

Problems/Programs Report WQPC/WPRE December 31, 2021

QTR 4 2021

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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

4- State Senator Brad Pfaff Announces Candidacy for 3rd Congressional District

With current Congressman Ron Kind announcing that he would not rerun for the 3rd district seat current Wisconsin State Senator Brad Pfaff announces that he will be running in the Democratic Primary for the open seat. Pfaff was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 2020.

-Wisconsin DNR Announces November 2021 Wolf Harvest Quota

The state DNR set the fall Wolf harvest Quota at 130 wolves. State Licensed hunters and trappers will be authorized to harvest 74 wolves within the 6 zones. The department is also honoring the Ojibwe Tribes' treat right within the ceded territory of 56 wolves.

13-Varnam to Not Seek Re-Election as Mayor of Lancaster

David Varnam, who was first elected in April of 2016 as Mayor will not be running for re-election as he announced he would be running for the Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin. Varnam was elected mayor three times in his time in office.

14- Crawford County Holds Covid 19 Drive Through Testing.

Crawford County Emergency Management and Public Health requested the help of Wisconsin National Guard to return to Crawford County for drive through testing assistance. The testing dates are October 22nd, November 5th, November 19th, and December 3rd to be held at the St. Peters Church in Prairie Du Chien.

18- Crawford County Booster Clinic

Crawford County Public Health and Crawford County Emergency Management will be hosting a vaccine clinic on November 4th Noon-4pm at the Prairie Du Chien Armory and at the Gays Mills Community Center on November 8th Noon -4pm. The clinics will include Pfizer vaccine and JJ vaccine. The Wisconsin National Guard will assist with the event.

20- Alice in Dairyland Promotes Chocolate Milk for Halloween

The 74th Alice in Dairyland, Julia Nunes, discussed how chocolate milk is a great alternative for parents to give to their children around Halloween. When looking for a sweet treat they can trust that chocolate milk will also give nutrients for them as well. She also shares how chocolate milk is a great alternative for using when baking.

28- Lancaster Mayor Veto's Rate Hike

Mayor Varnam announce he vetoed both a sewer rate increase of 5% for city residents in 2022, and vetoed a 50 cent ERU storm water increase. He vetoed the rates because he felt it was two much of an increase in terms of the monthly rate.

November

1-Governor Tony Evers and DHS Encourages Wisconsinites to Sign Up for Open Enrollment

Open enrollment started on November 1st and will run until January 15th 2022. They will be able to select health plans on the

federal marketplace. They also reminded that people already enrolled in the program can update, change, or renew an existing plan.

2-Wisconsin Ranks #1 in Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Wisconsin collected 57,377 pounds of unused prescription drugs in the October event becoming the state to collect the most in the United States. The event gives community members a safe way to dispose of the drugs and educates them on the dangers of what could happen if they went unused. They also gave information on where you can drop off your unused medication year round.

3- Wisconsin to Offer Covid 19 Vaccination to Children Ages 5-11

Wisconsin Department of Health Services announces that they will be offering the Pfizer vaccination series. The two does series must be separated by 21 days in between the first and second shot. This is the only shot available for this age group. Shots will become available as soon as the CDC guidance is sent out and is reviewed properly.

5- Representative Ron Kind Votes for the Protect Older Job Applicants Act

The bill that Kind voted on will codify and clarify protections for older job applicants in the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. Kind says this legislation will help protect this age group looking for a new start in a new career.

15- John Deere Workers Strike Looking to Vote

More than 10,000 Deere & Co are voting for a new contract offer from the tractor maker. The third attempt is similar to the most recent offer which 55% of workers rejected. The most recent contract maintains 10% immediate raises that the last deal offered and it makes what the United Auto Workers union called modest changes to Deere's internal incentive par program for workers. The disputes covers 12 plants in Iowa, Illinois, and Kansas.

17-Hunters prepare for 170th Nine Day Gun Season

Wisconsin DNR gives a forecast of what might be expected in the 9 day hunt. Deer numbers are trending upward in most of the state. A high antler less population is expected in the farmland zones. Many bonus antler less harvest authorization remain in most counties. The DNR reminds to purchase your license online.

-DNR Sells Park Stickers

The DNR will be selling the 2022 state park and forest admission stickers beginning on November 26. The sticker allows access to 60 parks across the state. The price is \$28 for Wisconsin residents and \$38 for those out of state. Wisconsin Seniors can purchase a sticker for just \$13. Trail passes will also sell annual trail passes for \$25.

18- Wisconsin's Covid Numbers Looking Bad for Unvaccinated

1,233 people were hospitalized due to Covid 19, the largest number since December of 2020. The state has yet to hit the 70% vaccination rate. The death rate is 15 times higher than in October.

19- Representative Ron Kind Votes for Build Back Better Act

This legislation creates millions of good-paying jobs, lower everyday costs for working families, and rebuild the middle-class backbone of the US. The bill will reduce costs and cut taxes for families by: improving access to child care and care-giving, lowering middle-class taxes, expanding access to affordable healthcare, and investing in affordable clean energy to tackle climate change.

-Not Guilty Verdict for Rittenhouse

The jury in the Kyle Rittenhouse case came back with a not guilty verdict in all counts on Friday afternoon. The 18 year old was facing 5 felony charges in the shooting of 3 men last year. Rittenhouse testified that he shot the men in self defense.

24-Rural Health Providers Secure Over 28.4 Million Dollars in Wisconsin's 3rd District

\$28.4 Million is coming to the 3rd congressional district from the American Rescue Plan Rural payments. The payments are being distributed to providers and suppliers who serve rural Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicare beneficiaries. These payments will help provide relief to rural providers who have faced significant financial pressure during the pandemic. 6 agencies in the Prairie Du Chien area received funds.

December

9- DHS Awards \$8.1 Million in Community Outreach Grant to Promote Equity in Covid Vaccinations

The money is being awarded to organizations across the state to promote health equity in Covid-19 Vaccinations. This would help get vaccines to undeserved or marginalized populations.

10-Wisconsin DHS Supports the CDC Recommendation for Anyone 16+ to Get Boosted

The Wisconsin Health Department supports 16 and 17 year old's to get their booster does of Pfizer at least six months after receiving their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

16- Mayo Clinic Health System Donates to Prairie du Chien

Mayo clinic donated money to the Prairie Du Chien school district. The money will go towards Mentor Programs, Trauma-Sensitive Schools Training, Pick-a-pac program, and Professional Development in Diversity.

26- Grant County Board Approves Grant Application for Roof on Grandstand

The Grant County Supervisors approved a grant application to be submitted to the WI department of Administration to pay for improvements to the grandstand at the Grant County Fairgrounds. The application asks for \$975,000 with \$525,000 for installing the roof and \$250,000 to expand and improve the restrooms. Another \$175,000 would be used to install safety fencing and guard rails around the racetrack at the fairgrounds. The project will be completed by December 31st 2024.

29- Wisconsin DHS supports CDC's Recommendation to Shortening Isolation/Quarantine Period

The Wisconsin Department of Health Service supports the shortening of the isolation from Covid 19 for the general public. Science is showing that the majority of the transmission of the virus happens early in the illness. With that the CDC shortened the length from 10 days to 5 days of quarantine with no Covid symptoms present, followed by wearing a proper mask for 5 days to prevent the spread of the illness.

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

- Brad Pfaff
- Ron Johnson

Interviews with people from various departments, such as:

- Bagley Christmas Celebration
- Eastman First Responders Pancake Breakfast
- Prairie du Chien Chamber Director Bob Moses
- Fort Crawford Museum Christmas
- Prairie du Chien Shop Local
- Prairie du Chien Oktoberfest
- Jessica Helms with Fennimore Fen-Stival
- Mike Higgins New Years Eve Rotary Club
- Operation Santa
- Sasha Dull with Crossing Rivers
- Small Business Saturday
- Villa Louis Victoria Christmas

- Wauzeka—Stueben Craft Fair
- Weekly Interview with Prairie du Chien Police Chief Kyle Teynor
- Weekly Interview with Prairie du Chien Parks & Recreation Director Mike Ulrich
- Weekly Interview with UW Extension Officers

Report prepared on January 5, 2022 by Gabe Buch