

Problems/Programs Report WQPC/WPRE

QTR 1 2022

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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

7- Wisconsin DNR Holds Free Fishing Weekend

The free fishing weekend, January 15-16, is a way to share the fun and excitement of winter fishing without having to have a license to fish. All other fish laws apply this weekend. The DNR also reminds to dress appropriately, checks ice conditions, and always have safety items on hand.

-Dairyland Power's Genoa Site Donates to Habitat for Humanity

The companies Reclaim Salvage Program raised \$14,190 for the La Crosse Area Habitat for Humanity. 21,285 pounds of materials were diverted from the landfill, as part of the project. The items that the La Crosse Habitat for Humanity selected will be sold at their local ReStore business. The profits go towards helping build and repair homes in the Coulee Region.

10- Senator Ron Johnson Announces Re-Election Campaign

Senator Ron Johnson announced he would be running to try to reclaim his spot as Wisconsin State Senator. He originally ran in 2010 and won reelection in 2016. He is the Republican Senator in the state.

11- Representative Ron Kind Secures Funding for Winter Home Heating.

The state of Wisconsin received 246.3 million dollars to help struggling with the costs of home heating this winter. It is funded through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. This investment is more than double Wisconsin's typical annual budget.

18-Governor Evers to Visit Prairie Du Chien

Governor Tony Evers along with WEDC CEO and Secretary Missy Hughes will be visiting Prairie du Chien to do a downtown tour and say hello. This will be the second time in the last two months that Evers will be visiting.

19- Federal Government Sends 4 Free Covid Test to Your Door

USPS will be delivering free rapid covid test. This was through a new website that gives information to those looking for free test. A household can sign up to get 4 rapid test a month.

26- Public Meeting Scheduled for WIS 131 Improvements in Crawford County

WisDOT is hosting a public involvement meeting to gather input on on planned improvements along WIS 131. This project will address pavement issues along the 26.5 mile stretch between Wauzeka and Gays Mills.

February

1-Representative Ron Kind Joins Bipartisan Push for Funding to Address PFAS Chemicals

Representative Kind joined a bipartisan group to pen a letter to President Biden to have funding to address PFAS's in the 2023 budget.

7-Corps Urge Caution Around Lock and Dam #8

An abundance of ice being released into the open water may cause safety concerns down stream from lock and dam 8. Fishing is not recommended at this time. The ice drop is a part of winter maintenance on the lock and dam.

14- Prairie Du Chien to a Main Street Morning Mixer

To celebrate the cities 150th anniversary Prairie Du Chien Main Street is hosting the 1st Annual Main Street Morning Mixer. The brunch style cocktail sampler tour will help give a variety of what is offered in downtown Prairie Du Chien. 13 businesses will participate. The fundraiser is for downtown beautification projects downtown.

17-Wolf Permit's Refunded to Hunter's

The Wisconsin DNR will refund the \$10 application fee for those who applied for a wolf harvest permit. After a federal court ruling in the lower 48 states that wolves would return to the endangered species list. The checks will be returned by US mail in 4-6 weeks.

March

1-Wisconsin Ag Youth Council Applications

The WI DATCP is encouraging Wisconsin High School Seniors to apply for the youth council. Members will attend virtual meetings, listening sessions, discussions, and networking opportunities. The youth council is comprised of 15 students, 9 from each district and 6 at large members.

3- Governor Evers Seeks Applications for Richland County Circuit Court

The appointment will fill a vacancy being created by Judge Andrew Sharp's resignation effective April 1st. The new judge will complete a term ending July 31, 2023.

9- Couleecap Launches Help for Homeowners Program

Couleecap is now offering assistance to homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage or other costs related to homeownership due to financial hardship from Covid-19. The program will help pay any delinquent bills going back to January 21, 2020.

11-Oldenburg Running for 3rd Term

Loren Oldenburg announced that he would re-run for his third term as 96th district assemblyman. He said he is looking forward to continue the work he had started the first two terms. He was first elected in 2018 to the state assembly.

17- Governor Evers Approves WIS-35 Improvements

Evers recently signed a \$10.1 million contract to improve pavement conditions on WIS-35. The project will work on 11.8 miles of road in Vernon and Crawford County. Construction starts March 28th and is slated to be completed in August.

28-State Wants to Change Fair Fees

Wisconsin lawmakers may be stepping-in to help county fair winners across the state. The state Department of Agriculture wants to change the rules so the state will only pay winners to win once. County fairs would have to cover the prize money for people who win at more than one county fair.

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:

Mike Ulrich – PDC Parks and Rec Dept.
Amanda Griswold – Crawford Co Extension – Positive Parenting
Brad Pfaff – Wisconsin State Senate
Bob Moses – PDC Chamber of Commerce
Sue Berg – Local Author
Amy Mitchell – Crawford Co Extension – 4H Discovery Day
Mark Gruenwald – Ukraine Donations
Sasha Dull – Crossing Rivers Hospital – Couch to 5K
Mike Cross – Bluff Country Long Spurs – Learn to Turkey Hunt
Carolyn Ihde – Crawford Co Extension – Upcoming ag programs
Farm Bureau Members – Ag Day
Carolyn Sand – PDC Historical Society – Volunteer meeting
Matt Lenz – PDC Performing Arts Center
Lacy Skime – Girls Scout Gold Award/Mental Health Fair
PDC HS Drama Students – Upcoming Play
Roby Fuller – ARDC Advocacy Workshop

Report prepared on April 1, 2022 by Gabe Buch