



ISSUES & PROGRAMS

WBFE-FM

2nd QUARTER 2020
(APRIL, MAY, JUNE)



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Public Affairs

WBFE-FM airs the public affairs show "Maine View" that is designed to address important community issues. The following is a list of show topics during the Quarter. Each edition of Maine View also includes Maine Governor Janet Mill's weekly radio address and the response from the Republican Party in Maine. Each address runs roughly 5 minutes. Maine View has a run time of 20 minutes and airs Sunday at 6:00am

4/5: This week's edition features a conversation with former State Senator Brian Langley (R-Ellsworth) about Maine's Bridge Academy Program. High School Seniors can enroll, live on campus at Eastern Maine Community College, and take College Level Classes, in a program that helps "bridge" them from high school to college. It not only gives students a chance to taste and adjust to college life (something that often derails students immediately after their freshman year) it gives them a chance to earn college credits. Also, we speak with Donald Burr and Dana Doran of the Professional Loggers Association of Maine about the Mechanized Logging Operation Program of Maine. Students cover room and board and the program pay for the rest of their education of getting behind the controls and learning to harvest the money in Maine's forests. This year's program - - previous in Presque Isle -- is in Old Town!

4/12: During this week's edition, George Hale speaks with Susan Falloon of Maine Emergency Management about Governor Mills' order to the Maine National Guard and Maine Emergency Management to set up Alternative Corona virus Care Centers: 100 beds at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland and 50 beds at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor. These centers are to care for "less acute" patients and make room available for more seriously afflicted COVID-19 patients for which Maine hospitals are bracing. Falloon also speaks to the need for quality Personal Protective Equipment for Maine's healthcare providers and first responders. Also, George speaks with Paul Tyson, the General Manager of Biddeford-based Thermoformed Plastics of New England. Tyson's company, which has fifteen employees and is largely automated, is pivoting away from its normal product line to make PPE for Maine's healthcare providers and first responders. Tyson discusses his decision, stresses his importance of locally made versus Made-In-China, and the reaction from the community to TPNE's action,



4/19: This week's edition features a conversation with Mary Brant, External Communications Manager, Biomedical Field Marketing and Communications, the American Red Cross New England Region. The topic was the ongoing need for blood donations during the Covid-19 pandemic. Dozens of small blood drives in the region have been canceled because of inadequate social distancing precautions during the pandemic, causing an unexpected shortage. The Red Cross is relying on donation centers in Portland, Auburn, and Bangor, and teaming with large venues like the Augusta Civic Center. At the ACC blood donations are by appointment only on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Would-be donors are screened on site "It is safe to donate blood right now," said Brant. "The Red Cross has been working with precautions even before Covid-19." Also discussed was the possible donation of 'convalescent plasma' from recovering Covid-19 patients. It is hoped that the plasma might be instrumental in the recovery of people still in the throes of the virus. All potential donors are screened through an on-line form. There is also a need for volunteer help at blood drives.

4/26: In this week's edition, George Hale and Ric Tyler speak with Lance Boucher of the American Lung Association. The Association's 21st annual "State of the Air" Report lists Bangor as one of the cleanest cities in the nation for particular pollutants. Hancock County did not fare as well; Boucher explains why and touches on other matters. We also make mention of the Association's biggest fundraiser, the Trek Across Maine, is a "virtual" event this year in light of Covid-19. We also bring back Kristen Miele of Good Shepherd Food Bank. The corona virus has exacerbated food insecurity in Maine. The rate has spiked to fifteen percent in Aroostook County. Miele speaks of the strain on supplies as retailers who commonly donate now being stretched to maintain their level of support. She also addresses the strain on volunteers not able to help because of "stay at home" restrictions. Hours after our talk, the Harold Alfond Foundation granted Good Shepherd one million dollars.

5/3: In this week's edition, we talk with Diane Dickerson of the Bangor Y which is still planning a summer camp season, even as the organization awaits clarification from the Governor's Administration and the CDC on how to safely operate. Dickerson also speaks to the sanitary measures the dual pool facility has undergone in anticipation of a green light to reopen on Second Street in Bangor. We also check in with Scott MacDonald of Maine Technology Group, who says hackers and scammers are far from unemployed during this pandemic. MacDonald shares the frightening frequency of attacks on businesses and individuals -- the lion's share of who are working remotely -- without the standard firewalls that tried to protect them.



5/10: This week's edition features a talk with Tony Cameron, Chief Executive Officer of the non-profit Maine Tourism Association. The topic is the severe impact and ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic on the tourism industry in the state. After 13 straight years of record growth in Maine's hospitality industry, 2020 will likely be a year of unprecedented loss. "It happened very quickly," said Cameron of the days in early March when people started cancelling their reservations at lodges, camps, motels and hotels. Subsequent state-ordered closures of restaurants and entertainment venues – and cancellations of fairs, concerts, and annual events - added to the problem. "Its money lost," he said. The MTA has partnered with corporate sponsors to create the Maine Tourism Relief Fund, which provides one-time grants of \$500 for individuals or \$1,000 for businesses with fewer than 50 employees. They will be dispersed directly to the applicant following a review and confirmation of eligibility. As the state moves through the phases of re-opening, Cameron said the MTA is optimistic. July will be a telling month since it will bring of Phase 3 of the state's re-opening, when lodging and camping will be open to out-of-state residents.

5/17: In this week's edition we check in with Bari Newport, producing and artistic director of Penobscot Theatre, which shut down its 2019-2020 season when pandemic restrictions made holding public theatre nearly impossible. Newport talked of the heartbreak and the hope of the next season. Newport shares the line up and plans for post-pandemic productions. Also, we meet Chef Brian Ross, who found himself isolated yet on line and turning his culinary talents into tasty posts in what he called Quarantine Kitchen. His locally sourced Facebook group has risen like bread dough waiting for the oven. Brian talks about the mercurial rise of his group, how he polices participation and how his personal battle with cancer has fared during the pandemic.

5/24: In this week's edition, University of Maine (Orono) and University of Maine Machias President Joan Ferrini-Mundy talks with us about how the onset of the pandemic halted classes and courses at the colleges, how educators pivoted to continue providing lessons, and how the universities are preparing for what could happen in a second wave plus the likelihood of that some students may wish to continue remote/distance learning. We also talk with Dolly Sullivan of Educate Maine who recaps the recently announced County Teachers of the Year. They announced this year's winners via a zoom teleconference. Sullivan talk about how some participants like this method of announcing. She also recalls how the George Hale Ric Tyler Show helped reshape the way Maine's Teacher of the Year is selected.



blueberry
BROADCASTING

5/31: This week's edition features a talk with Nancy Sferra, Director of Land Management for the Nature Conservancy of Maine. The topic was getting outside, safely, during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Public health restrictions are to be followed on public and private land, including social distancing (while not trampling vegetation) and maintaining sanitation. Sferra said it's important to be knowledgeable about any restrictions at the place you'll be visiting, avoid crowds, don't linger, don't touch any signage, and having a Plan B if necessary. "Recharge in Your Backyard," she said, will provide mental and physical benefits in the challenging days of the virus. Two helpful websites are mainebyfoot.com, and maps.tnc.org. The Nature Conservancy of Maine is part of a worldwide non-profit group. It has protected over 1.7 million acres in Maine. Some of the tracts managed by the Conservancy are the Wells Barrens Preserve, the Saco Heath Preserve, the Mount Tom Preserve, the Upper St. John Forest, and the Rachel Carson Salt Pond Preserve.

6/7: This week's edition features a conversation with Christopher McErlean, Vice President of Racing for Penn National Gaming. The Maine Gambling Control Board has given final approval for Mainers to place bets on horse racing from anywhere in the state. Bets can be placed and races can be viewed by using a computer, tablet, or phone. Any Maine resident 18 or older can go online to set up an account. We also speak with Hampden-based young author Emma Rose. We last spoke with her following the publishing of her book "Nothing's Ever Lost." Rose shares how she is working on a project to benefit the United Way of Eastern Maine's Covid-19 relief fund. Her publishing house is collecting stories, poems, and essays written by Mainers of all ages during the pandemic. They'll print them in an anthology with profits to benefit the United Way of Eastern Maine.

6/14: Scott MacDonald of Maine Technology Group updates us on hackers and hacking during the pandemic. One annoying tactic is on the decline: robot-calls are down some 29% and Phishing scams have dipped a bit. Yet 7 million data records are compromised each day, and 56 records compromised each second. Plus, MacDonald defines and details an uptick in Deep Fake scams. Plus, Major Carl Lamb of the Maine National Guard and Colonel Angela Braithwood from the Guard's Medical Detachment in Augusta share insight into the role the Guard is playing in the Maine Center for Disease Control's "fit testing" of N95 Respirators for first responders and those on the front lines of health care. Last week the Guard completed 58 fit testing exercises helping train 1,724 healthcare workers who can now wear N95 respirators.



6/21: This week's edition features a conversation with Kim Chamard, Senior Manager of Development for the Trek Across Maine to benefit the American Lung Association. 2020 marks the 36th anniversary of the bicycle trek, but the first time it will be a virtual event due to Covid-19. Participants are not required to ride a 60, 120, or 180-mile loop, though many will do one anyway. They just need to have base donations of 250 dollars or more to receive their commemorative T-shirt, medal, and bib number. And the virtual event is not just on the traditional Father's Day weekend – it's been extended until June 30. Corporate sponsors include Blueberry Broadcasting. The Trek is the year's biggest fundraiser for the ALA. At taping, 71 per cent of the goal of 637,500 dollars was met, this is about 459,000 dollars. Part of the funds will go toward Covid-19 research. "It makes sense for us because corona virus is a respiratory disease," said Chamard. Last year was the start of a new route originating in Brunswick, when in years past the three-day Trek started at Sunday River in Bethel and ended at either Belfast or Rockland. The new route will remain in 2021. If the virtual trek is a success, Chamard said it will remain as alternative for participants in the future.

6/28: This week's edition features a conversation with Bruce Campbell of Bangor Area Recovery Network. "BARN" is lauded for its peer to peer recovery efforts helping the addicted to and beyond recovery. Shortly before the pandemic, BARN was helping launch similar efforts in the Katahdin Region. Bruce joins us by phone to talk of the renewed efforts to strengthen two programs in the Millinocket area. Plus, Angela King of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine introduces us to the Slow ME Down Campaign. The Coalition is launching a series of print, media and electronic ads urging motorists to slow down and stop driving distracted. King notes studies that show even slowing a few miles per hour can lower the lethality of a car/bike crash significantly.