

# **Quarterly Issues and Programs List**

## **Iron River Community Broadcasting – WIKB-FM**

For the Quarter beginning October 1, 2023  
Compiled and placed in the public file January 10, 2024

### **Section I – Issues**

These stations have identified the following issues facing our community during this quarter:

1. Government and Economic Issues
2. Health, Infrastructure, Education & Wildlife
3. Community Support, Information and Events
4. Emergency and Police Issues & Incidents

### **Section II – Responsive Programs**

The station has broadcast programming dealing with these issues listed. Unless otherwise noted, the programming was broadcast on WIKB radio station. This list of programs is intended to thoroughly represent the station's news gathering and community involvement, and does not necessarily include all broadcasts that may have addressed the issues noted.

## 1. Government and Economic Issues

Telephone Time, Monday-Saturday 9a-12p: Call-In Buy Sell Trade, Community Outreach and Events

**Fri 9:15 on TT: "Buckskin Bob's Weekend Report"** – Buckskin Bob joins TT on Fridays for a 15 minute segment discussing community events, recreational opportunities and regulations, public service campaigns, businesses, job openings and more.

**News, 10/2 – U.P. County Prosecutor Drought:** Reporting on lack of County Prosecutors and Assistant County Prosecutors in key Upper Peninsula counties, including the resignation of the similarly-positioned Houghton County's District Attorney.

**News, 10/12 – Greg Markkanen vs MPSC:** Reporting on Representative Greg Markkanen attacking proposals to expand the power of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) in regards to their ability to authorize green energy projects.

**News, 10/27 – Dickinson County Meeting:** Reporting on a Dickinson County Board of Commissioners meeting, the board unanimously passed a resolution supporting the Second Amendment. Local members of the Democratic Party spoke out against the resolution, characterizing it as antagonistic and fronted by non-residents. Additionally, the board discussed a potential site for a veteran's cemetery.

**News, 10/30 – MI Funding Military Electronics:** Reporting on Calumet Electronics receiving \$7.5 million dollars from the State of Michigan to strengthen its advanced circuit board business. The company's plans for these U.S-made parts to be used in military hardware, and their pursuit of federal funding, are also mentioned.

**News, 11/7 – 2023 Local Election Coverage:** Reporting on the local elections in Iron County, where residents are deciding on two city council members and a tax millage for local parks and trails. In Caspian and Gaastra, elections are uncontested with clear choices for voters.

**News, 11/8 – 2023 Local Election Results:** Reporting on Iron River's recent election results, Rodney Dood has been declared the new mayor, having received 343 votes in an uncontested race. The council seats will be retained by RonJo Leonoff and current Mayor Dennis Powell, who will step down as mayor.

**News, 11/14 – Crystal Falls Meeting:** Reporting on a City of Crystal Falls meeting on November 13, the agenda was dominated by discussion of a new housing project near the city. S.C. Swiderski, a company from Mosinee, WI, proposed developing a 27-acre parcel of land around where Dr. A.L. Haight Airport used to be located on the north-east side of town.

**News, 12/2 – Dickinson Board vs Library:** Reporting on a Dickinson County Board meeting, where they expressed concern over changes in the Dickinson County Library's proposed revisions to their by-laws. The county board felt that these changes were an effort to stifle communication, and could muzzle the ability to speak during county board meetings on library affairs.

**News, 12/12 – New Mining:** Reporting on Highland Copper's Copperwood Mine project in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The project is expected to bring in \$12 million per year in taxes and \$130 million a year in operation expenses paid to Michigan businesses. The project is still awaiting federal permits and faces opposition from environmental groups.

## **2. Public Health, Infrastructure, Education and Wildlife**

**Telephone Time**, Monday-Saturday 9a-12p: Call-In Buy Sell Trade, Community Outreach and Events

**Thurs 12pm: "Dr Larry Radio: Did You Know?"**: Doctor Larry of Crystal Chiropractic joins TT every Thursday for a 45-minute segment where he discusses physical health, and health solutions. He also fields calls from listeners with specific questions about certain ailments and health policies.

**News, 10/5 – McBroom School Funding Bill**: Reporting on a Senator Ed McBroom speaking on behalf of Michigan bill S.B. 23, which could increase the headcount for schools with students working and learning at the same time, potentially resulting in more state funding for those schools.

**News, 10/10 – SPARK Grants, Round 2**: Reporting on Western Upper Peninsula communities receiving a portion of \$22 million in public grant funding. The projects, mainly focused on park and recreation area renovations, aim to boost local economic development. This was after an earlier grant snub downstate.

**News, 10/13 – Trail 2 Reroute**: Reporting on a proposed re-route of a major snowmobile connector trail in Wakefield, Michigan, due to issues with a section of the trail running through privately owned land. Authorities are currently seeking a solution to the problem.

**News, 10/20 – New MI Fish Rules**: Reporting on changes to MI fishing regulations, affecting several lakes in Dickinson and Iron County. These include limiting the daily possession limit for large northern pike, and allowing for catch-and-release fishing of Arctic grayling.

**News, 11/1 – Car Accidents**: Reporting on a series of road accidents in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Two incidents back-to-back resulted in a truck overturn in one case, and a fatal crash involving a 2014 Chevrolet Camaro in another. Alcohol and speed suspected as contributing factors in the fatal accident.

**News, 11/9 – Deer Season**: Reporting on the Michigan deer hunting season starting on November 15th, and that a five-day quiet period known as the "quiet period" will be in effect for deer hunters from November 10th to 14th, where hunters are required to wait before they can start sending live rounds down range.

**News, 11/16 – WI Bear Season Fallout**: Reporting on the 2023 bear hunting season in Wisconsin, the preliminary results show a record low of 2,922 bears harvested, compared to the average of 4,000 bears a year. This decrease in the bear harvest was not uniform across the state.

**News, 12/5 – Line 5 OK-ed**: Reporting on the Michigan Public Service Commission's granting of a permit to Canadian oil company Enbridge for their deep tunnel revision to Line 5 under the Straits of Mackinac. The permit was granted with a unanimous vote, prompting mixed reactions from the business sector, politicians, and environmental groups.

**News, 12/11 – Warm Weather**: Reporting on the weather forecast for Iron River, temperatures expected rise to the high-30s to mid-40s. This may be negative for the area from a tourism standpoint, particularly for seasonal businesses such as ski hills.

**TT PSA 12/4/23-12/14/23 – Red Cross**: PSA for the American Red Cross, announcing that there would be a blood drive at the First Baptist Church in Iron River.

### **3. Community Support, Information and Events**

**Telephone Time**, Monday-Saturday 9a-12p: Call-In Buy Sell Trade, Community Outreach and Events

**Fri 9:15 on TT: "Buckskin Bob's Weekend Report"** – Buckskin Bob joins TT on Fridays for a 15 minute segment discussing community events, recreational opportunities and regulations, and news and information concerning the outdoors, hunting, foraging, gardening and conservation.

**News, SATURDAYS "Jeremy's Explorations"** – a MINI-SERIES of stories and interesting topics relating to News Director Jeremy Johnson's weeks overseas in late 2022. Each segment is about 5 minutes long with a new one air every Saturday throughout Q2, Q3, and Q4 during our Long News Breaks. The series ended on November 4th.

- **News, 11/4 – Jeremy's European Excursion:** The final installment of Jeremy's adventures. After spending several weeks traveling through France, he reflects on the experiences and people he had, and reflects on the importance of preserving memories and moving forward in life.

**News, 10/9 – WIC Wall of Fame:** Reporting on the inaugural ceremony for the West Iron County School's Wall of Fame. Inductees included Charles Greenlund, Lee LeBlanc, Harry Monson, Toby Brzoznowski, Willard Anderson, Brandon Giovanelli, and Lewis Reimann. Dan Hinch of the board was interviewed.

**News, 10/17 – Pink Out Fundraising:** Reporting on the anti-cancer fundraising event Pink Out, aimed at supporting the Iron County Cancer Unit. This year, the Iron Area Health Foundation has pledged to match donations up to \$2,500, with the potential to raise up to \$5,000 for the Cancer Unit.

**News, 10/28 – Halloween Roundup:** A roundup of impending Halloween celebrations and hours within the listening area. This included Amasa, Florence County (Wisconsin), Crystal Falls, and Alpha.

**News, 11/6 – Forest Park Hall of Fame:** Reporting on Forest Park's third Hall of Fame ceremony, the event was held at Young's Golf and honored Coach Dick Mettlach, Don Boulanger, and Barb Trevarton. Full video of the ceremony is available on WIKB's Facebook page. Lyle Smithson is interviewed.

**News, 11/13 – WIKB Repairs:** Iron County's WIKB-FM has recently upgraded its transmitter, significantly improving audio clarity and paving the way for more upgrades in the future.

**News, 11/27 – Christmas Event Roundup:** A roundup on several Christmas events soon to happen in the listening area, including the 34th Christmas Tree Galleria at the Iron County Museum on Monday, November 27th, from 5 PM to 7 PM; and a double header of Christmas events in Florence County on December 2nd, including the "Christmas in Florence" event, and the "Winter in Florence".

**News, 12/30 – New Years Roundup:** A roundup of New Years Eve activities for area residents to consider.

**TT PSA 10/2/23 - 12/17/23 – Grief Share:** PSA for "Grief Share", a grief support group that met every Sunday at the Grace Covenant Church in Iron River.

**TT PSA 10/4/23 - 10/31/23 – Trunk of Treat:** Announcement from the Caspian/Gaastra Fire Department, who would be hosting a Trunk or Treat event on Halloween. This is an event where children can go from car to car collecting candy rather than house to house.

**TT PSA 10/16/23 - 12/12/23 – Vets Benefit:** Announcement from the Tufts Rondon VFW Post #2891 & Auxiliary, who were to host a hunting season themed breakfast consisting of pancakes, eggs, and other common breakfast foods. This event was open to the general public, and was to raise funds for veterans, active duty service members, and their families.

#### **4. Emergency and Police Issues & Incidents**

**News, 10/23 – WIC Lockdown Fallout:** Reporting on a school board meeting on October 18, the meeting discussed a threat against a female teacher made by a female student. The school board criticized the lack of communication from the Iron River Police Department to the school, and ultimately to the teacher herself. The school board was also criticized by teachers and parents. The student was suspended but not expelled.

**News, 11/3 – WIC Locktown 2:** Reporting on a new lockdown incident at West Iron County. Superintendent Kevin Schmutzler revealed that the 15-year-old female student who was involved in a lockdown-worthy threat a month prior, made another threat against the school. This resulted in the school being put on soft lockdown and the teen being arrested.

**News, 11/10 – Gaastra Vandalism:** Reporting on a Gaastra city meeting, the main takeaway was the increasing problem of vandalism in the community. City Manager Debbie Tusa reported that the bathrooms at the soccer field had been severely vandalized, despite efforts to secure them. The city is working to address the issue of vandalism and improve security measures in the community.

**News, 11/18 – IRPD School Lockdown Response:** Reporting on statements Iron River Police Chief, Curt Harrington, made regarding the lockdowns at West Iron County schools. He reassured the community that law enforcement is doing everything possible to ensure the schools' safety. He also mentioned that details of complaints are not discussed to avoid contaminating evidence or subjects of an investigation.

**News, 11/21 – Iron County Sheriff News Roundup:** Reporting on a series of events favorable to the Iron County Sheriff's Department, including the receiving of a Certificate of Appreciation from the Michigan State Police for the Department's participation in the search for missing child Nante Niemi in Ontonagon County back in May.

**News, 11/22 – WIC School Board Meeting:** Reporting on a West Iron School Board meeting. The board discussed mental health and school safety in relation to the recent online threats. The board also formed a Safety and Security Committee and discussed potential improvements to the school's security. Additionally, the board made several staff appointments, including a new JV coach for the school's boys basketball team.

**News, 12/22 – Pound Drug Bust:** Reporting on a significant drug bust that took place in Pound, WI, by the the KIND Drug Team and the Northeast County Drug Enforcement Group. Two suspects, both Iron Mountain residents, were arrested.

All PSA and News materials are available in PDF form in the Public Inspection File. This list is by no means exhaustive, and WIKB is proud to be directly connected to the community through Telephone Time – a daily, 3 hour calls-based program where people can buy, sell or barter their items, announce events, benefits or community services, and discuss notable happenings around our listening area of the U.P. and Northern Wisconsin.

PSAs are constantly coming in and turning over, and keeping dates straight when filing these reports is viewed as an unnecessary burden for our small staff. To see details on all PSAs and how we run them, you can view the COMPLETE collection of PSA copy and schedules from Q1 2023 in our inspection file alongside this report.

IRCB is committed to bringing relevant and current news and information to the residents of the “Northwoods”, concentrating on our immediate listening areas of IRON, DICKINSON and FLORENCE counties in the U.P. and Northern Wisconsin. We cover the monthly meetings at both city and county levels, including Iron River, Crystal Falls, Caspian, Gaastra, Iron County and Dickinson County. Some Coverage from the first month of the quarter is listed in this report; all further reports on local government meetings can be viewed in our NEWS pdfs uploaded alongside these reports. These are uploaded for transparency as well as to ease the burden of our reporting. Any auditor of this report should check our file for the full scope of IRCB's community involvement, including ALL Newscast and PSA Copy.

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“News” airs at 8a and 12p-6p Central Time on WIKB/WFER Monday – Saturday

“PSA” airs from 6a – 9p, 7 days a week on WIKB/WFER