

Quarterly Issues and Programs List

Iron River Community Broadcasting – WIKB-FM

For the Quarter beginning January 1, 2024
Compiled and placed in the public file April 10, 2024

Section I – Issues

These stations have identified the following issues facing our community during this quarter:

1. Government and Economic Issues
2. Health, Infrastructure, Education & Wildlife
3. Community Support, Information and Events
4. Emergency and Police Issues & Incidents

Section II – Responsive Programs

The station has broadcast programming dealing with these issues listed. Unless otherwise noted, the programming was broadcast on WIKB radio station. This list of programs is intended to thoroughly represent the station's news gathering and community involvement, and does not necessarily include all broadcasts that may have addressed the issues noted.

1. Government and Economic Issues

Telephone Time, Monday-Saturday 9a-12p: Call-In Buy Sell Trade, Community Outreach and Events

Fri 9:15 on TT: "Buckskin Bob's Weekend Report" – Buckskin Bob joins TT on Fridays for a 15 minute segment discussing community events, recreational opportunities and regulations, public service campaigns, businesses, job openings and more.

News, aired 3/30: "NFIB Small Business Appeal" – Reporting on a NFIB Press Release covering its appeal to the MI Supreme Court over the MI Income Tax Act and whether the income tax cut triggered in 2023 should expire or remain permanent. The NFIB was in favor of the acts permanence.

News, aired 3/27: "Dickinson Co BOC" – Local coverage of Dickinson County Board of Commissioners meeting. Main topic covered was the vote to fill vacancies on the board of Northpointe Behavioral Health, a mental health institution in the area, and the contentious nature of the vote.

News, aired 3/22: "Tax Returns Due" – Press release from the MI Department of Treasury reminding tax payers of the upcoming tax deadline. Story covers Tax credit information, low income tax prep options and historical Tax/refund figures.

News, aired 3/19: "Iron County BOC" – Local Story covering the Iron County Board of Commissioners meeting. Main issue discussed was the support of a statewide effort to repeal laws making possible statewide control over green energy zoning. 4H funding, personnel matters and illegal immigration were also topics of discussion.

News, aired 3/5: "Lost Winter" – Press Release from Governor Gretchen Whitmer encouraging businesses to take advantage of Federal Aid to help compensate for losses suffered due to the abnormally warm and snow-less winter in Michigan. Similar acts in Wisconsin are outlined in the story, as well as the 42 counties in Michigan designated with the "Drought Disaster" tag.

News, aired 2/28: "Presidential Primaries" – Story covering results, turnout and analysis of the Presidential Primary Elections in Michigan. Also covered were results of local millages.

News, aired 2/26: "PA 233 Repeal" – Local Story covering the activities of Dickinson and Iron Boards of Commissioners regarding efforts to repeal Part 8 of PA 233, involving the potential for state-held control of green energy zoning and projects in Michigan. The boards wish to retain local control. Background and details of the ongoing efforts included in story.

News, aired 2/19: "City of Caspian Meeting" – Local Story covering the monthly Caspian City meeting, specifically the City's intention to apply for a 3.5 million dollar grant from the US Department of Transportation RAISE program to upgrade conditions of various roads in the City limits.

News, aired 2/8: "Kingsford Post Office" – Press Release covering responses from local and state politicians to the proposed shifting of Post Office affairs from Kingsford to Green Bay, Wisconsin. Many if not most are concerned about the lack of efficiency and motivations behind the move.

2. Public Health, Infrastructure, Education and Wildlife

Telephone Time, Monday-Saturday 9a-12p: Call-In Buy Sell Trade, Community Outreach and Events

Thurs 12pm: "Dr Larry Radio: Did You Know?": Doctor Larry of Crystal Chiropractic joins TT every Thursday for a 45-minute segment where he discusses physical health, and health solutions. He also fields calls from listeners with specific questions about certain ailments and health policies.

News, aired 3/29: "MDOT M-35 Meeting" – announcing a meeting to be held by MDOT regarding a highway rebuilding/roundabout project in Marquette county. Includes project details and meeting time/location.

News, aired 3/16: "IAHF Golf Fundraiser" – Local story covering the Iron Area Health Foundations announcement of CoVantage Credit Unions commitment to their upcoming fundraiser. Funds raised for various health initiatives in Iron County. Story touches on history of golf-scramble fundraisers in the county and directions to IAHF for more information.

News, aired 3/14: "Park Closures" – Travel and outdoor recreation update for the public. Story covers the closure and update of Mclain State Park in Houghton County, with funding and project details.

News, aired 3/12 "141 Bridge Work" – Story announcing expected travel delays for those traveling Highway 141 due to Bridge work over the Net River. Outlines MDOT project and funding and provides information on alternative travel routes.

News, aired 3/1 "FP Board Controversy" – Local story covering contentious and controversial issues with the School Board of Forest Park in Crystal Falls. This meeting took place in late February and involved controversy around comments made by a coach, controversial decision making and infighting by the board, and large public turnout with a variety of public comments.

News, aired 2/29: "Crystal Falls Housing" – Story covering the collaboration of Crystal Falls City and S.C. Swidersky company in utilizing public surveys to assess the need for middle-income housing within the city limits of Crystal Falls.

News, aired 1/25: "DNR Spring park workers" – Announcing the DNRs hiring of park workers for 2024.

News, aired 1/18: "IAHF Scholarship" – Local story covering the availability of a scholarship sponsored by the Iron Area Health Foundation for students looking to further their education in medical-related fields.

News, aired 1/15 & 1/16: "Marshfield/Essentia Merger" – Stories covering the attempted and failed merger of Marshfield Clinic and Essentia, as well as the resulting furlough of employees of Marshfield Clinic.

PSA, aired 4/8 – 4/25: "UP Regional Blood Drive" – announcing dates, times and locations for UP Regional Blood Drive

PSA, aired 4/8 – ongoing "NA Meetings" – announcing hotline and website for Narcotics Anonymous

PSA, aired 1/22 – 2/22: "CF Blood Drive" – Announcing a blood drive hosted by Crystal Falls United Lutheran Church

3. Community Support, Information and Events

Telephone Time, Monday-Saturday 9a-12p: Call-In Buy Sell Trade, Community Outreach and Events

Fri 9:15 on TT: "Buckskin Bob's Weekend Report" – Buckskin Bob joins TT on Fridays for a 15 minute segment discussing community events, recreational opportunities and regulations, and news and information concerning the outdoors, hunting, foraging, gardening and conservation.

News, aired 3/25: "Fungus Fest Soap Box Racing" – Local Story announcing the return of soap-box racing to the Iron County "Humongous Fungus Fest", and annual festival held in Crystal Falls. The races were a much anticipated staple of the Fest for years before being discontinued, and excitement is building for their return.

News, aired 3/23: "Open Mic Night" – Local press release from the Windsor Center in Iron River announcing and detailing the return of Open Mic Night season. Story includes dates, times and acts that are presently signed up.

News, aired 2/17: "Sauna Week" – Press Release/Public Interest story covering the official recognition in Michigan of "Sauna Week", February 18th through the 24th. Story includes the history of Saunas and Finnish Immigration to, and culture in, the state.

News, aired 2/5: "Sled Dog Races Cancelled" – Announcing the cancellation of numerous races, from a press release from the UP Sled Dog Association. Races were cancelled due to lack of safe and appropriate conditions, including lake ice, for the races to take place. Other similar cancellations covered in the story as examples of economically detrimental effects of the unusually warm Michigan winter.

PSA, aired 3/6 – 4/6: "Phelps Maple Syrup Fest" – Announcement for the annual maple syrup fest in Phelps.

PSA, aired 3/? – 4/6: "Glenn Heikkila Fundraiser" – Announcing a benefit dinner for local resident with Cancer to raise money for treatment and travel.

PSA, aired 3/30 – 4/4: "Genealogical Society" – Announcing "Wall of Fame" event by the Iron County Genealogical Society at the West Iron District Library.

PSA, aired 3/7 – 3/15: "Community Conversation" – Announcing a community conversation event at Iron River's Windsor Center

PSA/Sponsored Event 3/16: "Shamrocks & Shenanigans" – Community event sponsored by station for all-ages St Paddys Day celebration.

PSA aired 2/28 – 3/31: "Easter Dinner" – Announcing annual Easter Dinner hosted by St Agnes and St Cecilia Catholic Churches.

PSA aired 1/15 – 1/28: "Funeral Fundraiser Dinner" – Announcing a VFW Fundraiser dinner to cover funeral expenses for a local couple.

PSA aired 2/27 – 3/22: "Fire Department Poker Tourney" – Announcing a Texas Hold Em Fundraiser hosted by the Caspian Gaastra Fire Department.

4. Emergency and Police Issues & Incidents

News aired 3/27: “MSP Strengthening Communities” – Press release from the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division announcing and describing the “Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund” program, which allows FEMA to work with states and Tribal governments on low interest loans aimed at disaster mitigation.

News aired 3/20: “MSP, Threats to County Commissioners” – Press release covering the MSP investigation into threats received by three Delta County Commissioners. Request for tips and info regarding these threats with a hotline number provided.

News aired 2/22: “MSP, Fatal Crash” – MSP Press Release outlining the response of Troopers to a Fatal single-vehicle crash in Iron River.

News aired 2/15: “Former Narcotics Officer Sentenced” – From a press release, story outlining the sentencing of a former Houghton Narcotics Officer for possession of Methamphetamine. Background of the officer and the case provided in the story.

News aired 2/7: “WIC Threats” – Part of ongoing, repeating issues, Local story covering the OK2SAY report of threats of violence against West Iron County school in Iron River. Outlines the string of incidents at the school as well as planned procedure for handling this and future incidents.

News aired 2/12 & ongoing through month: “Iron River House Explosion” – Local Investigative story covering the explosion of a house in the middle of Iron River. Timeline of events, comments from law enforcement and first responders, and description of cleanup efforts and aftermath. Photos and video posted to WIKB’s facebook page. Ongoing story-developments covered in various news reports throughout the month.

News aired 1/31: “Social Media Sting” – from a MSP press release, story outlines details of a “sting” operation wherein a trooper posed as a minor online, resulting in an investigation and arrest of Ishpeming man.

News aired 1/26: “Larceny Arrest” – Press Release from Iron County Sheriffs Office announcing the execution of a search warrant in Crystal Falls Township and recovery of a large quantity of stolen property linked to four victims throughout the state.

News aired 1/22: “Caleb Anderson Sentencing” – In continuing local coverage, announcing the sentencing of a local Iron County man, who committed a string of assaults and murders from the U.P. to Alabama, to a life sentence. Background on the crime-spree outlined in the story.

News aired 1/12: “Winter Storm Warning” – Local Story covering an impending local storm, arrival times, advisories and comments by MSP and weather officials, as well as school closures.

PSA aired 3/16 – 3/20: “Tornado Drill” – Announcing the statewide tornado drill held on March 20th, with various definitions and advisories.

All PSA and News materials are available in PDF form in the Public Inspection File. This list is by no means exhaustive, and WIKB is proud to be directly connected to the community through Telephone Time – a daily, 3 hour calls-based program where people can buy, sell or barter their items, announce events, benefits or community services, and discuss notable happenings around our listening area of the U.P. and Northern Wisconsin.

PSAs are constantly coming in and turning over, and keeping dates straight when filing these reports is viewed as an unnecessary burden for our small staff. To see details on all PSAs and how we run them, you can view the COMPLETE collection of PSA copy and schedules from Q1 2023 in our inspection file alongside this report.

IRCB is committed to bringing relevant and current news and information to the residents of the “Northwoods”, concentrating on our immediate listening areas of IRON, DICKINSON and FLORENCE counties in the U.P. and Northern Wisconsin. We cover the monthly meetings at both city and county levels, including Iron River, Crystal Falls, Caspian, Gaastra, Iron County and Dickinson County. Not all coverage of these meetings are listed in this report; all further reports on local government meetings can be viewed in our NEWS pdfs uploaded alongside these reports. These are uploaded for transparency as well as to ease the burden of our reporting. Any auditor of this report should check our file for the full scope of IRCB’s community involvement, including ALL Newscast and PSA Copy.

“News” airs at 8a and 12p-6p Central Time on WIKB/WFER Monday – Saturday

“PSA” airs from 6a – 9p, 7 days a week on WIKB/WFER