

Quarterly Issues and Programs Report for wrpn | 1st Quarter 2024

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.

Ripon Area Fire District/Ellen Sorensen/Community Report

Date Aired: 1/2/24

Time Aired: 8:44 am

Duration: 15:17 minutes

The president of the Ripon Area Fire District Governing Board says the Report Card to the Community they released before the Christmas holidays is their way of informing residents about the strides they are making in improving the department. Ellen Sorensen says it shows how they moved forward, but also provides a record of what they still need to accomplish. For example they learned they needed FIT testing for the facemasks firefighters use during fires. If the mask doesn't fit well noxious fumes from burning materials could cause harm to a firefighter. The FIT testing was completed. They also updated their CO2 extinguishers and made sure their trucks and equipment were up to Department of Transportation standards. Much more is included in the report.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee and Tammy Young/Big Brothers Big Sisters

Date Aired: 1/3/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 13:42 minutes

One of the longest running associations the Fond du Lac County United Way has had with an agency it supports is with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fond du Lac County. Big Brothers Executive Director Tammy Young says their priority is to match adults or "Bigs" with children or "Littles." The currently have 10 matches in the Ripon area, but there are 10 to 15 littles that need matches. Young says that they have both school-based and community-based matching. Although located in Fond du Lac they have people that will meet with potential "Bigs" at Barlow Park Elementary School. She notes there isn't a big time commitment for those who become "Bigs." Young has been a "Big" to an 11-year-old girl for the past three years.

Berlin Area School District/Emmett Durtschi/Recreational Department Formed

Date Aired: 1/4/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:30 minutes

The Berlin Area School District has created a Community Education and Recreation Department. Berlin Schools Superintendent Emmett Durtschi says with the city of Berlin scaling back on recreational programs due to budget issues, the school district will fill that niche by opening some of its facilities to the community for recreational and educational programs. He says their motto for the programs is "B Active." They are starting out modestly by opening the pool to lap and open swim programs for only \$2. Anyone can take advantage of it whether they are community residents or not. Durtschi says with their facilities they will have all kinds of opportunities for adult programs as well. He says they can use the school kitchens for cooking classes or other classrooms for arts and crafts.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Amy Ries/Agricultural Showcase

Date Aired: 1/4/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:07 minutes

Planning is still underway for the 20th Annual Fond du Lac Area Agriculture Showcase on Saturday, March 2nd. It will be from 9 am to 2 pm at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds Expo Building. The cost is \$5 for adults with those 10 and under getting in free. The event is hosted by the Envision Greater Fond du Lac Agri-business Council. Amy Ries is the Director of Agricultural Programs for Envision. She says it is a big year for the event since it is their twentieth anniversary. She says the \$5 you pay to get in will allow you to sample beer, wine, cheese and sausage, and enjoy the many educational activities that day. She says their

educational area will have a petting zoo, face painting, coloring for the kids and more. She also notes they usually have some presentations as well.

Fond du Lac County District Attorney/Eric Toney/Cardiac Issues

Date Aired: 1/5/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 9:50 minutes

Fond du Lac County District Attorney Eric Toney says if not for the death of a friend from a heart attack in 2018 he would have ignored his own cardiac problems. Dennis Krueger was the County's Deputy District Attorney who passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Krueger lived in the Ripon/Green Lake area. Toney had open heart surgery before Thanksgiving to replace a heart valve that was destroyed by a bacterial infection in his blood. He says when he began feeling fatigued and showing other symptoms he thought back on what happened to Dennis and got himself checked out. At 39-years of age and having run seven marathons Toney was used to an active lifestyle. Since his surgery he was able to run in a 5K race over the New Year's weekend.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Johanna Brotz/Quitting Smoking

Date Aired: 1/5/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 9:10 minutes

If quitting smoking or vaping was a New Year's resolution don't be disappointed if the first attempt doesn't accomplish your goal. Johanna Brotz is the Tobacco Prevention and Control Coordinator for Fond du Lac County. She says it is a hard habit to break. For that reason they recommend starting off with nicotine replacement therapies or NRT's such as patches, lozenges, and gums which they consider a harm reduction tactic. She says the NRT's are a short term solution designed to get you off tobacco and once you have then you have to ween yourself off of the NRT's. Brotz points out the Wisconsin Quit Line can be helpful and at the beginning of this year will supply you with 8 weeks of NRT's for no cost. They can be called at 1-800-QUIT-NOW, that's 1-800-784-8669.

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce/Mandy Kimes/Ripon 175th Anniversary

Date Aired: 1/9/24

Time Aired: 7:45 am

Duration: 9:13 minutes

Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mandy Kimes says 2024 is a special year for the City of Ripon. She says the city will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary. Kimes says they will be doing some special things throughout the course of the year to mark the special benchmark for the city. She says there are a lot of anniversaries for a variety of organizations this year. That includes the Kiwanis Club celebrating their 100th anniversary, the Historical Society is celebrating their 125th, and the Little White School House turns 170. Kimes says they may also incorporate some of the City's history into a learning opportunity at the schools.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Kim Mueller/Respiratory Illnesses

Date Aired: 1/10/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:28 minutes

Fond du Lac County Public Health Officer Kim Mueller says they have seen an uptick in respiratory viruses. She says that's particularly true of COVID-19, the flu, and RSV cases. Mueller says that is not really surprising as we spend more time indoors during the winter months. She says each is highly contagious and many people have had influenza at one time or another during their lives. Mueller notes all three respiratory illnesses will probably continue to peak over the next three weeks and typically the flu peaks in February and March. She says the current flu vaccine is designed for the particular strains of influenza A and B that they are seeing. She says the good news is that in addition to flu vaccine, vaccines are also available for COVID-19 and RSV.

Ripon Area School District/Mary Whitrock and Shawn Gartzke/Merging 4K through 2nd grade schools.

Date Aired: 1/11/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 12:10 minutes

Ripon Area School District officials got their first reaction this week to a proposal to combine the Barlow Park Charter Elementary School and Journey Project Schools in the next school year. The contract and federal grant for Barlow Park Charter ends on June 30th. Governance Councils and staff for both schools have already talked about combining the schools and after discussions a unanimous vote resulted in pursuing the creation of one elementary school. The next step was having an engagement session with parents, which was held at Barlow Park Journey Elementary School last evening. Barlow Park Journey Principal Shawn Gartzke says parents at the meeting were receptive to the idea of combining the K-2nd Grade schools.

SSM Health/Chris Schattschneider/Getting Healthy Resolution

Date Aired: 1/11/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:32 minutes

An athletic trainer for SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital's Wellness Center says if you made a resolution to get healthy in the New Year stick to that commitment. Chris Schattschneider says the most difficult thing about physical exercise is getting started. He says most studies show people give up on their resolutions with 30 days. He recommends putting it on your calendar and using whatever reminder or peer pressure you need to stick to it. He says it may seem daunting at first, but it will get easier if you commit to it. Schattschneider says there are physical and mental benefits. He says he's also seen people become more social because they are working out with others or are feeling better about themselves.

Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office/Kevin Galske/Winter Driving Safety

Date Aired: 1/12/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 8:35 minutes

Fond du Lac County's Chief Deputy Sheriff says if your vehicle slides off the road during a snowstorm stay with it until help comes. Kevin Galske says they already had two vehicles slide off the road within the first few hours of when the storm started today. He recommends having an emergency kit in your vehicle to sustain you until help arrives. He says it is important to stay in your vehicle if you can so you aren't accidentally struck by another motorist who might not see you or is distracted by the accident. He recommends safety flares, a safety kit, making sure you have enough gas, and have a cell phone to call for a tow truck or help. He says he's worked accidents where a tow truck got hit by another vehicle because that driver got distracted by the accident.

Rosendale Brandon School District/Wayne Weber/Rebranding Effort

Date Aired: 1/15/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:30 minutes

The Rosendale-Brandon School District has decided to use the Laconia name for all of their schools when they consolidate down from four to two schools. The district name will remain Rosendale-Brandon, but the schools will be named Laconia Element, Laconia Middle School, and Laconia High School. District Superintendent Wayne Weber says they are also keeping the Spartan nickname but had to decide on the logo. They had a survey for that too which narrowed choices down from a field of twelve. Weber says as they were going through their building, they found they had a variety of different Spartan logos, he says they need to have one for consistency. The school board tonight reviews the final four choices for the logo.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Sadie Vander Velde/Future 5 Awards

Date Aired: 1/16/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 7:06 minutes

The Young Professionals of Fond du Lac or YPF will celebrate the winners of their Future 5 Award tomorrow night in Fond du Lac. Envision Greater Fond du Lac President and CEO Sadie Vander Velde says YPF is an Envision program that provides social networking, professional development, and socialization for YPF members that are 21 to 40-years-old or young at heart. The Future 5 awards have been presented annually since 2013 as a way to support and recognize upcoming leaders in the community. The evening of recognition and celebration will be held tomorrow evening at South Hills Golf & Country Club in Fond du Lac.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee/ 2023 Goal Nearing

Date Aired: 1/17/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 8:58 minutes

Fond du Lac County United Way Executive Director Amber Kilawee says they are very close to closing out their 2023 fundraising campaign. She says they are nearing their goal of \$575,000 but are waiting on some of the bigger national contributors that have a presence in the community to send in their contributions. She says those from the Ripon area who contributed before the end of 2023 will see their donations go to the charities and agencies the Ripon Area United Way supported prior to the merger of the United Way chapters. Those who would still like to contribute toward the 2023 campaign can do so by going to the Fond du Lac County United Way website or mailing them a donation.

Girl Scouts/Missy Brozek/Girl Scout Cookie Sale

Date Aired: 1/18/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:54 minutes

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is underway and runs through March 31st. Missy Brozek of the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, which covers 58 counties in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula, says there will be no increase in prices this year. They will remain at \$5 a box or \$6 if you prefer gluten free. She says selling the cookies has changed a little over the years and they still do door-to-door sales and set up booths at grocery stores, but they also have online or digital platforms for sales. All net proceeds from cookie sales stay local. Brozek says that pays for things like Girl Scout camps, travel experiences, Girl Scout properties, and they have a financial program for families of Girl Scouts who might not be able to pay for memberships, uniforms, or to go to camp.

U.S. Government/Senator Ron Johnson/Federal Budget

Date Aired: 1/19/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:09 minutes

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson voted for two previous continuing resolutions to avoid a government shutdown but didn't support the one approved last week that continues funding the government until March 1st. He believes they will be right back in another 30 days being asked to approve another continuing resolution. He says Senator Majority Leader Chuck Schumer hasn't brought any appropriation bills to the Senate and that the New York Democrat wants a big omnibus spending bill loaded up with pork barrel spending, which Johnson says he will not support. Johnson had co-sponsored the Preventing Government Shutdown Act which would have been similar to what Wisconsin does continuing to fund government at the same level as the previous year until a new budget is passed. It went nowhere.

Winnebago County Government/Jacob Floam/Capital Improvement Plan

Date Aired: 1/24/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:26 minutes

The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors recently passed its 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Supervisor Jacob Floam says typically they end up borrowing \$10 million to get a year's projects done. This year they may end up borrowing more because they also need to replace an old firehouse at Wittman

Regional Airport in Oshkosh. It is the oldest current firehouse in town and they also need to purchase a new fire truck for the station. The county will use some of its American Rescue Plan Act funds offset the cost of the firehouse and truck. Floam says they also included a facilities study in the plan which will be performed in-house. He points out that some of their legacy buildings like the County Administration Building and Human Services also are in need repairs.

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

Date Aired: 1/24/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 8:22 minutes

The Fond du Lac County United Way is expanding its Ride United program to the Ripon area. United Way Executive Director Amber Kilawee says the national United Way program launched the program at the beginning of the pandemic as a way of getting people around to necessary medical or other appointments if transportation was a challenge for them. In the Fond du Lac area they have provided bus tokens, cab vouchers, and even gas cards for the program. Kilawee says they are just starting the program in Ripon and have gotten the school district involved to get people to appointments, get to school, get home, to after school, and extracurricular activities. She says Ride United isn't meant to take someone to work, but there are plenty of acceptable reasons.

City of Ripon/Adam Sonntag/Ripon Public Works Building

Date Aired: 1/25/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 12:00 minutes

The Ripon Common Council this week got an update on the progress of the Department of Public Works Project. Project Manager Trevor Frank told them design work is 60 percent complete. Franks informed them they will be looking at a building just under 40,000 square feet in size. Bids will be let in May with construction starting in June. City Administrator Adam Sonntag says due to materials price volatility the cost has gone up since design work began. He says in the last six months the estimated cost has increased \$100,000 to \$200,000, but they are still hoping to keep the overall cost at \$10 to \$11 million. Sonntag says the build itself will take up to a year-and-a-half. They hope to move in by the beginning of winter next year.

SSM Health/Dr Andrea Aul/Respiratory Illnesses

Date Aired: 1/25/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:05 minutes

RSV, Flu, and COVID cases are on the increase according to a Pediatrician with SSM Health's Fond du Lac Regional Clinic. Dr. Andrea Aul sees patients at Ripon Community Hospital. She says locally they are seeing increased cases of the respiratory illnesses, but she says across the state the three illnesses have reached a moderate level. She says the good news is that there are vaccines available for all three. Aul recommends checking with your primary care physician or pharmacy about the availability of vaccine depending on which you or your child need to be vaccinated with. Dr. Aul says vaccine for RSV in particular for children is in shorter supplies.

Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area/ Kassidy Walters/Wearin' and Sharin'

Date Aired: 1/26/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 7:54 minutes

The Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County will hold their premier community event, Wearin' & Sharin' the Green, on Saturday March 9th at the Heidel House in Green Lake. The annual fundraising gala has an Enchanted Garden theme. Kassidy Walter is the Club's Resource Development Coordinator she talks about all the different things guests will be able to enjoy during the event. All guests will dine on a three-course meal, bid on silent auction items, play raffles and games, and participate in a live auction filled with extraordinary items. Walters says tickets are \$125 per person or \$1,500 for a corporate table that seats 10

people. But prices go up on February 7th. All proceeds raised will benefit the Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area with sites in Berlin, Green Lake and Ripon.

Green Lake County Sheriff's Department/Matt Vande Kolk/Ice Not Safe

Date Aired: 1/26/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:03 minutes

Green Lake County Chief Deputy Sheriff Matt Vande Kolk says with the recent thaw the ice is not safe on area lakes and water ways. Vande Kolk says during a typical winter Big Green sees a lot of ice fishing and other winter recreation. He says they also use it for cross country skiing, snowmobiling and other activities. He says it is important for people to recognize we are not having a typical winter and ice activities may not be advisable for quite some time. The Sheriff's Office does have snowmobile patrols during the winter and a couple of weekends ago did have some patrols. Vande Kolk says there were a couple of crashes, but nothing significant and no major injuries were reported. Temperatures will continue to be above freezing next week.

Fond du Lac County Government/Sam Kaufman/County Fair Stage

Date Aired: 1/29/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 13:47 minutes

A couple of Fond du Lac County committees Wednesday will discuss a resolution to accept several donations for construction of a new stage at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds. The county had originally set aside \$600,000 for the stage, but it will cost over \$1.2 million for the project. County Executive Sam Kaufman says the City of Fond du Lac has chipped in \$375,000 for the stage and now National Exchange Bank Foundation is willing to pay \$300,000 for the naming rights. He says they will get the naming rights for the next 15 years. Kaufman says it would be great to see the new stage ready for this July's fair, but that is probably too optimistic.

Wisconsin Government/Senator Joan Ballweg/Year of the Worker

Date Aired: 1/24/24

Time Aired: 6:45 am

Duration: 11:15 minutes

During his State of the State speech Tuesday night Governor Tony Evers declared 2024 "The Year of the Worker." The Governor acknowledged the workforce shortage. State Senator Joan Ballweg says that's been a problem for several years and will continue to be as more baby boomers retire. The state lawmaker from Markesan says we have shortages in nearly every career field. Governor Evers pointed with pride to the record low unemployment rate of 2.4 percent last April and how the state's labor force participation rate is consistently above the national average. Ballweg says unfortunately the labor force participation rate has also been falling because some people are basically sitting on the sidelines, taking part-time work, or taking cash-paying jobs and aren't counted in.

Wisconsin Government/State Representative Jon Plumer/Redistricting

Date Aired: 1/30/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 9:34 minutes

State Representative Jon Plumer says until the State Supreme Court makes a decision which redistricting maps will be used no one knows what their district will look like for the elections in the fall. Seven maps were submitted to the court and one was thrown out. Plumer, who represents the 42nd State Assembly District, says one map took the 42nd District all the way up to Lake Winnebago. He says the maps submitted by Governor Evers pitted 26 Republicans and 2 Democrats against each other. The state lawmaker from Lodi says the end to Gerrymandering is a lesson in frustration around the State Capitol right now. The Wisconsin Supreme Court was hoping to make a decision by the second week of February, but legal challenges could throw that timeline off.

Wisconsin Government/State Representative Alex Dallman/Wolf Population Goals

Date Aired: 1/30/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:48 minutes

The State Assembly recently sent a bill to Governor Evers asking him to have the state's Department of Natural Resources to mandate a population goal for wolves. Under current state statute the population cap for wolves is supposed to be 350. State Representative Alex Dallman says the problem is that the Natural Resources Board last year approved a wolf population management plan that did away with that number. They opted instead for a plan focused on adapting to changing populations in different areas of the state. The state lawmaker from Green Lake says he's talked with constituents from Marquette and Adams counties whose trail cameras document the movement and number of wolves. He says it is a real problem in that area.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee and Jeanette Morales/Community Impact Strategist

Date Aired: 1/31/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:21 minutes

The Fond du Lac County United Way is filling the void created by the dissolution of the Drug Free Communities of Fond du Lac County Coalition. United Way Executive Director Amber Kilawee says they were part of that coalition and also provided funding to it. She says a community health assessment and plan subsequently showed a need to continue the work of the coalition. On December 1st Jeanette Morales started as the Community Impact Strategist for the United Way and Drug Free Communities Grant Coordinator. She will be handling outreach and programs such as the distribution of naran kits and a pouch for disabling prescription medication at community events and programs. Morales is getting acquainted with Fond du Lac County communities including Ripon.

Wisconsin Government/Michelle Reinen/Top Consumer Complaints of 2023

Date Aired: 2/1/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:26 minutes

Landlord-Tenant issues once again topped the list of complaints the state's Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection received from residents in 2023. Consumers filed 2,208 complaints when disputes between landlords and tenants could not be resolved. It was a slight increase from the previous year. Michelle Reinen is the Administrator for the Division of Trade and Consumer Protection. She says it is not surprising to see landlord-tenant issues again top the list of complaints because where you live is a priority for people. Number two on the list were telemarketing complaints. Reinen says a lot has been done to stop scam and robocalls over the years, but they still want people to report them when they receive them.

Berlin City Government/Luke Dretske/Nativity Display

Date Aired: 2/2/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 12:11 minutes

Berlin City Alderperson Luke Dretske says the city was able to resolve an issue over a Nativity display at a city park. The Council approved putting up the display at a park this past Christmas season, but then had to resolve the issue of ownership. No one was sure about who owned it but the Berlin Ministerial Association originally raised the money for the Nativity display. Dretske says the ownership issue was worked out between the City's Parks and Recreation Commission, Berlin Ministerial Association, and the Achieving a Better Community or ABC Group. It was decided the Ministerial Association owned the display. Dretske says in the future the Ministerial Association will have to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the ABC Group about holiday placement of the display.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources/Margaret Stadig/Sturgeon Season

Date Aired: 2/5/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:39 minutes

Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources is preparing for the opening weekend of the sturgeon spearing season even though the ice on the Lake Winnebago System isn't safe. DNR Sturgeon Biologist Margaret Stadig, who works out of the Oshkosh Office, says they weren't able to get out and do their usual water clarity readings because of ice conditions. Registration stations will be manned around Lake Winnebago when the season opens Saturday. Stadig says they are hoping at some point during the 16-day season for colder weather to salvage part of the season.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Jill Saberlich/Business After 5

Date Aired: 2/6/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 9:42 minutes

The Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce and Envision Greater Fond du Lac will be cosponsoring a Business Connection at Knuth Brewing Company in Ripon on Tuesday, February 20th at 5 pm. Jillian Saiberlich is the Membership Coordinator for Envision. She says it's a great way to spotlight all the hard work that's gone into renovating Knuth's new location at 230 Watson Street. It will be an evening of networking, craft beer, and great company. Beer tasting, delicious food, and Knuth Brewing Company merchandise and gift certificates are a few reasons to attend the event. There is no cost to attend, but registration would be appreciated. You can register at the Envision website or RSVP at the Ripon Chamber's website.

Berlin Area School District/Emmett Durtschi and Allison Gohlke/Communication Specialist Position

Date Aired: 2/8/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:09 minutes

The Berlin Area School District has hired its first full-time Communications Specialist. Allison Gohlke worked for a few years with the Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. She is a Berlin native. She graduated from the school district and has two young children. She says she is passionate about the community, school district and all the positive things they have going on in the school district and community. She says she is happy to be on board and excited to share all the good things happening in the Berlin community. Berlin Schools Superintendent Emmett Durtschi says they do have a lot of positive things going on in the district, but other than parents and teachers not a lot of people in the community are aware of it.

SSM Health/Jesse Schulz/Pelvic Therapy

Date Aired: 2/8/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:50 minutes

A physical therapist for SSM Health's Ripon Community Hospital says an enlarged prostate is common for men once they hit the age of 70. Jesse Schulz says it's not always prostate cancer. King Charles III of England was being treated for an enlarged prostate when they found cancer, which was treated and removed through surgery. An enlarged prostate can cause problems with the urine stream, dribbling afterwards, and increases the frequency. Schulz says sometimes back and hip problems can also cause those issues. After prostate surgery he can help with strengthening the muscles in the pelvic area or pelvic floor. He also provides therapy for the hip and back. He recommends having your primary care physician check you out if you believe you have an enlarged prostate or something more serious.

Fond du Lac Police Department/Bill Wallner/Outdoor Sirens

Date Aired: 2/13/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:29 minutes

This spring an outdoor siren at Ripon's City Hall will be moved to replace an aging tornado siren elsewhere in the community. The Ripon Common Council last month approved spending a little over \$33,000 to move that siren and replace another with a new siren. Police Chief Bill Wallner says the siren at City Hall was

creating problems because the way its set up adjacent to Watson Street when it goes off at noon on Saturdays it scares people shopping and eating downtown. He says the sound engineering company they worked with did a sound study to make sure the new sirens and the moved siren will provide adequate coverage when they are sounded in the city. He says with the upgrades the coverage will be better and the plan solves a number of problems for them.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee/2023 Goal Reached

Date Aired: 2/14/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:40 minutes

The Fond du Lac County United Way has reached its 2023 fundraising campaign goal of \$575,000. United Way Executive Director Amber Kilawee says in 2022 they had a goal of \$500,000. This past year was their 75th Anniversary plus last May the Ripon Area United Way merged with them, thus the \$575,000 goal. She says they are grateful to county residents and companies for support and appreciate Ripon area residents continuing to give to the United Way. Kilawee says it is hard to fundraise these days given so many worthy causes that are out there. She says the majority of the money raised in the county stays in the county and at some point 1 in 3 people will use the services of one or more agencies supported by United Way donations.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Kim Mueller/Narcan Training

Date Aired: 2/14/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 8:33 minutes

The Fond du Lac County Health Department will be holding a Narcan training session at the Gratitude Club in Fond du Lac tomorrow night at 6:15 pm. The club is located at 295 Ruggles Street. Registration is available online. The training only takes about 30 minutes and those who take it will receive two Narcan kits to take home with them. County Public Health Officer Kim Mueller says with the opioid epidemic Narcan training teaches you how to recognize an overdose and how to safely administer Narcan. The Fond du Lac County Health Department will do a Narcan training session for any group that would like to have a presentation. Call 920-929-3190 to arrange a training session.

Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce/Lisa Meier/WinterFest

Date Aired: 2/15/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:14 minutes

Despite a lack of ice for the trout derby the Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce expects a lot of people to enjoy their WinterFest on Saturday, February 24th. Due to ice conditions, the trout derby portion of the event has been cancelled. All other activities kick off at noon in Deacon Mills Park, in downtown Green Lake. Chamber Executive Director Lisa Meier says there will be a heated tent at the park and plenty of activities for everyone. Activities will include a cornhole tournament, horse drawn wagon rides, a bonfire, food, beverages, a raffle and live music with Bradley Spurger and the 2 AM Band performing. To learn more about WinterFest visit the Green Lake Area Chamber of Commerce website or call 920-294-3231.

U.S. Government/Congressman Glenn Grothman/Illegal Immigrants

Date Aired: 2/16/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:06 minutes

The chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs says the Biden Administration isn't detaining and deporting a significant fraction of illegal border crossers. During the subcommittee's meeting in Washington, D.C. last Thursday Congressman Glenn Grothman emphasized the national security risk that catch-and-release policies present to the country. He says the subcommittee has heard a lot about drug crimes and sexual assaults committed by those coming across the border, as well as the sexual assaults of women before they come across the southern border. The federal lawmaker from Glenbeulah says President Biden has the power to end the illegal border crossings with the stroke of a pen but chooses not to do it.

Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area/Jason Presto, Mary Lyke, and Craig Johnson/Ripon Facility Capital Campaign

Date Aired: 2/19/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 14:56 minutes

Officials with the Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area say the cost of building a facility in Ripon is going up but their donors are committed to seeing the project come to fruition. Board member Craig Johnson says they hope to break ground soon on the now \$13 million plus project and have it completed by June of 2025. About \$12.3 million of that cost has been donated or pledged. Club CEO Jason Presto says the facility will have the same offerings as most Boys & Girls clubs but have some other offerings as well including child care and skilled trades programs. Presto says for kids it is a place they can eat, shower, socialize and participate in high-yield enrichment opportunities, but it is more than just a place for kids after-school.

Fond du Lac County/Veteran Services Officer David Tellefsen/Introduction

Date Aired: 2/21/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 13:02 minutes

Fond du Lac County's Veteran Services Officer says when he saw the job posting last spring it was just what he was looking for. David Tellefsen retired after 22 years in the Marine Corps. Following that he had a human resources job for a while and took part-time work as a physical education teacher at St. Matthews in Campbellsport and Shepherd of the Hills in Eden. Tellefsen says his two top priorities when he retired from the Corps were family and helping out fellow veterans. Tellefsen has a capable staff in his office, but also gets an assist with veterans from his service dog "Peaches," a golden-doodle. He says "Peaches" has the instinct to provide comfort, whether that's a head in someone's lap or a pat on her own head, when things get emotional.

Ripon Noon Kiwanis/Gary Rodman/Spaghetti Dinner

Date Aired: 2/22/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:25 minutes

To celebrate their 100th Anniversary the Ripon Noon Kiwanis Club is holding a different community event each month. In January there was sledding on a ski hill, this month they teamed up with the library for cookies, cozies and cocoa. On Sunday March 3rd they are partnering with the High School Key Club for a Spaghetti Mystery Dinner at the Ripon High School Commons. It has a 1920s Speak Easy theme and period dress is encouraged. As for the Mystery part of the dinner Ripon Noon Kiwanis President Gary Rodman says you may want to bring a few dollars, because elements of the dinner such as plates or eating utensils might not be included when you're seated. Rodman says money raised from the event will go to the Ripon Area School District Students Need Funds.

SSM Health/Miki Gould/Respiratory Illnesses

Date Aired: 2/22/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 14:22 minutes

An Infection Preventionist with SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac says recent cases of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV have decreased but she doesn't expect that decline to continue. Miki Gould says the respiratory illnesses tend to see up and downs depending on the season and holidays where we gather indoors. She says when spring weather comes and we get outdoors there will be another decrease in cases. In the meantime she recommends the same steps that were taken during the height of the COVID pandemic to avoid getting any of the respiratory illnesses. That includes covering your coughs and sneezes, wearing face masks when you are sick, thoroughly washing your hands, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, and getting regular vaccinations. Mainly she recommends taking good care of yourself.

Berlin City Government/Luke Dretske/Oak Street Development

Date Aired: 2/23/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:36 minutes

The City of Berlin over the next few weeks will be finalizing financing for a Tax Incremental District and will be approving a developer's agreement that will spark a housing development on Oak Street. Berlin Common Council President Luke Dretske says the development would be in the northern part of the city off Waushara Street on a section of Oak Street. It would include apartments and single family homes. Dretske says they need to rename that shorter section of Oak Street which isn't connected to the main branch of that street. Dretske says the developer gave a presentation to the Council in which he talked about up to 48 apartment units. Each apartment would include 2 or 3 bedrooms with a garage underneath them and would go for \$1,200 to \$1,300 a month.

Oshkosh City Government/Jacob Floam/Road Assessments

Date Aired: 2/26/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 11:12 minutes

The City of Oshkosh will make some decisions soon about how it replaces assessments for road and sidewalk improvement projects. City officials have been looking at a combination of funding sources. One is implementation of a \$35 per vehicle Vehicle Registration Fee or wheel tax. The other is charging a portion of street improvements to the city's water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer utilities. That would result in an increase to each utility bill. Altogether, the funding sources would provide the needed \$3.75 million annually for road and sidewalk reconstruction. Winnebago County Supervisor Jacob Floam, who is running for Oshkosh City Council, says there are pros and cons with the wheel tax. He says special assessments would go away.

Wisconsin Government/State Senator Joan Ballweg/Redistricting

Date Aired: 2/26/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:16 minutes

Under new redistricting maps signed into law by the Governor last week, State Senator Joan Ballweg would no longer continue to represent Ripon, Green Lake and other areas the 14th State Senate District currently covers. The state lawmaker from Markesan says the 14th will shift further south. It will cover DeForest in Dane County, most of Columbia County, the Dells, Sauk and Richland counties. Meanwhile, Ripon and Green Lake, most of Fond du Lac County, and Marquette County would be in the 13th State Senate District. Senator John Jagler currently represents the 13th State Senate District. The 13th isn't up for election this fall, but the 14th State Senate seat is. Ballweg would have to move to continue to represent the 14th after the fall election.

Ripon City Government/Adam Sonntag/Hotel Study

Date Aired: 2/27/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 10:14 minutes

The Ripon Common Council this week got a presentation on the Hotel Market Study and Feasibility Analysis prepared by Hotel R& D, LLC. City Administrator Adam Sonntag says the city is happy with the conclusions and results. The study concluded that Ripon is losing some of its business stays to hotels in Fond du Lac and Oshkosh. Sonntag says Alliance Laundry Systems, Accurate Controls, and Ripon College generate a lot of hotel stays. Hotel R & D had two major recommendations. One was to renovate an existing property like the Welcome Inn, which is for sale, to handle some of the hotel traffic drawn by events staged in the downtown. Another recommendation was for a 60-room franchise hotel with a couple of amenities located elsewhere in the city.

U.S. Government/John Zarbano/Congressional Candidacy

Date Aired: 2/27/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:46 minutes

A retired lawyer from Oshkosh is running as a Democratic candidate for the 6th Congressional District seat. John Zarbano and his wife Merlaine retired in 2021. Zarbano says when current Congressman Glenn Grothman voted against suspension of trade with Russia a month after Russia invaded the Ukraine, he became motivated to run for Grothman's seat. Zarbano feels the two top issues in the campaign are women's reproductive rights and immigration. He says if he is elected, he would push to pass a bipartisan bill that would have done something about the 11 ½ million immigrants currently in the country. He says the House and Senate failed to pass that bill. Other issues he feels are important include workers' rights, clean air and clean water, education, and Medicare and Social Security.

Riponfest 2.0/Howard Stibb/Spaghetti Dinner

Date Aired: 2/28/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 9:00 minutes

If you have an appetite for an all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner, the folks of Riponfest 2.0 can accommodate you Thursday evening. The fundraiser for the annual festival will be held at the Ripon Fire Station on Aspen Street. You can dine in or carry out. Serving will be from 4:30 to 7 pm. Howard Stibb of Riponfest says they bartered with the fire department and got permission to use their kitchen and training area for the dinner. In return Riponfest members will work this Sunday when the Ripon Area Fire Fighters Association puts on its annual Chicken BBQ at the fire station. The cost for the Spaghetti Dinner is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children, and kids under 5 years of age can eat for free.

Fond du Lac County United Way/Amber Kilawee/Friday Five Newsletter

Date Aired: 2/28/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:21 minutes

Fond du Lac County United Way Executive Director Amber Kilawee says a good way to stay abreast of United Way, nonprofit, and volunteer organization happenings is to sign up for their free Friday Five newsletter. It is emailed each Friday and as the name implies has five quick shout-outs to United Way efforts or news and events of some of the agencies they support and volunteer organizations. She says right now those who sign up are eligible for a drawing for an overnight stay at the Historic Hotel Retlaw in downtown Fond du Lac. Sign up can be accomplished by visiting the United Way's website or Facebook page. But sign up fast the drawing for the prize is Friday.

Green Lake Ad Hoc Committee/Mark Wilton and Chris Foos/Decorative Lighting Project

Date Aired: 3/1/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:49 minutes

A decorative lighting project in downtown Green Lake should be wrapping up in the next week. It was a project the Green Lake Ad Hoc Economic Development and Revitalization Committee came up with. They were inspired by Ripon's lighting on Watson Street, but because the street layout in Green Lake is different, they are unable to string the LED lights across the top of the street. Instead, they went with a spiral effect around the poles. Committee member Mark Wilton says the color of lights can be changed depending on the season, which is done by a remote control. For example, they can be green or green and orange during St. Patrick's Day. Wilton says most of the time they will be white and bluish, and the lights won't come on until after sunset.

Ripon Area School District/Mary Whitrock/Principals Search

Date Aired: 3/4/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:46 minutes

The Ripon Area School District Board tonight will approve recommendations for principal positions at Murray Park Quest and the Ripon Middle School. Jessi Johnson and Danny Zamost will be approved

respectively. They will begin those positions on July 1st. Johnson currently works as a 3rd grade teacher at Quest Charter Elementary School and Zamost as Dean of Students at the Ripon Middle School. Eighteen people applied for the Murray Park Quest position and 14 for the Ripon Middle School job. Ripon Area School District Superintendent Mary Whitrock says in both cases two internal candidates applied for the positions. She says both Johnson and Zamost were overwhelming choices of a 17-member selection committee, which speaks to the experiences both have had with the district.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Raina Lyman/Small Business Program

Date Aired: 3/5/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:25 minutes

Envision Greater Fond du Lac will be offering a series of small business marketing programs in Ripon this year. Envision Director of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Raina Lyman says there will be three and the first will be held at the Ripon Senior Activity Center from 9 to 10:30 am on Monday, April 15th. The topic is Navigating Success: Crafting Your Business and Marketing Roadmap. She says it is going to be a deep dive into strategic planning and tactics you can accomplish when thinking about your marketing plan for 2024 and beyond. She says it is for business owners that have launched their business or are thinking about starting one. The presenter is Andrea Cisar, Founder and CEO of Stonehouse Digital. There is a \$20 fee for Envision members and \$30 for nonmembers.

Berlin Area School District/Allison Gohlke/Pancake Breakfast

Date Aired: 3/7/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 8:18 minutes

If your appetite is for flapjacks Saturday morning you can have your fill and help out a worthy cause in Berlin. The Berlin High School Softball team will be hosting a pancake breakfast at the Berlin VFW. It is from 7:30 to 10:30 am and take-out will be available. Allison Gohlke is the Communications Specialist for the Berlin Area School District. She says the menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and apple sauce. There is also an on-site bake sale. The cost for the breakfast is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 7 to 12, and it is free for kids under 6. Beverages will include juice, milk, coffee, and Virgin Mimosas. Proceeds will support Berlin High School Softball.

U.S. Government/Congressman Glenn Grothman/State of the Union Address

Date Aired: 3/8/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:21 minutes

Congressman Glenn Grothman says he's surprised President Joe Biden didn't say more in his State of the Union speech about the southern border crisis. Grothman says the president talked about support for a border bill that doesn't really do anything about the problem. The federal lawmaker from Glenbeulah says the bill the President mentioned would provide more money to big cities to handle the mass migration of illegal immigrants but doesn't really do anything about tightening security at the border. The President also talked about the low unemployment rate and curbing inflation, but Congressman Grothman says interest rates and prices are too high when the middle class can't afford housing.

Ripon Parks and Recreation/Ashton Zeien/Tree Planting Grant

Date Aired: 3/11/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 9:28 minutes

Ripon residents may have seen a number of trees removed from city parks over the last month. Ripon Parks and Recreation Director Ashton Zeien says those trees were dead or in the case of Ash trees infected by the Emerald Ash Borer. But the city plans to replace the trees. Zeien says recently the city received a nearly \$5,000 grant (\$4,989) from the Alliant Energy One Million Trees Community Tree Planting Program. The grant will fund the purchase of 33 balled and bur lapped trees in the parks. Zeien says there will be about seven different kinds of trees planted. The Alliant Energy Tree Planting Program is nationally recognized

and award winning. It is designed to encourage energy efficiency, environmental awareness, and community stewardship.

Wisconsin Government/Michelle Reinen/Tax Scams

Date Aired: 3/11/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 10:21 minutes

The Administrator for the State's Division of Trade and Consumer Protection warns taxpayers not to fall for a tax refund scam. Michelle Reinen says someone claiming to be with the IRS will contact you via email or text message regarding your "tax refund" or "tax refund e-statement." They will ask you to fill out an official-looking form before you receive your refund. They are looking for personal information. She notes the real IRS won't contact you by email, text message, or social media to get your personal or financial information. If someone does reach out to you this way, never click on any links. Check the status of any pending refund on the IRS official website by visiting Where's My Refund. Share what you know by telling your friends and family members about the scam.

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

Date Aired: 3/12/24

Time Aired: 7:45 am

Duration: 7:32 minutes

The Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce will host a celebration of the "Birthplace of the Republican Party" in Ripon Saturday. It will be held at the Little White Schoolhouse on West Fond du Lac. The Little White Schoolhouse is where the GOP was founded 170 years ago. It's now located on West Fond du Lac Street at the site of the former Marine Credit Union. The celebration is from 11 am to 3 pm. Chamber Executive Director Mandy Kimes says at 1 pm she will make some remarks and a descendant of one of the founders of the Republican Party will be on hand as well. She says one of the cakes they will be using at the celebration will be fashioned after the Little White Schoolhouse.

Fond du Lac County Health Department/Kim Mueller/WIC Anniversary

Date Aired: 3/13/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 5:20 minutes

The Fond du Lac County Health Department is celebrating National Nutrition Month and WIC's 50th Anniversary. WIC or Women, Infants, and Children is one of the programs the Health Department participates in. It provides nutrition education, breast feeding support, and opportunities to get healthy foods. Public Health Officer Kim Mueller says there are criteria for the program. For instance you have to be a Wisconsin resident, qualify based on income, are pregnant or have been in last six months, or have children under the age of five. She says once you qualify they work with the whole family. She says they can help the family if they need to get connected to other resources as well. Mueller says they will also work with foster parents.

Ripon Area School District/Denise Martinez/School Board Candidate

Date Aired: 3/14/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 14:02 minutes

After being appointed to the Ripon School Board a year ago to fill an unexpired term of a member that left the board, Denise Martinez is hoping to be elected to the board for a full term. She previously served a three-term on the board from 2009 to 2012. She has a background in education having worked at both Ripon College and Moraine Park Technical College. She believes the school district is doing a good job of preparing students for college or the world of work. She says they also do a good job with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math or STEM courses. She says her grandson who is nearly 11 years old may not understand he is involved in STEM courses but is benefitting from them. Martinez has a counseling degree so she also appreciates an increasing focus on mental health.

SSM Health/Dr. Heather Schmidt/Weight Loss

Date Aired: 3/14/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:01 minutes

The System Medical Director for Employee Well-Being for SSM Health says recent news about the effectiveness of weight-loss drugs may sound encouraging, but those drugs aren't something you can just purchase over the counter. Dr. Heather Schmidt says when developing drugs for diabetics drug makers found a side-effect was weight loss. She says they rebranded the drugs, but kept the same active ingredient. She says you will need a prescription for them, which will require seeing your primary care physician. She recommends a combination of diet and exercise and to be patient with your results. Dr. Schmidt says most health care providers have nutritionists and others that can help you. She notes the Ripon Wellness Center has a team that can help people out with their weight loss efforts.

Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office/ Ryan Waldschmidt/Dispatch Center

Date Aired: 3/18/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:55 minutes

Fond du Lac County supervisors tomorrow night will be asked to approve a resolution that would transfer the 911 Dispatch Communications Center from the authority of the Director of the Communications and Emergency Management to the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt says they've had three changes at the top of the Communications and Emergency Management Office over the past 18 months. He says the Dispatch Center is a critical component to public safety and they need some stability in its leadership. He says the Sheriff's Office has staff in place familiar with how dispatch runs. Lieutenant Eric Halbach has been acting as Interim Director for Dispatch and Lieutenant Brennan Wagner as Interim Deputy Director.

Oshkosh Grand Theatre/Cairan Sheehan/4 Phantoms in Concert

Date Aired: 3/19/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 14:37 minutes

The Grand in Oshkosh turned over its stage and facilities for a "makeover" for the taping of The Four Phantoms in Concert, which will air on Public Television this summer. A 55-foot semi loaded with TV lights and sound equipment arrived Monday. Cairan Sheehan is one of four men who have played the Phantom in Andrew Lloyd's Weber's The Phantom of the Opera. All four perform together at The Four Phantoms. They've performed at The Grand before, but Sheehan says with the makeover for the TV special it looked quite different at the beginning of the week. The Four Phantoms will perform Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night at 7:30 pm. Taping for the TV special will be before the live audience. Sheehan says they will be performing songs from other Broadway hits and some popular songs as well.

Envision Greater Fond du Lac/Joe Venhuizen/Workforce Programming Specialist

Date Aired: 3/19/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:04 minutes

Envision Greater Fond du Lac has an opening for a Workforce Programming Specialist. The position was previously held by Bernadette Ericksen. Joe Venhuizen is Envision's Vice President of Membership and Resource Development. He says it's a great job opportunity. It's a full-time position that works toward connecting the business community with the education community. He says some of the programs the position helps coordinate include Project Grill which teams area high school students with area manufacturers, and the Fond du Lac Rock Program which gives high school juniors and seniors opportunities to tour and job shadow at companies. The position is posted on the Fond du Lac Works, Indeed, and LinkedIn websites.

Ripon Common Council/Mark Denske/Council Candidate

Date Aired: 3/20/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:41 minutes

The April 2nd election will decide which of two candidates will be elected to a seat on the Ripon Common Council in the 2nd Aldermanic District. For Mark Denkert it's a second shot at Council. He narrowly missed out when his opponent, current Alderperson Terry Grunert, was appointed to fill a vacancy. Denkert works in the Information Technology Department at Accurate Controls. He says because that involves communication he's interested to see what the city will do with a new communications position. He also would like to see the city improve its own digital infrastructure use to keep residents abreast of what is going on. He believes there are opportunities for younger people in the city and plenty of reasons for them to stay. He says adequate and affordable housing will be important.

Green Lake City Government/Ray Radis Melissa Zamzow and Barbara Dugenske/City Referendum

Date Aired: 3/22/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 8:36 minutes

Voters in the City of Green Lake on April 2nd will have the opportunity to ensure the services they've come to expect will remain in place. In 2008 a mistake was made on a financial work sheet for the state. The debt service was overstated which kept the tax levy limit lower than it should have been. Municipalities are only allowed to increase their levy depending on net new construction growth. Inflation outpaces that growth. The City will be asking to increase the anticipated levy of \$1.1 million to \$1.9 million for 2025 to put the levy at where it should be and maintain that level with increases for growth. Mayor Ray Radis says without the increase they will have to look at cutting services. He says the increase would set the city up for the next couple of decades.

Ripon School Board/Katie Grady/School Board Candidate

Date Aired: 3/25/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:23 minutes

Katie Grady says having served as the head of the Governance Council for the Barlow Park Charter Elementary School she would like to continue giving back to the School District. That's one of the reasons she is running for the School Board. She is a clinical social worker and mental health therapist at the Ripon Community Hospital. She is glad to see more of an emphasis on mental health and social/emotional learning in the schools. She says the stress kids go through today is different than what adults experienced when they were in school. She says through her work at the hospital she has also seen student apprentices interested in the nursing field and likes the internship opportunities high school students are getting.

Ripon College Theatre/Summer Schliekau and Benjamin Marn/Spitfire Grill Musical

Date Aired: 3/26/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 7:46 a minutes

The Ripon College Theatre and Musical Departments will be staging the musical "The Spitfire Grill" at the Rodman Center for the Arts Wednesday, April 10th through Saturday, April 13th. It's set at the Spitfire Grill in a small Wisconsin town where a feisty parolee is trying to make a fresh start. The owner of the grill, Hannah, wants to sell the grill and decides to sell it to whoever can come up with the best essay. Summer Schliekau plays the parolee. It's her first lead role. She says her favorite part is when she gets to sing with her real-life best friend Lucy who plays Shelby in the musical. Summer says the musical will inspire a range of emotions in the audience. Performances are free. Show times are at 7:30 pm.

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin/Debra Cronmiller/Statewide Referendum

Date Aired: 3/26/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 11:08 minutes

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin is urging voters to vote no next Tuesday on a statewide referendum that would affect elections in the state. It proposes two constitutional amendments. The first

question would reduce the options for municipal governments looking for outside sources of funding for elections without providing alternative resources. League Executive Director Debra Cronmiller says private funding during the 2020 elections helped to pay for protective equipment necessary during the pandemic and did not fund any partisan efforts. She says municipalities and counties need options to pay for all the things necessary to stage an election. She says the second question is vague and would likely result in a legal challenge because it limits who could help out elections.

Ripon Noon Kiwanis/Gary Scholtens/Community Art Show

Date Aired: 3/27/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 8:34 minutes

Entries are being taken for a Community Art Show in Ripon. Ripon Noon Kiwanis and Ripon College Circle K will host the show at the Ripon High School Commons on Saturday, April 13th from 5:30 to 7 pm. The Ripon Noon Kiwanis are in the midst of a year-long celebration of their 100th Anniversary. Each month they are sponsoring or co-sponsoring a community event. Past President Gary Scholtens says the Community Art Show gives them a chance to showcase area artists in whatever form their art takes. Categories include drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, pottery, and fiber. There's no cost to enter, but a photo of your artwork should be emailed to riponnoonkiwanis@gmail.com by Friday, April 5th. You can also get an entry form and details at the Ripon Noon Kiwanis website.

Wisconsin Government/State Senator Joan Ballweg/Bills Signed Into Law

Date Aired: 3/28/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 12:11 minutes

State Senator Joan Ballweg talked about some of her recent bills that were signed into law. They include a bill that funds premiums for both county and district fairs for the benefit of youth exhibiting in those fairs. Another would help communities with costs of putting together large-scale events like the NBA All-Star game. The other bill she talked about picks up funding for victim services provided by organizations like domestic violence shelters. Federal funding has lapsed for some of them.

SSM Health/Amy Bayer/Behavioral Health Walk-In Clinic

Date Aired: 3/28/24

Time Aired: 8:45 am

Duration: 12:10 minutes

Spring is a season of hope and growth, but not for everyone. Amy Bayer is the supervisor for SSM Health's Behavioral Health Walk-In Clinic at Ripon Community Hospital. The Clinic provides temporary help for those suffering a mental health crisis. She says it is not always easy to recognize you are having a problem. If you are disinterested, lack motivation, or no longer participate in things you used to look forward to-you may be having mental health issues. She says sometimes you need to take a closer look. She says if you're not sure give them a call at 920-745-3850 and if it is more immediate walk into the emergency department at Ripon Community Hospital and tell them you are there for the Behavioral Health Walk-In Clinic. Bayer says there is no shame in asking for help.

Green Lake County Government/Luke Dretske/Multiple Topics

Date Aired: 3/29/24

Time Aired: 8:15 am

Duration: 13:10 minutes

Luke Dretse who is an alderman on the Berlin Common Council and Green Lake County Supervisor talked about multiple topics. As an alderperson the renaming of a city street and creation of a 16th tax incremental district. As a County Supervisor he talked about a quorum disclaimer the board has worked on and a draft for the restructuring of County Board committees to a smaller and more manageable number of committees.