

WGTD Community Issues File

WGTD news stories air a minimum of two times in our newscasts that air between 6am and 8:10am, Monday through Friday. Each news story then airs again in our 25-minute WGTD Midday newscast @ Noon. (Key: N=News) (Key: WPR = Wisconsin Public Radio) (Key: NPR = National Public Radio) (Key: MMR= Marketplace Morning Report)

WGTD's "Morning Show" airs Monday through Friday from 8:10-9am. (Key: MS)

Education Matters, Community Matters and Generation NOW are locally-produced shows, 45 minutes in length, that air every Saturday morning. (Key: EM or CM or GN)

WGTD Community Issues: 3rd Quarter, July-August-September 2019

Local Economy/Jobs: Foxconn in Southeastern Wisconsin

07/10: Governor Tony Evers predicts Foxconn will continue to fall short of hiring goals at its Mount Pleasant manufacturing facility. In an interview that aired on CNBC, Evers said his administration now has clarity on the project. Foxconn will likely hire 1,500 people next year. That's compared to 1,800 under the plan the company laid out, which would eventually hire up to 13,000 workers in the state, Evers said. (:60) (N/WPR)

08/14: Foxconn executives are in Wisconsin meeting with government officials. (:60) (N)

08/14: DCI---a healthcare technology solutions company which is part of the Foxconn Health Technology Business group---has partnered with another cutting-edge company to replace those handwritten whiteboards in hospital patients' rooms with innovative electronic display screens. (:60) (N)

08/15: Foxconn executives met with Governor Tony Evers and legislative leaders---but---no one is saying what they discussed. (:60) (N)

08/20: Foxconn continues construction on its manufacturing plant in Mount Pleasant. An update. (:60) (N/WPR)

09/03: Home owners in Mount Pleasant---near Foxconn---say they were misled---and now--- their houses are gone. Those homeowners say they sold their homes for road widenings that were abandoned---embellished---or---never planned. (4:00) (N/WPR)

09/05: There's a new Foxconn executive in charge of developing the company's business park in Mt. Pleasant. According to a report in the Journal Times, Jay Lee is replacing Louis Woo, who is stepping down to address undisclosed personal matters. (:90) (N)

09/08: Among the products to be made at Foxconn in Mt. Pleasant is a robotic barista, dispensing up to 100 cups an hour of customized, gourmet coffee and tea. The first kiosks from Austin, Texas-based Briggo have been installed at a couple of airports, and the company hopes to ramp up production by partnering with Foxconn. Foxconn has said it plans to open its manufacturing facility either late next year or early 2021. (:60) (N)

09/09: Foxconn has launched the second year of its Smart Cities, Smart Futures competition. New rules put the focus on smart manufacturing, with categories limited to agri-tech, healthcare, safety, mobility and energy sustainability. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 20th. The contest is open to students, faculty and staff at the state's four-year colleges and two-year technical colleges. The competition last year drew 325 submissions. Kate Field, a horticulture teacher at Gateway, since retired, was one of 12 winners. An information session for anyone interested in submitting an entry will be held at Gateway's iMET center Tuesday morning at 11.

09/11: A local Foxconn 'Smart Cities, Smart Futures' winner from the last school year trumpeted the ongoing competition during an event held Tuesday at the SC Johnson iMET Center in Sturtevant. Retired Gateway Technical College horticulture instructor Kate Field said for her the contest was a fascinating process and a great adventure. Unlike last year, this fall's competition narrows the field of acceptable ideas to a broad range of topics related to advanced manufacturing. Categories include agri-tech, healthcare, safety, mobility and energy sustainability. Field's winning idea last year involved hydroponics. (:90) (N)

09/11: The University of Wisconsin says it has received just \$700,000 of the \$100 million that Foxconn pledged to fund engineering and innovation research on the school's Madison campus. Foxconn said it remains committed to engineering and research at UW-Madison., (:60) (N)

09/13: One building up---another under construction---and---the announcement of a third building. The company first announced a 9-story office building yesterday---but---then that plan changed. (:60) (N/WPR)

09/30: The first Wisconsin resident to be hired by Foxconn has quit. Christopher Murdoch--- hired as a senior adviser about two years ago---did not say why he was leaving nor who his new employer was. (:60) (N)

Public Health: The Opioid Crisis in Wisconsin

07/26: A recent study shows that more than 350,000 people---here in Wisconsin---have a drug addiction. As a result of the state's opioid epidemic---Milwaukee is now exploring the option of recovering SOME of the costs of battling the crisis. (:60) (N/WPR)

08/07: Prescriptions for naloxone, the opioid antidote, doubled between 2017 and 2018, but federal health officials said Tuesday that naloxone isn't available where it's needed most. (:60) (WPR)

08/19: For patients struggling with opioid dependence, medication-assisted treatment can be an option. Along with counseling and behavior therapies, doctors can prescribe drugs like Suboxone to patients. A doctor and addiction specialist talk about the treatment and why it can be difficult to access these drugs. (3:50) (/WPR)

08/20: A new report says life expectancy in Wisconsin has dropped for two years in a row due in part to increased deaths from alcohol abuse and opioids. (:60) (N/WPR)

08/22: People addicted to illicit drugs can be desperate to try anything that might help them. Doctors offer evidence-based therapies but there are plenty of opportunists who offer unproven treatments. We hear one patient's horror story with an unproven therapy. (5:00) (N/NPR)

08/22: Tracing the course of the opioid epidemic. A conversation with Washington Post investigative reporter Scott Higham about newly-released federal data tracking the 76 billion opioid-based pain pills shipped to pharmacies over a six-year period. The records come from a still unresolved lawsuit by states and cities against drug companies. (60:00) (N/NPR/FreshAir)

09/09: Purdue Pharma---the maker of the opioid OxyContin---is set to file for bankruptcy. (4:30) (N/NPR)

09/10: A Purdue Pharma spokesman told NPR that the Sackler family---which owns the company---is willing to give up the entire value of the family plus \$3 billion dollars in cash to settle claims against them. (4:00) (N/NPR)

09/12: Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family---which owns the company---reached a tentative deal to settle thousands of lawsuits brought by local governments for allegedly helping to fuel the opioid crisis. (3:45) (N/NPR)

09/12: Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul is refusing to join a multistate settlement with Oxycontin maker Purdue Pharma. About half the states and thousands of local governments reached a tentative deal Wednesday with Purdue Pharma over its role in the nation's deadly opioid epidemic. Kaul, a Democrat, said in a statement Wednesday that the Sackler family has made billions from opioid sales. He says the company's settlement position doesn't achieve justice. Kaul spokeswoman Gillian Drummond says he will continue to pursue Wisconsin's case. (:60) (N)

09/16: Purdue Pharma---the company that manufactures OxyContin---has filed for bankruptcy as it settles litigation with states and local governments over the opioid crisis. (3:30)

09/17: A discussion with the Attorney General of Massachusetts about her opposition to the settlement with Purdue Pharma about the opioid crisis in the country. (5:00) (N/NPR)

Public Health: The Dangers of Vaping

07/12: A community health needs assessment is underway in Kenosha County. The survey will focus on a wide variety of issues including smoking and vaping. (:60) (N)

08/13: Minnesota health officials say severe lung damage has been reported among young people linked to vaping. The cases are similar to recent cases reported in both Wisconsin and Illinois. (:60) (N)

08/16: As many as 50 people---in at least 6 states---have come down with breathing illnesses that may be linked to e-cigarettes or other vaping products. Cases have been reported in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, California and Indiana. (:60) (N)

08/28: A bipartisan group of Wisconsin lawmakers wants to set a minimum age for purchasing vaping products---and---raise the minimum age for purchasing tobacco and nicotine. (:60) (N)

08/29: Milwaukee's city health department is urging residents to immediately stop using vaping products after 16 people were hospitalized this month with a severe lung disease. According to the health department, officials are still trying to determine what products were used by the people who became ill. Ten counties---including Kenosha and Milwaukee---have reported hospitalizations. (:60) (N)

08/30: Wisconsin health officials say about nearly nine out of 10 cases where vaping led to people developing a severe lung disease---THC products---such as waxes or oils were being used. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services said that 89% of the 27 people they interviewed who became sick reported using e-cigarettes---or---other vaping devices to inhale THC---the psychoactive compound in marijuana. (:60) (N)

09/09: Authorities laid out the details of an alleged, high-tech marijuana sales operation at a bond hearing Monday for one of two Paddock Lake brothers who've been arrested. According to a report in the [Kenosha News](#), bond for 20-year-old Tyler Huffhines was set at \$500,000 after a prosecutor said Huffhines had employees filling 3,000 to 5,000 vape cartridges per day at a Bristol condo. (:90) (N)

09/11: The sheriffs of both Kenosha and Racine Counties---and---the police chief of Waukesha will hold a joint news conference to discuss the recent break-up of an operation dedicated to manufacturing vaping cartridges loaded with THC oil. (:30) (N)

09/12: Kenosha County Sheriff Dave Beth is asking parents to be vigilant in guarding against the prospect that their children could get their hands on vaping devices. Beth addressed reporters in the wake of the arrest last week of a 20-year-old Paddock Lake man who allegedly ran a manufacturing operation with several employees out of an upscale condo in Bristol. (:90) (N)

09/12: There are still a number of unknowns in the investigation that led Kenosha County authorities to discover a large operation that manufactured cartridges filled with what's believed to be a potent form of THC oil. Sheriff Dave Beth briefed reporters yesterday on some aspects of the case that led to the arrest of 20-year-old Tyler Huffhines, said to be the ring leader. (:90) (N)

09/12: The Trump Administration plans to ban non-tobacco flavored vaping products. (4:15) (N/NPR)

09/17: Tyler Huffhines and his brother Jacob were formally charged in Kenosha Court yesterday in connection with the recent bust that netted thousands of vaping cartridges and jars of the THC distillate used to fill and sell them. (2 separate stories) (5:00) (N)

09/20: The number of people with serious lung damage linked to e-cigarettes continues to climb both---here in Wisconsin---and---across the country. (:45) (N/WPR)

09/27: The Huffhines brothers---charged with manufacturing thousands of illegal vaping cartridges---appeared in a Kenosha court yesterday. (:60) (N/WPR)

09/30: Federal health officials say 77% of e-cigarette users who suffered lung damage used products containing THC. (:60) (N/WPR)

Health Care: ObamaCare Rollout: Follow-Up and Aftermath

08/02: Democratic Governor Tony Evers is crediting a reinsurance program adopted by Republican Governor Scott Walker for leading to LOWER health insurance rates in 2020. While Evers backs the Walker reinsurance program he is still advocating for accepting Federal money to expand Medicaid which he says will also lower costs while increasing coverage. Republicans rejected that proposal. (:60) (N)

08/09: The Affordable Care Act goes on trial Tuesday in New Orleans. The appeals case -- Texas versus United States -- is yet another lawsuit that seeks to have President Obama's signature law overturned. (3:00) (N/NPR)

