

## 2020 ISSUES PROGRAMMING Q3- KQYB

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

All public service announcements were broadcast on KQYB-FM from the months of July 2020 through September 2020.

Issue	Broadcast Date	Time	Length	Amount	Description
Community Health/ COVID-19	July – Sept 2020	12A - 12A	:30	50	Virtual Walk to End Alzheimer's  Thunder Rode Therapeutic Riding
Community Needs/ Economy	July – Sept 2020	12A - 12A	:30	100  50	The Coulee Region Humane Society's Rounds for Rescues  Hearts in the Park for donations and resource drive for those without permanent housing
Community Enrichment	July – Sept 2020	12A - 12A	:30	60  80  80  50	La Crosse Community Theater  Mid-West Music Fest  Brats for Seniors  The Boy Scouts of America with KQ98 Cares
Social Injustice	July – Sept 2020	12A - 12A	:30	28	Equal Opportunity Employer

**2020 ISSUES PROGRAMMING INTERVIEWS Q3 – KQYB interviews occurred between 6A and 10A**

Description of issue	Program Segment	Date/ Time	Description of Program Interviews
Community Health/ COVID-19	Phil Costigan	9/8/20 7:10 AM 5 minutes	Steppin Out in Pink – Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign and Fundraiser -Gundersen Health
Community Needs/ Economy	Phil Costigan	08/27/19 7:10 AM 5 minutes  09/16/20 7:10AM 5 minutes	Katie Kramer – discusses the urgency to help those without permanent housing in the La Crosse area. Promotes the Hearts in the Park resource drive.  Rounds for Rescues – Heather from the Coulee Region Humane Society
Community Enrichment	Phil Costigan	09/22/20 7:30 AM 5 minutes	Mark Smith – Lewiston Flag Retirement

**2020 ISSUES PROGRAMMING NEWS ISSUES Q3 – KQYB**

News stories are approximately thirty seconds long and air on KQYB between the hours of 5:30AM and 9:00AM

Date/ Description

Health/Coronavirus:

7/1

Back above 20 ... after four consecutive days under 20 cases of COVID-19, La Crosse County's health department reported 21 more today. That brings the total to 465, with half of those still active and the other have considered recovered. Most of today's cases are in their 20s, with another five teenagers. Dating back to June 1, the county has had 413 cases. In May, there were 26 in total. Still two people known to be hospitalized. Nobody from the county has died from the virus. Statewide, Wisconsin reported another 540 cases, 36 hospitalizations and two deaths from the virus. The state has had single-digit deaths 10 of the past 11 days. The 540 cases are the fourth most in a single day. Yesterday's 601 cases were the second most. Minnesota reported another 426 cases and four deaths. The state has had single-digit deaths in nine of the past 11 days.

7/1 Tara Johnson has kept a low profile since retiring from the chairmanship of the La Crosse County Board. But Johnson is speaking out this week, claiming Republicans have not made the right decisions to control COVID-19. Johnson and state Democratic Party chair Ben Wikler went on-line yesterday to accuse President Trump of setting a bad example by having public rallies and failing to wear a face mask. Johnson voluntarily ended her 20-year tenure on the county board in April, shortly after stay-at-home orders were imposed in Wisconsin: The La Crosse County Republican Party has in turn accused local leaders of over-reacting to the virus, by closing businesses and even beaches, and blaming Democratic control of county government for those actions.

7/2 While Madison and Dane County public health officials have closed indoor service at bars, while limiting restaurants to 25 percent capacity, it isn't something La Crosse County is about to do, despite a surge in cases. La Crosse County health director Jen Rombalski added the same goes for a county-wide mask mandate. She noted, even if it could be ordered, it would be nearly impossible to enforce.

7/2 For 11 days, La Crosse County saw a surge in COVID-19 cases. Over 20 a day during that span. Then four days the county remained under that 20 mark. But yesterday, the health department reported 21 more cases. That brings the grand total to 465 since reporting began. Half of those are still active, and half are considered recovered. Two from the county are known to be in the hospital. Nobody from the county has died of the virus. Dating back to June 1, the county has had 413 cases. In May, there were 26 in total.

7/3 Another 17 new COVID-19 cases in La Crosse County were reported yesterday. That brings the total to 482 cases ... 430 of those have come since June 1. Two people are known to be in the hospital from the county, while nobody has died from the virus. The county health department also added more businesses to its risk calendar, with dates between June 19-27. Five businesses are now considered high risk, 11 medium risk and 19 low risk. That list can be found on WIZM News dot com.

7/6 State data shows La Crosse County now over the 500-mark for cases of COVID-19. Heading into the weekend, the county had 497 cases but did not put out any reports. The state health department site, however, shows 515 cases for La Crosse — 403 of those since June 10. Trempealeau County didn't update cases after July 2, but the state site shows it has added three cases since and is now at 131 total — 79 since June 10. La Crosse County has the 11th-highest percentage of confirmed cases at (point-4) .4%, based on population. Trempealeau has the 10th highest, also at (point 4) .4%. Statewide, La Crosse also has the 11th most cases of any county, while Trempealeau is 24th. La Crosse has the 13th-highest population in the state. Trempealeau has the 44th highest, the only other county to report cases, Winona is now up to 124 after adding two more Sunday.

7/6 Six new cases of COVID-19 reported Monday in La Crosse County. The county is now showing 509 total cases since reporting numbers began, though that does not coincide with the state data, that shows La Crosse at 519. With no numbers coming out over the holiday, the county reported 22 cases over the weekend, meaning La Crosse County was under double-digits three consecutive days. The county hasn't been in single digits since June 15. Since that date, there have been 381 total cases. Statewide, Wisconsin had 484 more cases, 16 hospitalizations and, for the third consecutive day, no deaths.

7/7 One local college has decided that it's still not safe enough to have an in-person commencement ceremony, even scheduled for late August. Western Technical College has called off the spring commencement which was postponed until August 23rd because of COVID-19. Instead, Western will conduct a drive-through graduation this month, on Saturday, July 25th. The graduates will remain in their cars as college administrators present them with diploma covers. The commencement ceremony was supposed to be held at the La Crosse Center.

7/8 La Crosse County confirmed 12 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday. One case is a child 4 years or younger. Another is between 5-9. Six more are in their 20s. The county total is now 521 — 393 of those coming since June 16 when it went 11 consecutive days with 20 or more cases. It has since gone the past six days under 20. Currently, there are 189 cases still active and one person hospitalized from the county.

7/8 Winona's mayor ordered residents and visitors wear masks when inside public buildings yesterday. Mayor Mark Peterson signed the citywide mask order, which goes into effect at noon Friday. Those inside public buildings will be required to wear a mask, when social distancing isn't possible. The only time this will not be enforced is at bars/restaurants when seated. Dane County, Rochester and Mankato all approved similar orders this week. "This order will help keep our businesses open, allow our schools and universities to open this fall, and most importantly protect the health and safety of all Winona residents," Peterson said in a statement. Some exemptions include for medical, disability, developmental, and other reasons. Those who refuse to wear a mask, law enforcement may enforce trespassing laws. Businesses that violate the proclamation may face administrative action for any licenses they possess with the city.

7/9 Another 15 cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County, bringing the total to 536. Of that total, 188 are considered still active. Three are known to be hospitalized. The county has now had 408 cases since June 16, when the first report of over 20 cases came in. The county then had 11 consecutive days of 20 or more cases. In the week since that run, the county has averaged 13 cases per day.

7/9 Many people wonder why La Crosse county isn't taking more action to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Some counties, like Dane, are ordering people to wear masks whenever they are out in public. La Crosse County Health Director Jen Rombalski has said the county doesn't have the authority to issue a county-wide mask order but says the city of La Crosse does have that authority. Mayor Tim Kabat has urged people to wear masks but has not issued a mandate. Rombalski says it shouldn't require an order for people to wear masks.

7/10 The city of Winona's mask order in public buildings begins at noon today. Rochester's went into effect Wednesday. Dane County issued an emergency order for masks or face coverings, set to begin Monday. In La Crosse County, health director Jen Rombalski appears to want a mask requirement, but doesn't think she has the authority to do so. She is, however, looking at other avenues. Milwaukee officials are also looking into a mask order, where fines for not wearing one could be between \$50 and \$500. A person not wearing a mask in public buildings in Winona could get charged with trespassing.

7/10 Dozens of cars lined up at Logan High School today (Friday) for Coronavirus testing. Nicole Kragness with the La Crosse County Health Department expected they would have plenty of tests --- but did notice an increase in requests. The health department expects to have results from this National Guard testing site within five days.

7/14 Another 15 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County. Of that number, 11 were from Friday's National Guard testing site, which ran out of its 400 tests with about an hour to go on the schedule. About 30 percent — 180 of the 593 total cases — are still active, including four currently hospitalized from the county. Over the weekend, the county health department did not report on cases. It released those figures today and there were 12 in total — eight on Saturday and four on Sunday. The department also announced another National Guard testing site from 10 a.m. — 4 p.m. July 24 at the Omni Center in Onalaska.

7/15 Another 18 cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County reported yesterday afternoon -- 12 of those people in their 20s, one is aged 15 to 19. Four of the positives are from Friday's National Guard testing site. Four are known to be hospitalized -- a number that has stayed the same the past couple days. La Crosse County has now had a total of 611 cases — 484 since June 16.

7/16 Eight double-digit days, seven single-digit days ... that's been July in terms of the COVID-19 case count in La Crosse County ... and yesterday was a "single-digit day." Nine more cases of the virus confirmed ... half of what was reported on Tuesday. County residents hospitalized from the virus is now at five -- up one from the past few days. None, however, are believed to be in the ICU. La Crosse County has 169 active cases from the 620 that have been confirmed since reporting began. Of that 620, 493 of those cases have come in the past month alone.

7/20 Eight new cases of COVID-19 reported in La Crosse County on Monday. Six people are currently hospitalized. Over the weekend, the county had 22 cases — 14 Saturday, eight Sunday. La Crosse has now had a total of 665 cases, 29 hospitalizations and one death. There are currently 148 active cases. The county health department has now added new and total hospitalizations to its daily reporting.

7/21 Eight new cases of COVID-19 reported in La Crosse County yesterday. Six people are currently hospitalized. Over the weekend, the county had 22 cases — 14 Saturday, eight Sunday. The county does not report cases on weekends anymore. La Crosse has now had a total of 666 cases, 29 hospitalizations and one death, which happened Friday. There are currently 148 active cases.

7/23 La Crosse County reported 12 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday, while six people are currently hospitalized. Totals since reporting began in the county: 685 cases, 578 recovered / 107 active, 32 hospitalizations, one death. In surrounding counties, Winona added one case and one case removed, bringing its total to 193.

7/24 Another 18 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County yesterday. The number of those currently hospitalized remained at six ... (extra -->) though the county health department gives no indication if anyone was released from the hospital or if anyone new had to be hospitalized. Active cases in the county rose by two from Wednesday to 109. La Crosse has had a total of 703 cases. The county also added businesses to high-risk status, bringing that number to six with dates ranging from July 9-16. (That data can be found at WIZM News dot com).

7/27 Seven new cases of COVID-19 reported today in La Crosse County. That brings the total to 749, with 121 still active. Over the weekend, there were 10 cases reported Saturday and another 21 on Sunday ... 11 of those from the National Guard testing site.

7/29 Another 10 cases of COVID-19 confirmed yesterday in La Crosse County. The total case count now is 758 with 122 still active. Five county residents are currently hospitalized. Tuesday's positive test rate was 16.4 percent and the overall positive rate is 4.5 percent. That rate was 1.3 percent back on June 10 when the department started posting the stat. As of July 21, when there were 673 county cases, 54.5 percent of those have been people in their 20s. The next highest percentage (10.5) is people in their 30s

7/30 A vote Thursday is likely to help city of La Crosse businesses open, literally. The "Outdoor Cafe Program" would allow businesses use of anywhere from the sidewalk to an entire block, turning a city street into shopping or dining. All of it an effort to help businesses fight through the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive director of Downtown Mainstreet Inc., Robin Moses, said the plan is a series of expansions from what they did in June, which was to allow businesses to use city sidewalks Thursday through Sunday until the end of October.

8/3 La Crosse County surpassed 800 cases of COVID-19 over the weekend. The health department confirmed 27 cases — 15 cases Saturday and 12 more on Sunday. There has been exactly 80 cases the past seven days with a positive test rate of 11.7 percent from 604 tests. Here are the other area counties reporting weekend updates: Trempealeau added seven cases and is now at 312 in total with 61 still active. Winona added five over the weekend and two today, bringing the total to 247. In Monroe County, 16 were over the weekend

for 224 in total. Buffalo has zero cases, including today, and remains at 41, while Houston added two last weekend and is now at 39.

8/4 La Crosse County is now well over 800 total cases of COVID-19, after a fifth-consecutive day of double-digit cases. There were another 15 confirmed yesterday, which followed 27 over the weekend. The county total is at 835 with 149 still active. Over the course of reporting, La Crosse has had a total of 37 county residents hospitalized. That number is at four currently.

8/5 A re-infection ... when someone gets COVID-19 and then, months later ... gets it again. It doesn't appear to happen often. But it happened in La Crosse County, as the health department reported yesterday in its daily count. There might not be a lot of answers from La Crosse County Health Director Jen Rombalski today, but she will have a public health briefing at 2:30 p.m., which can be viewed on the WIZM Facebook page.

The person who was re-infected will officially be counted twice, having gotten the virus more than three months apart. That count was at 10 confirmed cases yesterday, bringing the county total to 844, with 38 of those having been hospitalized at some point. Four are currently hospitalized, as there are 144 active cases among county residents.

8/5 Are you 'all in' on helping beat the coronavirus? Wisconsin's business community is calling on people around the state to do what it takes to stop the spread of COVID-19 and get businesses back to work. Missy Hughes of Viroqua is the secretary of WEDC (WEE-dick), the state economic development agency. Hughes told reporters in La Crosse today that communities like this one can set examples for the rest of the state:

Those examples involve the usual practices we've been hearing about...such as keeping social distances and wearing face coverings.

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8/6 The La Crosse County health department cancelled its press briefing, yesterday, and shortly thereafter, put out a statement that basically said the COVID-19 compass is done. The department will no longer be updating it. The statement talked about being flexible, amid the ever-changing virus.

It said Friday there will be a public briefing on a new "community-based process" in collaboration with healthcare partners, that might replace the compass. The compass was used in multiple counties to update the community on the activity level of the virus and recommendations for the public.

8/7 The La Crosse County health department will have a public briefing at 11:30 a.m. today. Along with health director Jen Rombalski, doctors from both Mayo and Gundersen will be in on the video call, along with La Crosse County administrator Steve O'Malley. What's likely to be most discussed is news the county will no longer be updating the COVID compass, and what may possibly replace it. The "reinfection" case reported Tuesday could also possibly come up. Watch the video on the WIZM Facebook page at, again, 11:30 this morning.

8/7

Assessing COVID-19 across the community should get more specific. The La Crosse County Health department briefing today, began to discuss broad plans on what will replace the COVID-19 compass. At this point, there is no replacement, but county administrator Steve O'Malley said it wasn't worth using the compass, since they were moving away from it. County health director said the new "tool" would use nine metrics to gauge the virus. She mentioned three: case rate, hospitalization rate and hospital capacity.

8/11 La Crosse County has had more than 900 cases of COVID-19 since the outbreak began. But none of those cases have been among prisoners in the county jail, according to Sheriff Jeff Wolf. The sheriff tells a county law committee that his staff has done a good job of screening people admitted to jail, and keeping the facility clean: Wolf says one jailer did test positive after returning from vacation, but he did not come back to work right away, and has since recovered.

8/14 Of the nine confirmed cases of COVID-19 confirmed in La Crosse County yesterday, one was a girl between the ages of 4 and 9 years. The county has added 35 cases the past three days and its total now is 948, including 41 people hospitalized. Currently, there are 128 active cases, including six in the hospital ... which is up one from Wednesday.

8/15 It's not online yet. A new replacement in La Crosse and surrounding counties for replacing the COVID-19 compass. It looks like it will be called the Coulee Covid-19 Collaborative (CCC). The La Crosse County Health Department walked through a bit of a demo during a public briefing Friday, but a lot of the interactive processes to what the site would look like in reality weren't available. Two doctors at Gundersen Health System were part of the briefing, along with county health director Jen Rombalski. Along with the eventual launch of the CCC to replace the compass — possibly by next Friday — Rombalski added the health department will no longer be putting out daily case counts, which is being done by every surrounding county, as well as in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. The guidelines given for the community at the moment were nothing new to what everyone's been hearing the past weeks and months, like wear masks, wash your hands and social distance.

8/18 The first COVID-19 "weekly update" from La Crosse County's health department came out yesterday. Instead of a daily look at virus case data in the county, the health department has opted to release the numbers every Monday at noon. Yesterday's update shows stats mostly known already, though the case count in the county is up to 972 through Sunday. Matching that with Wisconsin DHS data of 973 cases yesterday, that means there was just one new case on Monday. DHS data from Sunday however, showed an increase of six cases. It's the last time until next week, however, this comparison can be made in the county. But surrounding counties show similar discrepancies. State data shows Trempealeau County at 370 cases. Trempealeau's health department post yesterday said 383. In Monroe County, the state says 354 cases. Monroe's post yesterday says 350.

8/19 Ten new cases Wednesday of COVID-19 in La Crosse County, according to state data. The total in La Crosse is now 987. Wisconsin reported another 663 cases, 50 hospitalizations and eight deaths from COVID-19 today.

8/20 For the second time in August, La Crosse County has over 20 cases of COVID-19 in a day. Thursday's total was 21, according to state data. That number blows La Crosse past the 1,000-case mark, which is now 1,008. Statewide, Wisconsin added another 740 cases, 39 hospitalizations and seven deaths.

8/21 The COVID Compass replacement for the La Crosse community is live now. The CCC or Triple C ... short for the Coulee Covid-19 Collaborative. Doctors from both Mayo and Gundersen, along with La Crosse County Health Department director Jen Rombalski discussed the CCC at a public briefing today (on Friday). Other topics discussed, were the importance of a flu shot this season, as well as students headed back to college campuses, as Mayo Doc Kevin Fitzgerald has a personal experience with. Watch the public health briefing on the WIZM Facebook Page. Check out the CCC at [coulee COVID-19 dot org](http://coulee COVID-19 dot org).

8/27 Another 17 cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County, according to state data. The stats come two days after a free National Guard testing site was conducted Monday downtown. The county has averaged 14.7 cases over the past three days, after there were 22 reported over the weekend, by the state. The total now in La Crosse County is 1,077.

8/28 huge surge in COVID-19 cases all over the area in the past 24 hours. The most alarming, or confusing, comes out of Iowa. The state's dashboard, that updates cases in real-time, shows a rise in cases by 2,621 over a 24-hour period ending at 4 a.m. this morning. Iowa has reported some problems with its dashboard, but as the rise in cases was brewing all day yesterday -- Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds did shut down multiple bars across the state due to outbreaks --- there was no word on the state's dashboard glitching-out. Meanwhile, La Crosse County, Winona County and the state of Minnesota set daily case records. In La Crosse, 32 new cases. The previous record was 24, and that came during a string of 11 consecutive days with 20 or more cases back in mid-June. La Crosse is now at 1,109 total cases. In Winona, it was even worse, at 38 new cases, most of which were 18-to-24-year olds.

9/1 A surge in cases last week brings La Crosse County's COVID-19 case total to 1,186. The county's health department released its weekly "snapshot" of stats ... a seven-day total that goes through Sunday. Over that span, La Crosse had 141 cases and one hospitalization. The county also set a record with 39 cases on Sunday. Through Sunday, there were 195 active cases. State data showed the county had five more cases yesterday.

9/2 COVID-19 cases continue in high numbers in both La Crosse and Winona counties. While La Crosse's count rose by 20 yesterday, Winona added 35 cases ... 14 of which were reallocated from other counties. La Crosse County is now at 1,202 total and has averaged nearly 18 cases a day the past two weeks. Winona's average is at 27.2 cases a day the past six days. The county's total is at 481.

9/2 A second death in La Crosse County due to COVID-19. The health department says it's a man in his 70s, who had been hospitalized. No other information was released. The first death in La Crosse came on July 17, and was also a man in his 70s, who had been hospitalized. The news comes as the department also updated its collaborative website for the second time since launching. State data shows the county added six new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, bringing the total to 1,208. Check out WIZM New dot com for those updates.

9/3 Another 31 cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County today, according to state data. The county now has 1,239, as it is averaging 17.8 cases a day the past 16 days. Winona County reports another 28 cases — two moved in from other counties. Winona's 14-day average per 10,000 residents is between 44 and 48 a day. The county now has 535 total cases.

9/4 A single-day record 47 cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County on Friday, according to state data. The number coincides with Wisconsin setting a daily record with 1,498 cases. The previous high in La Crosse was Sunday with 39 cases, according to the county's health department. Over the past two weeks, La Crosse has averaged 21.2 cases a day.

9/8 Winona State University is under a self-imposed quarantine. The 14-day quarantine started yesterday [Tuesday]. W-S-U President Scott Olson says the university is not aware of any serious illness related to COVID-19 --- but they are seeing an increase in asymptomatic transmission. The action means the number of people physically allowed on campus is limited in the next two weeks. Courses with face-to-face instruction will shift online. If they have to be completed in person --- there will be increased precautions.

9/9 The latest data from the collaborative website gauging COVID-19 shows the county's case rate on the verge of red. La Crosse County's cases per 100,000 is at 21.3 and is projected to increase. At greater than 25, the metric moves from orange to red. The stats come from the Coulee COVID-19 Collaborative (CCC), which is updated on Wednesdays. Other metrics at "concerning" levels including daily testing goals percentage and positive test ratio. The contact tracing metric is shown in yellow.

9/10 According to state data, there are another 75 cases of COVID-19 in La Crosse County today. The county total on the DHS website is 1,445. The 75 is easily the all-time high. The previous high was 47, last Friday. The state case data and La Crosse County's data have discrepancies. But there was no update from the county health department today on the high case count. Statewide, Wisconsin set a new single-day high, as well, at 1,547. The previous high was 1,165 back on Aug. 8.

9/10 One residence hall at U-W-La Crosse has been ordered to 'shelter in place' because of an increase in COVID-19 cases. A surge in positive test results for the virus apparently is connected to Coate (coat) Hall. The Residence Life office on campus will determine whether other steps need to be taken by students at Coate or other buildings. Coate is located on La Crosse Street, at the northwest corner of the La Crosse campus, and is the dorm closest to West Avenue.

9/11 The first daily COVID-19 case report since August 14 came out yesterday by the La Crosse County Health Department. Requests from the public to go back to reporting daily cases were met and the data showed a single-day record. The county reports 89 cases yesterday, blowing away the single day high from last Friday of 47 cases. The data also shows La Crosse has averaged 38 cases a day the past week ... which includes 31 cases yesterday and 25 the day before. State data shows the county at 1,445 total cases.

9/14 Along with the state of Wisconsin, La Crosse County set a single-day record for COVID-19 cases in a day yesterday. According to state data, La Crosse had 129 cases, bringing the total to 1,625. The previous high was 101, announced Friday by the county health department. The health department resumed daily case counts Thursday but will only do so weekdays.

9/16 The average daily COVID-19 cases in La Crosse County the past week is at 90. That according to data from the La Crosse County Health Department. Department data also shows there are currently 787 active cases in the county. Four people have been hospitalized in the past six days. Total hospitalizations in the county so far is 61. State data yesterday shows La Crosse County at a total of 1,889 cases. That's a rise of 100 cases from Monday's state total.

### **Social Injustice:**

7/6 The first school board meeting for new La Crosse Schools superintendent Aaron Engel, who is six days into the job. On tonight's agenda, basically forming a committee to look into the School Resource Officer (SRO) program through the police department. According to the agenda, the formation of the Ad Hoc Fund 80 Committee would 1. Synthesize questions from School Board Members regarding Fund 80, in particular, the School Resource Officer Program. 2. Compile a list of stakeholders identified by School Board Members to solicit input on Fund 80, in particular, the School Resource Officer Program. The four school board members would do this over a three-week term beginning July 6. The \$250,000 contract with the La Crosse Police Department ends in June of 2021. The police department and La Crosse Schools have had a relationship since 1993. The issue was first brought up back in mid-June, when school board president Laurie Cooper Stoll questioned if the SRO program should be renewed — whether it was actually a benefit to students and worth the cost. It comes at a time when Winona's public school, along with Madison and Milwaukee have ended relationships with their city's police departments recently.

7/7 The La Crosse School Board is ready to start studying the future of the district's program having local police assigned to schools. On Monday, the board formed the 'Fund 80' committee, to help decide whether to continue the School Resource Officer program beyond the next school year. Board president Laurie Cooper Stoll says the district has already gotten many comments from the public: The committee is expected to issue a report three weeks from now.

7/7 Complaints from minority students in public schools have helped to generate opposition to having police officers assigned to schools. Many non-white students say they're intimidated, and mistreated, by cops in uniform who patrol school buildings. La Crosse's new school superintendent, Aaron Engel, says one remedy might be to get the officers out of uniform: The La Crosse District has 11 months left on its current contract with the city police. A study committee has been formed to look into changes which could be made in the policing program.

7/9 Police in America have been getting unfair treatment in the media, ever since the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis. That opinion comes from retired La Crosse Police Chief Ed Kondracki, speaking during an internet listening session on law enforcement. Kondracki opposes efforts to replace police with social workers: Other western Wisconsin police leaders spoke out against plans to reduce 'qualified immunity' for officers, saying that would discourage people from joining law enforcement. The listening session was conducted by Republican congressional candidate Jessi Ebben.

7/13 It's been one week since the La Crosse School Board created, what's called the Fund 80 Ad Hoc committee ... looking into the School Resource Officer program. One task the group of board members will do is collect questions dealing with SROs. School Board president Laurie Cooper Stoll is the "conveanor" of the committee, while three others will be doing the leg work. The committee's deadline is two weeks from today.

7/13 What's the latest statue likely to come down in our area? Looks like Hiawatha. Mayor Tim Kabat has written to the city park board, asking to have the Indian statue in Riverside Park taken down after nearly 60 years. A letter from the mayor says, 'it is time to retire the Hiawatha,' at the request of the family of sculptor Anthony Zimmerhagl. The family wants to move it out of La Crosse. The future of Hiawatha was studied by a city committee in 2000, and the city narrowly voted to keep the statue in place. But there have been new public calls in the last couple of years to have the statue removed.

7/15 La Crosse's park board is expected to vote tomorrow night on the future of the Big Indian statue in Riverside Park. Mayor Tim Kabat says this is the right time to have the artwork removed, but not everyone agrees. Local historian Steve Kiedrowski tells WIZM's La Crosse Talk that the Hiawatha statue should be restored, and educational material ought to be posted nearby: Kiedrowski says years ago, there used to be a sign explaining the statue's origin. He knows the family of Hiawatha creator Anthony Zimmerhagl (ZIMMER-hock-ul), and they want to repossess the statue and move it out of the park.

7/16 The future of the Hiawatha statue in La Crosse could be decided tonight by the city park board. Mayor Tim Kabat says it's time for the Big Indian statue to be removed from Riverside Park, because many people dislike the statue as a stereotyped representation of tribal nations in Wisconsin. But the family of sculptor Anthony Zimmerhagl would like Hiawatha to stay in Riverside Park. Tim Slonka, Zimmerhagl's son-in-law, says the family might even try to get the 25-foot statue moved, as long as it's not destroyed. Hiawatha was installed along the river in 1961 and was designed to be a tourist attraction.

7/17 La Crosse's park board has voted unanimously to proceed with removal of the Hiawatha statue from Riverside Park. The vote last night came just moments after the board deadlocked on whether to study the future of the statue for another month. Mayor Tim Kabat sent a letter to the park department just this week, calling for the 60-year-old statue to be taken down. Board member Roger Christians says there's little point in putting off a debate that has lasted for years: Christians predicts that 10 years from now, nobody will remember that the statue was in the park.

7/17 A last-minute effort to prevent removal of the Hiawatha statue in La Crosse may have been a day late. The city tells WIZM News that a preservation request was filed just hours before last night's heritage preservation meeting, missing the usual 24-hour deadline to get an item on the agenda. Gary Padesky of the city council backed the preservation idea, and he disagrees with native Americans who find the Indian statue offensive: The city park board voted last night to remove Hiawatha, which has stood along the river since 1961. Padesky says it surprised him that the board vote was unanimous.

7/21 La Crosse public schools are still scheduled to re-open on September 1st, but that's subject to change, depending on the spread of COVID-19. Superintendent Aaron Engel says if the county health department decides it's not safe to open classrooms in September, the buildings could be closed much longer. Engel tells the school board that surveys show most local families want their kids to go back to face-to-face learning. Board members voiced concerns that if next year's classes are too different from what the students are used to, some families might try to move their kids to schools outside the district.

7/24 Two La Crosse city committees have now voted to have the Hiawatha statue in Riverside Park taken down. The original vote last week by the park board reportedly was the binding decision which will lead to removal of the 60-year-old concrete Indian. Today (Friday), the La Crosse arts board voted to support that decision. Board chair Jennifer Williams read a resolution declaring that Hiawatha represents racism and 'colonialism': For the last two or three years, the arts board has considered ideas for repairing and preserving Hiawatha, while still leaving open the option of having the statue removed from public view.

8/3 When it comes to police use of force against people of color, the city of La Crosse appears to fit patterns seen around the country. The city's Neighborhood Revitalization Commission is leaning toward issuing a statement about racism by police. City police department figures for 2019 say 33 per cent of the cases where force was used during an incident involved black people, who make up only 4 per cent of La Crosse's population. Commission member Jennifer Trost, a history professor at U-W-L, cited the recent arrest of a driver on West Avenue as an example of police possibly using more force than needed: Other commission members say La Crosse police do many positive things, but Trost argues that focusing on the positive is a way of ignoring the problems that exist.

8/9 La Crosse's Big Indian is scheduled to come down today (Monday)...a move that many people think is years overdue, while others don't want the move to happen. The city park board voted last month to remove the Hiawatha statue from Riverside Park, 59 years after it was installed as a tourist attraction. An early-morning removal is planned to avoid problems with the reconstruction of Veterans Memorial Drive, but park director Jay Odegaard says the timing also was affected by the schedule of the La Crosse Queen riverboat: Odegaard is not saying where Hiawatha will be taken for now, but it will not be to Isle La Plume.

8/9 One area Republican candidate for Congress rallied with supporters outside Congressman Ron Kind's La Crosse office on Saturday, to back local police. Derrick Van Orden organized the rally on 5th Avenue, to charge Democrat Kind with lying to law enforcement and backing bills that would not help police. Specifically, a bill dealing with 'qualified immunity': Van Orden and Jessi Ebben are both on the GOP ballot for Congress in tomorrow's primary. Ebben held a similar rally on 5th Avenue a few weeks ago.

8/10 The process of removing the Hiawatha statue from Riverside Park has taken several hours today. The big concrete Indian will be transported to a private site, according to the wishes of the sculptor's family. Many people in social media have accused city leaders of trying to sneak the statue out of the park in the middle of the night, but park director Jay Odegaard says many considerations had to be met: Odegaard says the decision by City Hall to take down the statue was not meant to judge the value of the Anthony Zimmerhagl artwork. However, native Americans have criticized Hiawatha for years as a stereotype of Indian tribes.

8/11 With the removal of the Hiawatha statue inevitable, the question now is "Where is it going?"

Mayor Tim Kabat on La Crosse Talk PM yesterday said a private donor has offered to help the Zimmerhagl with transport, but an exact location wasn't known yet. But it's not something the city is trying to hide. Kabat added that the cost for removing the statue was between 13 and 14 thousand dollars.

8/12 The city of La Crosse is planning a virtual town hall meeting for next week, to discuss what kind of policing the community should have. The plan for such an event was announced a few days ago during a City Hall meeting on police activity, and a news conference later today (Thursday) will reveal more details. The town hall event will include Police Chief Shawn Kudron and members of community groups, and it's scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th from 6 to 8 p.m.

8/13 If you've ever wanted to ask the police chief of La Crosse about his job, or the way local police behave, you have a chance next week. Chief Shawn Kudron will be a featured panelist during a virtual town hall meeting on community policing, happening Wednesday night. The panel will also include new U-W-La Crosse police chief Allen Hill. Thomas Harris with U-W-L says the town hall comes at a good time, as both chiefs are fairly new in their current positions: Three other virtual town halls are scheduled for October. Topics for those discussions will include anti-racism, homelessness, and the relationship between black youths and their parents.

8/19 The community is invited to join in a virtual town hall tonight that hovers around policing in the La Crosse Community. Eight panelists along with multiple groups, including The Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council and LaX Waking Up White, will host the dialogue. UW-La Crosse's and the city's police chiefs, along with Mayor Tim Kabat will be among those panelists. The community is invited to take part in the talk, which begins at 6 p.m. and can be viewed on the WIZM Facebook Page.

8/20 Police in La Crosse and representatives of community groups had a chance to talk with each other in a virtual town hall last night. The topic was how police do their job, and whether the public can trust the officers. Ebony Hyter is a vice president of 'Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge,' called BLACK for short. Hyter is concerned that black officers don't seem to stay long on the city police force: Hyter also says 4 or 5 officers often respond to police calls involving black people who aren't behaving in a threatening way. City police chief Shawn Kudron talked about training and community involvement for officers during the town hall.

9/13 La Crosse families concerned about city police being stationed in school buildings have a chance to speak on the subject tonight (Monday). The school district is hosting a virtual forum about the school resource officer program, known as S-R-O. Some school systems in the region have chosen to remove officers from their buildings. During a school board meeting back in July, superintendent Aaron Engel argued that some minority students become distracted by seeing uniformed officers in school: The La Crosse school board has asked Engel to make a recommendation on the S-R-O program by November 16th. Tonight's on-line forum begins at 6 p.m.

9/14 Are school police officers a good or bad idea in La Crosse? The school district heard arguments on both sides during a town hall forum Monday night. Laura Abellera argued that police in America have practiced systemic racism: Abellera says other school staff could take the place of police in schools. Former La Crosse Boys and Girls Club director Mike Desmond supports the SRO program.

## Community Needs/ Economy:

7/22 Looking to keep kids out of the welfare system --- the La Crosse Community Foundation helped create a local Safe Families for Children program. Executive Director Jamie Schloegel announced the foundation is donating \$58,000 for the cause. The program is expected to help nearly 200 families in the next three years. It will operate out of the Family and Children's Center.

7/23 Playground equipment, tunnels, and sidewalks are going into place at the new All-Abilities Trane Park on the south side of La Crosse. Organizers of the nearly \$5 million project expect it to be finished sometime this fall. The existing park near Trane Company factories is being remodeled into a play area especially open to handicapped visitors. Planners say only a small number of playgrounds around the world are designed with handicap-accessible equipment.

8/7 Starting today (Friday) --- Stuff the Bus is back. Walmarts in La Crosse and Onalaska are collecting school supplies to help local families get ready for a new year. That's happening through Sunday. Last year --- the Coulee Region's Back 2 School campaign helped more than 1,000 students. In addition to collecting supplies in person --- Walmart also has an online registry. We'll share information about how to donate at WIZM news dot com.

9/1 The La Crosse community always finds a way to come through. This time, it's to help the homeless. It started with a couple of nurses in town brainstorming ways to help those in need. It didn't take long for others to join. Amanda Mullally (Mull-Lolli ... like lollipop) is one of the organizers of what's called Hearts in the Park. It takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Salvation Army of La Crosse. Multiple organizations have joined in the effort, but drive-thru donations are needed ... anything from hygiene supplies to blankets, socks, jackets, to monetary donations.

9/4 Adapting to challenges from COVID-19 --- Gundersen Health System is celebrating its 15th Annual Steppin' Out in Pink online. The first-ever virtual run/walk is happening now through September 12. The event raises money for local breast cancer research --- prevention --- and treatment. There will also be a Survivor's Parade on Saturday --- September 12th at the Valley View Mall. We have information about how to sign up for the parade and the virtual run/walk at WIZM news dot com.

9/10 The 15th Anniversary of Steppin' Out in Pink will look different in 2020 --- but organizers like Gundersen Development Specialist Tia Sneath says the event's goal of helping breast cancer care and research stays the same. Steppin' Out in Pink's virtual run/walk is happening now through Saturday. Saturday morning --- there will be a survivor's drive at Valley View Mall. That even starts at 9.

7/8 How bad is the convention business right now, in the middle of a pandemic? Milwaukee has just about lost out on a big political convention as a result. And in La Crosse, the civic center has seen a swing of \$650,000 in the wrong direction since a year ago. La Crosse Center manager Art Fahey tells his board of directors that the building had a deficit of \$230,000 in the first half of 2020, mostly because of event cancellations. At this time a year ago, the center had a profit of \$423,000. However, Fahey says that many of the groups which cancelled already this year are making plans to return to La Crosse within a couple of years.

7/20 Showing optimism during his visit to Onalaska Friday --- Vice President Mike Pence is confident in the nation's recovery from COVID-19. Pence credited President Donald Trump for suspending travel to China in January and creating the White House Coronavirus task force. He made those remarks on Morning Star Dairy during a round table discussion about a new trade agreement with the United States --- Mexico --- and Canada.

9/2 The COVID-19 outbreak has put many development projects on hold...and that seems to include plans for a Chick-Fil-A restaurant in Onalaska. Plans to build the fast-food restaurant on the old site of Fauver Hill School were approved by the city council in April, but no construction has started. The Onalaska planning department says it hasn't heard anything lately from the developer wanting to build the restaurant. Concerns about the project range from traffic increases, to the political beliefs of the family which owns Chick-Fil-A.

### Education:

7/8 In less than two months --- college students will be back on campus. It is a scenario that concerns La Crosse County Health Director Jen Rombalski. She says they are creating prevention plans for multiple scenarios. Part of that plan would include having contact tracers --- disease investigators --- and monitors who can work for the universities --- but help with the health department's overall investigation.

7/14 They're planning schools of the future in La Crosse, as the school district prepares to have kids and teachers return to the classroom after months of shutdown. Superintendent Aaron Engel hopes to have the city's schools open on September 1st, offering a combination of classroom and on-line learning. Engel says La Crosse will focus on its own students, and he hopes there won't be a lot of transferring between districts: A draft plan presented to the La Crosse School Board last night covered not just classes, but also the emotional needs of students and after-school activities.

7/15 Health director Jen Rombalski said every public and private school in La Crosse County has been meeting weekly on how to best re-open. The La Crosse School Board met Monday night and will soon be releasing a lengthy document on how to do so. That leaves about one month to get all the details worked out, as new La Crosse School superintendent Aaron Engel said the hope is to be open Sept. 1.

7/20 La Crosse public schools are still scheduled to re-open on September 1st, but that's subject to change, depending on the spread of COVID-19. Superintendent Aaron Engel says if the county health department decides it's not safe to open classrooms in September, the buildings could be closed much longer. Engel tells the school board that surveys show most local families want their kids to go back to face-to-face learning. Board members voiced concerns that if next year's classes are too different from what the students are used to, some families might try to move their kids to schools outside the district.

7/22 If having uniformed police officers in school makes some kids nervous, maybe the officers should ditch the uniforms. That's one suggestion being made in La Crosse, as the police and the school district discuss the future of 'resource officers' in the local schools. Police Captain Jason Melby says his department is recommending plain-clothes patrols in school buildings: The recommendations also include vehicles with no markings to show that they are police cars. The La Crosse superintendent has been asked to come up with specific plans by mid-November. La Crosse public schools are still scheduled to re-open on September 1st, but that's subject to change, depending on the spread of COVID-19. Superintendent Aaron Engel says if the county health department decides it's not safe to open classrooms in September, the buildings could be closed much longer. Engel tells the school board that surveys show most local families want their kids to go back to face-to-face learning.

7/23 The focus at this moment for Aaron Engel is how to reopen schools safely. But it's not the only thing on the La Crosse School District Superintendent's plate ... just over three weeks into the new job. Engel was also charged by the school board Monday with reviewing the School Resource Officer program the district has with city police. Engel has a list of 27 people and entities a committee wants to get input from in regard to police in schools, along with 43 questions to look into ... but that's just the start: Yesterday, city police released what it called the "Vision" for the future of the resource officer program. Chief Shawn Kudron said he hopes it will "directly address some of the concerns we have heard."

7/27 The first month of classes this fall for the La Crosse School District will be taught on-line, because the risk of spreading coronavirus remains high in the area. La Crosse Superintendent Aaron Engel made that announcement Monday night to the school board. Engel says the youngest children would be the first ones to return to in-person classes, whenever that happens. There would be 5-day-a-week classes for 4-K through 5th grade, while older students may have different schedules. All students and staff will wear face coverings in the schools, probably until a vaccine is available, Engel says.

7/28 It wasn't a chicken-que ... a GYRO-que? Whatever you wanna call the fundraiser yesterday, the community needed just two hours to erase the Holmen School District's lunch debt for years to come, as cars waited outside the middle school to pick up a \$10 euro from the Angry Greek Food truck. Holmen school's nutritional services supervisor Mike Gasper said the fundraiser put on by the Beer By Bike Brigade grossed \$7,000 ... more than enough to erase last school year's \$2,600 debt. The rest, he said, will be used to help kids in the future who need financial help to eat.

8/4 As La Crosse schools look to reopen online next month --- some parents are scrambling for childcare options. Superintendent Dr. Aaron Engel says the district also hopes to utilize staff that may not be as highly engaged while school is virtual to provide childcare at remote sites. Meanwhile --- about 18 percent of the student body enrolled in the Coulee Region Virtual Academy. It is a tuition-free academy for the districts in La Crosse --- Bangor --- West Salem --- Onalaska --- and Holmen.

8/4 Will it be safe to go back to school this fall, for students or teachers? Some teachers in Wisconsin are worried about the spread of COVID-19, and they're criticizing President Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos for not doing enough to ensure health safety in schools. Tammy Gruen (GROO-un) teaches at La Crosse Logan High School: Gruen was among Wisconsin educators who took part in a Democratic Party media call on Tuesday. The event was timed to coincide with DeVos having a meeting with members of the Wisconsin Federalist Society.

8/14 With online learning planned for La Crosse students in September --- where can they go for help beyond classroom questions? Director of Student Services Aimee Zabrowski says parents who need help with their children's frustrations or anxieties can find resources through the school from counselors to social workers --- psychologists --- and teaching staff. Zabrowski says parents can reach out to their principals even before the school year starts if they are already seeing these concerns. Zabrowski spoke with parents through a virtual roundtable hosted by Z93. We'll share a link to the full conversation at WIZM news dot com.

8/17 With the start of the school year less than three weeks away, the La Crosse school district is still waiting for more advice from the health department on resuming classes. Superintendent Aaron Engel wants to know more about the system which will replace the COVID compass. After being told in July that the local risk of COVID infection was high, the district decided to have only virtual classes during the first month, beginning on September 1st. Engel tells the school board that the district is still working with county health officials to determine when students could return to the classroom.

8/26 We're less than a week out from the La Crosse School District beginning classes. But, more than a month out from students possibly being "in class." Virtual classes start September 1st. During the process of making decisions on classes with COVID-19, the district was using the La Crosse County Health Department's Covid-Compass. August 5th, the health department announced the compass would no longer be updated with no replacement for schools, businesses or anyone to look at. La Crosse School District superintendent, Dr. Aaron Engel wasn't thrilled about that. It took 16 days for there to be a replacement, which came last Friday. Since, it's been a learn...a re-learning process for Engel.

8/27 If this had been a normal year for local high school sports, both Central and Logan would have played football games last night. But because of COVID-19, there's no football scheduled for either La Crosse school right now. The possible loss of the usual fall sports for this year brought many athletes and parents to the front lawn of Central yesterday, to show their support for sports. Patricia Nelson is the parent of a Logan High cross country runner, and she says the COVID compass with its color code helped lead to the disruption of sports training: Nelson also is critical of La Crosse superintendent Aaron Engel, for not showing more support for the athletic programs. She says there has been some talk among parents about having contests with other schools outside the usual league structure.

9/2 As virtual learning begins for at least the first month in the La Crosse School District, a summer meal program is being continued. The USDA announced an extension of the Summer Food Service Program through December, according to a release by the district. Children 18 and under in the district can continue to get breakfast and lunch Monday-Friday, including pickup or delivery. Parents must fill out forms each week for each student. Check out WIZM news dot com for more info.

9/2 Winona Area Public Schools announced Tuesday that, due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the county, it will be shifting to "distance learning" for grades 7-12 to start the year. The district added that K-through-6 will remain in a "hybrid" model. School starts Tuesday. Winona County has had cases in the 30s three of the past six days, averaging 27.2 cases a day over that span.

9/8 Students in the La Crosse schools are learning from home in the opening weeks of the new class year, but somebody at one local school has been diagnosed with COVID-19 anyway. The school district is not identifying who that person at State Road Elementary was, but it has notified parents of State Road students about the case. People who are found to have been in close contact with that individual will be notified and will have to be in quarantine.

9/14 No class at UW-La Crosse for two days ... and no in-person class until -- at least -- September 28th. That is just one of the measures the university announced yesterday, to try and slow the spread of COVID-19 overtaking campus. UW-L has also issued "shelter in place" orders on all dorms until 5 p.m. September 27. Some other measures include, masks required indoors and outdoors while on campus, and dining service will move to carry-out only. UW-L has had 275 positive tests over the past five days. As of yesterday, the university's COVID-19