project- They support the project but do not have the \$422,000 to support financially. The county will write letters of support to anyone is looking to start a broadband project.

A) News stories on November 11,12, and 14 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

16-Wisconsin's Farmers Mental Health- The Farm office at WI Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection and the UW-Extension office received a \$400,000 grant to provide programs to Wisconsin Farmers dealing with mental health struggles through out the pandemic.

A) News stories on November 16,17,18 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

25- Crawford County Positive COVID Test Rise Due to Jail Mass Testing- The correctional facility testing added 300 positive cases to Crawford's County total after a mass testing day. 65 staff members reported positive in this number.

A) News stories on November 25,26,27,28 at 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

December

1-Wisconsin Hunting Rates Increased- Licenses were up 3.5% in 2020 and Women licenses were up 12%. 188, 712 deer were registered in the 2020 season.

A) News stories on December 1 and 2 at 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm.

2- Local State Assembly Members Joint COVID Statement- Steve Doyle, Jill Billings, Loren Oldenburg wrote to tell their constituents to come together to help stop the spread in Wisconsin's fight with the COVID 19 spread. Hospitals being full to capacity and turning people away was highlighted as one of the key risk factors.

A) News stories on December 2, 3, 4 at 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

10- Tammy Baldwin's Student Debt Scam Bill Passes- The bill will help create a tool to make it harder for scammers to access students personal information and will help make it easier to prosecute the scammers who are preying on the Students.

A) This interview was taped and replayed

B) A) News stories on December 10,11, and 12 at 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

18- Governor Tony Evers Request More COVID Vaccines- Evers is asking for more vaccines after only receiving 35,100 doses, which is a significant amount less than what was anticipated. Evers also reached out for clarification for allocation guidelines.

A) News stories on December 18,19, and 21 at 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

100 Inmates Transferred Out of Prairie Du Chien Jail- WI Department of Corrections announced that the Prairie Du Chien location would become a minimum security facility. 3/4th of the inmates were already considered low risk. This will make inmates in the facility be able to use a work release program, which is currently shut down due to the pandemic.

A) News stories on December 18, 19, 20 at 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

23- Free COVID Testing Site- The Vernon County Health Department is hosting a drive through for anyone with symptoms of COVID or a close contact with a positive case of COVID. The testing site is for any Vernon County Resident or anyone in the Southwest side of Wisconsin. The date of the testing is on Tuesday December 29th.

A) News stories on December 23,24,25,26, and 28 at 7:00 am-, 7:30 am, 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, and 5:00 pm

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
- Dan Kapanke
- Ron Kind
- Derek VanOrden
- Josefine Jaynes
- Travis Tranel
- Tom Villsack

Interviews with people from various departments, such as:

- Sue from Eastman First Responders
- Community Development Alternatives Survey – Gary Koch
- Operation Santa – Sarah Boxrucker & Jamie Stramm from Prairie du Chien Rotary
- Prairie du Chien Fire Chief Tad Beutin
- ADRC Roby Fuller on Caregiver Month
- Swamp People Project-- Arleena Roe
- Crawford County Dairy Princess' & Little Miss Squirt
- Weekly Interview with Prairie du Chien Police Chief Kyle Teynor

Report prepared on January 8, 2021 by Gabe Buch