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Quarterly Issues and Programs Report for wrpn | 4th Quarter 2023

The following is a listing of some of the significant issues responded to by the station wrpn, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority of significance.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Amy Ries/AG in the Classroom

Date Aired: 10/3/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:48 minutes

More than 10,000 students will learn about the importance of Agriculture in Wisconsin through Envision Greater Fond du Lac's Agriculture in the Classroom program this school year. Amy Ries is Envision's Director of Agricultural Programs. She says their Agricultural Ambassador Jackie Robinson sets up the teaching opportunities with teachers and service clubs. Primarily they teach students from 4K through 5th grade but have adapted their programs for middle school and high school as well. They are on course to teach more than 10,000 students about the benefits of agriculture this school year. Students learn about where food comes from, what it takes to process things like milk into other products like cheese, careers connected to agriculture, and how technology has affected agriculture.

Ripon Police Department/Lindsey Michels/National Night Out

Date Aired: 10/4/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 7:01 minutes

Ripon's version of National Night Out comes up this Sunday from 1 to 3 pm at the Village Green. It won't compete with the Packers because they don't play until Monday night. The Ripon Police Department will host the family event which will feature tours of police, fire and EMS vehicles. Ripon Community Liaison Officer Lindsey Michels says they will have face painting, a bouncy house obstacle course, and pumpkins courtesy of Vande Brink's Produce, cookies and donuts, yard games and more. She says community partners the Fond du Lac Public Library, Girl Scouts, Fond du Lac County United Way, and Be Smart gun safety, will have giveaways and activities. Michels says National Night Out is about community and positive interactions.

Fond du Lac County United Way Amber Kilwae and Jason Blonigen/Volunteerism/

Date Aired: 10/4/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:48 minutes

One of the efforts the Fond du Lac County United Way supports is volunteerism. Specifically they backed the creation of the Fondy Volunteers.org website when the Volunteer Center of Fond du Lac County folded in the middle of the last decade. United Way Executive Director Amber Kilwae herself is a volunteer for the mobile meals program delivering meals once a week. She finds it rewarding, but there is a need for volunteers for the program. Jason Blonigen is a Volunteer Coordinator for SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac overseeing that effort for Ripon Community Hospital and Waupun Memorial Hospital. He says they are very flexible about the hours that their volunteers work delivering meals. If you would like to know more about those opportunities call him at 920-745-3670.

City of Ripon/Adam Sonntag/Common Council Vacancy

Date Aired: 10/5/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:11 minutes

There's still a week left for anyone 18 or older living in Ripon's Third Aldermanic District to apply for the opening on the Common Council created by the unexpected death of Alderman Howard Hansen. Details are available at the City's website. Applicants will be interviewed at the Council's October 23rd meeting and the Council will appoint someone to serve for about 29 months until the April 2026 election. City Administrator Adam Sonntag says for someone who has considered running for office it is an opportunity to try the role on for a couple of years. There is an election for four Common Council seats and Mayor next April, but Sonntag says there was no need to appoint someone until next Spring's election.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Kim Mueller/

Date Aired: 10/6/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:43 minutes

Marian University faculty, staff, and students will have the opportunity to get free Narcan Training Monday from Noon to 1 pm. It will be at the Stayer Center Auditorium on the school's campus in Fond du Lac. Fond du Lac County Public Health Officer Kim Mueller says those taking the training will learn how to do three things and will receive a free Narcan kit when they complete the training. The three things they will learn are how to recognize an opioid overdose, how to respond to an opioid overdose, and how to administer Narcan. Mueller says whether you are an opioid user or are family or a friend of a user the 45 minutes it will take to learn how to administer Narcan could save your life or the life of someone you care about.

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce/Mandy Kimes/Septemberfest Recap

Date Aired: 10/10/23

Time Aired: 7:45 am

Duration: 11:10 minutes

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mandy Kimes says they got some nice feedback about last month's Septemberfest celebration. Everyone has their favorite activities associated with the fall festival. For Kimes she enjoyed the chalk art that decorated some of the pavement along Watson Street. The theme had to do with favorite decades and people got to vote for their favorite pieces of chalk art. She says they try and bring something different to the festival each year and axe throwing was one of their new twists. The car show and petting zoo were among the usual favorites. Kimes says unfortunately the weather didn't hold up for the sing-along outdoor movie "Grease" so they've rescheduled it for Saturday, October 28th.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilwae and Michael Tinker Tierney/Costume Benefit Gala

Date Aired: 10/11/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:18 minutes

The Fond du Lac County United Way is teaming up with their pacesetter for this year's fundraising campaign SSM Health Fond du Lac Regional Clinic to host a Costume Benefit Gala on Saturday, October 21st. It will be at 6 pm at Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts in Fond du Lac. It will be catered by Annie's City Café in Fond du Lac and feature music by Reilly a folk rock/Celtic band and two-time Wisconsin Area Music Industry Award winner. Michael Tinker Tierney of Reilly says they've been together about 20 years and have recorded five albums basically doing gigs across the Midwest including two previous performances at Thelma. Tickets are available at Eventbrite and are \$175 or \$50 with a donation to the United Way.

Wisconsin State Government/Alex Dallman/Restaurant Protection Bill

Date Aired: 10/11/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:11 minutes

State Representative Alex Dallman is hoping a bill he authored will provide protection to restaurants that aren't always aware of who is using their menus or logos on the Internet. The bill will be on the Assembly Floor tomorrow. The state lawmaker from Green Lake says not all food delivery services get a restaurant's permission to use their menus and logos for offering delivery of their food. He says if a restaurant knows they would be prepared when a customer has a bad experience, and they are confronted about it. Dallman says this would protect a restaurant from an Uber Eats, DoorDash or other delivery service using their food. He says restaurants work hard to put together menus, prepare food and develop their clientele.

SSM Health/Vanessa Arellano and Rachel Lewandowski/Diabetes Management and Prevention Fair

Date Aired: 10/12/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:17 minutes

SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac will be putting on a free Diabetes Management and Prevention Fair next month in Fond du Lac. It will be at St. Agnes Hospital on Wednesday, November 8th from 5 to 7 pm in the Plaza Level Conference Center. Vanessa Arellano is RN Manager for the Endocrinology, and Infectious Disease Clinic. She says in addition to various exhibitors sharing different resources and products, the fair will feature keynote presentations on pre-diabetes and diabetes care, as well as door prizes. Rachel Lewandowski is a nurse practitioner and will give a presentation on "What's New in Diabetes: Technology

2023.” She says Registered Dietitian Janeah Schwartz will also do a presentation. Registration for the Diabetes Fair is required and can be done on the SSM Health.com website.

U.S. Government/Congressman Glenn Grothman/Battle for House Speaker

Date Aired: 10/13/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 9:21 minutes

Congressman Glenn Grothman says the ouster of Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy couldn't have come up at a more inopportune time. That drama unfolded about two weeks ago and an effort to elect Louisiana Congressman Steve Scalise fell short. Grothman say it comes at a time when the federal government is funded through a continuing resolution and Israel is dealing with an Iranian-backed Hamas attack. Without a Speaker the House of Representatives can't conduct business as usual. Entering the weekend, the federal lawmaker from Glenbeulah felt Ohio Congressman Jim Jordan might have another shot at Speaker although his less than gracious comments following Scalise's nomination alienated quite a few. Grothman also felt Arkansas Congressman James "French" Hill might be another possibility.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Kim Mueller/Children's Flu Vaccine Clinics

Date Aired: 10/16/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:25 minutes

Fond du Lac County Public Health Officer Kim Mueller reminds parents and guardians if they wish to have their vaccinated against the flu at free flu vaccine clinics in the schools this week they need to get in their consent forms. Clinics begin today and run through Wednesday. Mueller says they will have clinics for children in the Fond du Lac Schools this Saturday from 8 am to 3 pm at the Fond du Lac YMCA and the Children's Museum of Fond du Lac. No appointment is necessary. She says at those clinics any children from across the county from age 6 months to 18-years-old are welcome. A parent or guardian must be present to sign a consent form and for the vaccination.

Rosendale Brandon School District/Superintendent Wayne Weber/Rebranding and Renaming

Date Aired: 10/17/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 9:11 minutes

Officials at the Rosendale-Brandon School District went through survey results Tuesday for a Renaming and Rebranding Exploration Survey. With the successful passage of a building addition and improvement referendum last April the district will be consolidating down from four schools to two schools. Once building improvement work is complete the current Rosendale Intermediate School will house elementary students and Laconia High School 6th through 12th grade students. District Superintendent Wayne Weber says they are exploring the possibility of rebranding and renaming everything including school colors, mascots, names, and logos. All the new signage and names would be in place by the fall of 2025.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Joe Venhuizen/Annual Funding

Date Aired: 10/17/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:55 minutes

An official with Envision Greater Fond du Lac says they are looking forward to an opportunity to address the Ripon Common Council next Monday night. Joe Venhuizen is Envision's Vice-President of Membership and Resource Development. He says it is difficult for municipalities to understand their return on investment when much of what Envision does is for the long term such as exploring childcare housing options or broadband improvements. He says the perception that Envision has distanced itself from small businesses is wrong. He says Raina Lyman their Director of Small Business and Entrepreneurship has office hours at Mugg's in Ripon every two weeks. The Ripon Common Council has considered reducing the city's annual contribution to Envision from \$13,000 to \$2,000 for 2024.

Ripon Area School District/Mary Whitrock and Jonah Adams/Annual Tax Levy

Date Aired: 10/20/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:06 minutes

When Ripon Area School District property owners get their tax bill for 2024 the mill rate will be at its lowest point in 40 years. The Ripon School Board last week approved a \$7.95 mill rate, which is less than last year's rate of \$8.15. District Business Manager Jonah Adams says the school district will be levying \$699,000 more in taxes. The falling mill rate is a result of the property value in the Ripon Area School District increasing by \$99.5 million or 12.6 percent, allowing the taxes levied to spread over more property value. Adams says if a property was assessed for more the owner may actually be seeing an increase in their school district taxes from last year.

Green Lake County Sheriff's Office/Matt Vande Kolk/Deputy Bruce Williams Remembered

Date Aired: 10/20/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:05 minutes

Green Lake County law enforcement officials and supporters remembered Sheriff's Deputy Bruce Williams yesterday on the 20th Anniversary of his shooting death. Williams was shot and killed during a domestic disturbance incident at a Green Lake apartment building. He was 38 years old at the time. Green Lake County Chief Deputy Matt Vande Kolk says the remembrance started with a procession from the County Justice Center past the spot where Deputy Williams was shot to the American Legion Post in Green Lake where there was camaraderie and a meal. He says there aren't many still with the Sheriff's Department that was there when the shooting happened. He says if anything else the bond between local law enforcement and the Williams family has grown stronger over the years.

Wisconsin Government/Michelle Reinen/Cybersecurity

Date Aired: 10/23/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 12:03 minutes

October is Cybersecurity Month and the theme for the month is "Secure our World." Michelle Reinen is the Administrator for the State's Division of Trade and Consumer Protection. She says we've become more dependent on technology, and it is important that we take steps to protect our computers and devices from those who would steal our information or money. She says the first step is to update your software on a regular basis. She recommends adopting a habit to keep yourself or your organizations secure or sharpen up on a habit you've been lax about. She says updated software can provide a layer of protection to keep hackers out. Another thing she suggests is regularly updating passwords and making sure the password has upper and low case letters, symbols, and numbers.

Wisconsin Government/State Senator Joan Ballweg/Health Care Meeting

Date Aired: 10/23/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:05 minutes

State Senator Joan Ballweg and State Representative Jon Plumer attended a meeting at Ripon Community Hospital last Friday with representatives from area health care providers. Leaders from SSM Health, ThedaCare, and Gunderson were among those attending the gathering brought together by the Wisconsin Hospital Association. She says typically it is an opportunity to share information about pending legislation and concerns health care providers have. She says during this meeting the health care providers talked about their efforts to be transparent on their websites about medical procedures and costs.

Fond du Lac County/County Executive Sam Kaufman/Closing of Fond du Lac UWO Campus

Date Aired: 10/24/23

Time Aired: 8:43 am

Duration: 16:08 minutes

Fond du Lac County Executive Sam Kaufman says a decision by the UW-Oshkosh to end in-person classes at the Fond du Lac campus next June was a possibility but might have been avoided. Kaufman says when the UW System consolidated its two-year campuses into regions with a four-year school as the hub for that region, they should have looked at restructuring the two-year schools. He feels they should have offered more technical education courses. Kaufman says when the UW System announced an \$18 million deficit it was a matter of time before they started closing their two-year campuses. He feels sorry for the students. He says the UW-Oshkosh won't be leaving the Fond du Lac campus because they have a lease with Fond du Lac County until 2042.

U.S. Government/Senator Ron Johnson/Attacks on Israel

Date Aired: 10/25/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:08 minutes

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson says failed nuclear agreements by President Obama and President Biden with Iran emboldened Iran which is using \$100 billion in funding to promote terrorism in the Middle East. He feels terrorist efforts by groups like Hamas and Hezbollah are being backed by Iran. The federal lawmaker from Oshkosh says the U.S. is backing Israel in its war with Hamas but we need to keep any aid we send to Israel separate. There are reports President Biden plans to pair tens of billions of dollars to Ukraine with any new request for federal assistance for Israel. Over 1,400 Israeli civilians and at least 30 American citizens have been killed over the past week after Hamas terrorists invaded Israel.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee/Raking Ripon Effort

Date Aired: 10/25/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:52 minutes

The Fond du Lac County United Way is looking for people who would be willing to rake others yards and yards to rake in the Ripon area. United Way Executive Director Amber Kilawee says ACE Hardware of Ripon recently donated 36 rakes for the effort now the United Way would like to put those generous gifts to good use. Kilawee says individuals and groups are welcome to participate in the raking. She says consequently they also need yards to rake so they are signing people up who need help in raking their yards, even if all the leaves aren't down from your trees yet. She asks that volunteers or people who need their yards raked contact their offices by calling 920-921-7010.

SSM Health/Missy Tate/Flu and COVID Vaccination Clinics*Date Aired:* 10/26/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 13:04 minutes

SSM Health Fond du Lac Regional Clinic at St. Agnes Hospital is holding a walk-in vaccination clinic for influenza and COVID-19 today and tomorrow. Missy Tate is the Administrator of Ambulatory Operations. She says they wanted to hold a mass vaccination clinic to get a bunch of people in at the same time. The clinics on Wednesday had hundreds of people walk through. She says if you can't make it to the clinic in Fond du Lac there are SSM Health locations in Brownsville, Campbellsport, Mt. Calvary, North Fond du Lac, Ripon and Waupun. Those in Ripon can call the Ripon Family Practice Clinic at 920-745-3520. SSM Health also has pharmacies in Fond du Lac, Markesan and Waupun.

Riponfest/Howard Stibb/Fireworks Fundraiser*Date Aired:* 10/27/23*Time Aired:* 8:15 am*Duration:* 12:05 minutes

Riponfest organizers have extended a fundraiser to raise money for fireworks at next June's three-day festival at Barlow Park. They are taking orders through November 9th for pizzas and breadsticks from Emil's Pizza in Watertown. Howard Stibb of Riponfest says people interested in ordering can contact a Riponfest committee member or reach him at 920-299-0757. Currently there is a proposal asking the City of Ripon to move their 4th of July Fireworks to the last Saturday in June for Riponfest at Barlow Park. Stibb says so many communities have competing fireworks on the 4th of July. He says one of the benefits of having the fireworks at Riponfest is attracting more people from outside the community.

Winnebago County Government/Jacob Floam/County Budget*Date Aired:* 10/27/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 9:45 minutes

County supervisors in Winnebago County will be working on the proposed 2024 budget for the county most of next week. Adoption of the budget and tax levy should occur by the end of the day Thursday. County Supervisor Jacob Floam says they are looking at an overall budget near \$200 million with a \$72 million tax levy. The tax rate would be \$3.84 or about 39 cents lower than this year. Floam says at the end of the day the goal is a balanced budget, but he says they must be respectful of the taxpayer's dollars while making sure they are providing the services residents have come to expect. The Winnebago County Board meetings on the budget are open to the public who can attend in-person or via Zoom.

U.S. Government/Congressman Glenn Grothman/New House Speaker*Date Aired:* 10/30/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 9:23 minutes

Congressman Grothman says the election of Mike Johnson as 56th Speaker of the House of Representatives during the past week was historic. The election of the Republican from Louisiana as the new speaker came after four others tried to get the necessary majority but fell short. Grothman says he likes Johnson who has less experience than the others who were vying for speaker. Grothman says Johnson is a former constitutional lawyer and man of deep Christian faith. Grothman says it's a historic vote because they've never needed to replace a Speaker of the House in the middle of a two-year term. All 220 Republicans voted for Johnson surpassing the 215 votes needed.

East Central Alliance for Nicotine Prevention/Laura Nakielski/Vapes Disposal*Date Aired:* 10/31/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 11:38 minutes

Among the items not accepted during last Saturday's Drug Take Back Day were vape batteries and the one-time use vapes. Laura Nakielski is the Tobacco and Prevention Control Program Assistant for the East Central Alliance for Nicotine Prevention. The alliance includes Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, and Waushara Counties and works out of the health department in Fond du Lac. Nakielski says vapes use lithium batteries which are a fire hazard and the chemicals or E-Juice used in them are considered toxic waste. She says part of that issue is because the E-Juice can include THC and some have had Fentanyl in them. They partnered with police from Fond du Lac, Wautoma and Wild Rose, the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office, and Plainfield schools to safely dispose of 92 vapes.

Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office/Ryan Waldschmidt/K9 Recovery*Date Aired:* 11/1/23*Time Aired:* 8:14 am*Duration:* 14:55 minutes

Fond du Lac County Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt says the continued recovery of their K9 Iro from bullet wounds suffered in an incident in Fond du Lac on October 14th has captured the imagination of people far and wide. He can't talk about the incident because of an on-going investigation by the Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation, but he has their permission to talk about how Iro is doing. He

believes everyone's prayers and good thoughts for the dog has aided in his recovery. Waldschmidt says they are very grateful for everyone's support including gifts they've received for Iro. He says they will continue to release periodic updates on the K9's recovery.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee/Free Tax Preparation

Date Aired: 11/1/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:54 minutes

The Executive Director of the Fond du Lac County United Way is inviting residents to take advantage of a free tax preparation service. Amber Kilawee says the United Way says their three main goals are health, education, and financial stability. She believes saving money on doing your own income taxes through My Free Taxes.com will save people money that can't afford having them prepared. She says anyone making less than \$60,000 a year can have their state and federal taxes done through the site. She says you do it yourself but are guided through what you need to know. Kilawee says if your taxes aren't too complicated it's a great service, she uses it herself.

Berlin City Government/Luke Dretske/Nativity Display

Date Aired: 11/3/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:07 minutes

The City of Berlin has a controversy brewing over a Nativity display that usually goes up at the Fireman's Park at Christmastime. Alderperson Luke Dretske says city staff decided it should not be displayed this year due to complaints. He says he's not aware of any complaints, but he and other Common Council members have received complaints from the public about not including the Nativity. Dretske says they have a lot more important issues before them they should be working on like a budget deficit, roads that need to be repaired, and out-of-date public works equipment. He says the Nativity display is a tradition and shouldn't be an issue at all. He was hoping to get the subject on the Council's agenda for next Tuesday night's Committee of the Whole meeting.

Green Lake Association/Taylor Haag/Rake the Lake

Date Aired: 11/3/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:46 minutes

Officials with the Green Lake Association are pleased with the Rake for the Lake effort participation they received in Green Lake and Ripon this fall. Public Works Departments for both communities were on board for the effort and 85 volunteers participated. Taylor Haag is the Watershed Engagement Manager for the Association. She says leaves contain phosphorous which in a lake promotes algae growth and deprives a lake of oxygen and affects water quality which is already an issue for Green Lake. She says if you think of it like tea, rain on leaves washes out the nutrients or phosphorous which goes into storm drains and eventually into our lakes and rivers. She points out the leaves you rake onto your street terrace are collected by the city and taken out to a composite site.

Ripon College/Brian Reilly Holly Sina and Bob Amsden/Tin Woman Drama

Date Aired: 11/6/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 14:37 minutes

A cast that includes Ripon College students and veteran players from the Ripon Area Community Theatre will be putting on performances of the drama "The Tin Woman" next week at the College's Benstead Theatre. It is based on a true story of a young woman who received a heart transplant at the young age of about 30. As she copes with her second chance at life she meets with the donor's family. The donor Jack Borden died in an automobile accident and his father and mother Hank and Alice, and sister Sammy are still coping with his loss. The play's director is Robert Amsden who says the drama is laced with humor and a positive outlook. Performances will be Wednesday through Saturday, November 15th through the 18th at 7:30 pm. Tickets are free and are available by emailing Boxoffice@ripon.edu.

Ready Wisconsin/Andrew Beckett/Winter Weather Awareness Week

Date Aired: 11/8/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:41 minutes

An official with Ready Wisconsin says Winter Weather Awareness Week, which is next week, is a good time to prepare for the snow and the cold. Andrew Beckett says it is good to have a plan for a snow emergency in your area. He says it is important to pay attention to weather forecasts for possible advisories, watches, and warnings so you don't find yourself in the middle of the weather when it's too late. He also recommends emergency kits for the home and vehicles. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' preliminary numbers there were 94 cold-related deaths in the state during that last winter season. More tips and information about Winter Weather Awareness Week are available at the Ready Wisconsin website.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Amy Ries/Holiday Gift Boxes

Date Aired: 11/7/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:50 minutes

It's not too late to order a Holiday Gift Box through Envision Greater Fond du Lac's Agri-Business Council. The ordering deadline is December 1st. There are four boxes to choose from ranging in cost from \$30 to \$100. The boxes contain cheese, sausage, meats, cheese curds, even chocolates produced in the area. Amy Ries is the Director of Agricultural Programs for Envision she says it's her favorite time of year because she picks up the items that go into the boxes from local producers. Orders can also be shipped anywhere in the Continental United States. Details on costs, pick-up dates, and shipping can be found on the Envision website. Proceeds go toward the Ag in the Classroom program which teaches the importance of agriculture to students in schools across Fond du Lac County.

City of Ripon/Ashton Zeien/Run Santa Run

Date Aired: 11/9/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 9:41 minutes

If you would like to participate in the City of Ripon's first-ever Run Santa Run 5K run/walk the registration deadline is coming up quickly next Monday. Parks and Recreation Director Ashton Zeien says it's a flat course that is family friendly and you can even bring your dog if you it on a leash. The route starts in front of City Hall loops around Barlow Park and returns. All finishers will receive a medal and beanie stocking cap. The top 3 male and female finishers will receive a J's BBQ gift card. The event is Saturday, December 2nd during Dickens of a Christmas activities with packet pickup at 7 am and the race beginning at 8 am. There is a \$20 fee. Participants can register at Ripon.RecDesk.com., or on the department's Facebook page.

SSM Health/Paula Kusuboski/New Orthopedic Nurse Practitioner

Date Aired: 11/9/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 13:26 minutes

The SSM Health Fond du Lac Regional Clinic recently welcomed Paula Kasuboski, nurse practitioner, to Ripon Community Hospital. She is now accepting new patients and joins Drs. Benjamin Wiseley and Ryan Pizinger. Kasuboski provides comprehensive, advanced orthopedic care to patients of all ages. She will provide pre-operative and post-operative care to patients undergoing orthopedic surgery. She is originally from the Oshkosh area and got her Master of Science-Nurse Practitioner degree at Marian University in Fond du Lac. She has been in orthopedics for 10 years. Kasuboski is board certified through the American Nurse Credentialing Center and a member of the Wisconsin Nurses Association. She has five grown children.

Ripon Rotary Club/Bob Amsden/Citrus Sale

Date Aired: 11/10/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:50 minutes

Orders are being taken for the Ripon Rotary Club's annual citrus sale. You can buy oranges, grapefruits, a mixed box, or a gift box sampler. Bob Amsden coordinates the sale for the club. The money raised from the sale goes toward the club's charitable efforts which include local scholarship, funding trips to national competitions for the Future Business Leaders Club and Ripon Robotics Club, the future Boys & Girls Club home, and contributing to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Amsden says many people may not be aware but it was Rotary funds that paid for the pergolas in downtown Ripon's Rotary Square. Amsden gave details about how to order and pick up the fruit.

Ripon Education Foundation/Cindy Cody/Ripon Roar Fundraiser

Date Aired: 11/13/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 13:10 minutes

The Ripon Education Foundation's 3rd Annual Ripon Roar Week kicked off this morning. Cindy Cody is Community Engagement Chairman for the fundraising campaign she says last year during the 25th anniversary of the Foundation they set a goal of 250 donors which they reached. For this year they put that number at 237 or 1 donor for each educator, or teacher and staff member associated with the Ripon Area School District. The money raised by the non-profit foundation goes toward school and classroom related efforts like elementary school tutors, paying for out of the area competitions for school clubs and organizations. Another thing they fund is teacher grants.

Ripon Education Foundation/Jeanne Williams/Ripon Roar Fundraiser

Date Aired: 11/14/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 24:53 minutes

When it comes to the funds the Ripon Education Foundation puts back into learning opportunities outside the normal classroom setting in the Ripon Area School District no need is too small. In the past year over \$55,000 donated toward the Foundation and the annual Ripon Roar fundraising campaign went toward teacher and special program grants. Jeanne Williams is the President of the Foundation's Board of Directors. She says a smaller effort, though no less important, are the Jennie Long Tutoring Grants which provide funds to teachers for one-on-one tutoring of elementary students in math and reading. She says they

know from parent's feedback those grants have made an impact on student learning. The annual Ripon Roar Week fundraiser for the Foundation is going on through this Friday.

Ripon Education Foundation/Betsy Heffernan/Ripon Roar Weekt

Date Aired: 11/15/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 21:04 minutes

Ripon Education Foundation Board of Directors member Betsy Heffernan brings a different perspective to the Ripon Roar Week fundraiser. She is also the Ripon Board of Education's Vice President, an alumnus of the school district, the parent of two alumni, and works for Alliance Laundry Systems the lead corporate donor for the campaign. She appreciates the funding the foundation provides for students and staff outside of what the school board can. She says it allows extra things to be done in the school district in addition to providing scholarships for students. Heffernan says throughout the year the school board gets to hear some of the success stories associated with funding from the foundation's teacher grants, special program grants, and tutoring grants.

Ripon Education Foundation/Mary Whitrock/Ripon Roar Fundraiser

Date Aired: 11/16/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 26:41 minutes

Ripon Schools Superintendent Mary Whitrock says donations to the Ripon Roar Week fundraiser for the Ripon Education Foundation fund some really unique educational opportunities. She says in particular the teacher and special program grants have resulted in some fantastic opportunities for students. Whitrock says one of those great programs involved taking students from the Ripon Middle School to Beaming Stables in Neenah. Working with the horses there helps students build leadership, confidence, and a sense of trust and connection. Whitrock accompanied them for some sessions last spring. She says you build a connection with the horse and it brings you a sense of calm.

Ripon Education Foundation/Ellis Minor and Lyn McCarthy/Ripon Roar Fundraiser

Date Aired: 11/17/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 12:06 minutes

Ellis Minor and Lyn McCarthy talked about how their educations in the Ripon Area School District Schools have benefitted them. Both went through the schools and moved away only to return to the community. Minor is still working, while McCarthy is retired. They talked about why people should be supporting the Ripon Education Foundation through the Ripon Road fundraiser, which ends tonight at midnight, but donations can be made through the rest of the year.

Green Lake County Sheriff's Office/Matt Vande Kolk/New K9

Date Aired: 11/17/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:50 minutes

Recently the Green Lake County Sheriff's Office introduced their new K9 Kai to the public as they toured senior living facilities for the "Singing with Seniors" holiday program. Chief Deputy Matt Vande Kolk says Kai and his handler Deputy Wallace will primarily be responsible for drug searches during traffic stops, school searches, and building searches. He says if a trained K9 does an open-air sniff on a vehicle and alerts to possible drugs that gives them the probable cause needed to search a vehicle. He says Kai can also be used for tracking and protecting his handler like Fond du Lac County Sheriff's K9 Iro did during an incident in Fond du Lac last month. Kai will also be present at community events to meet the public like he was for "Singing with Seniors."

Wisconsin Government/State Senator Joan Ballweg/Ripon Stewardship Grant Request

Date Aired: 11/28/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 14:41 minutes

State Senator Joan Ballweg says the City of Ripon's request for funding for a \$418,000 Stewardship Grant for improvements to Selfridge Park is before the state's Joint Finance Committee. Ballweg is a member of the committee and feels the request will be granted. A number of improvements are planned next year for the park. Those improvements would include ADA accessible kayak and canoe launches, fishing piers, river walks, a parking lot, and a couple of shelter areas. Plans would also include improving the playground and general layout of the park. It is the first Stewardship Grant the city has ever received. The state lawmaker from Markesan expects the request to be approved within the next few weeks.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Sadie Vander Velde/McArthur Promotion

Date Aired: 11/28/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 9:25 minutes

Hard work and determination have paid off for Lisa McArthur of Envision Greater Fond du Lac. Envision President and CEO Sadie Vander Velde says McArthur started with them seven years ago running their youth apprenticeship program. She became part of the economic development team after that. McArthur a

few months ago was tabbed as the Interim Vice President of Economic Development for Envision and now has that VP role on a more permanent basis. Vander Velde says McArthur had involvement in getting Flash Trucking to move to Ripon. More recently McArthur was one of the Envision officials to appear before the Ripon Common Council to appeal a funding cut the Council was considering in the 2024 City Budget, which was adjusted.

Fond du Lac County Government/Stephanie Hopf/Save a Smile Program

Date Aired: 11/29/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 7:51 minutes

The Oral Health Coordinator for Fond du Lac County says their Save a Smile program gives hundreds of kids a year across the county access to dental care that might not otherwise get it. Stephanie Hopf says the program provides dental care to kids on medical assistance or Badger Care who come from income-challenged families. The program provides cleaning, dental exams, x-rays, filings, sealants and extractions. Hopf says about three months ago they started a dental hygiene program out of the health department offices which is new for them. Hopf notes 46 of the people they've seen through Save a Smile this year have come from Ripon. The program also provides dental care for adults who have urgent dental needs.

Wisconsin Government/Sarah Keyeski/State Assembly Candidate

Date Aired: 11/29/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:13 minutes

Earlier this month a Lodi woman held her campaign kickoff party for the 42nd District Assembly seat. Sarah Keyeski is running as a Democrat. She is known for her work creating and leading the Lift Lodi community volunteer program. The program cultivates a sense of community through a devoted day of volunteer service in the Lodi area. She is a mental health counselor with over 20 years of experience, a local business owner, and mother of six children. Keyeski says she grew up in a small town and understands the importance of looking out each other. Among the issues she is concerned about are freedom of reproductive care, Medicaid expansion, the availability of Childcare, and workforce housing.

Berlin Area School District/Emmett Durtschi/DIY Program

Date Aired: 11/30/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 9:44 minutes

Berlin Schools Superintendent Emmett Durtschi says a new class at the high school gives students the opportunity for some real hands on learning. He says kids spend too much time on their favorite device and the Do It Yourself course allows them to be creative in a more practical way. He points out the class gives students a chance to learn about fixing and repairing things. Stations are set up for the class which allows students to work on electrical, plumbing, dry wall and other skills. Durtschi says the school board rotates its meetings and the next meeting will be at the High School on Wednesday, December 13th so the board will have a chance to see how the DIY program is working. The teachers for the DIY class are Chris Much and Bryan Evans.

Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin/Anne Otter/Eye Organ and Tissue Donation Information Events

Date Aired: 11/30/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:49 minutes

One of the participants in a series of tabling events about eye, organ, and tissue donation held at SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac hospitals in Fond du Lac, Ripon, and Waupun this week is grateful to have had the opportunity. The health care provider partnered with the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin and UW Organ and Tissue. Anne Otter is a Development Specialist with the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin. She says it was great to share stories about donations, collect eyeglasses, and help people with advanced directives. Otter had corneal transplants for both of her eyes 33 years ago and has been working for the eye bank for the past 17 years. About 50,000 corneal transplants are performed in the US each year and the surgery has a 95 percent success rate. November was eye donation month.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Kim Mueller/COVID Cases

Date Aired: 12/1/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:24 minutes

The state's Department of Health Services says cases of COVID-19, RSV, and Flu are on the rise and the number of those cases will increase over the holidays. Fond du Lac County Public Health Officer Kim Mueller says the County has seen the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations increase recently. Mueller says the severity of COVID over the past few years has diminished and they haven't had a COVID death in some time, but she says with people now spending the winter months indoors COVID cases will increase. Mueller recommends being vaccinated against COVID, RSV, and the Flu. She suggests getting it done a couple of weeks before you attend a large gathering so the vaccine in your system has reached its full strength.

Wisconsin Government/Michelle Reinen/Gift Card Scams*Date Aired:* 12/4/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 8:01 minutes

The administrator for the state's Division of Trade and Consumer Protection offers some advice as people consider purchasing gift cards during the holiday season. Michelle Reinen recommends buying them directly from the retailer or an authorized seller. She also suggests doing your research first especially if you're tempted by offers online that sell gift cards in bulk or at discounted prices because you may discover the cards are expired or already drained of funds. Some online ads or targeted email and text messages offer gift cards as incentive to sign up for a sweepstakes or fill out a survey, but these are usually bogus offers. The scammer will sell your private information after they obtain it without sending you the promised gift card.

Winnebago County Government/Jacob Floam/Running for Oshkosh City Council*Date Aired:* 12/5/23*Time Aired:* 8:15 am*Duration:* 10:51 minutes

Winnebago County Supervisor Jacob Floam has decided to forego another run for the County Board next year to run for the Oshkosh Common Council. Three seats are open on the Council in the 2024 spring election. Floam says he is running to propel the next generation of Oshkosh's development so it can be the best place to live and work in the Fox Valley. He says the city is at a crossroads in terms of talent retention, economic development, and housing development. He notes the City is landlocked so they will have to be creative when they consider future housing development. He is also an advocate for open and transparent government that values community input while also being financially responsible. Floam announced his candidacy for the Oshkosh City Council late last month.

Alice in Dairyland/Ashley Hagenow/Something Special from Wisconsin*Date Aired:* 12/5/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 10:18 minutes

As she crisscrosses Wisconsin, the state's Alice in Dairyland Ashley Hagenow is reviewing her list and checking it twice this Holiday season. The Poynette native is busy promoting the Something Special from Wisconsin Program as a good way to purchase gifts for those special people on your Christmas list. Some of those Wisconsin made products she recently highlighted included scented candles including one that smells like a Brandy Old Fashioned, books on Wisconsin Farming, Kettle Corn, Trail Bars, Dog treats, and more. She says there are hundreds of small products available for purchase made by small businesses in the state. She urges residents to look for the Something Special from Wisconsin logo.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee and Amy Pollesch/Traded Treasures and Community Food Pantry*Date Aired:* 12/6/23*Time Aired:* 8:44 am*Duration:* 15:06 minutes

Traded Treasures & Community Food Pantry in Ripon is one of the organizations that benefits from the Fond du Lac County United Way. Items donated to and sold at the thrift store raise funds for the food pantry. Traded Treasures Executive Director Amy Pollesch says beginning in November they start seeing an increase in the need for the food pantry. She says that's because heating costs go up for families and some struggle to pay for that and may have to cut down on other household needs like their food budget. She says ideally, they would like to make sure every family in the community doesn't have food security issues. Traded Treasures & Community Food Pantry is located at 102 West Jackson Street in Ripon.

U.S. Government/Congressman Glenn Grothman/Antisemitism on College Campuses*Date Aired:* 12/7/23*Time Aired:* 8:15 am*Duration:* 10:44 minutes

Congressman Glenn Grothman says he's surprised how unsympathetic presidents of some leading universities are about the antisemitism going on at their campuses. The House Committee on Education and the Workforce this week invited the presidents of Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, and MIT to testify about how their schools are taking appropriate action to stand strong against the antisemitism Jewish students are experiencing on campus. The federal lawmaker from Glenbeulah says protests, demonstrations, graffiti, and anti-Semitic chants are going on across the nation. He was particularly shocked how hard it was for Harvard's president to say that the vilest things shouldn't be said on her campus.

City of Ripon/Adam Sonntag/Tax Bills/Ripon First Housing Program*Date Aired:* 12/7/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 13:32 minutes

City of Ripon residents will soon be getting their property taxes and will see a slight bump in the tax rate from the City. City Administrator Adam Sonntag says they wanted to keep the tax rate between \$8.90 and \$9.00 and it worked out to \$8.97. He says that's an increase of seven cents for the city's share, but with the school district, county, and tech college the overall increase in the rate will be 87 cents from last year. He says they were able to take care of some long-standing infrastructure issues with some of the capital

projects they've scheduled for next year including St. Wenceslaus Street, buying a street sweeper, new radios for the police department and EMS, and more capital purchases.

Fond du Lac County Government/Amy Haase/Police Fire and EMS Radios

Date Aired: 12/8/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:28 minutes

Fond du Lac County Communications and Emergency Management Director Amy Haase talked about the county going to a dual band and 800-megahertz radio system. She says it will start with the Sheriff's Department and slowly roll out from there to other local law enforcement agencies, EMS, and fire departments. She also talked about the City of Ripon's request to change the time outdoor sirens are tested during the week and the duration of time those sirens are tested.

Wisconsin Emergency Government/Andrew Beckett/Holiday Fire Safety

Date Aired: 12/11/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 7:16 minutes

Ready Wisconsin encourages everyone to keep fire safety in mind this Holiday season. Candles remain a popular decoration this time of year, while they are also a frequent reason for why firefights end up in homes. According to the National Fire Protection Association nearly half of home decoration fires reported in the U.S. during the month of December are caused by candles. Andrew Beckett of Ready Wisconsin says make sure they aren't near anything flammable and won't be easily knocked over. He says they should be at least 12 inches away from any flammable materials and shouldn't be within reach of children or pets. He also recommends checking your Christmas lights and decorations to make sure cords aren't frayed or bulbs aren't loose.

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce/Mandy Kimes/Dickens of a Christmas

Date Aired: 12/12/23

Time Aired: 7:45 am

Duration: 9:47 a minutes

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mandy Kimes says she is very pleased how well everything connected with Dickens of a Christmas ran at the beginning of the month. Kimes says Dickens was one of the things that made her fall in love with the city before she was Chamber director. She says judging from the feedback they got from visitors she is not alone. Kimes says everything was bigger, better and brighter. She says the streets were filled on Friday and Saturday nights and a lot of people stayed for the weekend. She says they got a lot of nice comments about the holiday parade on Friday night and for the first time they gave out prizes for the three best floats. The floats were judged on the number of lights, how much they engaged the crowd, and other criteria.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Sadie Vander Velde/MOU with City of Ripon

Date Aired: 12/12/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 9:31 minutes

The Ripon Common Council tonight is expected to approve a memorandum of understanding with Envision Greater Fond du Lac for the services Envision will provide to the city in 2024. The scope of services the MOU covers includes Entrepreneurship and Business Support, Industrial Development Support, and Joint Advocacy. Envision President and CEO Sadie Vander Velde credits Ripon City Administrator Adam Sonntag and the city for pioneering an MOU with Envision. She says it's the first memorandum of understanding Envision has had with a city but Envision hopes to do the same with others. As part of the understanding Envision Director of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Raina Lyman will be holding some hours at the Ripon City Hall to meet with business owners.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee and Isabel Williston/ASTOP

Date Aired: 12/13/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:40 minutes

One of the longest associations the Fond du Lac County United Way has had with an agency it supports has been with ASTOP in Fond du Lac. ASTOP is an acronym for Assist Survivor Treatment Outreach and Prevention. It dates back to 1992 and provides assistance and support for victims of sexual abuse or assault. Isabel Williston is ASTOP's Executive Director. She says they do provide a lot of outreach to schools, groups, and at events. In Ripon their prevention educators have done presentations in all the schools. Williston says they also provide advocates to victims who report the assault and during any legal proceeding that may follow that. United Way Executive Director Amber Kilawee says their long history of supporting ASTOP is because of the education prevention programs ASTOP puts on.

U.S. Government/Senator Ron Johnson/Biden Inquiries

Date Aired: 12/14/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:25 minutes

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson questions why Hunter Biden would skip out on a scheduled deposition following a subpoena from House Republicans if he is innocent of accusations against him. Johnson says the contempt of Congress speaks volumes as well as the mounting evidence connected to his foreign business dealings and speculation about how the Biden family may have benefitted as a result of the president's status. Johnson says Hunter Biden skipping out on the closed deposition gives Republicans another argument for its impeachment inquiry into the president. The House Wednesday night voted along party lines in favor of an impeachment inquiry.

SSM Health/Meg Puddy/Holiday Hullabaloo

Date Aired: 12/14/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:18 minutes

SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac is inviting everyone to celebrate the Magic of the Holidays at the SSM Health Treffert Studios Holiday Hullabaloo in Fond du Lac. It will be held next Wednesday night from 5 to 7 pm at the SSM Health Treffert Studios at 231 North National Avenue in Fond du Lac. Meg Puddy is SSM's Director of Behavioral Health Community-Based Services. She says the Treffert Studios has a mental health team, but it is also an outlet for people with neuro diversities. She says they have a fully functional multimedia and production studio which houses a large variety of creative tools and technology including video, film equipment, musical instruments, art supplies and so much more.

Green Lake County Government/Luke Dretske/Election Priorities

Date Aired: 12/15/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 9:37 minutes

Luke Dretske talked about his reelection priorities for running for the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors and Berlin Common Council. He says he would like to see the County do more with its sales tax revenue which right now is connected to paying for County buildings and structures. With the Berlin Common Council he would like to see them continue to whittle away at the budget deficit and work on some type of development for the city. He also talked about the restructuring of the Green Lake County Register of Deeds Office which the County Board will take up next Tuesday.

Fond du Lac County Government/Sam Kaufman/County Wage Analysis

Date Aired: 12/15/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 15:44 minutes

During next week's Fond du Lac County Board meeting the board will hear a presentation on the Fond du Lac County Compensation Analysis. County Executive Sam Kaufman says what they learned from the study was that the County is not paying enough to its employees and as a result is losing them to other counties and private industry. He says when it comes to comparably sized counties they would like to be paying as least as much as half of those counties, but they aren't. The preparers of the analysis recommended a 3 percent increase in wages and an increase in step on the wage scale on an employee's work anniversary. Kaufman says he would also like to see the county consider flex scheduling and allowing some employees to work at home 1 or 2 days a week.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee and Susan Osteen/Diverse Options Ripon

Date Aired: 12/27/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:54 minutes

Diverse Options of Ripon is one of the agencies that the Fond du Lac County United Way provides funding for. Diverse Options has been around for more than 50 years. Their mission is to support, educate and empower individuals with a variety of developmentally disabilities to reach their highest level of independence. Diverse Options serves Fond du Lac County, Green Lake County, and a portion of Dodge County. They serve over 70 individuals providing adult day services, group homes, supported employment opportunities, and a production facility. Susan Osteen is the President and CEO of Diverse Options. She says most of the funding supporting their services comes through the state's Department of Health Services. Other support comes through the Fond du Lac County United Way.

SSM Health/Amy Bayer/Perfect Holiday Expectations

Date Aired: 12/28/23

Time Aired: 8:50 am

Duration: 9:02 minutes

The lead psychotherapist for SSM Health's Behavioral Health Walk-In Clinic at Ripon Community Hospital says we put too much pressure on ourselves during the holidays to have a "perfect" Christmas. Amy Bayer says we set some unrealistic expectations based on social media, how the holidays are portrayed on television, and pleasing family and friends. She says some things you can do is set some realistic goals, give yourself permission to not attend something, work on a positive outlook, if you are lonely look to volunteer, and say no to unreasonable demands. If you need help ask a friend or a professional agency. If you are suffering a mental health crisis the Behavioral Health Walk-In Clinic can provide short term relief.

