

WNYF ISSUES – JANUARY 2024

NOTE: Because of the extraordinary events of the last couple years, we are adding a separate category for COVID-19 coverage.

January 31, Military, North Country Weather Events – Fort Drum soldiers participate in cold weather training and competition in the winter weather. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 31, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, The Great American Eclipse – People can make their own eclipse viewing glasses and we get a scientist on board to demonstrate how. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

January 30, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Alexandria Bay Fire Department is building a garage to store a historic 1922 fire truck. Story ran 0:45, aired at 10 PM.

January 30, Health Care – The new year brings more flu cases in Jefferson County. The state tracker confirms more than double the cases compared to the same time the year prior. Story ran 0:45, aired at 7 AM.

January 29, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Watertown officials learn there are 22 privately owned streets in the city and residents of those streets feel they aren't getting services they should with their city taxes. Story ran 1:45, aired at 10 PM.

January 26, North Country Weather Events, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Inclement weather between the month's heavy wind storm and heavy snowfall have put some North Country schools in a predicament as they are running out of snow days. We talk to area school superintendents to figure out what running out could mean for the schools. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 26, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A new restaurant will open in the vacated building Spokes Bar one sat. The Bad Apple chain makes its new home in downtown Watertown. Story ran 1:30, aired at 7 AM.

January 25, North Country Weather Events – St. Lawrence County is shoveling out and chipping away at ice after freezing rain coated the county in ice. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 25, North Country Weather Events, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Snowtown USA kicks off and businesses are getting ready. Even

though the weather is warmer than normal, numerous events will continue as planned. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

January 24, Military – Fort Drum’s 10th Combat Aviation Brigade will be deploying in the Spring. The Association of the U.S. Army is looking for groups willing to sponsor deployed platoons while they are away. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 24, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Town of New Bremen needs a new judge after the woman elected has decided not to take the position citing personal reasons. Story ran 0:30, aired at 7 AM.

January 23, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Three North Country communities hit the jackpot winning funds from the state’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative. Canton and Alexandria Bay each received \$4.5 million and Lowville received \$10 million. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 23, North Country Weather Events, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Watertown Warming Center has been filled to capacity as every bed has been used every night as temperatures get colder. Story ran 0:45, aired at 7 AM.

January 22, North Country Weather Events – As we are in the middle of winter, many ask what to do with icicles hanging off roofs and how to safely remove them or let them hang. We talk with contractors about safe practices. Story ran 1:30, aired at 10 PM.

January 19, North Country Weather Events , Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Tug Hill is thriving after a big snowstorm brings feet of snow to the North Country. Story ran 1:20, aired at 10 PM.

January 19, COVID-19, Health Care – An uptick in COVID-19 and respiratory illnesses is causing Samaritan Medical Center to reinstate their masking policy. Story ran 0:30, aired at 7 AM.

January 18, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Buried deep in the proposed state budget is a small paragraph that could be a big deal as the proposal could close up to 5 state prisons. Local lawmakers are outraged. Story ran 2:10, aired at 10 PM.

January 17, Military, North Country Weather Events – Fort Drum Garrison Safety is continuing to hold a winter driving and snowblower operator course to help provide

safety tips to soldiers new to the brutal winter elements. Story ran 0:30, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

January 17, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Watertown will replace two more water mains in the city as they add to a list of projects in the works. Story ran 0:45, aired at 7 AM.

January 16, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, The Great American Eclipse – Parts of the North Country will get to see a total solar eclipse. It's bringing people from out of the area flocking to the region. We learn the significance of the eclipse. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 16, Health Care – One woman is speaking in favor of medical aid in dying after medical treatments didn't save her sister's life. Story ran 2:10, aired at 7 AM.

January 15, North Country Weather Events – Snow continues to fall and North Country residents aren't a fan of the weather pattern. The Buffalo Bills game was even rescheduled for Monday due to the inclement weather and heavy snowfall. Story ran 1:30, aired at 7 AM.

January 12, North Country Weather Events – Close to 45,000 customers were without power in the tri-county region after heavy winds knocked out a lot of power. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 12, North Country Weather Events – Jefferson County is under a State of emergency following a heavy windstorm. Crews are working to get people's electricity back on. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

January 11, North Country Weather Events – Wind storm damage is impacting farms and farmers have to combat the damage to survive. Story ran 1:40, aired at 10 PM.

January 11, North Country Weather Events – Several trees fell on homes and across roadways in Watertown as a windstorm came through the area. Story ran 1:45, aired at 7 AM.

January 10, Military, North Country Weather Events – Fort Drum releases a message to the community urging soldiers to reach out to their chain of command if they don't have power or are concerned about their safety during the windstorm. Story ran 0:30, aired at 10 PM.

January 10, North Country Weather Events – A windstorm ripped a large window off of Watertown’s North Elementary School. The window is a part of the gym wall. The damage did not close school but did pause gym classes. Story ran 0:50, aired at 7 AM.

January 9, Military, North Country Weather Events – As heavy winds are expected to tear through the North Country, Fort Drum and Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield secured aircraft, defueling aircraft and wheeling them inside hangars. Story ran 0:30, aired at 10 PM.

January 9, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Carthage Central School District got close to \$5 million in additional revenue through federal impact aid for having a large military community. Story ran 2:00, aired at 7 AM.

January 8, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, North Country Weather Events – National grid is moving extra crews to the North Country to prepare for the inevitable damage and power outages to arise when heavy winds come through. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 8, North Country Weather Events, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The weather is nice enough for the Lowville Ice Skating Rink to open for the season. Story ran 1:45, aired at 7 AM.

January 5, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Town of Alexandria is eyeing renovations for the municipal arena. The town supervisor says the building is outdated. Story ran 1:30, aired at 10 PM.

January 5, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – SUNY leaders are asking for financial help from the state fearing a huge financial issue on the horizon as the states may face a \$1.1 billion deficit in 10 years’ time. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

January 4, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – St. Lawrence County has extended its State of Emergency for a ninth month due to migrants crossing into the U.S. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 4, COVID-19, Health Care – As the viral season ramps up, COVID-19 cases have more than tripled in the past several weeks and North Country hospitals are noticing it. Story ran 1:45, aired at 7 AM.

January 3, Military – A Watertown veteran will be a guest of honor at a Sunday night football game as the 99-year-old World War II and Korean War veteran will be

honored at the Miami Dolphins vs Buffalo Bills game in Miami. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 3, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Governor Hochul announced her plan to help low-income New Yorkers to include a hike in medical and disability leave benefits and eliminating co-pays for insulin. Story ran 0:45, aired at 7 AM.

January 2, North Country Weather Events – December’s warm weather goes into the history books, marking the least snowy December in Watertown since 1896. It was also the 5th warmest since 1894. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

January 2, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The New Year comes with new minimum wages in 22 states. Story ran 2:00, aired at 7 AM.

January 1, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Hundreds of bills were signed into law effective in the new year. Story ran 1:20, aired at 6 and 11 PM.

WNYF ISSUES – FEBRUARY 2024

NOTE: Because of the extraordinary events of the last couple years, we are adding a separate category for COVID-19 coverage.

February 29, North Country Weather Events, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Ice clearing on the St. Lawrence River is starting to help open the seaway on time for the season on March 22nd. Story ran 0:20, aired at 10 PM.

February 29, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Watertown Irish Festival continues despite a rise in costs to make the event happen. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

February 28, Military – Fort Drum landscaping is actually fighting invasive species on post. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

February 28, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Hospitals are trying to keep up with the growing number of North Country children

grappling with mental health needs. Samaritan saw 841 children in its emergency department in the past year for a mental health crisis. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

February 27, Military, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, The Great American Eclipse – Along the path of totality for the upcoming solar eclipse is Fort Drum. The military installation has their own plans for the event. Story ran 1:45, aired at 10 PM.

February 26, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Very little money is set aside in the proposed state budget for the care of retired seniors. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

February 26, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Nursing homes are facing a crisis according to one New York State Senator. They cite low reimbursement rates and a lack of staff being the detriment. Story ran 1:20, aired at 7 AM.

February 23, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Massena Salvation Army is getting a new kitchen. The state is providing \$50 thousand for the major renovations. Story ran 1:45, aired at 10 PM.

February 23, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Town of Hermon water system is in need of major fixes. A multi-million dollar project is about to begin to re-do the town's whole system. Story ran 2:00, aired at 7 AM.

February 22, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, North Country Weather Events – A Watertown City Council Member thinks Watertown needs to do better for residents after a snowstorm and better clean sidewalks. Story ran 1:30, aired at 10 PM.

February 22, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Lawmakers are looking to move some money to help secure shelters for homeless people in Jefferson County. Story ran 1:50, aired at 7 AM,

February 21, Military – The Life of a Soldier, a one man show, will be playing at the Dulles State Office Building and will recount the stories of soldiers. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

February 21, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, The Great American Eclipse – Lewis County is gearing up for the solar eclipse with event festivities set up in Lowville. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

February 20, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A Jefferson County survey discovers much about thousands of local students’ mental health and experiences with drugs and alcohol. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

February 20, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, North Country Weather Events – Poor snowmobiling conditions in Lewis County due to a lack of snow is impacting area businesses who thrive on winter weather. Story ran 1:20, aired at 7 AM.

February 19, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – New York State is looking to close up to 5 state prisons in the proposed budget and North Country communities are looking to protect their prisons after several area prisons have been shut down in previous years. Story ran 1:30, aired at 10 PM.

February 19, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A proposed state program could offset the costs of running the City of Watertown’s three pools this summer. Story ran 2:00, aired at 7 AM.

February 16, Employment, Taxes and the North Country Economy, The Great American Eclipse – Estimates for people coming to the Watertown area have climbed to 174 thousand people. The city is preparing as well as first responders for the influx of visitors. Story ran 1:20, aired at 10 PM.

February 16, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Two new dairy plants are being built in the Buffalo and Rochester areas, but North Country farmers will benefit as they will supply the milk. Story ran 1:30, aired at 7 AM.

February 15, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The St. Lawrence Seaway is weeks away from opening for the season and officials have announced then expect an increase in cargo being moved along the seaway. Story ran 0:30, aired at 10 PM.

February 15, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Schools will be required to shift to electric buses in the coming years and Republican lawmakers and school officials express there are too many obstacles to get through. Story ran 2:00, aired at 7 AM.

February 14, Military, Health Care – Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was released from Walter Reed Medical Center after prostate cancer treatments. Story ran 0:30, aired at 10 PM.

February 14, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Massena is going to court to shut down two cannabis shops operating in the village, claiming they are operating illegally. Story ran 2:15, aired at 7 AM.

February 13, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – City of Watertown Council Members are mulling over the possibility of spending millions on investing in the Court Street parking garage. Story ran 1:45, aired at 10 PM.

February 13, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A nearly \$17 million project will be voted on by Morristown Central School District residents to improve infrastructure and security. Story ran 0:40, aired at 7 AM.

February 12, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – An assemblyman uses the state budget hearing to question the rejection of a bid from a Watertown boat builder as Metalcraft Marine was disqualified 3 times for bidding on a state contract for boats for state parks and recreation in favor of a Washington State company for a similar cost. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

February 12, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – More than a dozen rooms in SUNY Potsdam's Van Housen Hall have been deemed unlivable after a fire broke out. 10 student's rooms were

affected by the damage, other accommodations were provided to those students. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

February 9, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A Watertown man is looking to provide consistency to concessions at the Thompson Park Golf Course. He wants to ensure the site doesn't become a revolving door. Story ran 1:30, aired at 10 PM.

February 9, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – SUNY Potsdam is safe from closing after a public meeting was held in Albany with SUNY officials addressing the 2024 State Executive Budget. Despite an upcoming budget deficit, people were assured the school would be safe from closing. Story ran 0:45, aired at 7 AM.

February 8, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – 15 workers at the Kraft Cheese Plant in Canton are losing their jobs as the plant intends to close. Story ran 0:30, aired at 10 PM.

February 8, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – An assisted living program in Canton is closing, meaning 34 people will have to find new places to live. Story ran 0:45, aired at 7 AM.

February 7, Military – Watertown native Brandon Brusco prepares for damage control drills aboard the U.S.S. Dewey in the Philippine Sea. Story ran 0:40, aired at 10 PM.

February 7, North Country Weather Events, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Flooding that has plagued a number of Antwerp homes could be alleviated by a road project but it won't help all property owners. Story ran 2:00, aired at 7 AM.

February 6, Opioid Problem in the North Country, Health Care – Ogdensburg Free Academy provides a lesson in the dangers of vaping and opioids. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

February 6, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The state is setting its eyes on wetlands in Southern Jefferson County to spawn something new. Story ran 1:30, aired at 7 AM.

February 5, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The City of Watertown is set to pay more to find a new lead city engineer as they struggle to get applicants. Story ran 1:40, aired at 10 PM.

February 2, North Country Weather Events – The City of Watertown will be picking up debris from the windstorms of January as the Department of Public Works will be collecting brush piles by the side of the road. Story ran 0:30, aired at 10 PM.

February 2, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Lewis County Health System is set to get their maternity unit re-opened. The doctor who was hired to help achieve that is on probation through New York State after being accused of professional misconduct. Story ran 3:30, aired at 7 AM.

February 1, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Watertown is opening bids for the demolition of a building on Cooper Street. Story ran 0:40, aired at 10 PM.

February 1, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, North Country Weather Events – A new warming center in Ogdensburg has been busy this winter helping hundreds of people. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

WNYF ISSUES – MARCH 2024

NOTE: Because of the extraordinary events of the last couple years, we are adding a separate category for COVID-19 coverage.

March 29, Military – Houses were rattled across the North Country and we learn that National Guard training on Fort Drum was the cause as they were dropping bombs on their ranges. Story ran 0:30, aired at 10 PM.

March 29, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, The Great American Eclipse – Samaritan Medical Center is putting out guidelines for how the hospital and its services will operate during the total eclipse to include pop-up tents throughout the city. Story ran 1:45, aired at 7 AM.

March 28, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – A new designation will mean better reimbursement rates for Massena Hospital as they will be labeled a “critical access hospital”. Story ran 0:30, aired at 10 PM.

March 28, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Bills aren’t being paid and funding isn’t being approved after most of the Hermon Town Board quit their posts. Story ran 1:45, aired at 7 AM.

March 27, Military – A parade in Carthage welcomes Vietnam Veterans home as they never got a proper welcome home near 50 years ago. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

March 27, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The New York State Budget is due next week and negotiations are underway. Larger issues up for discussion are prison closures and Medicare reimbursements for nursing homes. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

March 26, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, The Great American Eclipse – With the total solar eclipse 2 weeks away, Governor Hochul speaks safety tips for the thousands expected to travel to the North Country for the event. Story ran 1:20, aired at 10 PM.

March 26, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, The Great American Eclipse – Watertown International Airport is set to see 65 private planes coming into the airport for the total eclipse event. Story ran 1:45, aired at 7 AM.

March 25, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Hundreds are on a waiting list for affordable housing in the Canton and Potsdam areas. A project to build more housing is looking to solve that problem. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

March 25, Health Care – A study from the Alzheimer’s Association reveals the stresses and difficulties dementia caregivers go through. And with Watertown area long-term care facilities full, it’s difficult to get the resources needed. Story ran 2:00, aired at 7 AM.

March 22, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – North Country schools that have military community students could see more federal money next year as a \$1.2 trillion dollar spending deal was passed in Washington D.C. Story ran 0:30, aired at 10 PM.

March 22, Military – Fort Drum’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team has returned home from deployment. The soldiers were welcomed home by their families at Magrath Gym. Story ran 2:00, aired at 7 AM.

March 21, Health Care – New York State is making it easier to get birth control by approving an over-the-counter option. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

March 21, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, Development of Energy in the North Country – National Grid is taking its power to the next level with a \$4 billion upgrade to the grid’s resilience. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

March 20, Military – The Carthage Elks Lodge is set to honor Vietnam veterans who were not provided a proper welcoming home 50 years ago. They plan to host a breakfast and parade in the veterans’ honor. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

March 19, Development of Energy in the North Country, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Potsdam Town Supervisor is looking into hydropower as a renewable energy source and is looking at how the source can save residents on their power bills. Story ran 1:45, aired at 10 PM.

March 19, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Millions of dollars from New York State will build affordable apartments in Watertown as a \$13.4 million project is set to provide 63 new apartments to Watertown’s Main Avenue. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

March 18, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority are looking to invest in railroads to assist with imports along the St. Lawrence River. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

March 18, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Maple Weekend brings people out to celebrate and support North Country maple manufacturers. Story ran 1:45, aired at 7 AM.

March 15, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy - The Town of Morristown is making efforts to restore and preserve the only known grist windmill in St. Lawrence County. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

March 15, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – The Department of Environmental Conservation held an outreach meeting to give stats and feedback in hopes to bring more fishing to the area. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

March 14, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Watertown may have found the leak in one of its reservoirs which was costing the city 400,000 gallons of treated water per day. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

March 14, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – St. Lawrence County school districts are trying to fill bus driver positions. Story ran 0:45, aired at 7 AM.

March 13, Military – Hermon-DeKalb Central students are working on a project to honor veterans and active duty service members who attended their school as part of the senior Capstone project. It will hand banners along Main Street in both Hermon and DeKalb. Story ran 1:00, aired at 10 PM.

March 13, Military, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – North Country hospitals are pitching in to help moms-to-be as a Fort Drum medical clinic deals with a staffing shortage. Fort Drum's OB/GYN clinic on Samaritan Medical Center's campus is suffering a shortage. Story ran 1:00, aired at 7 AM.

March 12, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Change Healthcare had to shut down its systems due to a cyberattack. The Cyberattack disrupted services and the North Country with billing and insurance. Story ran 1:45, aired at 10 PM.

March 12, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy- Many volunteer fire departments and EMT services are looking at paying staff in an effort to boost their dwindling membership. Story ran 1:30, aired at 7 AM.

March 11, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Carthage Central School District has been found to be violating state law in regards to the district's budgeting practices. Story ran 2:00, aired at 10 PM.

March 8, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – 2023 mortgage rate were high with rates at 8% or more at one time. It also explains how home sales have dropped. Story ran 1:45, aired at 10 PM.

March 7, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Millions of dollars are being invested into the Ogdensburg Airport. Groundbreaking has begun. Story ran 1:20, aired at 10 PM.

March 7, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy, Health Care – Psychiatric nurses employed by the Office of Mental Health have collected over \$300,000 in overtime last year. Story ran 0:45, aired at 7 AM.

March 6, Military – A new commanding general has been named for the 10th Mountain Division after the Department of Defense announced Major General Scott Naumann will be leading the post. Story ran 0:45, aired at 10 PM.

March 6, Health Care, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Video of a healthcare worker has surfaced where the worker went through a long-term care resident's belongings. The employee was fired. Story ran 1:45, aired at 7 AM.

March 5, Health Care – Parents of children in contact sports are invited to attend a concussion-specific training seminar to recognize the signs and treatment options for TBIs. Story ran 0:45, aired at 10 PM.

March 5, Health Care – The first over-the-counter birth control pill approved in the U.S. may be available in stores and online this month. Story ran 0:30, aired at 7 AM.

March 4, North Country Weather Events – A record warm day brings March in like a lamb. The North Country saw its 2nd warmest February on record. Story ran 1:30, aired at 10 PM.

March 1, Employment, Taxes, and the North Country Economy – Easter chocolate will cost most this year as the price of cocoa continues to inflate. Story ran 1:40, aired at 10 PM.