

WCRA-AM/FM QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

January 1 – March 31, 2024

The station has identified the following significant issues facing our service community in this quarter.

ISSUES:

- A. Standoff With Police At Effingham TA Truck Stop
- B. Interviews With Local/Political Leaders
- C. Severe Weather Updates
- D. Police Blotter
- E. Local Meetings Coverage

Placed in the WCRA-AM Public File

DATE: 4-4-24

Sheila Myers
WCRA-AM General Manager

The station (WCRA-AM/FM) has broadcast programming dealing with each of the aforementioned and referenced issues. Programming dealing with each issue as is follows:

A. Standoff With Police At Effingham TA Truck Stop

- Date: March 8, 2024
- Type: News/Website/Social Media/On-Air
- Time: As Received
- Duration: ASAP

During the afternoon of March 8, we received reports of a police presence at the TA Truck Stop in Effingham. At the time, we did not have many details, only that police had forcibly stopped a semi-truck from leaving and had the semi blocked off from the rest of traffic. We made sure to alert the public to avoid the area, as the suspect the police were trying to apprehend was considered armed and dangerous. After several hours, the suspect took his own life. Police then moved in on the semi and the coroner pronounced the suspect deceased. After the initial investigation, and after the scene was deemed safe, police released a statement that the suspect was wanted in Michigan after a robbery at a Michigan bank. Michigan Police contacted the Effingham Police and were able to track the suspect to the TA Truck Stop. We made sure to release the entire report after the incident, informing residents of the outstanding job the police did in keeping the public safe during the ordeal.

B. Interviews With Local/Political Leaders

- Date: January-March, 2024
- Type: News/Website/Social Media/On-Air
- Time: As Needed
- Duration: Roughly 10 Minutes Per Interview

As part of our local coverage, we have instituted a “Local Interviews” page on our website with any and all local interviews from our archives. The goal is to do an interview a month at least, usually centered around whatever events/programs going on in the community at the time. In this quarter, we interviewed numerous political candidates leading up to the primary election, and we interviewed an IDOT project engineer to get more details on the upgrades in safety features on the upcoming I-70 construction. We try to keep the interviews to around 10 minutes so that it can be used in news and community calendar segments, and also have enough information to inform our listeners.

C. Severe Weather Updates

- Date: January-March, 2024
- Type: News/Website/Social Media/On-Air
- Time: As Needed
- Duration: Varies

We all know how bad Illinois weather can get, and we know we must keep the community updated on any and all severe storms coming through the area, including potential winter and spring storms. This is why we always have the most recent forecast posted on our website and social media pages as the storms move through, and we announce it on the air as needed. We also have a closings and cancellations page on our website that we keep updated with all the local businesses, schools, etc. that may close due to the weather.

D. Police Blotter

- Date: January-March, 2024
- Type: News/Website/Social Media/On-Air
- Time: As Needed
- Duration: N/A

As part of our local news coverage, we receive faxes from the Effingham Police Department with any new bookings daily. We post those bookings to our website every weekday through our “Police Blotter,” and update the community on what our local police department is doing to help keep everyone safe. The Police Blotter does have a sponsor, Barlow Lock & Security. The picture we post with the story has their logo on it as well.

E. Local Meetings Coverage

- Date: January-March, 2024
- Type: News/Website/Social Media/On-Air
- Time: Varies
- Duration: As Needed

The Cromwell News Team tries to cover as many local City and County meetings as possible, as well as local school board meetings. We try to cover all that we can from Effingham first, then branch out where possible to make sure our listeners are kept informed on the local government moves. We get pictures where possible, post the story to our website and social media pages, and use the information for local news segments.