

WQCB 4th Quarter Community Issues Report

October 1st – December 31st, 2017

The **Q 106.5 News Department** covers a variety of topics and issues through its news coverage Monday through Friday, with additional focus on issues and community concerns covered during weekend programming with the Sunday morning show ***Maine Concerns***. Our News Director is in regular contact with local, county, state and federal officials. In addition, community leaders and nonprofit organizations are contacted to determine what issues are of greatest concern to our listening audience.

The Q 106.5 newscasts air Monday-Friday at 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 a.m. It's also important to note many of our news stories are also posted on line on our website at q1065.fm.

Stories covered generally fall into the following categories:

Crime- Q106.5 covers stories we think are important to Maine residents from drug trafficking to scams and security related issues. When necessary, we support efforts of law enforcement by releasing names and information pertaining to missing person's cases or searches. We're in regular contact with the Maine Public Safety spokesman, Maine Emergency Management Agency, and Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. We also cover marine crime related stories with information provided by U.S. Coast Guard and Marine Patrol.

Public Safety-Q106.5 covers stories that impact the public safety of community which can run the gamut from natural disasters to police emergencies like shootings or standoffs.

Health- Q106.5 covers a wide variety of health related stories and work with regional hospitals, the Maine CDC, and other organizations to get the word out about conferences, medical developments, viruses, and seasonal concerns like Lyme Disease or flu. Many of our stories dealing with public safety can be considered health related as well, citing our warnings about CO poisoning during power outages as one example.

Economy-The economic struggles faced by Maine and the nation continue to dominate our news coverage. We continue to report on laws and initiatives affecting the economy as it relates to municipal, state and federal programs and services. We report on training and development opportunities in the state as well as job fair activities.

Environment-Our environmental coverage spans a wide variety of stories to promoting public hearings such as the DEP hearings for the Juniper Landfill in Old Town, or the public hearings on the DCP Midstream proposed liquid propane tank in Searsport, to stories about necropsies on whales.

Education-Q 106.5 covers stories in Maine from school budgets to school safety initiatives. Stories about innovative college studies and research are also covered.

Community-Q 106.5 recognizes the work of community non-profit groups who utilize volunteers to promote the general welfare of Maine citizens. From food drives to help feed those struggling seniors

Downeast, to matching grant challenges to serve single mothers, to charity runs and concerts, Q 106.5 provides a lot of coverage for these kinds of events.

If the situation warrants, the News Director will include stories of national significance and those stories might include anything from National Security, Natural Disasters, Congressional activities or Presidential declarations.

The following is an extensive sampling of our newscast content during the fourth quarter of 2017:

10-2-17

Maine's Department of Education says it's working to expand access to career and technical education to middle-school students in the state. 11 other states also offer opportunities like Maine's new state law that allows but does not require schools to offer such opportunities for sixth through eighth graders this school year. (:10 Education 6, 7)

10-3-17

The Waterville Humane Society is closed temporarily due to an outbreak of feline distemper. People who have recently adopted cats from the shelter have been notified and proper precautions have been taken. WABI-TV reports there's no timetable for when the shelter will reopen. (:10 Health + Community 6, 7)

A 5k race in Blue Hill that helps provide shoes to needy kids in Nicaragua will step off Saturday. Registration for the Soles for Souls race will begin at 7:30 Saturday morning at the Homewood Farm in Blue Hill, with the race starting at 8:30. The event costs 20 dollars or racers can donate a new pair of children's shoes. (:10 Community 6, 7)

10-4-17

The Town of Bucksport is working to determine how best to use the former Verso paper mill site and they have an EPA grant to help fund whatever changes are made. An open house will be held on October 17th from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Heart and Soul Headquarters on Main Street, so the community can offer input. Find more information on the project at adapt Bucksport dot com. (:15 Economy 6, 7)

The Camp Capella Crusaders will be serving up an Italian dinner this Saturday at the Newport Rec Center, starting at 4:00. Then at 6:30, folks can bid on a variety of items, like sporting goods and gift certificates, during a live auction. Proceeds from the evening will benefit Camp Capella in Dedham, which serves children and adults with disabilities. (:10 Community 6, 7)

10-5-17

Game Wardens are asking for the public's help locating the person responsible for hitting a moose with their car in Coplin Plantation and then dumping the body off a bridge. They received a call Saturday about the animal that was found below a bridge in Lang Township, over two miles from where they say

the animal was struck by either a pickup or an SUV. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Maine Warden Service. (:15 Public Safety + Crime 6, 7)

The Maine Troop Greeters are raising money to help finish their museum that's currently under construction in the Bangor International Airport terminal. It will take another twenty-five thousand dollars to get the project completed in time to open for Veteran's Day this year. Folks wishing to contribute can log onto Maine Trooper Greeters dot org or donate through their go fund me page. (:15 Community 6, 7)

10-6-17

Governor Paul LePage and Attorney General Janet Mills are locking horns over the governor's transfer of over 10 million dollars from a consumer protection trust fund. Mills says LePage lacks the legal authority to transfer the money that's currently used to purchase naloxone for police departments and to sue corporations. The governor says he feels the AG's authority over millions of dollars is unconstitutional. (:10 Economy 6, 7)

The Downeast Scenic Railway is once again hosting the pumpkin train, a 1 ½ hour ride out of Ellsworth that includes fun for the whole family. Parents can enjoy the fall colors along the ride, and kids can pick their own pumpkins from a pumpkin patch during a stop, and will then be given stickers to decorate them. For more information on the pumpkin trains that will run October 14th and 15th, log onto Downeast scenic rail dot org. (:15 Community 6, 7)

10-9-17

The brilliant fall foliage that was anticipated this year seems a bit dull in many places, and experts say that's because of all the warm weather we've had. A lack of rain and cool weather has dimmed the colors and caused some trees to shed their leaves early. Still, it's hard to feel bad about the weather when we know that winter is just around the corner. (:10 Environment 6, 7)

Actor Patrick Dempsey, best known as 'Dr. McDreamy' from the show Gray's Anatomy, helps cancer patients in Maine through the cancer center in Lewiston that he started in 2008, and through an award he gives each year to a cancer survivor who works to support others with the disease. This year's winner is Christina Parrish, who is a 9 year pancreatic cancer survivor and founded the Purple Iris Foundation to raise awareness of the disease. This weekend, her organization will host the Pound the Pavement color run/walk on the Bangor Waterfront. (:15 Community + Health 6, 7)

10-10-17

Fire officials say a garage fire in Orland is a good reminder of the importance of having working smoke detectors. The family that lived there heard the detectors go off, saw the fire, and had time to get their pets out before calling 911. A quick response from the fire department helped contain the flames in the garage but it was the smoke detectors that possibly saved the lives of the family. (:15 Public safety 6, 7)

There will be lots of family fun on the Blue Hill Peninsula this weekend, as three popular festivals all happen on Saturday. The 3rd Annual Harvest Festival, featuring live music, competitions, and refreshments, will coincide with the Bagaduce Music Lending Library's Family Day event, and the Bay School's Apple Fest. Folks are encouraged to park on South Street and all three of the events will be in walking distance. (:15 Community 6, 7)

10-11-17

Mainers can now use their ID's to board commercial aircraft, as the state has received a reprieve from national proof-of-identity standards while it works to comply with that law. Secretary of State Matt Dunlap says Maine has received a grace period from enforcement of the federal REAL ID Act until January 22nd, a law that includes the use of facial recognition technology on license photos and the retention of copies of birth certificates. (:15 Public Safety 6, 7)

Area residents are invited to join some activities this week to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the day the infamous Brady Gang met their end on the city's streets. Tonight, the Bangor Public Library is hosting a discussion on the gangsters from 6 to 9. And on Thursday, folks will meet at Bagel Central for the 'last breakfast of the Brady gang' before walking outside to release a balloon. Find more information at Bangor historical society dot org. (:15 Community 6, 7)

10-12-17

The smaller University of Maine campuses plan to off-set the cost of tuition and fees for eligible in-state students in an effort to increase completion of degrees, reduce student debt, and lure students to the smaller schools. Starting in the fall semester of 2018, campuses in Presque Isle, Fort Kent, Augusta, and Machias will create financial aid plans for any first-year students who qualify for a federal Pell grant, to cover the cost of tuition and fees that aren't already covered by the grant. (:20 Education, Economy 6, 7)

Folks are invited to go bar hopping tonight in support of Alzheimer's. The Purple Pub Crawl has at least nine local bars and restaurants in Downtown Bangor that will showcase purple drinks or have specials geared toward the event that will support the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's. To participate, just visit the purple table in West Market Square tonight between 5 and 11 o'clock. (:10 Community 6, 7)

10-13-17

An Ellsworth organization that wants to help homeless people with children learn how to get off government support, get an education and a job, is looking for volunteers to help convert an empty building into a permanent home for families in need. The Families First Community Center has raised the funds needed for the project and they will close on the property they're planning to repurpose later this month. Find more information at families first Ellsworth dot org. (:15 Education, Community 6, 7)

A dinner and live auction at Le Club Calumet in Augusta Saturday will benefit the organization Free ME From Lung Cancer and help fund research. Secretary of State Matt Dunlap will serve as auctioneer with items up for bid like a football autographed by Tom Brady and a Red Sox baseball signed by Drew Pomeranz. Find more information at Free ME from Lung Cancer dot org. (:10 Community, Health 6, 7)

10-16-17

U-Maine officials are warning Orono residents that the sirens they hear today are only a test of the emergency communications system. Three outdoor sirens will sound for several minutes as officials test the system that is meant to keep the campus population safe during emergency situations. Community members interested in receiving emergency notifications should register at U-Maine dot edu. (:10 Public Safety + Education 6, 7)

We told you about the little boy with brain cancer in Biddeford whose Mom asked that people send him Halloween cards, since it's his favorite holiday. Well, he got a big surprise Saturday when members of the Biddeford fire department showed up to decorate his home for Halloween, complete with giant inflatables, like a creepy clown and a dragon. Cards can be sent to Brock Chadwick, 11 McKenney Drive, Biddeford, 04005. (Community 6, 7)

10-17-17

The Warden Service is urging hunters to use precautions whenever they handle a firearm, in the wake of five hunting-related accidents already this season. Four of the five were the result of people being unaware of their surroundings. Hunters are advised to always be aware of the location of others in their hunting party, wear blaze orange, stay in control of their firearm, and keep their finger off the trigger until they're ready to shoot. (:15 Public Safety + Community 6, 7)

The Shaw House in Bangor is set to receive 145 thousand dollars through a grant from the Administration for children and families. The money will help support day-to-day operations, providing housing for youth who are unable to return home. The Shaw House serves juveniles from nearly five Maine counties. (:15 Community 6, 7)

10-18-17

A fungus that can be dangerous to trees, especially maples, has been seen a lot around Maine, especially the Bangor area. A forest entomologist told TV-5 it's called Black Tar Fungus and was probably caused by our early spring weather. She advises raking up any infected leaves that fall from the trees and disposing of them, to avoid re-infecting it next year. (:15 Environment 6, 7)

It can be tough to know how to talk to teens about sensitive subjects like eating disorders, bullying, and substance abuse. So Acadia hospital is releasing a series of seven videos to offer tips on warning signs of a problem, how to approach your teen about it, and how to help. The first in the series, which is about suicide, can be found at Acadia Hospital dot org slash Acadia Cares. (:15 Health + Community 6, 7)

10-19-17

The Department of Public Safety released its crime statistics for the year this week, which show that crime in Maine dropped by nearly 9 percent over the last year. Drug arrests, murders, robberies, and domestic violence were all down from the previous year. But there was an uptick in the cases of rape and aggravated assaults. (:10 Crime + Public Safety 6, 7)

A Bangor tattoo studio is using pink ink to raise money for a worthy cause. Diversified Ink is offering tattoos using pink ink, with all the proceeds going to the Maine Breast Cancer Coalition. Owner Ed Sheffer told TV-5 that it's a great way for their customers to honor others with breast cancer, and for the shop to help community members with breast cancer. (:10 Community 6, 7)

10-20-17

Maine has received an even longer extension to meet the federal REAL ID requirements, which means residents can continue to board domestic flights and access federal buildings using only their driver's license until October of next year. The REAL ID program uses things like facial recognition technology and keeps copies of birth certificates, so it will take the state some time to upgrade their systems. Originally, state officials resisted the change, saying that it violated privacy laws. (:20 Public Safety 6, 7)

A Bangor high school senior, Tom Hosmer, has been raising money for cancer research, partly through his annual Team Mimi baseball tournament since he was 9 years old. Now, a national corporation is honoring him and filming a documentary about his achievements. Tom is looking for folks to take part in a home run derby in Bangor on Saturday, October 28th, during which filming will take place and he will be recognized during a presentation. Find more information on the Facebook page for Team Mimi's annual baseball tournament. (:20 Community 6, 7)

10-23-17

The University of New England is getting more than one-point-three million dollars in federal money to study seaweed. The Mariner program, which stands for Macroalgae Research Inspiring Novel Energy Resources, will give the money over three years so the school can develop ways to use seaweed in productive ways, including as an energy source. (:15 Environment+ Economy, 6, 7)

Parents of trick or treaters who have food allergies will be looking for teal pumpkins on the steps of neighbors houses next week, as a signal that the occupants are giving out non-food treats to the kids. It's all part of the nationwide Teal Pumpkin Project, which works to make Halloween a happy holiday for everyone, including the kids who can't eat things like chocolate and peanut butter. Find more information at food allergy dot org. (:15 Health+Community, 6,7)

10-24-17

All the warm October weather has created an active climate for ticks, and Mainers are being warned to be on the lookout for them and take precautions. Experts say if you encounter a tick this time of year, nine times out of ten it will be a deer tick, which is the only type of tick that carries Lyme Disease. Residents are reminded to wear long pants and long sleeves when outside and to check themselves and their pets when they head back into the house. (:20 Environment+Health 6,7)

Bangor Police and the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department will work together this weekend on a drug take-back day. Residents are encouraged to bring any expired or unwanted medications to the Airport Mall in Bangor between 7 and 5 on Friday and from 10 to 2 on Saturday. In addition, there will

be a shredding truck at the mall on Friday to safely dispose of sensitive documents, free of charge. (:15 Public Safety+ Community 6, 7)

10-25-17

Lady bugs are showing up in large numbers in some areas of Maine, especially along the coast. Experts tell the BDN that they're harmless, but irritating if they form clusters under eaves or around windows. They recommend scooping them up with a broom and dustpan or vacuuming them, after putting a nylon over the filter so they don't get all the way into the machine, and then releasing them into the wild. (:15 Environment 6, 7)

It's lead poisoning prevention week, so the city of Bangor is teaming up with the Bangor Library to get the word out. Housing officials say over half of Bangor's housing units are old enough to pose a serious risk. Information will be available today and tomorrow between 10 in the morning and 12:30 at the Bangor Public Library's children's department. (:15 Health+Community 6,7)

10-26-17

The Anah Shrine in Bangor is hosting a trunk or treat night for kids that uses table space inside the building rather than car trunks in the parking lot. Each space is decorated and kids can travel from table to table, gathering goodies.. For more information on the event being held Friday, log onto the Facebook event page for Anah Shrine trunk or treat. (:10 Community 6, 7)

A Veazie woman has collected more than a thousand hats, mittens, and scarves for folks in need in the greater Bangor area. Louise Cunningham told TV-5 she started the organization, hats for the homeless, on a whim, asking for donations on Facebook, and was amazed at the response, with knitted items coming from as far away as New Zealand. Find more information on the Hats for the Homeless Facebook page. (:10 Community 6, 7)

10-27-17

The Maine Department of Transportation says it is spearheading a new project to make the roads safer for state residents who like to walk. The Morning Sentinel reports 15 pedestrians have died from traffic-related causes so far this year. DOT officials plan to visit a total of 21 communities, to collect information about community safety concerns, which they hope to turn into actionable safety plans for Maine residents. (:15 Public Safety 6, 7)

The Maine Discovery Museum is gearing up for its annual celebration and art auction, already taking bids on some of the artwork that's up for sale. This year, organizers sent pine storage bins out to artists around the state, who have returned them painted with beautiful paintings and decorations. Find more information about the dinner and auction coming up on November 17th at Maine Discovery Museum dot org. (:15 Community+Education 6, 7)

10-30-17

Southern Maine has been hardest hit by high winds overnight as a storm passes across the state. WCSH-TV reports over 100 thousand people statewide are without power this morning, with just over 1200 of those in Hancock County. Roads have been closed in some areas due to downed branches and power lines. Folks are reminded to take in anything that could potentially blow away and give themselves a little extra time on their morning commute. (:15 Public Safety 6, 7)

A website that compares the costs and quality of health care facilities has been updated with new indicators of quality of care and prices through the end of 2016. The state-run Compare Maine dot org contains information about roughly 200 common medical procedures at over 150 health care facilities statewide. The prices cited include money paid by both the patient and by the insurance company. (:10 Health+Economy 6, 7)

10-31-17

Governor Paul LePage has declared a state of emergency after yesterday's storm knocked out power to most of the state, giving utility companies the flexibility they need to restore power as quickly as possible. Power crews from out of state are in Maine, helping with the massive effort. For more weather information and safety tips, log onto Maine prepares dot com. (:10 Environment 6, 7)

Over 277 thousand people remain in the dark this morning as crews scramble to restore power, and officials are now saying it's bigger than the ice storm of 1998. Emera Maine and Central Maine Power say it will be days before the repairs can be completed, since trees have to be cleared as well as poles and lines replaced. Mainers are encouraged to use caution, never touch or drive over a downed line, and hook up generators according to factory specifications. (:15 Public Safety + Community 6, 7)

11-1-17

Mainers are asked to refrain from stopping to chat with utility crews as they work to restore power. An official with Central Maine Power said yesterday that, while the workers appreciate the thanks for their work, they are bound by law to STOP working when anyone comes near their worksite, for safety reasons, and so those kind words will only delay getting the power back on. (:10 Public Safety 6, 7)

The recent drought conditions contributed to the large numbers of trees that toppled during this week's storm, knocking out power for much of the state. Officials with the Maine Emergency Management Agency say because of dry conditions, the roots of many trees weren't healthy. (:10 Environment 6, 7)

11-2-17

Attorney General Janet Mills says residents should be aware of a phone scam in which a caller tells the recipient they have received an award from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. Mills says the recipient of the call is asked to pay \$200 for an access code to get the award. She says the government won't call people asking for credit card information by phone, and recipients of the call should hang up. (:15 Crime + Public Safety 6, 7)

Noel Paul Stookey, founder of the folk group Peter Paul and Mary, will perform Saturday night as a benefit for this year's Solidarity Harvest. Each year, the non-profit Food and Medicine partner with many agencies and businesses to provide thirteen hundred meal baskets for Thanksgiving to families in need. The concert gets under at 7:00 Saturday night at the Brewer Performing Arts Center. (:10 Community 6, 7)

11-3-17

People who receive SNAP benefits may be eligible for replacement of the food they lost after their power went out. DHHS officials say folks who are part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP can get a supplemental benefit equal to the amount of food they lost, but not more than their monthly benefit. To find out if you qualify, contact the Office for Family Independence to request a form of stop by the regional office of DHHS. (:15 Economy 6, 7)

11-6-17

Mainers head to the polls tomorrow to decide, among local elections, four referendum questions. Question 1 deals with whether to allow a casino in York County, while question 2 addresses a possible expansion of Medicaid to adults under the age of 65. Question 3 is a transportation bond that would fund improvements to highways, bridges, and more. Finally, question 4 asks whether voters favor stabilizing the state's payments to the public employees retirement system. (:20 Economy 6, 7)

The City of Bangor is asking residents to have their piles of trees and brush that came down during the storm at the curb before 6 this morning, as pulp trucks will be collecting it around the city. In addition, officials are asking that the piles be kept away from the power lines and piles of leaves. To find out about collection efforts in your community, contact your town office or public works department. (:15 Environment + Community 6, 7)

11-7-14

The Salvation Army's red kettles are popping up in busy locations, as the campaign to support the many programs of the organization kicked off on Monday. The money raised by the red kettles helps the Salvation Army send kids to summer camp, serve lunch weekdays through their soup kitchen, as well as providing heating assistance and helping families at Christmas. Folks can also donate online at red kettle reason dot org. (:15 Community 6, 7)

11-8-17

Community members are invited to join Husson University students and staff for the Walk for Warmth this Sunday, a 5k fun run/walk to help provide money for heating oil to people in need this winter. The walk gets underway at 9:00 Sunday morning on the Husson campus and costs \$10 for anyone with a Husson ID, or \$15 for everyone else. Find more information on the Facebook event page for the Husson University Walk for Warmth. (:15 Education + Community 6, 7)

11-9-17

The Bangor Area Breakfast rotary will host its annual Veterans Day pancake breakfast this Saturday, between 7 and 10:30 at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. Admission is just seven dollars for adult and four dollars for children, and the proceeds will be used to purchase new warm coats for folks in need. (:10 Community 6, 7)

The call for Christmas cards to brighten the final holiday season for a boy battling brain cancer in a Portland hospital has gone far and wide. Jacob Thompson has received cards from across the country, including one from Arnold Schwarzenegger. Maine native Anna Kendrick sent Jacob a card, telling him she was born in that hospital and calling him a 'handsome devil.' Christmas cards can be sent to Maine Medical Center in Portland, addressed to Jacob Thompson. (:15 Community 6, 7)

11-13-17

Netflix customers have been warned by the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office of a scam that aims to garner their financial information. In a post on the department's Facebook page, they explain that customers are receiving emails claiming that their customer billing information needs to be updated and their account has become invalid. They say don't click on the link provided in the email, even though it takes you to a page that looks like a real Netflix page, but rather delete the email altogether. (:20 Crime + Public Safety 6, 7)

Maine's wild blueberry crop fell sharply this summer to land below 100 million pounds for the first time in four years. Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine officials say preliminary industry figures show the crop coming in at about 65 million pounds. It's more than enough for Maine to remain far and away the wild blueberry capital of the country, but a sharp drop from recent years. (:10 Environment 6, 7)

11-14-17

A potential data breach involving the DHHS child welfare database may have exposed personal information to twenty-one hundred Mainers. Officials say the breached file included names, addresses, and Social Security numbers of people who receive foster care benefits, as well as names of children and legal guardians of people in the program. (:10 Crime 6, 7)

Yet another tick-borne illness is on the rise in Maine, with 500 cases reported this year, compared to 186 last year. Anaplasmosis is a bacterial infection that causes flu-like symptoms and is treated in much the same way. The Maine CDC advises taking precautions to avoid tick bites and, if you start feeling sick and have been exposed to ticks, get tested for possible infections. (:10 Health 6, 7)

11-15-17

Tomorrow is the American Cancer Society's great American smoke out, and St. Joseph's hospital is encouraging folks to reach out to their loved ones, encourage them to quit, and support their efforts. For more information, including on smoking cessation counseling, log onto st joes healing dot org. (:10 Health 6, 7)

A seminar in Brewer on Thursday evening will tackle the topic of recovery messaging, or positive ways to talk to people in recovery from substance use disorder. The event is presented by the group Young People in Recovery and will be held from 5 to 7 at Machias Savings Bank on Wilson Street. Find more information on the Facebook event page for Recovery Messaging seminar. (:10 Community + Health, 6, 7)

11-16-17

The Maine Emergency Management Agency is sending teams into the field to verify damage from the Halloween wind storm to give Governor Paul LePage the data he needs to decide whether to ask for federal aid. FEMA and local and county representatives are participating in the effort. The data will help LePage decide whether to ask President Donald Trump for a formal disaster declaration, which would apply to damage to public infrastructure. (:15 Environment 6, 7)

The owners of Jim's Precision Auto in Brewer are helping out their neighbors who have had to restock their food supply after the power outages. Jim and Michelle are collecting donations at their shop that will be handed out right before Thanksgiving, and say they're also showing appreciation for the donors. They're also offering discounts on the labor charges for vehicle repairs to folks who donate a turkey or a whole meal. (:15 Community 6, 7)

11-17-17

A University of Maine student has discovered a new species of wasp in the state, while working on her thesis. Hillary Peterson named the small, non-stinging wasp or-MOSS-er-us dee-ruh-GO-ee-us, in tribute to Maine's motto, Dirigo. She discovered it while doing research about the invasive winter moths that live in the state. (:10 Environment + Education 6, 7)

John Bapst memorial high school is getting a new addition, according to administrators, who announced this week that the school has raised three-point-five million dollars. That's the kickoff to a seven-point-five million dollar campaign to bring improvements to the campus. Construction is expected to start next year on new facilities across the street from the school. (:10 Education + Community 6, 7)

11-20-17

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry has reached an agreement with United Farmer Veterans of Maine to promote agricultural products grown by the state's veterans. Officials say the promotion will include a new "Maine Grown by Vets" label, which will give Maine veterans a chance to identify their products as veteran produced. (:10 Environment + Community 6, 7)

Local musicians will gather for a concert this Sunday in Passadumkeag to benefit a father of four who's been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. In addition to the music, there will be auction items up for bid, food, and dancing from noon to 5:30 at the Passadumkeag town hall. Find more information on the Rockin for Ross Facebook event page. (:10 Community 6, 7)

11-21-17

The City of Bangor has delayed the start of its winter parking ban, which usually begins on November 1st. Now, the ban is set to start with the season's first plowable snowfall. For more information on the details of the ban that prohibits parking in the downtown area from midnight until 6 a.m., log onto Bangor Maine dot gov. (:10 Community + Public Safety 6, 7)

A local credit union is working to warm the feet of people in need this winter. Seaboard federal credit union is collection donations of new socks at all their branches, which will be distributed to area homeless shelters. Find more information about the Sock in a box campaign at Seaboard Federal Credit Union's Facebook page. (:10 Community 6, 7)

11-22-17

Maine officials say the number of pedestrians struck and killed by vehicles in 2017 is poised to be the highest in more than 10 years. Maine DOT officials say 18 pedestrians have died so far this year, after being struck by a vehicle, one more than were killed last year, and just one less than in 2015. The worst year on record for pedestrian fatalities was 1997, when there were 30. (:15 Public Safety 6, 7)

Maine wildlife officials are encouraging hunters in the state to consider donating game meat to the hungry as Thanksgiving nears. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is asking hunters to participate in the Hunters for the Hungry program, which distributes game meat donations to food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. (:10 Environment + Community 6, 7)

11-27-17

Attorney General Janet Mills is urging any Mainer who has fallen victim to a scam and sent money via Western Union to apply for reimbursement through the company. The Department of Justice's Victim Asset Recovery Program has set aside nearly 600 million dollars to compensate those who have been taken in by very talented scam artists. Find more information at western union remission dot com. (:15 Economy + Crime + Community 6, 7)

A health clinic in Millinocket is expanding thanks to a two-point-two million loan from the federal government. The funds from the Department of Agriculture's Community Facilities Guaranteed loan program will help the Katahdin Valley Health Center put up an addition, that will provide space of optometry, behavioral counseling, dental and other health services. (:10 Health 6, 7)

11-28-17

As of today, Summer Street in Bangor is permanently closed to traffic, as part of a construction project that's building the headquarters for Bangor Savings Bank. The goal is to force traffic down Railroad Street and around the Bangor waterfront instead of allowing traffic to skirt by it on the short street. Plans to close the road have been in the works for 15 years, according to city officials, as part of the city's waterfront development project. (:15 Public Safety 6, 7)

Mainers are going to be unable to file unemployment claims for a week because of a computer system upgrade. The Maine Department of Labor is joining the ReEmployUSA partnership to streamline

processing of claims through a new software system. The system will be down from 4 p.m. Thursday through the following Wednesday, Dec. 6, when the new system comes online. (:10 Economy 6, 7)

11-29-17

Game officials are warning drivers to be on the lookout for wildlife as they've been dealing with a lot of accidents involving deer. Mating season is underway, so the bucks are on the move and all deer are trying to get enough food to eat for the winter. They say deer aren't the only wildlife on the roadways, so drivers should stay focused, especially during peak commute times in the early morning and just before dark. (:15 Public Safety + Environment 6, 7)

Donations are needed quickly for the Christmas Program at the Maine Children's Home for little wanderers. The statewide program is providing gift boxes for over eighteen hundred kids this year, with each box containing warm clothing, books, and toys, but, because they need to pack and deliver those boxes, the donations are needed as soon as possible. Find more information on how to donate at Maine Children's Home dot org. (:15 Community 6, 7)

11-30-17

The amount of money being spent on education in Maine is going up while the amount of funding to cover those costs is going down. A new report from a national think tank says that local governments have been picking up an increasing share of education costs thanks to the fact that local spending on k-12 education was up 12 percent from 2008 to 2015, while state and federal funding each declined by 9 percent. (:15 Economy + Education 6, 7)

The Red Cross in Bangor is looking for people interested in becoming disaster volunteers. A series of information sessions will be held to discuss training and available volunteer roles for people interested in helping after events like hurricanes and floods. Find more information about where and when the sessions are being held at red cross dot org slash local slash Maine. (:10 Community 6, 7)

12-1-17

Governor Paul LePage has asked the president for a disaster declaration to help recover from the powerful wind storm in October. He says nearly five million dollars in damage to public infrastructure was documented, far surpassing the threshold for a declaration. (:10 Economy 6, 7)

A Candlelight vigil will be held in Pickering Square in Bangor from 11:30 to 1 this afternoon, in recognition of World Aids Day, with candles and red ribbons provided. Similar gatherings will take place at 6:00 tonight in Ellsworth at the Union River Bridge, and at the Two Cent Bridge in Waterville. Nearly 37 million people around the world are living with aids, with 35 million having lost their lives to the disease since it was first diagnosed. (:15 Community 6, 7)

12-4-17

Senator Susan Collins is defending her vote on tax legislation by claiming she has an "ironclad" commitment from lawmakers that the bill won't result in Medicare cuts, and told a network news program that she supported the bill after inclusion of her amendments on medical expense and property tax deductions. Economists believe the tax changes will increase debt, but Collins says she believes it will spur enough economic growth to offset the reduced tax rates and will lower debt. (:20 Economy + Health 6, 7)

There were dozens of Santas skiing at Sunday River Resort in Newry over the weekend, as a way to raise money for the Sunday River community fund. The 18th annual Santa event is highlighted each year by dozens of people, dressed in full Santa gear, skiing and snowboarding down the slopes. 160 Kris Kringles took part this year, raising twenty-five hundred dollars for the charity. (:15 Community 6, 7)

12-5-17

A New license plate was unveiled in Augusta this week that will celebrate Maine's upcoming 200 years of statehood. Proceeds from the blue plate with a gold star and red 'Dirigo' banner will be designated for the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council and its bicentennial initiative. The license plates are now for sale at any Bureau of Motor Vehicles office or through the Secretary of State's website. (:15 Economy 6, 7)

A spaghetti dinner this Sunday will benefit a senior in high school who's been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Matt Simpson will be receiving chemo treatments in Portland the proceeds from the dinner will help his family with travel expenses. The dinner and silent auction will be held Sunday from 4 to 8pm at Dexter Regional High School. (:15 Community 6, 7)

12-6-17

Folks who plan to buy a real Christmas tree shouldn't be concerned about bringing bugs into their homes, according to a pest specialist from the University of Maine. Jim Dill told TV-5 that the biggest concern has been about ticks, but he says if you buy your tree from a tree farm or a roadside operation; there shouldn't be any ticks on it, since they don't live where Christmas trees are grown. He said the most you might see are a few small spiders or possibly an aphid or two. (:20 Environment + Community 6, 7)

St. Joseph Hospital will hold a Holiday blood drive on Thursday. Folks can roll up their sleeves and give the gift of life between 10 and 3 at the St. Francis Center, 294 Center Street in Bangor and receive a free five dollar Dunkin Donuts gift card. Appointments can be set up at 1-800-RED-CROSS. (:10 Community 6, 7)

12-7-17

Two Maine agencies are taking part in a national study of the effectiveness of anti-bullying laws. Maine's Department of Education and Center for Disease Control are joining Universities from around the country to take a closer look at how anti-bullying laws are being implemented. Education Commissioner

Robert Hasson Junior says the work will help ensure the state's anti-bullying law is actually keeping students safe. (:15 Education + Public Safety 6, 7)

Cancer patients have a new place to find others battling cancer, garner support, and education about resources that are available to them, all in a relaxed, non-clinical setting. The Purple Iris Foundation, that works to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer, is holding an open house today at the new Barbara Sosman center, on Rudman Road in Brewer, so folks can see the new facility that they call 'the cancer patient's living room. The open house is being held from 11 to 7 at the center, located across from Mcdonald's in Brewer. (:20 Community 6, 7)

12-8-17

The Salvation Army is asking for the public's help in filling a truck with toys this Saturday in Brewer. Volunteers will be on hand from 10 until 3 in the Brewer Walmart parking lot, with lists of suggested toys that folks can buy for less fortunate children. Captain Rebecca Kirk says they're hoping to gather 600 toys this year. (:10 Community 6, 7)

Once again, the Eastern Area Agency on Aging is collecting donations for the furry friends food bank, which helps low-income seniors and adults with disabilities feed their pets. The organization was started after volunteers for meals on wheels realized some of their clients were splitting their delivered meals with the pets who were often their only companions. Find more information and make a donation at greenacresdashdonate.com. (:15 Community 6, 7)

12-11-17

A Maine legislative panel is set to discuss the cost of expanding Medicaid to some 70,000 citizens in a public referendum. Governor Paul LePage has said he won't implement the voter-approved expansion until it's fully funded by the state Legislature, because he says the expansion's \$54 million price tag would balloon hospital debt and divert money from the elderly, disabled and children. (:15 Economy + Health 6, 7)

The Hathaway Holiday light show is underway on Hillview Drive in Bangor, with the lights, music running from 5 to 9 each night, and hot chocolate served up to onlookers. The Hathaway family does it to help raise donations for the NICU at Eastern Maine Medical Center. (:10 Community 6, 7)

12-12-17

Flu season is underway and the Maine CDC is advising residents that it's not too late to get a flu shot. While many people confuse the flu with a stomach bug, classic flu symptoms involve a cough, trouble breathing, and shortness of breath, chills, fever, and body aches. Officials say folks should wash their hands often and stay home once they realize they're sick to avoid spreading it to others. (:15 Health 6, 7)

Snowmobiling in Maine has become a popular state for people from away. The Portland Press Herald reports that of the more than 85 thousand sleds registered last winter, more than 23 thousand were

from non-residents, from as far away as California and Hawaii. The Maine Snowmobile Association estimates snowmobilers contribute 350 million dollars annually to the state's economy. (:10 Economy)

12-13-17

A new gift card scam could turn a thoughtful gift into an empty package. Scammers are grabbing cards off the rack, scratching off the film that covers the pin number and saving it, then recovering it with a special sticker, so when the card is purchased and activated, they can drain the funds. Officials advise buying packaged Visa cards, taking gift cards from the back of the rack, or consider giving cash instead. (:15 Crime + Public Safety 6, 7)

The state of Maine has more than 240 million dollars that it's trying to get to the rightful owners through its unclaimed property list, and a new version was just released. The unclaimed property on the list includes things like money left in forgotten bank accounts, securities, or insurance payouts. To find out if you have money coming to you, log onto Maine unclaimed property dot gov. (:10 Community 6, 7)

12-14-17

Thousands of Mainers are rushing to sign up for individual health plans currently under threat by president Trump's administration, before Friday's deadline. Figures released by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services indicate more than forty thousand Mainers had signed up for 2018 plans on the Affordable Care Act individual marketplace. (:15 Health + Community 6, 7)

People of all faiths are invited to attend a Hanukkah celebration Saturday in Belfast. Hanukkah got underway at Sundown on Tuesday, and folks are invited to gather this weekend for readings, music, and more, gathered around a 7-foot tall menorah in Post office square. Find more information on the Our Town Belfast Facebook page. (:10 Community 6, 7)

12-15-17

A fire that destroyed a house in Dallas Plantation this week was started when the homeowners left smoldering ashes on the porch, to cool in the snow. The residents and their dogs managed to escape but firefighters weren't able to save the house since the extreme cold was causing the water to freeze in their hoses. Officials say the best way to dispose of ashes is to place them in a metal container with a lid, far away from any structures. (:15 Public Safety 6, 7)

The Brewer Food pantry got a Christmas present yesterday, but it didn't come in Santa's sleigh. Building contractor Nickerson & O'Day delivered a dump truck full of food and supplies to the pantry, an annual tradition that started when the company rehabbed and remodeled the pantry five years ago. (:10 Community 6, 7)

12-18-17

A Leeds native has been named the United States Paralympic Coach of the Year by the U.S. Olympic Committee. Eileen Carey coaches the U.S. Nordic skiing and biathlon Paralympic teams. She was a

Nordic skier at Leavitt Area High School...and won four state championships before graduating in 2000. (:10 Community 6, 7)

12-19-17

Sen. Susan Collins announced yesterday that she'll vote for the GOP tax overhaul when the bill returns to the Senate this week. The plan would reduce the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent, give modest tax cuts to many middle- and lower-income families, and provide larger tax cuts for many wealthy Americans. Several protesters picketed outside her Bangor office as Collins announced her support for the tax plan yesterday on the Senate floor. (:20 Economy + Health 6, 7)

12-20-17

Maine utility regulators are asking the state's two power companies for answers on its response to the October windstorm that left roughly half a million people without power. The Maine Public Utilities Commission yesterday said the extent and duration of the power outages called for an investigation of the utilities' preparedness and response to the storm. (:10 Economy + Environment 6, 7)

12-21-17

All Ellsworth schools are closed today due to a possible threat. The district posted on its website this morning that all schools were closed after the "receipt of a message indicating a possible threat at Ellsworth High School." School officials this morning released no further information about the threat. The district and Ellsworth police are investigating. (:10 Education + Crime 6, 7)

Sen. Susan Collins announced yesterday that a pair of bills aimed at stabilizing the Affordable Care Act marketplace won't be voted on until 2018. Collins said the bills were originally slated to be voted on this year. The Senator voted in favor of the GOP tax overhaul after receiving assurances that the two pieces of legislation would pass. Collins has emphasized the importance of the bills to shore up the marketplace in light of the tax reform bill repealing the ACA's individual mandate. (:15 Health + Economy 6, 7)

12-22-17

Gov. Paul LePage has nominated Suzanne Krauss to serve as director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency. Krauss is a former Navy pilot who served in the military for 22 years. She recently worked as director of strategy and change management at Custom Composite Technologies in Bath...and as business relations coordinator at Midcoast Regional Development Authority in Brunswick. (:10 Community 6, 7)

12-26-17

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension is looking to train the next generation of Maine beekeepers. The cooperative extension this winter is offering courses for beginners and workshops on honeybee diseases, swarm management and how to handle queen bees. The courses start next week. (:10 Environment + Education 6, 7)

12-27-17

City officials in Ellsworth are asking the federal government to solve the National Park System's \$11 billion maintenance backlog. The city council approved issuing a resolve to Congress this week asking for an income and payment plan. Friends of Acadia Conservation Director Stephanie Clement says maintenance funding for Acadia National Park "just hasn't kept up with need." (:15 Environment + Economy 6, 7)

The ferry service between Maine and Nova Scotia may return if Portland finds \$2 million to upgrade its ferry terminal. Service from the Ocean Gateway terminal looked like it was ending last month after U.S. Customs and Border Protection said it needed about \$7 million in upgrades to meet federal standards. Customs and Border Protection now says agents can start doing customs screenings next spring if less costly changes are made. (:20 Economy 6, 7)

12-28-17

Maine drug enforcement officials say the state saw fewer than half as many reports of meth production this year. The Bangor Daily News reports law enforcement officers and drug treatment counselors warn that the drop doesn't necessarily mean supply or demand is down. Police attribute the decline to a years-old law blocking the sale of over-the-counter medicine containing ephedrine. (:15 Public Safety 6, 7)

12-29-17

As a deep freeze sets in across half the country, officials are urging people to help those most vulnerable, especially the homeless and the elderly. Forecasters are warning people to be wary of hypothermia and frostbite from the arctic blast that's gripping a large swath from the Midwest to the Northeast. The prolonged, dangerous cold weather has sent advocates for the homeless scrambling to get people off the streets and to bring in extra beds for them. (:25 Environment + Health + Community 6, 7)

4th QUARTER MAINE CONCERNS TOPICS 2017

"Townsquare Media Maine Concerns" is a long-form interview segment running every Sunday morning at 6:20 A.M. (WWMJ), 11:10 A.M. (WDEA), 8:00am (WQCB), 7:55am (WBZN), and 6:05AM (WEZQ)

Each of the Maine Concerns reports runs between 8 and 10 minutes. The following reports aired during the 4th quarter of 2017.

10-1-17

In our first segment, Cindy Campbell chats with Manna's Executive Director Bill Rae about the food pantry and soup kitchen. Recent financial issues have caused some to think the facility is closed and Bill sets the record straight that they're still handing out groceries and feeding dinner to nearly 100 people a night. He says the cupboards are sparse and they really need donations. In our next segment, Cindy talks

with Mila Tappan, Executive Director of the Finance Authority of Maine about a series of financial aid workshops planned for area high schools. She discusses the best time to apply for aid, how to go about it, and why it's important to file early. (9:52 Education, Community, Economy)

10-7-17

In our first segment, Cindy Campbell talks with volunteer organizer Sheri Norwood about the Pink Runway Project, an organization that works to educate women about their right to have reconstructive surgery after a mastectomy. The group is holding a large gala that will include a fashion show, featuring breast cancer survivors who have had reconstructive surgery. All the money raised will help cancer patients meet their co-pays or buy wigs, etc. In our second segment, Cindy chats with cancer survivor Chris Parrish about the Purple Iris Foundation, an organization she founded to help raise awareness of the disease. She talks about the work they do, a new cancer support center the group plans to open later this month, and their upcoming Pound the Pavement color run. (9:54 Health, Community)

10-15-17

In our first segment, Cindy Campbell talks with Andrew Putnam, Chief Information Officer for Katahdin Trust, about protecting oneself from identity theft. He discusses options within the banking and credit card process that can help, as well as tips for when you're at home, like watching for missing mail and not leaving bills in the mailbox. In our second segment, Cindy chats with Bill Grant, who heads up the effort to build a Veterans' Memorial in the town of Hudson. Bill talks about a fundraising breakfast coming up on youth hunting day and how far the group has to go to make the memorial a reality. (9:50 Economy, Crime, Community)

10-22-17

In our first segment, Cindy Campbell talks with high school senior Tommy Hosmer, who heads up 'Team Mimi,' a charity that holds a baseball tournament to raise money for cancer research, named after his grandmother. He's being honored by a major corporation and so is holding a home run derby, which they will film for a documentary. In our second segment, Cindy talks with Jon Paradise about the Maine Credit Union League about credit union week, some activities that were held, and the Ending Hunger campaign. The program raises money all year long that's then donated to the Good Shepherd Food bank. He also discusses the importance of protecting your identity and how the credit unions can help. In our final segment, Cindy talks with Bill Rae of Manna in Bangor about the continuation of the soup kitchen and food pantry that feeds people in need out of a Bangor church. Rae talks about the advantages of being downtown and the need for non-perishable food items. (8:36 Community, Health, Economy)

10-29-17

In our first segment, Cindy Campbell talks with Niles Parker, Executive Director of the Maine Discovery Museum, about its upcoming fundraiser. The Celebration Night and Auction will help support the educational displays and programs at the museum and promotes local artists, at the same time. In our second segment, Cindy chats with Captain Rebecca Kirk of the Maine Salvation Army about its many programs, including the upcoming Christmas programs. Kirk talks about the Angel Tree, which is now accepting applications. (9:33 Education, Community)

11-5-17

In our first segment, Cindy Campbell chats with Mary Gagne of Health Affiliates Maine about suicide prevention. With winter months beginning, the holiday season approaching, and days getting shorter, Mary offers some reminders about warning signs to watch for, and what to do if you think you notice them. In our second segment, Cindy talks with Andrew Putnam, Chief Information Officer for Katahdin Trust about identity theft. Andrew gives pointers about how to protect your information, including online devices and just being smart about not giving out personal data. (10:02 Health, Community, Economy, Crime)

11-12-17

With the kickoff of the Salvation Army's Red Kettle program, Cindy Campbell chats with Captain Rebecca Kirk about the how the money is used in our community. She discusses everything from heating assistance, so lunches served in the soup kitchen, to sending kids to camp. In our second segment, Cindy talks with Niles Parker, Executive Director of the Maine Discovery Museum about this week's art auction fundraiser. He discusses the educational programs conducted by the museum and how the auction supports the museum and promotes local artist. (9:22 Community, Education)

11-19-17

Today's program focuses on AARP's Tax-Aide program. Cindy Campbell chats with AARP Maine's Partnership Communications Specialist, Joan Jagolinzer, about this free-to-the-public program. She explains the types of taxes they can prepare, who is eligible, and how to go about making an appointment. In addition, the program needs volunteers, so she explains who can be a volunteer, how and where they can get trained, and how they register. (8:33 Economy, Community, Education)

11-26-17

Today's program focuses on AARP's Tax-Aide program. Cindy Campbell chats with AARP Maine's Partnership Communications Specialist, Joan Jagolinzer, about this free-to-the-public program. She explains the types of taxes they can prepare, who is eligible, and how to go about making an appointment. In addition, the program needs volunteers, so she explains who can be a volunteer, how and where they can get trained, and how they register. (8:33 Economy, Community, Education)

12-3-17

In our first segment, Cindy Campbell talks with Kristen Simas of the American Red Cross about the need for Disaster Relief Volunteers. She discusses what's involved, what types of duties a volunteer might be called upon to perform, and how folks can access the training programs online. In our second segment, Cindy chats with the Bangor Fire Department's education officer Jake Johnson about winter fire safety. He covers everything from heating system safety, to proper disposal of ashes, holiday lights, and smoke detectors. (9:56 Community, Education, Environment, Public Safety)

12-10-17

In our first segment, Cindy Campbell talks with Don Hanson, co-owner of the Green Acre Kennel Shop, about the fundraiser for the Furry Friends Food Bank. This program through the Eastern Area Agency on

Aging provides pet food for free to low-income seniors and adults with disabilities. He explains the social and health benefits of seniors having pets, and how folks can donate to the program. In our second segment, Cindy talks with Andrew Putnam, Chief Information Officer for Katahdin Trust about identity theft. With the holidays upon us, Andrew talks about safe online shopping, and other ways to protect your financial information. (9:59 Community, Health, Economy)

12-17-17

In our first segment, Cindy Campbell talks with Bob Meyers, Executive Director of the Maine Snowmobile Association about snowmobile safety. The state saw its first fatality of the season last week, so Meyers talks about riding responsibly, including not drinking and riding. He also covers things like making sure people know where you're going and when you expect to return, and the importance of respecting the landowners, who donate the trails. In our second segment, Cindy chats with Captain Rebecca Kirk of the Salvation Army about the Red Kettle program, the Angel Tree program that provides toys to children at Christmas, and the heating assistance available to residents, as well as their summer camp program, and soup kitchen. (9:23 Community, Public Safety, Education)

12-31-17

Today's program focuses on AARP's Tax-Aide program. Cindy Campbell chats with AARP Maine's Partnership Communications Specialist, Joan Jagolinzer, about this free-to-the-public program. She explains the types of taxes they can prepare, who is eligible, and how to go about making an appointment. In addition, the program needs volunteers, so she explains who can be a volunteer, how and where they can get trained, and how they register. (8:33 Economy, Community, Education)

