

## Problems/Programs Report WQPC/WPRE

QTR 4 2023

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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-Crawford Clean Sweep Program**

Crawford County is holding an Ag Clean Sweep and electronics recycling event Friday, October 20, 2023, at the County Highway Shop just south of Seneca on Highway 27. The hours of collection are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any Crawford County resident may participate who can provide proof of residency. This event is a great opportunity for residents to properly dispose of many chemicals and substances that may pose serious health and environmental Hazards. There is a 200 lb. limit on chemical waste- please call ahead if you have a large quantity.

#### **3- National Testing Alarm Scheduled**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the Wireless

Emergency Alert (WEA) at approximately Oct. 4 at approximately 1:20 p.m. CST.

Federal rules require all EAS participants to participate in testing. This includes radio and television

broadcasters, cable systems, satellite radio and television providers and wireline video providers. FEMA

will send a national test message to participating stations. The test will verify the delivery and broadcast

of the message, assess the operational readiness to distribute the message, and determine any improvements that are needed.

#### **5-Youth Deer Hunt**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is encouraging hunters and mentors to pass on the tradition of deer hunting to Wisconsin's next generation. The youth hunt is intended

to give hunters 15 years old and younger the opportunity to learn from a mentor and gain deer hunting experience. Participation in the hunt is available to Wisconsin residents and nonresidents. Youth hunters, with or without hunter education certification, are eligible to hunt while under the supervision of a mentor. For hunters 12-15 who have completed hunter education, the mentor must be at least 18 years old, but does not need to be a hunter education graduate or a licensed hunter. The mentor needs to be within both visual and voice contact with the hunter.

### **9- Crawford County Command Center Grant Awarded**

The Crawford County Sheriff's Office Department of Emergency Management is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a \$300,000 grant for the procurement and implementation of a new, advanced Mobile Command Center (MCC). This significant grant has been awarded by the Office of Justice Programs under the 2023 BJA FY 23 Rural and Small Department Violent Crime Reduction Program.

### **13 Water and Soil Conservation Results**

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) Bureau of Land and Water Resource Management has released the 2022 Wisconsin Report on Soil and Water Conservation, which demonstrates efforts to protect Wisconsin's soil and water resources. According to DATCP's analysis, state, federal, local, and other funds were utilized in 2022 to advance and support conservation efforts such as planting cover crops, implementing managed grazing, groundwater monitoring, farmland preservation, and farmer-led initiatives. Local conservation staff visited sites to assess resource needs, determine compliance with state standards and farmland preservation eligibility, and work with farmers and landowners to design and administer site-specific conservation practices. One popular practice is to implement a nutrient management plan, with counties reporting that more than 7,500 nutrient management plans covering over 3.45 million acres were created in 2022, helping ensure that nutrients go into farmers' crops instead of local soil and water sources.

### **-Baldwin Visits New Childcare Center in Platteville and Fenimore Energizer Employees**

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin visited with local stakeholders in Platteville to highlight the \$2.5 million she secured for Southwest Health to construct a new childcare center. Senator Baldwin also met with Energizer employees in Fenimore who will be impacted by the closure of the local Energizer plant. The closure comes after a 2018 Energizer-Spectrum Brands merger, which Senator Baldwin has heavily scrutinized. The resources Senator Baldwin secured will help Southwest Health build its new facility that plans to accommodate 120 children. Over half of Wisconsin is in a childcare desert, meaning for every open childcare slot available in a community, three or more children need it. Wisconsin's economy loses an estimated \$1.1 billion annually from infant-toddler childcare challenges. Senator Baldwin also visited with Energizer Employees and members of the Teamsters Local 695 to hear about the impact of Energizer closing its Fenimore plant. Senator Baldwin has scrutinized Energizer's 2018 acquisition of

Rayovac, which led to price hikes for consumers and put hundreds of Wisconsin jobs at risk.

### **17- Crawford County Sheriff's Office Department of Emergency Management Receives National "Ambassador of Excellence" Award**

This prestigious accolade acknowledges the department's outstanding efforts in a variety of areas: Weather Spotter Training, Educational Outreach, Partnership with NWS, Proactive Flood Response, Post-Flood Initiatives, Community Support: Weather Radios Distribution, Statewide and Tornado Drills. Crawford County Sheriff's Office Department of Emergency Management consists of: Jim Hackett and Marc Myhre

### **18-UW-Richland to Close**

Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman announced today his decision to end in-person instruction at two additional branch campuses and to close one branch campus. Rothman also

directed chancellors overseeing the remaining two-year campuses to work with local officials to determine the best uses for facilities to meet student and community needs. The two campuses at which in-person instruction will end are UW-Milwaukee at Washington County and UW Oshkosh, Fond du Lac campus; the goal date is June 2024. UW-Platteville Richland will be closed. The decision follows Rothman's earlier directive to chancellors to explore the long-term viability of the branch campuses.

### **24-Grant County Solar Project Update**

The site team is making solid progress on the pile, tracking system, and solar panel installation. We expect the majority of this work will be completed before the end of the year. Once that installation work is complete, we'll begin equipment testing and site commissioning before placing the array into service. We expect to complete the Grant County Solar Project in the first half of 2024. For the Grant County Battery Project that was approved by the WI Public Service Commission in August [2], we expect to begin construction in 2024 and complete it in 2025. This battery site, co-located at the solar site, will be ~6 acres. Integrating the battery site with the solar project will allow us the flexibility to store excess energy when demand for electricity is low and deliver that energy to customers when it's needed - even when the sun's not shining.

### **-Crawford County Man Receives First Responder of the Year**

Representative Loren Oldenburg honored Jim Hackett as the first responder of the year for the 96 th assembly district. This award is given out once every two years. Jim was invited to the State Capital on October 17 th to be presented with the award.

### **29-Iowa Tribe and Effigy Mound Presentation**

Last November, Effigy Mounds National Monument entered into a historic sister park

agreement with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska's Ioway Tribal National Park. To learn about this agreement, the first sister park agreement between a national park unit and a Tribal Nation's national park, join us Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00 pm. Lance Foster, Vice Chairman and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska as well as the director of the Ioway Tribal National Park, will be speaking. His presentation, "Iowa Tribe and Effigy Mounds: A Sister Park Connection," will be given in the visitor center auditorium at Effigy Mounds National Monument.

## **November**

### **1- Senator Pfaff Introduces Legislation for Affordable Prescription Drugs**

State Senator Brad Pfaff (D - Onalaska) and legislative colleagues introduced legislation to create the Office of Prescription Drug Affordability and the Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board. Under this bill, the state of Wisconsin would focus on bringing awareness and transparency to prescription drug prices. The legislation would create a review panel of prescription drug costs and their impact on the people of Wisconsin, and the bill would establish payment limits and prevent skyrocketing costs Wisconsinites pay for necessary prescription drugs.

### **-Organic Food Processors Grants Extended**

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has extended the deadline for organic food processors and producers to apply for reimbursement of costs related to organic certification from USDA's Organic Certification Cost Share Program. The deadline has been extended from Tuesday, October 31, 2023 to Friday, December 8, 2023. Farms and businesses that produce, process, or package certified organic agricultural products are eligible to be reimbursed for 75 percent of certification-related costs – up to \$750 per category of certification – for expenses paid during October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. Farms or businesses must be located in Wisconsin and currently certified or be actively seeking certification through an accredited certifier during that time frame.

### **2-Crossing Rivers Health Holds Diaper Drive**

Crossing Rivers Health is excited to share that the Community Diaper Drive, organized by the Crossing Rivers Health Obstetric Department, received generous donations from the community and Crossing Rivers Health staff, resulting in a donation of more than 4,000 diapers to Couleecap, a Wisconsin-based organization committed to enhancing the lives of individuals and families.

### **-Senator Baldwin Votes for Bill Supporting Agriculture, Rural Development and Food and Drug Administration.**

Senator Tammy Baldwin joined an overwhelming bipartisan majority of her colleagues to pass a package of three funding bills that support veterans, invest in agriculture and rural communities,

and expand access to affordable housing. By a vote of 82-15, the U.S. Senate voted to advance the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriation bills for Fiscal Year 2024.

#### **6- Crawford County Sheriff Receives Grant Funding for Headsets**

The Crawford County Sheriff's Office has successfully secured grant funding from company called

Crossroads, a 3M Company affiliate. The grant, amounting to \$2500, assisted in the procurement of radio headset equipment for the Crawford County Emergency Response Team. This equipment is set to enhance the capabilities of the Crawford County Emergency Response Team members to communicate more effectively while in on scene of critical incidents. These headsets allow deputies to clearly communicate during high volume incidents where it would be difficult to hear each other if only using a handheld radio. It is noteworthy to mention that this grant assures our Emergency Response Team can use the best equipment possible to keep the citizens of Crawford County safe.

#### **14- Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Grants Open**

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) invites Wisconsin farmers and cooperating entities to apply for commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program research grants through January 31, 2024. These grants aim to enhance the understanding of and refine new methods that optimize commercial nitrogen applied to agricultural fields. Eligible applicants must be an agricultural producer, agree to collaborate with the Universities of Wisconsin (UW) on their project, and voluntarily conduct commercial nitrogen optimization field studies for a minimum of two years. A research design must be submitted to UW by December 15, 2023 and approved prior to submitting the final grant application.

#### **21- Crawford County Sheriff's Office Gets Grant for New Deputy.**

The Crawford County Sheriff's Office Department of Emergency Management is proud to announce the receipt of a substantial COPS Hiring Grant, amounting to \$125,000. This significant funding will be instrumental in supporting the salary of a full-time deputy, enhancing the department's capabilities in maintaining public safety and law enforcement efficiency.

#### **27- Applications Open For Veteran Mental Health Grants**

Gov. Tony Evers, together with Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Secretary James Bond, announced today that applications are now being accepted for the second round of three Veteran Mental Health Grants—the Emergency Crisis Mental Health Treatment Program Grant, the Veteran Mental Health Ancillary Treatment Program Grant, and the Veterans Mental Health Community-Based Organization Grant. These grants are part of Gov. Evers' \$10 million investment in mental health and services, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act.

### **December**

#### **1- Police Officer Involved in Minor Crash**

On Wednesday November 29, a Prairie du Chien Police Officer and his K9 partner were involved in a minor traffic crash near the intersection of Vineyard Road and US Highway 18. Both the vehicles involved in the crash were Eastbound on Highway 18. A Dodge Ram truck operated by Drake Baures, age 17 of Prairiedu Chien, attempted a lane change into the lane of the police vehicle causing a minor Collision. The Wisconsin State Patrol was notified of the crash and requested to investigate. During the course of their investigation marijuana and drug paraphernalia were located inside the black Dodge Ram.

#### **4- Senator Baldwin Secures Funding for Local Airports**

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin announced airports across Wisconsin will receive over \$38 million in federal funding for infrastructure upgrades – including investments in runways, taxiways, safety and sustainability projects, terminal upgrades, airport-transit connections, and roadway projects. The funding for these projects comes from Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Grants (AIG), a program funded by the Baldwin-backed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

#### **6- Crawford County Gets Fentanyl Strip Grant**

The Crawford County Sheriff's Office Department of Emergency Management is excited to announce the acquisition of a grant for Fentanyl Drug Test Strips, valued at \$4,500. This grant, which incurs no cost to local taxpayers, will provide approximately 6,000 test strips, enhancing the capabilities of first responders in combating drug overdoses. In a significant move to bolster public safety, these test strips will be made available to all Crawford County First Responder agencies, including our previous Narcan partners: Mar-Mac Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Vernon County Sheriff's Office, Viola Police Department, Richland Center Police Department, Grant County Emergency Management, Grant County Sheriff's Office, Bridgeport Fire and First Responders, North Crawford Rescue, Ococho Mountain Rescue, Ferryville Fire and First Responder, City of Prairie du Chien Police Department.

#### **7- Wisconsin Consumers Urged to Throw Applesauce Away**

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is advising food retailers and consumers to dispose of specific brands of applesauce containing cinnamon following a nationwide recall related to several brands of cinnamon applesauce puree pouches. These products may contain harmful levels of lead.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a recall for the following brands of applesauce puree that contain cinnamon: WanaBana Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree pouches, Schnucks cinnamon-flavored applesauce pouches, Schnucks applesauce variety pack, and Weis cinnamon applesauce pouches. Multiple cases of lead poisoning have already been identified in several states, including three suspected cases in Wisconsin that are being investigated, due to children eating one of these products. A child has lead poisoning when their blood lead level measures greater than or equal to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter

## **12- Westby Farmer Re-Elected as Wisconsin Farm Union President**

Westby dairy farmer Darin Von Ruden was re-elected president of the Wisconsin Farmers Union this weekend in Wisconsin Dells, where more than 200 family farmers and rural advocates gathered for the organization's 93rd annual State Convention. Von Ruden has served as the organization's District 5 director since 2008, representing Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, and Vernon counties. He also leads the WFU Foundation Board of Directors, serves on the National Farmers Union Board of Directors as Secretary. Von Ruden and his wife, JoAnn, live in Westby. In the last several years, Von Ruden transitioned the farm to the fourth generation, when son Brett purchased the machinery and 50-cow dairy herd.

## **18- Senator Baldwin Presses VA to Protect Veterans**

Senator Tammy Baldwin joined five of her colleagues in pressing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to take swift action to protect veterans seeking opioid prescriptions following concerning reports that found some providers of veterans' health care are not meeting VA prescription opioids safety standards.

## **19-WI DATCP Funds Specialty Crop Block Grant**

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) announced 15 projects have been selected to receive more than \$1.12 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant funding. Grants are awarded to projects intended to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop industries through research, education, or market development. Recipients are required to provide 25 percent of the grant funds as a matching contribution. A local project funded was Driftless Development: Develop and implement a promotional campaign that leads to increased knowledge, consumption, and sales of apples grown in Gays Mills.

## **26- Crawford County Sheriff Hold ATV/UTV Safety Course**

The class starts Jan 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Crawford County Sheriff's Dept upstairs classroom. Jan 16 and 18 are the next dates of class. Classes each night should be done by 8:00. Enter the Sheriff's Dept through the doorway off of Beaumont Road. Prior to the class students should have their homework done in the Education Booklet for the class or classes they will be taking. Having your homework done will make it easier for you to learn what the volunteer instructors will be teaching. They may not follow the booklet in the teaching process so you will need to be ready for class by getting your homework done before Jan 15. Bring your registration fee of \$10 to the first day of class. Also fill out the registration form found inside the cover of the booklet. Both the money and the registration form will be collected the first day of class. If you have any questions please contact me at 608-326-2718.

## **28 -Flags Flown at Half Staff for Passing of Herb Kohl**

**Gov. Tony Evers today ordered the flags of the United States and the state of Wisconsin to be**

**flown at half-staff beginning Thurs., Dec. 28, 2023, until the date of interment for former U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl.**

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):

Interviews with people from various departments, such as:

Prairie du Chen Octoberfest Celebration

Pam Crawford County ADRC Timeslips

CESA Jessica Helms

Prairie du Chien Police K9 Unit Fundraiser Officers Casey & Dwight

Prairie du Chien Oktoberfest

Nate Gilberts - Halls Of Terror “Haunted House” attraction

Spooktacular Pancake Breakfast

Crossing Rivers Living Well Events- Roby & Sasha

Rivers & Bluffs Animal Shelter Fundraiser

Eagles Club Building Fundraiser

Small Business Saturday- PDC Chamber Director Bob Moses

PDC Holiday Parade

Alice In Dairyland Cooking With Butterfly

Politician Brad Pfaff

*Report prepared on January 9, 2024 by Gabe Buch*