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BROADCASTING

ISSUES & PROGRAMS

WBAK-FM

1st QUARTER 2021
(JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH)



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Public Affairs

WBAK-FM airs the public affairs show "Maine View" that is designed to address important community issues. The following is a list of show topics during the Quarter. Each edition of Maine View also includes Maine Governor Janet Mill's weekly radio address and the response from the Republican Party in Maine. Each address runs roughly 5 minutes. Maine View has a run time of 20 minutes and airs Sunday at 6:00am

1/3: This week's edition features another visit with Dr. Jessica Pollard, Director of the Office of Behavioral Health in the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. With the Covid-19 pandemic stretching into its tenth month, there is more of a need for adults and adolescents to get help with the mental and physical disruptions of the illness. An Intentional Warm Line, a telephone help link, has been established. It's a toll-free, 24-hours-a-day, seven days-a-week service in which affected people converse with peer support specialists. In July, the program received a million-dollar federal grant. Dr. Pollard also underlined the importance of the Front Line Warm Line – a telephone service to help Maine health care workers and first responders manage the stresses of their jobs.

1/10: This week's edition includes a discussion with Tim Hobbs, the State Director of Rural Services USDA. Tim details the work of the USDA in rural Maine over the pandemic darkened 2020. Bright spots include funding for solar electrification in select Maine farms, helping with Maine's drought, and assistance for dealing with the economic collapse caused by the corona virus. We also welcome Yellow Light Breen of the Maine Development Foundation digging into the annual Measures of Growth report. Yellow runs down the "red flags" -- where Maine is lagging or could better -- and "gold stars" -- where Maine shines. Yellow tells us of a new "gold star" shining in Maine and how the Foundation hopes the latest report might help guide state lawmakers.

1/17: This week's edition includes a discussion with Tony D'Amico of the New England Musicians Relief Fund. The pandemic shut down venues that traditionally welcome live music and theatre. Tony details just how hard hit performers are and a little know Maine law that prohibits those who work for orchestras from collecting unemployment. Tony also shares how people are helping silenced musicians get by. We also welcome Maine Public Safety Commissioner Michael Sauschuck who crunches Maine's 2019 Crime Stats. Pre-pandemic numbers are up in some categories, down in others. Sauschuck focuses on violent crime, domestic violence, and homicides -- many which again are domestic violence related. Sauschuck uses these numbers to offer what insight he can into what 2020's pandemic numbers might look like.



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1/24: This week's edition features a talk with Lisa Oakes, Executive Director of the Humane Society of the Waterville Area (HSWA). Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the humane society continues to offer many of its programs, and in 2020 it celebrated its 50th anniversary. Dogs and cats are up for adoption – with variable costs – as are some 'small' animals including rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, chinchillas, rats, ferrets, mice and birds. Adoptees are also told how to prepare a home and family for the arrival of a new pet. Appointments are necessary to view the pets currently, though many are featured on-line at hswa.org. HSWA also offers volunteer opportunities, including a foster program, doggie day trips, and slumber pups for sleepovers. The organization also encourages donations of food, toys, cages and dog beds. Currently on sale is a 2021 calendar featuring pictures of pets for adoption posing with first responders from some of the 25 towns HSWA serves.

1/31: This week's edition includes a discussion with Maine State Treasurer Henry Beck. He explains how his office is setting the lowest rate on delinquency property taxes on to Maine towns and cities. Beck sites the pandemic as the catalyst for the move. He gets in to the "wonkiness" of the issue and touches on a few other issues of the day. We also talk with Major Carl Lamb of the Maine National Guard about the deployment of 200 Maine reservists to Washington DC to help provide security during the Presidential Inauguration. Additionally about 75 reservists, a few among the initial 200, re-deployed to continue to provide security for up to two months.

2/7: This week's edition includes a discussion with Kristen Maile of Good Shepherd Food Bank in Maine. The pandemic has put into perspective the depth and breadth of insecurity in our State. COVID-19 has helped frame a pathway to ending hunger in Maine with a \$250 million dollar capital campaign. Kristen details the plan and how Mainers can help. We also get a perspective on how countries half-way-around-the-world are handling COVID-19 from Fahad Nazer of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia. Fahad compared and contrasts reactions to the virus and prevention methods between the Kingdom and the U.S. He also tells how Saudi Arabia is helping a neighboring country afford vaccine.

2/14: This week's edition features a conversation with Scott Davis, a fisheries Biology Specialist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Davis works out of the regional office in Sidney, and is also a registered Maine Guide. Maine is offering a "Free Fishing License Week" from February 13 through the 20th. All is needed to participate is registering on the department's website. In the past, free fishing weekends were offered twice a year. It is hoped more people will get some Covid-19 relief by getting outside over the week. Also discussed were: ice fishing safety; stocking and illegal stocking of fish in rivers and ponds; the success of fish hatcheries; and the differences in the seven fishing zones around the state. Davis said overall, the fisheries are healthy, with plenty of opportunities to catch a variety of inland and sea-run fish.



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2/21: This week's edition features a conversation with Donald Burr of the Mechanized Logging Program in Maine. The program takes select students into Maine's woods for a 12 week program, giving them hands-on experience in dealing with new, modern logging equipment. The program is free. Students need to only cover their meals and lodging. Burr talks of the success of the program and how interested individuals might apply. We also talk with state senator Louis Luchini of Ellsworth. When the pandemic struck, Maine Governor Janet Mills issued, by executive order, a rule that would allow Maine restaurants to offer alcoholic beverages and beer for takeout and delivery, as long as those orders were accompanied with food. Luchini talks with us about his bill that would extend that opportunity for Maine restaurants into April of next year.

2/28: In this week's edition, broadcaster George Hale talks with former University of Maine women's basketball coach Joanne Palombo McAuley about her struggles with depression. Her new book details what was the diagnosis of postpartum that turned out to be something more. McAuley opens up about addressing her condition and offers encouragement to others. We also talk with Stacey Coventry of northern light health. The sponsor of COVID-19 vaccination clinics at Bangor's Cross Insurance Center, is looking for volunteers to help in what will be increasingly active events. Coventry discusses the requirements to participate and some of the positions the healthcare organization is looking to fill.

3/7: This week's edition features a talk with Nancy McBrady, Director of the Bureau of Agriculture in the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The topic was the rebounding of the state's farming industry in the waning days, hopefully, of the Covid-19 pandemic. Held virtually in January, the Maine Agricultural Trades Show went on-line without crowds at the Augusta Civic Center. Also enacted by the state's legislature was the 2020 Cares Act Reimbursement Bill, which gave farmers money back on infrastructure improvements. The Bureau also set up a Mental Health Resources page. Goals for the future are: the advancement of solar power, and overall energy efficiency on farms; abating labor shortages; and continued international marketing of Maine products. And after being cancelled in 2020, Maine Maple Sunday will return as "Maine Maple Week," from March 22-28, 2021.

3/14: In this week's edition, broadcaster George Hale talks Maine Lobsterman John Drouin of Culter. John explains the concern he and others in Maine's Lobster Fishery have with pending changes in rule requirements OSHA is set to implement concerning vertical lines -- the lines used to haul lobster. The rules are designed to protect the endangered Right Whale. John talks of what he calls "flaws" in the data and the cost of changing gear. We also talk with Gordon Smith, Maine's Opioid Response Director, on the latest statistics on drug overdoses and drug overdose deaths. Maine now receives and analyzes the data each month. Smith details the number from January of this year compared to January of last. Smith also shares hopes of what this more timely data may do to help stem deaths and drugs coming into our state.



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3/21: This week's edition features a conversation with the University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy. He details plans to return to a "traditional" fall for students. He also discusses past prevention and immunization efforts. And he addresses the question of whether immunizations for COVID-19 will be required for admission. We also talk with Tara Carrero of Nestlé Waters North America and Drew Dumsch of the Ecology School in Saco. Nestlé is partnering and financially supporting a program to train ecology education leaders in Maine. They are also helping develop a sustainable learning facility in the school in Saco.

3/28: This week's edition features a talk with Chris Sementelli, Program Manager for Maine General Sports Medicine, based in Augusta, and a member of the Maine Principals Association Medicine Committee. The topic was the continued recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic in school sports and personal training. Since late February of 2020, games and tournaments in most sports have been cancelled, or moved to another part of the year (example: Spring college football). MGSM was in the forefront of virtual training through teleconferencing with area athletes in their care in the early months.

Sementelli was in agreement with the moves of the MPA, and the moves to include some competition over the year. That included flag football, outside volleyball, and regional, rather than state, tournaments - to offset travel and Covid-19 spread. He said athletes have gotten used to wearing masks while competing, but foresees a time when they will not be required, possibly by Fall, 2021. That move would have to be approved by the state Center for Disease Control and Prevention.