

# **WFTF Radio**

**Issues/Programs**

**1ST QUARTER/2024**

## **Quarterly Issues Program List**

### **WFTF**

#### **First Quarter 2024 (1 January to 31 March)**

The following is a listing of some of the significant issues responded to WFTF, RUTLAND, VT, along with the most significant programming treatment of those issues for the period of 1 January to 31 March. The listing is by no means exhaustive. The order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance. All times are Pacific.

1. MINISTRY
2. BUSINESS
3. ECONOMY
4. MENTAL HEALTH
5. ADDICTION
6. FAMILY ISSUES
7. TECHNOLOGY
8. FOOD INSECURITY
9. HEALTHCARE

Issue	Program	Date	Time	Duration	Description of Program
Business	Closer Look	1/7/24	7:00pm	29min	Small-Business Mentors Offer Free Advice Through SCORE Your idea for a great small business needs a good plan. You need seed money and cashflow. If you already opened your shop, you may be stumped on how to grow. SCORE offers free, one-on-one advice for turning a profit. The personalized program is funded in part by the U.S. Small Business Administration and brings together “two of our nation’s greatest ideals -- entrepreneurship and volunteerism,” says CEO Bridget Weston. “What’s great about SCORE volunteers – they have been where the small business owner is -- they have seen the failures and learned how to overcome them.”
Education	Closer Look	1/14/24	7:00pm	30min	Old Schools Get Free Makeovers Through Heart of America “This country created the majority of its schools during the 1940s, 50s and 60s,” says Jill Hardy-Heath, President and CEO of Heart of America. Classrooms in disrepair impede learning. “If you walk into a school where you have peeling paint and ceiling tiles that are falling, and things have not been updated – think about how that would make you feel.” HOA is committed to raising the spirits of those students and teachers. Fresh paint is only the beginning. Hardy-Heath sends an expert design team to infuse each renovation with vibrant color and creative flair. “We transform spaces,” she smiles. “Think about Extreme Home Makeover, but School Edition.” The organization updates everything in aging schools from lighting to desks to pencil sharpeners -- and upgrades essential infrastructure like electrical boxes to provide crucial access to the Internet. Once the space is certified ready for the 21st century, modern digital learning tools are provided for students. “We have infused more than \$7.5 million in learning technologies, mostly computers and individual devices into schools and community centers.”
Addiction	Closer Look	1/21/24	7:00pm	13min	Gambling, Suicide Risk and Addiction Recovery Gambling addiction is a leading cause of suicide in the United States. The thrill of the bet buries vulnerable gamblers deep in debts matched only by their secret shame. But stats prove you can win recovery, as 2 outta 3 people who seek treatment are able to stop. Rafael Sierra talks with Derek Longmeier of Problem Gambling Network of Ohio and Keith Whyte of the National Council on Problem Gambling. Need to talk? Call the National Problem Gambling Helpline: (800) 522-4700.

Faith	Closer Look	1/21/24	7:13pm	17min	Faith Of Her Father - Baby Jessica's Dad The unlikely rescue of Baby Jessica from a well back in 1987 remains one of the world's most watched news stories of all time. There were "multiple miracles," says her father Chip McClure, "more than you can count...God's hand was evident." In the days and months after, the family received thousands of calls and truckloads of mail from all over the world, people in personal distress who were encouraged by the McClure's faith and the good news of Jessica's rescue.
Addiction	Closer Look	1/28/24	7:00pm	30min	Kids Fooled by Fentanyl, Rx Fakes Kids are getting pills that look like Xanax or Percocet online or in the locker room. Often laced with fentanyl, these deadly drugs can be 100x stronger than morphine. "It's terrifying," says Pat Aussem of the Partnership to End Addiction. Ed Ternan, co-founder of Song for Charlie lost his college-aged son to one pill and now helps other parents warn their children. "We still say 'just say no' but we spell it K. N. O. W. because many of these young victims are dying from taking a substance they didn't ask for."
Finances	Closer Look	2/4/24	7:00pm	29min	Food Prices, Fight Inflation from Your Fridge Food costs more these days. COVID-19 shutdowns drove up the price of labor, fertilizer and fuel needed to move crops from farms to factories to stores and eventually to your kitchen. What can you do? Should you panic buy? Comparison shop? Billie Wright checks in with Assoc Prof. Joe Balagtas at Purdue University and Jordan Page, lifestyle blogger and mom of 8 for proven tips on cutting your grocery bill.
Marriage	Closer Look	2/11/24	7:00pm	30min	50% Divorce Rate Is Myth, Researcher Says We've heard the chances of staying married are like flipping a coin. Christian author and social researcher Shaunti Feldhahn believed it too. But when she wanted to cite an original source for the 50/50 divorce rate, she was surprised none could be found. After eight years of study, Feldhahn is confident the true divorce rate is currently no greater than 25%.

Healthcare	Closer Look	2/18/24	7:00pm	15min	Tackle Childhood Obesity at Home, Church and School Millions of American kids suffer words like chubby or chunky – or fat – to describe their young bodies. The COVID-19 lockdowns only worsened already alarming levels of childhood obesity, as the CDC found the BMI (body mass index) in children ages 2-19 years old increase nearly doubled during the pandemic. Excess weight weakens growing muscles and joints and can lead to juvenile diabetes or even trigger life-threatening asthma “Prevention is what we really want, right?” says Geri Henchy, Director of Nutrition Policy at the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). “We want kids to be in environments that are not obesogenic; where they’re gonna get healthy meals, where there isn’t a lot of junk food, where they have activities -- that’s really gonna make a difference for kids.”
Childhood Issues	Closer Look	2/18/24	7:15pm	15min	Teens Aged-Out of Foster Care Get Help From ‘Dream Makers’ Without family and often lacking lifeskills, former foster kids become homeless adults by the thousands, turning to drugs and crime on the streets just to survive. “Every statistic you hear that is going bad in the United States, a lot of them link back to the foster care system and those kids just not being taken care of.” Dream Makers steps in to link aged-out foster kids with practical assistance by connecting them with the generosity of strangers. “It totally up to the community to fulfill the dream.” The young adult with a need fills out an application to ask for things that teens with families could easily get from a mom or dad: like money for work clothes, or a laptop for school, or maybe a used car – but Melton says the most common dream request from these youth by far is – food.
Healthcare	Closer Look	2/25/24	7:00pm	30min	Young Girls Pregnant and Scared Turn to StandUpGirl.com Dawn-Marie Perez, Executive Director of StandUpGirl.com says their site stands ready to help. “Our mission is to have these girls be able to find life-affirming information through us -- and then we connect them with pregnancy centers in their neighborhood.” Quick response is essential. “If you go google the word ‘abortion’ right now there are millions of websites that are gonna come up,” she says. “Our goal is to have StandUpGirl show up on that first page of their search.”
Entertainment	Closer Look	3/3/24	7:00pm	17min	Young Storytellers Outreach Brings Kid-Scripts to Stage Children feel the thrill of seeing their scripts come to life with the help of creative-writing mentors and local actors who volunteer to perform. Though based primarily in Los Angeles, the arts program Young Storytellers works to scale its success to other cities by providing free online videos educators can use to help students shape stories.

Family Issues	Closer Look	3/3/24	7:17pm	25min	<p>South Carolina Dad Helps Reconnect Non-Custodial Fathers with Their Kids</p> <p>Vincent Mercer from Moncks Corner, South Carolina, knows how important it is for dads to be there for their children. He helps lead Father to Father, a program that helps low-income non-custodial fathers (and some moms) overcome life barriers that keep them from being involved with their children. As a father himself, Vincent understands the importance of a dad being there for his children. By doing so, Vincent says, “that child is less likely to be incarcerated, more likely to finish high school, more likely to be successful in the job market,” and have better interactions with their peers.</p>
Animal Safety – Special Needs	Closer Look	3/10/24	7:00pm	15min	<p>Poodles, Labs Trained Free by Guide Dogs of The Desert</p> <p>Guide Dogs of the Desert is one of just 14 schools in the U.S. for certified canine companions. Labradors are the main breed, but it specializes in standard poodles, which are hypoallergenic. Dogs are paired with the blind in need at no-charge.</p>
Veterans – Animal Safety	Closer Look	3/10/24	7:15pm	15min	<p>Dogs Rescue Soldiers with Paws of War</p> <p>A small meow tugs at a soldier’s lonely heart. A bony pup cowering nearby begs for a bite of ration. U.S. combat vets adopt battlefield pets they must leave when deployment is done. Paws of War runs missions to find the soldier’s beloved cat or dog in countries like Iraq and Syria, Jordan, Kosovo. “We do it, we do it at no cost to our active military members; we get those animals back here and we reunite them.”</p>
Food Insecurity	Closer Look	3/17/24	7:00pm	15min	<p>“Share The Wealth of Your Dirt” Through AmpleHarvest.org</p> <p>AmpleHarvest.org is nationally recognized for successfully recruiting backyard gardeners to fight food insecurity. The site lists 8,000 local pantries which accept donations of fresh fruits and veggies. The non-profit also works to involve pastors and churches nationwide through the Faith Fights Food Waste campaign and recently added a program to feed malnourished people on Native American reservations.</p>
Addiction	Closer Look	3/24/24	7:00pm	29min	<p>Parents Of Addicted Loved Ones Turn to PAL Groups for Support</p> <p>One of your kids is on drugs. Getting in trouble. Calling you over and over bail them out. You don’t know what to do. PAL Groups bring people together to swap stories and share strategies -- online or in-person. “When we found PAL we’re like okay, we’re not alone, there’s other people who’ve been down this road.” PAL groups were first formed back in 2006 and the Christian-run non-profit now hosts more than 180 meetings nationwide. Members may attend in-person or choose to join online sessions available most days of the week. All meetings are free, confidential, and open to any parent who needs to connect with others for help and hope.</p>