

## **Quarterly Issues Report For Blue Ridge Public Radio – 1st Quarter of 2020 (April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>)**

Blue Ridge Public Radio during its 24-hours broadcast day reports on issues vital to Western North Carolina. They include – government, politics, health care, housing, transportation, environment, education, science, demographics, race, LGBTQ, arts, culture, and public safety. Local newscasts are produced Monday through Friday during both Morning Edition and All Things Considered. Local newscasts are also occasionally produced on Saturday and Sunday mornings during Weekend Edition. The BPR news department also produces local stories and interviews that are inserted during Morning Edition and All Things Considered and also in local newscasts. Reports are also posted on the North Carolina Public Radio Exchange for use by other public radio stations in the state.

### **ARTS**

4/15 – Quarantine Proving Creative Period For Some Artists - <https://www.bpr.org/post/quarantine-proving-creative-period-some-artists>

4/23 – Activism And Art, At A Distance: Racial Justice Gathering Moves Online - <https://www.bpr.org/post/activism-and-art-distance-racial-justice-gathering-moves-online>

4/28 – Wortham Prepared For Months Of Darkness, Uncertain Consequences If Closure Stretches Into Fall - <https://www.bpr.org/post/wortham-prepared-months-darkness-uncertain-consequences-if-closure-stretches-fall>

6/3 – Muralists immortalize protests, unrest on canvas of downtown's boarded storefronts - <https://www.bpr.org/post/muralists-immortalize-protests-unrest-canvas-downtowns-boarded-storefronts>

6/29 – Young Asheville Artists Create Indelible Statements Of Protest That Come And Go - <https://www.bpr.org/post/young-asheville-artists-create-indelible-statements-protest-come-and-go>

### **BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT**

4/1 – Amid Coronavirus, Businesses Of Many Stripes Asking For Direct Cash Donations - <https://www.bpr.org/post/amid-coronavirus-businesses-many-stripes-asking-direct-cash-donations>

4/15 – Boarded Up: Downtown Storefronts Fear Looting, Vandalism Amid COVID-19 Closures - <https://www.bpr.org/post/boarded-downtown-storefronts-fear-looting-vandalism-amid-covid-19-closures>

4/29 – When Buncombe County Can Re-Open, Tourism (And Advertising) Can Start Again Too - <https://www.bpr.org/post/when-buncombe-county-can-re-open-tourism-and-advertising-can-start-again-too>

5/21 – Behind The Numbers: White Women Make Up Largest Demographic In Emergency Business Loan Recipients - <https://www.bpr.org/post/behind-numbers-white-women-make-largest-demographic-emergency-business-loan-recipients>

## **EDUCATION**

5/12 – “Recruiting Is Hard Enough”: How The Pandemic Is Leaving Many HS Seniors Scrambling - <https://www.bpr.org/post/recruiting-hard-enough-how-pandemic-leaving-many-hs-seniors-scrambling>

5/25 – UNC Asheville Students Share Pandemic Prose, Seniors Say, ‘Goodbye’ - <https://www.bpr.org/post/unc-asheville-students-share-pandemic-prose-seniors-say-goodbye>

6/4 – Buncombe County Schools Hold Graduations This Weekend Amid Pandemic - <https://www.bpr.org/post/buncombe-county-schools-hold-graduations-weekend-amid-pandemic>

## **ELECTION 2020**

6/24 - #NC11 Runoff: Cawthorn Trounces Bennett To Take GOP Nomination - <https://www.bpr.org/post/nc11-runoff-cawthorn-trounces-bennett-take-gop-nomination>

6/24 - #NC11 Runoff Analysis: How Much Of An Upset Was It Really? - <https://www.bpr.org/post/nc11-runoff-analysis-how-much-upset-was-it-really>

## **HEALTH & HEALTHCARE**

4/7 – Early Testing At Folk School May Have Stopped COVID-19 Spread In WNC - <https://www.bpr.org/post/early-testing-folk-school-may-have-stopped-covid-19-spread-wnc>

4/10 – PPE & Patient Shortage: WNC Medical Practices Facing Coronavirus Financial Crisis - <https://www.bpr.org/post/ppe-patient-shortage-wnc-medical-practices-facing-coronavirus-financial-crisis>

5/6 – Mass Testing And A Closed Border: How The Eastern Band Have Responded To COVID-19 - <https://www.bpr.org/post/mass-testing-and-closed-border-how-eastern-band-have-responded-covid-19>

5/14 – Your Smile On Camera: WNC Dental Program Turns To Teledentistry During Coronavirus Pandemic - <https://www.bpr.org/post/your-smile-camera-wnc-dental-program-turns-teledentistry-during-coronavirus-pandemic>

## **IMMIGRATION**

4/8 – Migrant Farmworkers Considered ‘Essential’, But Are Vulnerable To COVID-19 - <https://www.bpr.org/post/migrant-farmworkers-considered-essential-are-vulnerable-covid-19>

## **LGBTQ ISSUES**

5/20 – Campaign For Southern Equality Offers COVID-19 Grants To LGBTQ+ Southerners - <https://www.bpr.org/post/campaign-southern-equality-offers-covid-19-grants-lgbtq-southerners>

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

4/1 – WNC Towns And Counties Are Closing Their Borders During COVID-19: Is It Legal? -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/wnc-towns-and-counties-are-closing-their-borders-during-covid-19-it-legal>

5/18 – WNC Counties Brace For Budget Cuts, Despite COVID-19 Relief Funding -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/wnc-counties-brace-budget-cuts-despite-covid-19-relief-funding>

5/28 – ‘Everything Is Tied To Gaming Revenue,’ Says Chief Sneed As Eastern Band Casinos Reopen -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/everything-tied-gaming-revenue-says-chief-sneed-eastern-band-casinos-reopen>

6/10 – AVL City Council OK’s Removal Of Two Confederate Monuments & Study On Vance Monument’s Future - <https://www.bpr.org/post/avl-city-council-oks-removal-two-confederate-monuments-study-vance-monuments-future>

6/16 – Buncombe Commissioners OK Confederate Monument Removal In Narrow Vote -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/buncombe-commissioners-ok-confederate-monument-removal-narrow-vote>

## **LOCAL MUSIC**

4/13 – Angel Olsen Rarely Performs In Asheville. Now She’s Home With No Shows To Play -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/angel-olsen-rarely-performs-asheville-now-shes-home-no-shows-play>

4/23 – Asheville Live Music Clubs Join National Effort To Lobby Congress For Help -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/asheville-live-music-clubs-join-national-effort-lobby-congress-help>

5/5 – Asheville Symphony Keeping Executive Director, Looking To Next Concert In February 2021 -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/asheville-symphony-keeping-executive-director-looking-next-concert-february-2021>

6/8 – Fast Pass To Stardom? Locals Hoping For Lift From NPR’s Tiny Desk Contest -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/fast-pass-stardom-locals-hoping-lift-nprs-tiny-desk-contest>

6/15 – VIDEO: Mike Martinez Of Natural Born Leaders Talks How Protests Feed His Songwriting -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/video-mike-martinez-natural-born-leaders-talks-how-protests-feed-his-songwriting>

6/22 – Choral Groups Struggle To Harmonize In Coronavirus Era - <https://www.bpr.org/post/choral-groups-struggle-harmonize-coronavirus-era>

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

4/22 – Domestic Violence During Stay-At-Home: WNC Agencies Seek To Reach The Region’s Most

Vulnerable - <https://www.bpr.org/post/domestic-violence-during-stay-home-wnc-agencies-seek-reach-regions-most-vulnerable>

6/3 – Sylva Police Chief Confirms Weapons Were Present At Downtown Vigil -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/sylva-police-chief-confirms-weapons-were-present-downtown-vigil>

6/4 – Asheville Mayor Seeks Further Information On Police Destroying Medical Station - <https://www.bpr.org/post/asheville-mayor-seeks-further-information-police-destroying-medical-station>

6/10 – Driver Steers Truck Into Crowd Gathered Outside City Hall - <https://www.bpr.org/post/driver-steers-truck-crowd-gathered-outside-city-hall>

6/29 – Asheville Police Officer Charged, Suspended For Use Of Excessive Force - <https://www.bpr.org/post/asheville-police-officer-charged-suspended-use-excessive-force>

## **RACE**

4/10 – African American Population In Buncombe Faring Better Against COVID-19 Than State So Far - <https://www.bpr.org/post/african-american-population-buncombe-faring-better-against-covid-19-state-so-far>

5/8 – Speaking Out: Asheville Chef Adds Testimony To Database Of Anti-Asian Incidents - <https://www.bpr.org/post/speaking-out-asheville-chef-adds-testimony-database-anti-asian-incidents>

6/1 – UPDATE: Thursday Night Vigil Goes Off Peacefully - <https://www.bpr.org/post/update-thursday-night-vigil-goes-peacefully>

6/2 – Therapist: Racial Justice Healing Begins With Mindfulness, Representation - <https://www.bpr.org/post/therapist-racial-justice-healing-begins-mindfulness-representation>

6/6 – Asheville Protests: A Week In Pictures - <https://www.bpr.org/post/asheville-protests-week-pictures>

6/8 – Layers Of Racist History, Structures Underpin Asheville Protests - <https://www.bpr.org/post/layers-racist-history-structures-underpin-asheville-protests>

6/16 – Doulas: ‘We Need To Listen To Black Mothers’ - <https://www.bpr.org/post/douglas-we-need-listen-black-mothers>

6/16 – Solidarity In WNC: A Black Lives Matter Movement - <https://www.bpr.org/post/solidarity-wnc-black-lives-matter-movement>

## **SCIENCE**

4/18 – COVID-19 NC: Politics Seep Into Science Amid The Push For Widespread Training - <https://www.bpr.org/post/covid-19-nc-politics-seep-science-amid-push-widespread-testing>

6/20 – COVID-19 NC: Missing Data, Face Coverings & Foster Care - <https://www.bpr.org/post/covid-19-nc-missing-data-face-coverings-foster-care>

## **STATE GOVERNMENT**

4/27 – Local Lawmakers Head To Raleigh To Take Up Emergency COVID-19 Legislation - <https://www.bpr.org/post/local-lawmakers-head-raleigh-take-emergency-covid-19-legislation>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

6/29 – Dillsboro Bridge To Sylva Will Close July 7, New Plan Will Save NCDOT \$3 Million Dollars -

<https://www.bpr.org/post/dillsboro-bridge-sylva-will-close-july-7-new-plan-will-save-ncdot-3-million-dollars>