

Problems/Programs Report WQPC/WPRE

QTR 1 2024

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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:

January

2-WI DATCP Opens Alice in Dairyland Applications

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) invites individuals with a passion for promoting agriculture to apply to be the 77th Alice in Dairyland through January 31, 2024. Alice in Dairyland applicants should have an interest in Wisconsin agriculture, public speaking experience, and at least three years of experience, education, or training in communications, marketing, education, or public relations. Applicants must also be female, Wisconsin residents, and at least 21 years old. To apply, provide a cover letter, completed application form, resume, and contact information for three professional references to DATCPAlice@wisconsin.gov or PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911 by 4:30 p.m. on January 31, 2024. Application materials are available on the Alice in Dairyland website.

5- Semi Crash Closes Hwy 151 in Dickeyville for 9 Hours

The driver was traveling northbound on Hwy 151 in his semi-tractor and trailer when he left the roadway on the road's left side (west side), struck a guard rail and continued traveling northbound, destroying approximately 150 yards of metal guardrail and wooden posts. The semi struck the concrete guardrail barrier on the 151 bridge over McAdam Rd. At that time, the tractor and trailer split. The trailer plummeted to the creek bed and roadway below, striking and destroying a guard rail along McAdam Rd.

The trailer also struck one of the concrete pylons for the Hwy 151 bridge, then came to rest across McAdam Rd. The trailer was loaded with pork belly and scattered throughout McAdam Rd and all other areas under the 151 bridge. At the same time the trailer fell to the roadway below, the tractor rolled on its passenger side and continued sliding northbound on Hwy 151 across the bridge. The tractor came to rest, teetering over the edge of the bridge's concrete guardrail barrier on the north end. The engine

separated from the tractor's cab and came to rest on the centerline of Hwy 151, approximately 30 yards north of the bridge where the tractor came to rest. A second trailer struck the engine that was in the road way causing the trailer to slam into the guardrail.

Due to the crash, Hwy 151 was closed for approximately 9 hours (4:00am - 1:00pm) while crews worked to clean up the wreckage. There was a further delay, as a bridge inspector was required to respond to the scene from LaCrosse to assess the damages. The roadway could not be opened until the bridge passed inspection. The bridge passed inspection and was eventually opened; however, the left shoulder in the area of the bridge remained closed due to the damages it sustained.

9- Crawford County Extension Holds Parents Forever Program

While the divorce or separation of parents is a hard time, it is also a sensitive period in which the co-parents are establishing a new relationship, and in which each hour of our instruction can have a much larger impact than usual. In that sense, this is a strategic Extension program: targeted to an exact point in the lifespan when people can learn and change rapidly, and delivering a proven program that makes a tangible difference in lives. The next Extension Crawford County Parents Forever™ course will be

offered Wednesday, January, 17th 11:30 am until 3:00 pm via zoom. Registration can be done online through Extension Crawford County's website.

12- Senators Baldwin and Johnson Lead Senate in Passing Resolution Honoring The Life of Herb Kohl

Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson led their Senate colleagues in unanimously approving a bipartisan resolution honoring the life and legacy of the late Senator Herb Kohl. The resolution highlights Senator Kohl's business success; passion for the Milwaukee Bucks; generous philanthropy; legislative track record of delivering for Wisconsin farmers, students, and families; and life of public service. Senator Kohl served Wisconsin in the Senate for 24 years.

"Senator Kohl served in this body for 24 years, but served the people of Wisconsin and our country throughout his entire life," said Senator Baldwin on the Senate floor. "In the Senate, he didn't care how long the fight would take, how long the odds were, or who he was up against – if it would help the people of Wisconsin, it was a worthy fight for him. His mantra throughout his service was, 'Nobody's Senator But Yours,' and his record in Washington reflected that commitment to a tee."

18- Wisconsin Free Fishing Weekend

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminds Wisconsinites to get outdoors and wet a line this Free Fishing Weekend, which allows anglers to fish without purchasing a fishing license or trout and salmon stamp Jan. 20-21. Anglers can fish in state waters where there is an open fishing season. All other fishing regulations apply, including limits on the size and number of fish that can be kept and any seasons when anglers must release certain fish species. As a reminder, anglers cannot fish spring trout ponds during the winter Free Fishing Weekend. Please review the trout regulations and the 2023-2024 Hook and Line regulations for more information.

19- WI DNR Gives Safe Snowmobile Tips

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) are teaming up to promote a safe snowmobile season and educate Wisconsinites on the dangers of operating a snowmobile while impaired by alcohol and/or other drugs. More than 200,000 registered snowmobiles hit Wisconsin's 25,000 miles of groomed trails each winter, making safety an essential part of the ride. In the early months of 2023, there were 16 fatal snowmobile crashes, with 10 involving alcohol

- Crop Insurance Premium Rebates

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) remind producers to apply for crop insurance premium rebates. The rebate application is web-based and will be available on DATCP's website until January 31, 2024, or until program funding is exhausted. There is \$800,000, or 160,000 acres of coverage, to be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible participants will receive a \$5 per acre rebate on their summer 2024 crop insurance premium for acres that were planted with cover crops in 2023, then planted with an insurable crop in 2024.

22-DHS Encourages Pregnant Wisconsinites to Get RSV Vaccine

With cases of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) rising across Wisconsin, the Department of Health Services (DHS) is urging pregnant Wisconsinites to get the vaccine to protect their baby from the virus. As of January 10, there have been 1,402 people in Wisconsin hospitalized with RSV this season, 580 of those are children under age 2. The RSV vaccine Abrysvo can be given to people who are pregnant between 32 weeks and 36 weeks and 6 days of the pregnancy and provides protection for newborns until they are 6 months old. The vaccine was approved for use in 2023 and is safe and effective. People who are pregnant should ask their health care provider if they can get the vaccine.

29- Public Input Requested for 2025 Edition

After nearly a century of production, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is looking closely at how new technology and processes can build on the tradition of Wisconsin's Official State Highway Map. Through the use of a geographic information system (GIData), the map will better show current infrastructure to help travelers navigate roads throughout the state. WisDOT welcomes public input on shaping the future of the map. Visit WisDOT's official Wisconsin highway map website to complete the survey. The public comment period is open until February 29, 2024. The next edition of the map will be published in 2025. Wisconsin's Official State Highway Map is distributed free to the public – required by state law. Printed copies of the map can be picked up free of charge at many locations, including Wisconsin rest areas, Welcome Centers and Travel Information Centers.

February

2-Wisconsin Corn Promotion Election Results Announced

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has certified the Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board (WCPB) election results. The following corn producers started their three-year terms as elected members of the WCPB on February 1, 2024: Elected for District 5 was Mike Berget of Darlington. District 5 covers Crawford, Grant, Iowa, La Crosse, Lafayette, Richland, and Vernon counties

5-Wisconsin Help for Homeowners Program to Close Applications March 8, 2024

Secretary Blumenfeld announced that the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program (WHH), funded by the Homeowners Assistance Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, will close applications on March 8, 2024. The Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, in partnership with the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) and Take Root Wisconsin. Applications are being accepted until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 8. Benefits will be paid to the extent that funding remains available, and financial assistance is not guaranteed.

6- Wisconsin DNR Encourages Hunters to Enroll in a Hunter Education Course

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources encourages anyone considering hunting for the first time in 2024 to enroll in a hunter education course now before courses begin filling up in spring. Those who complete a hunter education course play a vital role in keeping Wisconsin a safe place to hunt. Many hunting incidents in Wisconsin involve hunters older than 40, decades after learning firearm safety rules in their hunter education courses. It may be time for veteran hunters to refresh these valuable lessons. As part of the program, hunter education graduates receive a certificate accepted in every U.S. state, Canada and Mexico. Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1973, must have a hunter education certification to purchase a hunting license unless hunting under the Mentored Hunting Law. The DNR offers multiple hunter education course options and locations, so hunters can choose the best format for how and where they'd like to learn. More than 20,000 people take hunter education courses in Wisconsin each year, making early enrollment important for anyone interested in taking a class.

9- Crawford County Sheriff Gives Information on New Jail

The new Jail will include Intake/Release with a secure Vehicle Sallyport and Prebooking area, public and

inmate visitation, inmate housing, inmate programs, food service/kitchen, laundry, building support including receiving and storage, inmate programs including Recreation and Classroom, staff support functions and a secure link to the historical courthouse to provide the secure movement of inmate from the Jail to the Courthouse. The Jail will open with inmate housing of 42 beds with an internal expansion of 34 beds to achieve a 30 – 40-year projection of 76 beds. The inmate housing will be divided into 11 classifications ranging from one inmate up to

eighteen inmates in a minimum dormitory housing setting.

The Project also includes a new Sheriff's Office 911/Dispatch Center located with the new Jail, and renovations to the existing Sheriff's Office to provide expansion for Administration, Patrol, Investigations with enhanced evidence storage, Emergency Operations Center with management offices, and staff support functions including force training, conference rooms, locker rooms and storage spaces.

12- Pedestrian Killed in Semi Crash

According to the Fennimore Police Department, shortly before 7:00 pm on Sunday, February 11th, dispatch was notified of an accident at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and 12th Street in the city of Fennimore. An adult pedestrian was crossing 12th Street at Lincoln Avenue when he was struck by a southbound semi turning east onto 12th Street. The accident was immediately reported by a witness and the tractor trailer was located on HWY 18 in Fennimore's industrial park. The pedestrian died of injuries sustained during the accident.

13- WI DMV Explains Steps to Obtain an ID to Use at the Polls

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation Division of Motor Vehicles explains the steps needed to obtain an ID to show at the polls if the voter does not already have some form of ID, such as a Wisconsin driver license or ID. There is no separate "voter ID" and a REAL ID is not required in the state.

First, voters wondering what forms of ID are acceptable at the polls should check the Wisconsin Elections Commission website. Those looking to get their first Wisconsin ID should begin at DMV's website wisconsindmv.gov/idcards. This ID may be obtained free from the DMV if used for voting purposes.

Next, bring the required documents and apply at your nearest DMV. Appointments are available but not required. Certain documents, such as a birth certificate, proof of identity and Wisconsin residency, are necessary to obtain an official Wisconsin ID card. If all documentation is not readily available, DMV offers a process that may be used to obtain a receipt valid for voting while the remaining documents or verifications are obtained. DMV's toll-free hotline is available for questions on obtaining an ID.

19- DATCP Recruiting Students for Next Agriculture Youth Council

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is accepting applications for the next Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council. High school students who will be seniors during the 2024 – 2025 school year should apply now for the council. The purpose of the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council is to encourage young people to engage with the state government and increase their awareness of DATCP's interactions with Wisconsin's agriculture industry. Students serve a one-year term and receive a certificate at the completion of their term. DATCP seeks to have 15 members with at least one member from each of the nine council districts. The remaining seats are filled with at-large members.

26-The Crawford County Health Department is Partnering with Schools to Launch a Community-Wide Hygiene Drive.

This initiative seeks to provide essential hygiene products to students who may not have access to

these basic essentials. School hygiene closets can ensure that every student has the necessary resources

to maintain their health and well-being. A hygiene closet is a designated space within a school where essential hygiene products are available to students free of charge. Examples of products you might find in a hygiene closet are soap, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, and period products. By providing these resources in a supportive and non-judgmental manner, schools can create a more inclusive and positive learning environment where students can focus on their education. According to the 2023 State of the Period Survey, one-third of teens have reported missing school due to lack of menstrual hygiene products. Donate items March 1st through March 31st at designated collection boxes

around the county or at the Crawford County Administration Building. For more information about the school hygiene drive, including donation drop-off locations and ways to contribute, please visit <https://www.crawfordcountywi.gov>

March

4- WI DATCP Hold Meetings About Spongy Moth Aerial Treatment Plans

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has published its 2024 spongy moth aerial treatment plans. Treatment plan maps, spray information, fact sheets, and other resources can be found at smaerialspray.wi.gov.

Beginning in May and continuing through July, DATCP plans to treat selected areas in western Wisconsin using low-flying planes. A total of approximately 28,590 acres at 23 sites in nine counties are scheduled for treatment. These areas have been identified as having increasing populations of spongy moth, a destructive non-native insect with an appetite for hundreds of different species of trees and shrubs.

The following counties are scheduled to receive aerial treatments: Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Crawford, Dunn, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Rusk. Spongy moth program staff will present information regarding treatment plans at two upcoming public presentations. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak with staff, learn more about the spongy moth, and view maps of treatment areas. The local presentation will be in Platteville on Thursday, March 14, 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Platteville Public Library.

7-The DNR is Now Accepting Artwork Entries for the 2025 Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl Stamps

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is now accepting artwork entries for the Wild Turkey, Pheasant and Waterfowl Stamp design contests. The winning designs will appear on the

2025 collection of stamps. Sales of these three stamps bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for species management throughout the state, including habitat management, restoration, education and research projects. Hunters are required to purchase stamps to harvest these game birds. Artwork must meet technical requirements to be eligible, and applicants should carefully review the contest rules to ensure their entries eligibility. Stamp design entries must be received or postmarked by Aug. 1, 2024.

8- Schools Encouraged to Apply for \$504,894 in Wisconsin Fast Forward Technical Education Equipment Training Grants

The Department of Workforce Development announced that a new round of Wisconsin Fast Forward grants is available to help prepare students for high-demand careers. Up to \$504,894 in grant funds are available to Wisconsin school districts through the Expanded Wisconsin Fast Forward program. The funds support projects to train students to use advanced manufacturing tools and equipment. Award amounts will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and will be available for school districts to ready high school students in technical fields to ensure Wisconsin has a skilled workforce for the future. These grants reimburse school districts for the costs of purchasing and installing technical education equipment used in vocational training and technical education in advanced manufacturing fields. Funds also cover the cost for equipment operation software and instructional materials. Grants support technical education and reduce higher education costs through dual enrollment credits, industry-endorsed certificates, and technical endorsements on high school diplomas. Applications must be sent by 3 p.m. CST on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

11- Community Meeting to be Held in Ferryville to Discuss the Blackhawk Bridge Closure

The Blackhawk Bridge closure will impact our community. We want to hear from you. This meeting is for area businesses and anyone affected by the bridge closure. We will discuss the impacts and explore ways to support our community during this time. For the latest information on bridge construction and potential alternative transportation options, please visit the Iowa Department of Transportation website at Iowa DOT Blackhawk Bridge website.

12- Public Asked Not to Burn with Elevated Fire Danger Statewide

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources asks the public to avoid burning this week due to elevated fire danger throughout the state. Warm temperatures, low humidity and breezy conditions are in the forecast for the beginning part of this week. Although parts of the state are predicted to see rain on Wednesday, the precipitation is expected to miss the northern part of Wisconsin. On windy, dry days, embers from any fire, especially burn piles and campfires, can easily escape control and cause a wildfire if not properly extinguished. The DNR is also suspending annual burn permits in all DNR protection areas across the state due to current and forecasted conditions. If your property is outside the DNR's jurisdiction, please check with local authorities prior to burning. Check the DNR's website to learn if your property is within the

DNR's jurisdiction. Always check before you burn. Remember – fire danger and burning restrictions change every day.

18- Weight Restrictions End Monday for Majority of Wisconsin Highways

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is ending Spring Thaw and Class II road restrictions for the majority of Wisconsin, including Zone 2 through Zone 5, on Monday, March 18 at 12:01 a.m. The restrictions remain in place for far northern Wisconsin (Zone 1) until meltwater drains sufficiently.

Class II roads include about 1,400 miles of state highways susceptible to damage from heavy trucks during the spring thaw period as frost leaves the ground. More information regarding frozen road declarations, Class II roadways, and roadway postings can be found on WisDOT's website. Further information can be found online for divisible load permits and non-divisible load permits. County highways, town roads, city and village streets may also be posted or limited to legal load limits or less. Decisions to place or lift weight restrictions on those roads are up to local units of government.

29- City of Boscobel Receives Grant Funding to Plant Trees

Alliant Energy named 12 Wisconsin communities to receive grants totaling nearly \$60,000 from the Alliant Energy Foundation's Community Tree Planting program, part of the One Million Trees initiative.

Alliant Energy partners with Trees Forever to help communities develop, select and plant a diverse mix of trees. A tree expert helps communities select the best species for their areas and create care and maintenance plans to make sure the new trees have long, healthy lives. Across Wisconsin, communities are eligible to apply for grants up to \$5,000 to fund new trees. The City of Boscobel received \$4,476.54 where they will have community tree planting in Kronshage Park with local volunteers

A) News Story Ran at 7:00 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM and 5:00pm

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:

Roby Fuller – Multiple Interviews about Special Programs at ADRC

Mike Wallace -PdC Parks and Rec Dept. Hoffman Hall Programs

City Manager Chad Abram – WEEKLY PdC Common Council Recap

Rivers & Bluffs Bre & Bev- Multiple Interviews on fundraisers

Alice in Dairyland- 4 Total Interviews
Matt Wallace- Bald Eagle Appreciation Days
Ed Block- Master Gardener
Dan Moris & Tom Stram – PdC Eagles Heart & Cancer Telethon
George from Granny Basketball
Eagles Club President Chad Abram - Eagles Heart & Cancer Telethon
Matt Lenz – PDC Arts & Civic Club Monthly Interviews
Bob Moses - PdC Chamber of Commerce Fisheree
State Sen. Brad Pfaff
State Sen. Derek Van Orden
Kile Martz - Crawford Co Community Fund
Nick Gilberts- PDC Street Superintendent - Multiple Interviews
PDC Business Highlight- The Fuel House
Bob Moses - PdC Chamber St. Patricks Day Parade

Report prepared on April 8, 2024 by Gabe Buch