

## WCED FIRST QUARTER 2024 ISSUES AND PROGRAMS

### CONTACT

1/4/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: DuBois Area United Way

Michael Clement interviewed Ryan Carr, President of DuBois Area United Way Board; and Neil Hanes, Executive Director of DuBois Area United Way. Ryan Carr addressed the issue of whether any money was missing from the DAUW (in relation to the Suplizio case), problems that are being fixed in light of the Suplizio investigation, and the desire to move forward. Neil Hanes talked about his position, and his passion for the work of the DAUW member agencies. He also expressed his gratitude for what has been accomplished in the past year amidst the struggles and controversy.

### CONTACT

1/11/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: Police Appreciation

Michael Clement interviewed Police Chiefs Blaine Clark (City of DuBois) and Chris Kruzalak (Sandy Township) in light of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (Jan 9). Both Chief Clark and Chief Krzelak gave their personal history, and why they chose to work in law enforcement. Both spoke of how important it is for police to connect with the communities they serve, and to have officers deeply involved with the community. Both said their biggest concerns include: the safety of their officers, the drug and mental health issues and problems in our community, and the proliferation of skills games in the area. Each also spoke about DuBois/Sandy Township consolidation, and cooperation between their departments.

### CONTACT

1/18 and 2/1/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: Football / Commitment and Determination

Michael Clement interviewed Paul Butler. Paul told the story of how he made it to the NFL ... grew up in Reynoldsville, played for DuBois Junior High and High School. Made it as a walk-on at Akron University, then accepted a scholarship offer at California University of PA. Attended rookie mini camp with the Steelers, and then had one full year out of football. He played in a spring league in Texas, and then was invited to the Raiders mini camp and made it onto the Raiders roster. Butler spoke about the mindset which made it possible to achieve what he achieved: Do the things the others were not doing, build body and mind. Butler now has PB Performance Training, he is playing baseball, and he is helping to coach DuBois Beavers football.

CONTACT

1/25/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: Veteran's Affairs / Mental Health / Suicide Prevention

Michael Clement interviewed Scott Winters (Director of the Veteran's Center in DuBois) and Olivia Luzier (Counselor at the VA Clinic in Altoona and DuBois). There was discussion about the outreach and services offered to prevent suicide among veterans; the Vet Hotline App; ways vets can receive help in many areas regarding mental health and suicide prevention.

CONTACT

2/8/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: Supplying basic needs for school-age children in the DuBois Area

Michael Clement interviewed representatives of the DuBois area's "We Care for Kids" – Susan Hassen (co-founder) and Danielle Knarr. We Care For Kids was founded in 2018 with the mission of giving children of the community basic needs supplies. Information was given on how donations are received, and the local groups who support the mission. We Care For Kids distributes clothing and basic needs supplies to six schools in the DuBois area. Only quality brands and types of clothing are distributed – 75% of the items are new. Hassen and Knarr also explained how they are working to remove the stigma of being "in need."

CONTACT

2/15/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: Suicide Prevention at DuBois Middle School and High School – Hope Squads

Michael Clement interviewed four DuBois students – Jayda, Ren, Maria, and Jay – about the DuBois Middle School and High School Hope Squads. They discussed Hope Week activities. Each student talked about why they became part of the Hope Squad. Michael read the City of DuBois Proclamation RE: "Day of Hope" in DuBois. Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention group..

CONTACT

2/22/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: Tactical Civics / Enforcing the Constitution

Michael Clement interviewed Bill Ogden, head of the Clearfield County chapter of Tactical Civics. Bill talked about his personal history, and why he got involved with Tactical Civics. The goal of Tactical Civics is to populate every county with a chapter, and then advance a strategy to move forward in concert restoring the grand jury, and restore an ordinance-driven militia for law enforcement.

#### CONTACT

2/29/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: DuBois Rotary Club / Radio Auction

Michael interviewed Chuck Johnson, current Rotarian and past president of the DuBois Rotary Club. Chuck presented a background and history of the DuBois Rotary Club. Details were given about the upcoming Radio Auction, the primary fundraiser for the club. Money raised through the auction is invested back into the community throughout the year in the form of grants, local projects, and scholarships.

#### CONTACT

3/7 and 14/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: Emergency Management

Michael interviewed Larry Bickel, the Sandy Township Local Emergency Management Coordinator. Bickel explained how his volunteer position came into existence following 9-11. He gave details on what happens when there is an emergency or catastrophe at the local/county level. Bickel talked about the three C's: Communicate, Coordinate, Cooperate. He emphasized the importance of checking on the elderly in the community.

#### CONTACT

3/21 and 28/24 8:35 AM, 25:00 minutes

Issue: Adoption and Foster Care

Michael Clement interviewed Patrick Shea and Jennifer Fedorwicz from LifeSpan Family Services. Shea, the Executive Director, talked about the need for adoption and foster care in the tri-county area. He also talked about the steps which need to be taken to adopt or foster, and the changes in adopting/fostering over the past 30 years. Both spoke about the positive results and emotional rewards that come from fostering/adopting.