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Quarterly Issues and Programs Report for wrpn | 2nd 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.

Berlin Area School District/Emmett Durtschi/Referendum

Date Aired: 4/3/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 9:42 minutes

The Berlin Area School District tomorrow puts two referendum questions before voters. The first asks to exceed its revenue cap by \$2.5 million a year for five years. The second question asks for permission to borrow \$20 million to make improvements to renovate portions of the Clay Lamberton Elementary School. District Superintendent Emmett Durtschi says the original Clay Lamberton Elementary School was built in 1962 and there have been three additions over the years, but the middle part or original portion of the building needs some upgrades. He says the school board has been able to keep the mill rate at about \$9 per thousand dollars of valuation on a property. If the first question passes the mill rate would remain around \$9 per thousand dollars of valuation on property.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress/Bob Haase/Spring Hearings

Date Aired: 4/3/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:32 minutes

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress and Department of Natural Resources invite the public to get involved during the annual spring hearing public input opportunity. Over the next three days open houses will be held in each county. Bob Haase is a member of the Conservation Congress he says the open houses are informal and allow the public to ask questions and learn about resource management in their neck of the woods. The public can also vote for delegates to the Congress. The spring hearings focus on natural resources-related questions and proposed rule changes. They will again be held in a virtual format, as they have been since 2020. This year's online questionnaire will be open from April 10th at noon through April 13th at noon.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Joe Venhuizen/Public Office Preparation

Date Aired: 4/4/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 14:18 minutes

If you've ever considered running for public office but weren't sure how to get the ball rolling a two-day course offered by Envision Greater Fond du Lac in June can give you the basics. It is called Public Office Preparation or POP 101. Participants will explore basic competencies, including how to navigate the paperwork process, fundraising and spending, campaigning, and building a public persona. Joe Venhuizen is Envision's Vice-President of Membership and Resource Development. He says it is a non-partisan effort. He says it is unfortunate many candidates run unopposed or sometimes no one is running for an office. POP 101 will be offered on Wednesday, June 21st and Wednesday, June 28th from 4 to 7 pm. Cost and registration information is on Envision's website under their events page.

Ripon Area United Way/Jeff Puhmann-Becker/The past years's campaign.

Date Aired: 4/5/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:31 minutes

The Ripon Area United Way wrapped up the past year's fundraising campaign at the end of last month. The campaign raised 72 to 73 percent of the \$80,000 goal or about \$60,000. United Way Board President Jeff Puhlmann-Becker says they had some money in reserve funds so they will be able to allocate what they needed to the 15 non-profit organizations they help to fund. He says it is not surprising they came up short of their goal because there were some high-profile worthwhile fundraising efforts in the community during the past year. He notes the capacity of the community isn't really dampened by one campaign.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Kim Mueller/Strep Throat

Date Aired: 4/6/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 7:22 minutes

Fond du Lac County Public Health Officer Kim Mueller says they are seeing increased cases of strep throat in the area. She points out there are two types of strep; bacterial and viral and the only way to know which is to have a throat culture performed. She says if it is viral the only thing you can do is ride it out. If it is bacterial an antibiotic will speed up the illness so you feel better faster. She says it is very contagious and is spread through tiny little respiratory droplets or direct contact. It is primarily spread through coughing, talking, and sneezing. Mueller says one of the reasons they see it spread so quickly in schools is because children are constantly talking, sneezing, coughing, and touching.

Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office/Ryan Waldschmidt/High Speed Chases

Date Aired: 4/7/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 13:18 minutes

Fond du Lac County Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt recently gave a presentation to the District Attorney's Office about the increasing number of dangerous high-speed chases they've seen in the county. Prior to this weekend there had been 15 such pursuits. There were a total of 40 high-speed vehicle chases in the county last year and Waldschmidt says if the trend continues they will finish the year with 50 to 60. He says most times a driver flees because they've committed more serious crimes and often it's tied to drug use or trafficking. He is planning to give a similar presentation about the dangerous high-speed chases to the county's five circuit court judges.

Ripon Police Department/Chief Bill Wallner/Teen Death Investigation

Date Aired: 4/11/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:37 minutes

Ripon Police are hoping video from surveillance clues will help them come up with answers in the death of an 18-year-old Ripon man whose body was found on a city sidewalk last Friday morning. Police Chief Bill Wallner says if you know anything please give them a call at 920-748-2888. They are also asking anyone that has home security cameras, and may reside in the area of Tygert Street, Hall Street, East Jackson Street, Houston Street, Scott Street, and Stanton Street to review those camera systems and report any video images found between Thursday evening at 6:45 pm and Friday morning at 6 am. Chief Wallner says they are hoping anyone seen in the videos or anything suspicious may help them come up with answers.

Ripon College Psychology Class/Kassidy Walters and Dena Johnson/Importance of Organ Donation

Date Aired: 4/11/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:48 minutes

Students in Dr. Joe Hatcher's psychology class at Ripon College put together a free presentation on the importance of Organ Donation that will be presented in the C.J. Rodman Fine Arts Center in Demmer Recital Hall next Monday night from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Dena Johnson is a student in Hatcher's class. She gave us a rundown of tonight's activities. There will be a book signing by Children's author Brenda Cortex at 5:30. Panelists will start speaking at 6:30. Kassidy Walters is another student in the class. She says some of their speakers are waiting on organ donations themselves. She says through this effort and the class students are learning about the importance of altruism and public awareness. More than 3,000 Wisconsinites are waiting for an organ, tissue or eye donation.

Fond du Lac County Communications and Emergency Management/Amy Haase/Telecommunicators Week

Date Aired: 4/12/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:37 minutes

The Fond du Lac County Communications Center is celebrating Public Safety Telecommunicators Week this week. The Center hosted an open house Tuesday afternoon. Fond du Lac County Communications and Emergency Management Director Amy Haase says all week long the public and those they dispatch bring in treats and express their gratitude. The Center in Fond du Lac is a civilian-run 911 center that serves all communities in the county, including 18 fire departments, 6 ambulance services, 11 first responder groups and 11 law enforcement agencies. On an average day the Center receives over 350 administrative calls and 75 emergency calls. Haase says their dispatchers are second to none and often are working with someone on the other end of the line who is having one of the worst days of their life.

Ripon College/Victoria Folsie/Presidential Inauguration

Date Aired: 4/13/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 13:23 minutes

Ripon College will hold events all week next week leading up to the inauguration of their 14th President Victoria Folsie. Tying in with that “14” theme she’s been busy visiting 14 cities throughout the U.S. meeting with Ripon College alumni. Her last visit was to Denver, but this coming week all the activities will be on campus. There will be activities for students, faculty and staff. They are also expecting delegates from other colleges to attend to celebrate the occasion. The Inauguration ceremony is next Saturday from 11am to 1:30 pm on the Lawn of Harwood Memorial Union. In the event of inclement weather the ceremony would be held in the Willmore Center.

SSM Health/Amy Bayer/Day Stabilization Unit

Date Aired: 4/13/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:26 minutes

A psychotherapist supervisor for the Ripon Community Hospital’s Day Stabilization Services says it is a service for those with immediate mental health crises. The Day Stabilization Services offers support for up to 23 hours to individuals experiencing mental health crises. Amy Bayer of SSM Health says a psychiatrist and therapist will provide them with help. Bayer says people suffer mental health crises for a variety of reasons including a significant loss or even thought of self-harm. According to the National Alliance for Mental Illness, mental illness is very common. One in five people live with a mental health condition. With the high demand for psychiatry and outpatient mental health services the wait lists are six to eight months or longer.

Fond du Lac County Government/Sam Kaufman/Naming Rights

Date Aired: 4/14/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:35 minutes

Fond du Lac County Executive Sam Kaufman says if the county is going to allow corporations to purchase naming rights for its buildings and facilities, they want to make sure it is done right. Tomorrow night the County Board will consider approving a resolution to put such a policy in place. Kaufman says it has been vetted in three committees. He says discussion about naming rights reached a head when they found out how much it was going to cost to replace a stage at the County Fairgrounds. The County had budgeted \$600,000 and the City of Fond du Lac would contribute \$350,000 but when the bid came in it was at \$1.8 million. Kaufman is okay with allowing naming rights for specific projects, so they don’t have to put it on the backs of taxpayers.

Queen of Clean/Rachael Greeninger/Fundraiser

Date Aired: 4/14/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:45 minutes

Rachael Greeninger runs a cleaning service in Ripon. She talked about cleaning people's homes and a fundraiser in which they hope to raise enough funds to clean the home of someone who is really in need.

Fond du Lac County Republican Party/Timothy Bachleitner/Moving of Little White Schoolhouse

Date Aired: 4/17/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 13:37 minutes

According to information in a letter from the Wisconsin Historical Society, today’s move of the Little White Schoolhouse may have led to its delisting as a National Historic site. Timothy Bachleitner is the Chairman of the Republican Party of Fond du Lac County. He says at a meeting of the State Historical Society last fall he pointed out moving the Little White Schoolhouse would violate three of seven national standards needed to move such a landmark. He says that information was ignored, but it didn’t get by federal historic officials. He feels there were more appropriate places the historic landmark known as the “Birthplace of the Republican Party” could have been located rather than a commercial district.

Grant's PackageHub/Ted Grant/Electronics Recycling Event

Date Aired: 4/18/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:01 minutes

Grant’s of Ripon is holding an electronic waste recycling event this Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. It will be next to the Ripon Town offices at 625 South Douglas Street. Those participating should enter South Douglas Street from the south off of State Highway 23. Grant’s owner Theodore Grant says they will take some items for no fees, but there will be fees for others due to labor and shipping costs. Some items like batteries and light bulbs they won’t be accepting. You can find lists and details about the event at Grants Stores.com. Grant says they used to take electronic items for recycling at the store but storing those items and staffing became issues because they had to be sent out daily. He says if Sunday’s drive-through event is successful they hope to do it on an annual basis.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Sadie Vander Velde/Summer Intern Program*Date Aired: 4/18/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 11:50 minutes*

Each summer Envision Greater Fond du Lac offers a Summer Series for Interns & Co-Ops. It is a one-of-a-kind program in Wisconsin for college intern and Co-op students within the greater Fond du Lac area. It assists businesses in their existing recruitment and retention strategies. Envision President and CEO Sadie Vander Velde says companies like Alliance Laundry Systems will send their interns from out-of-state to the program to become acquainted with the Fond du Lac County area and what it has to offer. The interns and co-op students are surveyed before and after the program. Vander Velde says after the program typically 75 percent of those that participated say they would consider living in Fond du Lac County after they graduate and are offered a job. The Summer Series kicks off June 1st

U.S.Government/Congressman Glenn Grothman/Little White Schoolhouse*Date Aired: 4/19/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 11:34 minutes*

Congressman Glenn Grothman says he and Senator Ron Johnson are working to ensure the Little White Schoolhouse in Ripon gets its designation as a National Historic Landmark back. The move of the "Birthplace of the Republican Party" Monday to 1074 West Fond du Lac Street led to its delisting as a National Historical site. Congressman Grothman believes they can get the designation restored. The federal lawmaker says the new location for the Little White Schoolhouse will have benefits the previous location did not including parking, restrooms, and a visitors' center. While it was located on Blackburn Street it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 14th, 1973 and it was designated as a National Historic Landmark on May 30th, 1974.

Waupun City Government/Rohn Bishop/Senior-Community Center Project*Date Aired: 4/20/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 11:40 minutes*

Officials in Waupun hosted a visit by Wisconsin Department of Administration Secretary Kathy Blumenfield last week. One of the places she toured was the current Senior Center. The city received a nearly \$5 million Neighborhood Investment Grant that will be used to build a new Senior/Community Center. Waupun Mayor Rohn Bishop says it will have all the things you would expect to see at a Senior Center, but it will double as a community center (where people of all ages can visit to play basketball or even pickle ball). An ad-hoc committee was formed to suggest the design for the building. Bishop says the groundbreaking will be sometime this fall with the center opening in late 2024.

Berlin City Government/Luke Dretske/Failed Referendum*Date Aired: 4/24/23**Time Aired: 8:15 am**Duration: 9:14 minutes*

Failure to pass a referendum that would have allowed the City of Berlin to levy an additional \$250,000 a year in property taxes for operational expenses will lead to cut in services. City Alderman Luke Dretske says proposed cuts were not an empty threat the city was using to gain support for the referendum. He says the city is operating at about a \$300,000 deficit and cuts will have to be made. He says the swimming pool operates at a deficit every year and could be on the cutting block. The city loses about \$120,000 a year operating the pool. He says everything is fair games when it comes to the cuts including staff. Other items that may be considered include shared ride tax service, sidewalk repair work, and eliminating recreation activities.

Wisconsin Government/State Senator Joan Ballweg/Budget Listening Sessions*Date Aired: 4/24/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 9:30 minutes*

As a member of the Joint Finance Committee and individually State Senator Joan Ballweg attended 16 separate public listening sessions on the proposed two-year state budget over the last few months. Four of those were as a member of the JFC, 10 she held herself in the 14th State Senate District, and the Green Lake Chamber of Commerce and City of New London held their own. She says four major concerns came out of those listening sessions. She says a lot of people want a bigger slice of shared revenue. Child care, more funding for K-12 schools and requests for some of the surplus funding the state received from the federal government are all near the top of the list.

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce/Mandy Kimes/Little White Schoolhouse*Date Aired: 4/25/23**Time Aired: 7:45 am**Duration: 13:44 minutes*

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mandy Kimes says the chamber is hoping to have a say when the National Park Service reviews the status of the Little White Schoolhouse as a National

Historical landmark following its recent move. Kimes says they were surprised as everyone else when they learned at the end of March that the move would prompt a review. She says they are hoping to be able to have a role when the status is reviewed. She says when they learned about the review they reached out to people who could advocate for them like the state's National politicians to ask them if they could intervene on the chamber's behalf. Kimes says the Little White Schoolhouse is still a National Historic landmark at this point and they are hoping it remains that way.

Winnebago County Government/Jacob Floam/Ad Hoc Structure Review Task Force

Date Aired: 4/25/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:31 minutes

An Ad Hoc Structure Review Task Force for the Winnebago County Board is looking at the number of standing committees to see if some can't be merged or cut. Jacob Floam chairs the Task Force. He says on the heels of a wages and benefits study that found they need to increase wages for county employees; they have to find ways to cut expenses so they can do that. He says Fond du Lac County manages to get by with five standing committees while Winnebago County has 12. He says if they can get rid of some of that bloat they might be able to afford some of those higher wages. Floam says Thursday night at 6 pm at the County Administration Building in Oshkosh the Task Force will hold their second meeting.

Wisconsin Government/State Representative Jon Plumer/Ghosting Bill

Date Aired: 4/26/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:16 minutes

State Representative Jon Plumer hopes the State Senate will pass a package of workforce bills including one he authored and they will move onto the Governor to be signed into law. The state lawmaker from Lodi says it's a good package of common-sense bills. The package was passed by the Assembly Tuesday. Plumer's bill addresses "Ghosting" of employers by people interviewing for jobs or those who are being called back to work. He says some people have legitimate excuses for not being able to make an interview, but don't even bother to call and say why. His bill creates a process for reporting the ghosting to the Department of Workforce Development which would then be required to investigate complaints to see if they have merit.

Fond du Lac County District Attorney/Eric Toney/Crime Victims Rights

Date Aired: 4/27/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:52 minutes

Recently Wisconsin celebrated the third anniversary of the passing of the constitutional amendment known as "Marsy's Law" which gives crime victims' rights helping level the playing field between them and those accused of the crimes against them. Fond du Lac County District Attorney Eric Toney says he's seen those rights used in courtrooms in the county by crime victims. Victims can ask to be heard during bond hearings, when a request has been made for an adjournment, and during sentencing. Toney cites two changes as really making a difference. One of them is protecting the privacy of victims by keeping their names out of criminal complaints that are made public. Victims can also ask that a case be moved forward without reasonable delay. This week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

SSM Health/Meg Puddy/Autism Acceptance Month

Date Aired: 4/27/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:41 minutes

The latest figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for Autism prevalence rates show 1 in 36 children or about 2.8 percent of the population have some form of autism. Meg Puddy is the Manager of Autism Services for the SSM Health Treffert Center in Fond du Lac. She says there is no one common form of Autism. She says children with Autism may interact, communicate, and socialize with others differently. She says parents who suspect their child may be autistic should not panic about it. She recommends consulting with your pediatrician, check to see if the Treffert Center can be of assistance, also check the resources offered by the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin. More importantly she asks them to remember that "Love is a good therapist."

Fond du Lac County Sheriff/ Ryan Waldschmidt/Suicide by Cop

Date Aired: 4/28/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:38 minutes

Authorities at the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office have had internal discussions about the rise in the number of incidents in which someone was looking at harming themselves through "Suicide by Cop." The Sheriff's Office has been involved in three recent incidents and Fond du Lac Police in two more where someone was armed and despondent. Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt says Seasonal Affective Disorder may have had a part but that's just speculation. He says they've been fortunate that all five standoff situations have ended without anyone coming to harm. The Sheriff's Office has a crisis social worker that responded to all three of their incidents. Other law enforcement agencies have someone similar working for them. Waldschmidt says it's another tool they have.

League of Women Voters of the Ripon Area/Ellen Sorensen/Annual Meeting*Date Aired: 5/1/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 13:33 minutes*

The League of Women Voters of the Ripon Area will hold their 61st Annual meeting this Saturday at the Ripon Senior Center. A taco bar lunch will begin at 11:30 am followed by a presentation at 12 noon. The speaker is Stephanie Prellwitz, Executive Director of the Green Lake Association. League President Ellen Sorensen says the League has been an advocate of clean water for a long time, but the purpose for having Prellwitz speak is to drive home the point of making a difference in good government. The Association was successful in stopping a surface mine that was encroaching on the Green Lake Watershed. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Wednesday is the deadline to RSVP for the lunch that will be served prior to the presentation.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Amy Ries/June Dairy Events*Date Aired: 5/2/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 12:23 minutes*

The kick-off event for June Dairy Days in Fond du Lac County is now less than a month away. Each year in Fond du Lac National Exchange Bank & Trust leads off the Dairy Month with June Dairy Day. This year it is on Saturday, June 3rd during the Farmer's Market. Amy Ries is the Director of Agricultural Programs for Envision Greater Fond du Lac. She says it's the 38th year for the event. It is a free event with a petting zoo and samples of dairy products. There will also be pony rides and face painting. Ries says it is a "Super Family Event." The event at the bank on South Main Street in Fond du Lac will run from 9 to 11 that morning. She also talked about the Breakfast on the Farm at the end of June.

Ripon Area United Way/Jeff Puhlmann-Becker and Amber Kilawee/United Way Merger*Date Aired: 5/3/23**Time Aired: 8:43 am**Duration: 16:51 minutes*

The Ripon Area United Way will be merging with the Fond du Lac Area United Way to become the Fond du Lac County United Way at the end of the month. Ripon Area United Way Board of Directors President Jeff Puhlmann-Becker says this is something they have been talking about and considering for more than two years. Funding for the 12 non-profit agencies that the Ripon Area United Way gave to during this past year's campaign will continue over the next three years. He says there will be advantages to joining the Fond du Lac Area United Way in the merger such as that chapter's grant writing expertise and some full-time staff. Amber Kilawee is the Executive Director of the Fond du Lac Area United Way. She says they are pleased to see one United Way for the entire county coming out of the merger.

Berlin Area School District/Emmett Durtschi/Music Students Trip*Date Aired: 5/4/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 11:36 minutes*

About 50 Berlin High School music students had the opportunity to travel to New Orleans during spring break. Berlin Schools Superintendent Emmett Durtschi was one of the 14 chaperones that went along for the trip. He says the students enjoyed visiting the sites, the historic French Quarter, and street music which included Dixieland and Jazz. Durtschi says the district got a lot of positive feedback about how well the students represented the district on their trip. He says the public is invited to watch students from their various grade levels at concerts throughout this month at the schools. Durtschi feels music has had an important role in getting students through the past four years COVID-19 epidemic over the past four years.

Ripon Public Library/Susie Menk and Linda DeCramer/Summer Program*Date Aired: 5/5/23**Time Aired: 8:15 am**Duration: 11:17 minutes*

This summer's programming at the Ripon Public Library will be intergenerational and is aptly named "All Together Now." Linda DeCramer is the library's Youth Services Librarian. She says they will have programs to kids, teens, adults, kids and families, and seniors. Ofcourse reading and education are primary goals, but so is having fun. They have a number of collaborators including the Friends of the Library, Ripon Historical Society, Green Lake Festival of Music, the Green Lake Association, Ripon Noon Kiwanis, Bug Tussel Wireless, the Ripon Senior Activity Center, Alexandria Games and more. Adult Teen Services Librarian Susie Menk says one of their first activities is a plant swap on Friday and Saturday June 2nd and 3rd.

Green Lake Association/Stephanie Prellwitz/Boat Wash*Date Aired: 5/5/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 11:31 minutes*

The Green Lake Association will be launching a free wash station for boats at Dodge Memorial County Park around Memorial Day. Stephanie Prellwitz is the Chief Executive Officer of the association. She says

they have two goals when it comes to conservation and preservation efforts for the lake, keeping invasive species out and reducing phosphorous. The boat wash is a pilot program for them. They ask people to use it before they put their boats into the lake especially if they have had them in other lakes within the previous five days. She says aquatic invasive species get into water bodies by attaching themselves to a boat. She points out zebra mussels first showed up in Green Lake in 2005 and now they are all over creating problems.

Rosendale Brandon School District/Wayne Weber/Referendum Passage

Date Aired: 5/8/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:10 minutes

Rosendale-Brandon School District Superintendent Wayne Weber says they are grateful to voters for passing two referendum questions. One was an operational referendum asking to exceed the district's revenue caps by \$1.5 million a year for two years. The other was a capital referendum asking for permission to borrow \$35.7 million to build an addition onto the high school and make renovations to both schools. It would allow the district to consolidate down from four to two schools saving the district more than \$900,000 a year. Weber says architectural design work will be worked on this year. Bidding for the projects will be next February and March with groundbreaking at both project sites next spring. Weber says eventually Brandon Elementary and Rosendale Primary will be offered for sale.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Kim Mueller/Fentanyl Awareness Day

Date Aired: 5/9/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:14 minutes

Health Departments around the country today mark National Fentanyl Awareness Day by talking about the dangers of the drug and the availability of Narcan and Fentanyl test strips. Fond du Lac County Public Health Officer Kim Mueller says Fentanyl test strips are a very good idea for those addicted opioids because often dealers cut Fentanyl into other drugs unbeknownst to the user. Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Mueller says many health departments have Fentanyl test strips available for those who want them and you can also get them through needle exchange programs. More information is available at Fentanyl Awareness Day.org.

Ripon Parks and Recreation/Ashton Zeien/Parks and Rec Website

Date Aired: 5/10/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:50 minutes

Ripon's brand-new Parks and Recreation Department launched its own website this week. Parks and Recreation Director Ashton Zeien says the site serves both her department and the Senior Center. It will allow people to register for programs or rent facilities. You can also pay for those programs that require a fee or for rental of facilities. Other features include a calendar of events and a get involved tab that takes you a page with information on the Adopt-a-Park program. Zeien says more information will be added as they add more Parks and Recreation and Senior Center programs The website address is Ripon.recdesk.com.

SSM Health/Zach Reed/Blood Drive

Date Aired: 5/11/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 8:33 minutes

SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital will be hosting a blood drive next Tuesday from Noon to 3 pm. ImpactLife is conducting the drive. Zach Reed is a donor relations consultant for ImpactLife. He notes there is a blood shortage across the country and summer is a time when they see fewer donors so they are hoping to collect at least 17 units of blood from donors in Ripon. He says they differ from the Red Cross because the blood donated to ImpactLife is used by local hospitals. Although they will accept walk-ins they encourage people to register at bloodcenter.org where the group code is 4054 or by calling 1-800-747-5401. Donors will get their choice of a gift card or a baseball hat. Those planning to donate should eat a healthy meal and drinking plenty of water before donating.

U.S. Government/Congressman Glenn Grothman/Expiration of Title 42

Date Aired: 5/12/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 13:29 minutes

Congressman Glenn Grothman doesn't expect the Biden Administration to do very much at our southern borders with the expiration of Title 42 and up to 20,000 illegal immigrants crossing the borders a day. Thursday the House passed the Secure the Border Act of 2023. Among the things it asks for is rebuilding of the wall and getting rid of a catch-and-release policy. Congressman Grothman who has made more than a half a dozen trips to the border says President Biden doesn't seem to care about what is going on at the border. The federal lawmaker from Glenbeulah says over 200,000 illegal immigrants are crossing the border every month. The Biden Administration claims the number of immigrants coming across the border since Title 42 expired is down by 50 percent.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Sadie Vander Velde/Ripon Business Spotlight

Date Aired: 5/16/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:57 minutes

A business that will be locating in Ripon's Business Park was spotlighted in an Envision Greater Fond du Lac newsletter during Economic Development Week last week. In particular efforts to bring Flash Trucking of Green Lake to Ripon were highlighted. Envision CEO and President Sadie Vander Velde says Envision's Senior Director of Business Attraction Lisa McArthur worked with Ripon City Administrator Adam Sonntag and Flash Trucking officials on a potential client for Flash Trucking. McArthur knew of a company from the State of Washington that makes Magnesium Hydroxide, a kind of Milk of Magnesia on a greater scale. That company needed a company that could take the powder shipped in trucks, agitate it, and then deliver the finished product to companies. Flash Trucking has that ability.

Ripon Main Street/Craig Tebon/Best Main Streets

Date Aired: 5/17/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:43 minutes

Ripon's historic Main Street recently received a little bit of notoriety named by World Atlas.com as one of the 7 Towns in Wisconsin That Have the Best Main Streets. The article mentions the Little White Schoolhouse but also lively pubs, inviting restaurant, and artsy coffee shops. Ripon Main Street Executive Director Craig Tebon says the Ripon Main Street program begun in 1988 has worked over the years on business recruitment and the appearance of the downtown. But he says it is not just the downtown, what they are doing requires the whole community's participation. The article also talked about the eye-catching Italianate architecture inspired by the 16th century Italian Renaissance.

Ripon Area School District/Mary Whitrock/Students and Retiring Educators

Date Aired: 5/18/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:30 minutes

For the Ripon Area School District it has been a week to honor the achievements of high school seniors and long-time educators who are retiring. Wednesday night the District had its annual honors night when scholarships are awarded and students are inducted into the National Honor Society. District Superintendent Mary Whitrock says to be inducted into the National Honor Society students have to be not only academically gifted but commit time to community service as well. As for their seven retirees Dee Schmidtke, Randy Hatlen, Shelly Kemnitz, Dale Nehls, Sue O'Brien, Dennis Jahns, and Lori Cluppert gave a total of 174 years of service to the District, which Whitrock says doesn't include the total number of years they've given to education.

Wisconsin Government/State Representative Alex Dallman/Shared Revenue Bill

Date Aired: 5/19/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:23 minutes

State Representative Alex Dallman is pleased with the Assembly's passing of a bill that invests historic funding to shared revenue for local governments across Wisconsin. The state lawmaker from Green Lake says the bill isn't perfect but under it every municipality would see at least a 15 percent increase in shared revenue. He notes in the Assembly it passed along a partisan vote so he's hoping it will be tweaked a bit to gain more support and go on to the Governor for signing into law. Examples he gave of increases in shared revenue were the Town of Berlin would see its shared revenue increase from \$14,000 to \$40,000, and the City of Berlin's \$1.7 million in shared revenue would increase by \$300,000.

Wisconsin Government/State Senator Joan Ballweg/State Justice System

Date Aired: 5/22/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:31 minutes

State Senator Joan Ballweg says proposed increases in pay for assistant district attorneys and public defenders is one of the ways they can make the state's justice system quicker and more efficient. The state lawmaker from Markesan has talked with a number of District Attorneys over the years that have had problems with staff shortages and attracting lawyers to be ADAs because of the compensation level. She says Wisconsin state public defender Kelli Thompson tells her staffing shortages in the corrections system has also created issues for public defenders trying to meet with clients who are in prison. Ballweg sits on the state's Joint Finance Committee which hopes to do something as well to ease a testing backlog for the State Crime Lab.

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce/Mandy Kimes/Little White Schoolhouse

Date Aired: 5/23/23

Time Aired: 7:45 am

Duration: 13:27 minutes

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce Director Mandy Kimes says they are hoping to have the Little White Schoolhouse open for tours this Memorial Day weekend. New sidewalk is supposed to be laid today at the

schoolhouse's new location. Kimes says they've been busy with other improvements too, but the visitor center that will use the former Marine Credit Union building won't be ready until next year. Meanwhile the review of the schoolhouse's national historical designation due to the move may take a while to happen. Kimes say they are thinking about hiring someone to prepare an application for the National Register but they are still trying to find out what the review process is going to be for their landmark designation.

Winnebago County Government/Jacob Floam/Self Governing

Date Aired: 5/23/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:11 minutes

The Winnebago County Board recently approved an ordinance invoking the authority of a state statute to make Winnebago County a self-governing county. County Supervisor Jacob Floam says the recommendation came out of a task force reviewing the county's per diem policies and the Judiciary Committee. He says it makes Winnebago County the 53rd of the state's 72 counties to become self-governing. Floam says it gives the county a degree of administrative home rule. He says for now they will be able to close some loopholes on their per diems, but in the future they will have the power to do other things including stagger terms for county supervisors and decide how to fill vacancies on the county board.

Fond du Lac County/Sam Kaufman/Park Improvements

Date Aired: 5/24/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:36 minutes

Fond du Lac County Executive Sam Kaufman says with the county investing \$600,000 this year in improvements to its county parks, they will also be hiring a county activities director for the summer. He says that person will put together 2 to 3 activities for each park. He says activities could include hiking events, crafts, music, geocaching, and more. Kaufman says parks are a way kids and families can get out of the house and enjoy activities and time together. One of the parks targeted for improvements this year is Roosevelt Park near Taycheedah. Kaufman says they will be putting up new bathrooms, a shelter, and install a 200-foot pier.

Green Lake Conservancy/Mark Lindquist//Powell Spring Purchase

Date Aired: 5/25/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 12:11 minutes

The Green Lake Conservancy will have free tours of their latest land acquisition, land along Powell Spring, on Saturday, July 1st from 9 am to noon. Powell Spring is a unique property critical to the environmental health of Green Lake, with its own natural beauty and unique history. The Conservancy is a non-profit land trust established in 1995 to purchase lands for public preservation. About 20 properties have been purchased over the years. Mark Lindquist is with the Conservancy. He says Powell Spring is named after James Powell a British settler who purchased 80 acres in 1835 to set up a trading post and blacksmith business. Lindquist says Native Americans had been using the same spot for a trading center for thousands of years.

SSM Health/Renae Patrick and Stacey Sesing/Stroke Awareness

Date Aired: 5/25/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:21 minutes

Two officials with SSM Health Agnesian Hospital say there are things you can do to reduce your risks of suffering a stroke. Agnesian Hospital is a Primary Stroke Care Center. Renae Patrick is a Neurology Nurse Practitioner. She says there are a number of risk factors including high blood pressure and sleep apnea that you can do something about. Other risk factors include irregular heart rhythm, smoking, diet and exercise, high-cholesterol, weight and obesity. Stacey Sesing is a Stroke Coordinator. She says when someone suffers a stroke time is critical because the quicker you call 911 or get someone to an emergency room the likely is they can do something to reduce or reverse the effects of a stroke. Women, African Americans and Asian-Americans are more likely to suffer strokes.

Berlin City Government/Luke Dretske/Saving City Pool

Date Aired: 5/26/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 12:13 minutes

With looming budget cuts the Berlin Common Council has created a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission to take a look at how to save the city pool. Alderman Luke Dretske says they are facing about a \$300,000 budget shortfall. An increase in shared revenue from the state could bring the city about \$285,000 more, but the Governor is proposing to veto the Legislative Republicans plan. He says those who want to try and save the pool should let that be known and the best way to do that is to attend a subcommittee meeting. Dretske points out with the failure of the operational referendum last month they arrived at a point where they now had to consider cuts and have to concentrate on what they can afford and need.

Ripon Police Department/Chief Bill Wallner/No Mow May

Date Aired: 5/30/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:49 minutes

No Mow May is coming to a conclusion for many Wisconsin communities with ordinances allowing residents who apply for the program to skip mowing their lawns for the month of May. It is a program meant to help out bees and other pollinator-friendly insects. Last year in Ripon 188 residents applied for the program. With the month nearly over Ripon Police Chief Bill Wallner reminds residents that those lengthy lawns now need to be mowed. He says clippings cannot be deposited into dumpsters or trash cans but need to be disposed of at the recycling center on Tuesdays and Saturdays on Old Berlin Road. He also urges residents not to blow those grass clippings out into the street where they would eventually end up in the gutters and wastewater disposal system.

Wisconsin Government/State Representative Jon Plumer/Revenue Sharing

Date Aired: 5/31/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 4:31 minutes

State Representative Jon Plumer is hopeful a revenue sharing plan will make it through the State Senate and to the Governor's desk without too many changes. The state lawmaker from Lodi says it was a bipartisan effort to begin with to share more of the state's revenues with counties and municipalities who also struggle with budgets and making ends meet without leaning too heavily on taxpayers. Plumer says the problem is everyone wants their specific piece of the pie which has slowed down the effort to get the plan approved by the state legislature and the governor. Plumer believes some form of the plan will pass and go into effect.

Berlin Area School District/Emmett Durtschi//Budget Cut

Date Aired: 6/1/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:26 minutes

With the failure of an operational referendum in April the Berlin Area School District will be making some strategic cuts. One of the first will end in-city busing of students to school. District Superintendent Emmett Durtschi says the will affect any students within a 2 mile diameter of their schools. He says they had been busing students even closer than that, but got no funding from the state for providing that service. He says three routes will be affected with a projected savings of about \$139,000 a year. In addition there will be a saving for the fuel they pay for the busing with Northern Express.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee/United Way Merger

Date Aired: 6/2/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:28 minutes

The end of May brought with it a merger of United Way chapters in Ripon and the rest of Fond du Lac County into one Fond du Lac County United Way. Amber Kilawee says it is an exciting time for them as they become more acquainted with the Ripon Community. This fall is the United Way chapter formed in Fond du Lac's 75th Anniversary. She says they weren't originally known as the Fond du Lac Area United Way so a name change is just part of their collective history and Ripon joining them is a new chapter. Kilawee says a couple weeks ago she met with Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mandy Kimes and they became a chamber member. They also subscribed to the Ripon Commonwealth Press to stay up-to-date on all the local goings-on.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Kim Mueller/Wildfire Smoke

Date Aired: 6/5/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 13:01 minutes

Fond du Lac County Public Health Officer Kim Mueller says smoke from wildfires in Canada and neighboring states can have an impact on those with respiratory and chronic illness problems. She says if the state's Department of Natural Resources issues an Air Quality Advisory or Warning those with respiratory issues should heed them. She notes the particles from the long-distant fires are so small they are easily inhaled. She says it could trigger short-term respiratory problems for those who are more susceptible with symptoms including coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, and asthma exacerbation. She says the very young, the very old, and those with respiratory problems would be likely to be affected by air quality. She recommends limiting your time outdoors.

Fond du Lac County Communications and Emergency Management/Amy Haase/Heat Awareness Tips

Date Aired: 6/7/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:02 minutes

With summer just getting started two Fond du Lac County officials have some advice for when it gets really hot. Public Health Officer Kim Mueller says it is important to be well hydrated, otherwise you could fall prey to heat exhaustion or stroke. Other tips include staying in a cool area indoors, wear light-colored light weight clothing, use sunscreen, check on loved ones and elderly neighbors, eat lightly, and never leave a child or pet in a hot car. Communications and Emergency Management Director Amy Haase says if heat indices get up around 100 degrees a heat advisory will be issued ahead of time and for excessive heat above that there will heat watches and warnings. Today is Wisconsin Heat Awareness Day.

SSM Health/Dr. Ryan Pizinger/Orthopedic Surgery Services*Date Aired: 6/8/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 12:31 minutes*

Dr. Ryan Pizinger, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, is now serving SSM Health patients in Fond du Lac and Ripon. He will be seeing patients at the SSM Health Plaza A in Fond du Lac and Ripon Community Hospital. Dr. Pizinger specializes in sports medicine, joint replacement surgery, anterior hip replacement surgery, shoulder reconstruction, and hip, shoulder, and knee arthroscopy. Prior to moving to Fond du Lac he practiced in the Joliet, Illinois area for 11 years. He says his goal is to return his patients to their active lifestyle as quickly as possible. For more information about Dr. Pizinger or to schedule an appointment, call 920-926-8616 or 920-745-3500.

Alice in Dairyland/Taylor Schaefer/Reign Coming to an End*Date Aired: 6/9/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 11:37 minutes*

Wisconsin's 75th Alice in Dairyland, Taylor Schaefer, wraps up her one-year reign with the busiest month of the year for Alice, June Dairy Month. The UW-Madison graduate says she has traveled over 40,000 miles being the state's Agricultural Ambassador and anticipates putting another 5,000 or more miles on the vehicle they supply her with. She grew up on her family's beef and crop farm in Franksville which is in Racine County. She says her favorite part of being Alice is meeting new people and trying out new experiences. Her last day as Alice is on July 4th and then Ashley Hagenow of Poynette takes over as the 76th Alice in Dairyland. Taylor says she will take a break after her year as Alice because she has been on the road for nearly all of that time.

Ripon Noon Kiwanis/Jeffrey Dodson/Children's Fair*Date Aired: 6/12/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 11:48 minutes*

The Ripon Noon Kiwanis with Ripon Public Library support will have their annual Children's Fair at the Ripon High School Saturday from 9 am to Noon. Kiwanis Past President Jeffrey Dodson says they enjoy staging the event each year for kids. The free event will have a caricature artist, musical entertainer "Mr. Pickles," mini golf, Bouncy House, Preschool Romper Room, yard games and more. Children and families can also check out a Ripon Police Squad, Fire Truck, and ambulance. Information stations will be set up with information on a variety of children and family services. There is no cost to attend and there will be prizes and giveaways.

Ripon FFA Alumni/Amy Badtke/Annual Breakfast*Date Aired: 6/13/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 8:46 minutes*

The Ripon FFA Alumni will host their annual breakfast this Sunday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Miller Farm in Pickett. The Father's Day breakfast will feature pancakes, eggs, sausage, cheese, fruits, drinks, and ice cream. Amy Badtke of the Alumni says there will be activities for the kids as well with a corn pool, farm animals, and more. Money raised from the breakfast supports scholarships for students who plan a career in agriculture. Badtke says they have used the money as well in the past to purchase a van for FFA students to use for going to conventions and competitions. Money has even gone toward the purchase of FFA jackets. Tickets are \$10 each, kids 5 and under eat free. They will be available at the farm or at Ripon Drug and Schmitt Lumber in advance.

Fond du Lac County Government/Sam Kaufman/Brandon Policing*Date Aired: 6/14/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 13:03 minutes*

The Fond du Lac County Board Tuesday night approved creation of an additional Sheriff's deputy position to provide policing services for the Village of Brandon. The deputy will spend 20 hours a week in Brandon and the rest of time patrolling for the County. County Executive Sam Kaufman says with the retirement of Brandon-Fairwater Police Chief Gary Durkee the Village of Brandon could have ended its police department, but they wanted to continue to provide that service and will do so through the County. Kaufman says the deputy will be located in the western part of the county and will be able to respond to emergencies in Ripon and Waupun much quicker. He says the contract with Brandon is for one year with an option to renew for three years.

Waupun Festivals/Nick Rusch/Celebrate Waupun 2023*Date Aired: 6/16/23**Time Aired: 8:45 am**Duration: 10:23 minutes*

Waupun's Tanner Park will be a hub of activity this weekend for the 11th Annual Celebrate Waupun. Nick Rusch is the president of Waupun Festivals. He says the event evolved over the years from a 4 ½ day

festival to its current form of 3 days. The event is next Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There will be a carnival, food, music, a cornhole tournament, tour of the city's sculptures, fireworks, and more. Rusch says they even lined up a Wild World of Animals Show featuring exotic and fun animals that will be in the park all three days. They will be doing 3 shows a day. Rusch says a megaband wristband will be available at the Piggly Wiggly store in Waupun through noon Thursday for \$50 that will allow you unlimited access at the carnival; otherwise, it will be \$75 when things start Friday.

U.S. Government/Senator Ron Johnson/Division Between Parties

Date Aired: 6/19/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 12:35 minutes

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson says the biggest threat to our nation is financial or a foreign country, but our division on issues. He spoke about that during the Wisconsin Republican Party Convention in La Crosse last week. He doesn't believe conservatives in the GOP are pushing that division. He says there are groups and individuals on the radical left telling people that Republicans hate them. Johnson says that simply isn't true. The federal lawmaker from Oshkosh says most Americans have a lot of common beliefs for example about having a safe, prosperous and secure country. He points out that it is the people accusing others of hating them that are actually pushing the hate. He suggests we open our minds to others' perspectives.

Wisconsin Government/State Representative Alex Dallman/Shared Revenue Increases

Date Aired: 6/19/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:54 minutes

State Representative Alex Dallman says the Joint Finance Committee's work on the two-year state budget should wrap up this week. The state lawmaker from Green Lake is a JFC member. He's proud of the work they've done on the budget and increases in shared revenue particularly for cities and towns. He says all of them will be receiving at least a 20 percent increase and some including towns in Green Lake, Fond du Lac counties will receive substantially more for roads, public works and other expenses. He says one of the things included in the shared revenue package is an innovation fund with hundreds of millions in dollars in it which will go to those considering consolidating services. Dallman says that in turn will save taxpayers money and make those services more efficient.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Sadie Vander Velde/Breakfast on the Farm Change of Venue

Date Aired: 6/20/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:10 minutes

Envision Greater Fond du Lac CEO and President Sadie Vander Velde says word spread fast throughout the farming community about a fire at Forest Ride Holsteins that destroyed barns and an office facility. The farm owned by Kurt and Sarah Lochr was supposed to host this Sunday's Breakfast on the Farm. Due the damage and circumstances that isn't possible. Vander Velde says the Director of their Agricultural Programs Amy Ries started getting calls right away from other farms willing to host the 34th Annual event put on by Envision's Agri-business Council. 3-D Dairy at N8148 Schaefer Road in Malone will host the breakfast from 8 am to Noon Sunday.

Wisconsin Government/State Representative Jon Plumer/Shared Revenue

Date Aired: 6/21/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:38 minutes

State Representative Jon Plumer says getting the historic local shared revenue legislation signed into law Tuesday by the Governor was a monumental task. He says it took months of negotiations but in the end every municipality will see a minimum 20 percent increase in shared revenue. He says the additional revenue will help fund police, fire, EMS, roads, and local infrastructure. The state lawmaker from Lodi says he has gotten a lot of positive feedback the past few weeks about the increase in shared revenue. It also includes some reforms such as permanently repealing the personal property tax, stops communities from defunding their police, and requires all school districts to track crimes that occur on school grounds and provide an accountability report.

SSM Health/Angela Hall/Parkinson's Speech Therapy

Date Aired: 6/22/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:24 minutes

SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac now has a couple of therapy programs it is offering through its hospitals in Fond du Lac, Ripon, and Waupun to help Parkinson's victims having problems with their speech and communicating abilities. Angela Hall is a speech language pathologist. She says 90 percent of those with Parkinson's disease end up with difficulty speaking, communication and even swallowing. She says the people around them notice the problems first. She says before they put someone in the SPEAK OUT!® program they evaluate the person, but the first step is to see your physician and ask them to make a recommendation to a speech therapist. Hall says once a person completes the 4-week SPEAK OUT!® program they transition them into the follow up program THE LOUD® Crowd.

Green Lake County Sheriff's Department/Matt Vande Kolk/Accidental 911 Calls*Date Aired:* 6/23/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 13:35 minutes

Green Lake County Chief Deputy Matt Vande Kolk says at their current rate they will double the number of inadvertent 911 calls they normally receive at their Communications Center by the end of the year. He says a lot of that is due to jostling of smart phones and the Emergency SOS features that automatically dial 911 when that happens. He says people should check to see if their phone service provider sent out an update to correct that feature. He urges people to stay on the line if they accidentally dial 911 so a dispatcher knows it is not a real emergency. He says a lot of those calls happen when people place their phones in cup holders, especially on riding lawn mowers. It can also happen on a boat too.

Winnebago County Government/Jacob Floam/Shared Revenue*Date Aired:* 6/26/23*Time Aired:* 8:15 am*Duration:* 11:11 minutes

Winnebago County Supervisor Jacob Floam says a boost in state shared revenue will help out the county and its municipalities. The shared revenue package passed by the state legislature and signed into law by the Governor will benefit all municipalities across the state by at least 20 percent. Floam says the cities of Oshkosh and Omro will both get a 20 percent increase in revenue and the county will see an 81 percent increase in its share of funds. He says Winnebago County will be able to remain one of only four counties across the state that doesn't have a sales tax. He says there are some things the county can use that increase of shared revenue on such as funding a merit pay adjustment for county employees and paying for increased costs for road maintenance.

Wisconsin Government/State Senator Joan Ballweg/School Funding*Date Aired:* 6/26/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 10:26 minutes

State Senator Joan Ballweg says the proposed 2-year state budget the Joint Finance Committee has turned over to the state legislature includes \$534 million in General Aids for K-12 Education including higher support for special needs students. Ballweg, a member of JFC, says she's proud that school districts that have been fiscally responsible and were receiving \$10,000 per student in aid will see that increase to \$11,000. She says to pay for that they are providing nearly \$1 billion in tax relief to help out property taxpayers. That will be accomplished through two methods; levy credits and gaming credits that people receive on their property taxes. More importantly she emphasizes they will be maintaining the two-thirds funding of K-12 education.

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce/Mandy Kimes/Little White Schoolhouse*Date Aired:* 6/27/23*Time Aired:* 7:45 am*Duration:* 11:46 minutes

The Little White Schoolhouse in Ripon still has its historic landmark status despite this spring's move. Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mandy Kimes the move triggered an automatic review by the National Park Service, but things take time at the federal level. She says while that is happening they are reapplying for the Nation Registry of Historic Places. Kimes says as "The Birthplace of the Republican Party" the Little White Schoolhouse should have its place among national historic places. The Little White Schoolhouse has been owned by the Chamber of Commerce for more than 30 years and the Chamber has maintained it over that time span.

Ripon Kiwanis Clubs/Dan Parks and Jeffrey Dodson/All-Inclusive Playground*Date Aired:* 6/28/23*Time Aired:* 8:14 am*Duration:* 16:02 minutes

Both the Ripon Early Bird Kiwanis and Noon Kiwanis Clubs are collaborating to bring an all-inclusive playground to Riggs County Park. Fond du Lac County will provide \$190,000 of the estimated \$270,000 cost, leaving the clubs to raise the remaining \$80,000. Early Bird Kiwanis Club President Dan Parks says the two clubs were brought together by a bequest to the clubs by Dennis Valstad who was an Early Bird Kiwanis member before his passing in 2019. The all-inclusive playground would be for children ages 5 to 12. One of the features of the playground will be the rubberized matting. Jeffrey Dodson is the immediate past president of the Noon Kiwanis. He says that will allow grandparents and the elderly to watch children at play as well.

Green Lake Conservancy/Mark Lindquist/Powell Spring Open House*Date Aired:* 6/29/23*Time Aired:* 8:45 am*Duration:* 12:10 minutes

The Green Lake Conservancy will have free tours of their latest land acquisition, land along Powell Spring Saturday from 9 am to noon. Powell Spring is a unique property critical to the environmental health of

Green Lake, with its own natural beauty and unique history. Mark Lindquist is with the Conservancy. He says Powell Spring is named after James Powell a British settler who purchased 80 acres in 1835 to set up a trading post and blacksmith business. Lindquist says Native Americans had been using the same spot for a trading center for thousands of years. During Saturday's event 6 markers will be up with a little history on each of them or you can scan a QR code on them to hear the history over your phone. There will be self-guided or guided tours available.

Berlin Common Council/Luke Dretske/Increasing Sewer Rates

Date Aired: 6/30/23

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:07 minutes

The City of Berlin is looking at increasing sewer rates by 12 percent this year to pay for necessary repairs at the wastewater treatment plant. The city hired a firm Ehlers Public Finance Advisors to do a cost analysis. In addition to the increase this year they suggested a 3 percent increase in 2028 and a 3 percent increase in 2031. Alderman Luke Dretske says it has been some time since the last sewer rate increase. In fact the last sewer rate increase for the city was in 2014. Dretske says before the rate increase goes into effect they have a number of steps to go through. Those steps would include a rate increase study and a hearing before the state's public service commission in addition to Berlin Common Council approval.

Riponfest Car Show/Howard Stibb/New Venue

Date Aired: 6/30/23

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:20 minutes

Riponfest Car Show organizer Howard Stibb talked about a change of venue for the car show which has been going on for more than 30 years. The show will be from 8 am to 3 pm on Sunday, July 9th at Barlow Park in Ripon. For years it was held on Watson Street in downtown Ripon during Septemberfest. Stibb says other than the location and moving it up several months nothing has changed for the show which is still expected to draw nearly 250 classic cars from all over the Midwest. The cost for car entries also remains the same at \$10.