

# **Issues/Programs Report**

**Fourth Quarter 2012**

## **Main Focuses:**

Superstorm Sandy, Sandy Hook Elementary Shooting (And Aftermath), General Election Day 2012, Gas Prices Going Way Down, & Big Changes in the Harrison Drug and Violent Crime Task Force

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The licensee of station, WDTV-TV, has determined that the issues listed here were of importance to the community during the past three months, and have aired the following programs to address those issues, during the fourth quarter, dated October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

***Issue #1: Superstorm Sandy***

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 10/30-11/22, every day.

Appeared on all 5 News shows (Daybreak, Midday, First at 5, 5 News at 5:30, 5 News at 6, and 5 News at 11) on specified dates.

Superstorm Sandy hit West Virginia on the evening of October 30, 2012. The effects of that storm are still ongoing. One of the biggest issues our state faced in the aftermath of this storm was food and water for people snowed into homes/towns. They had to rely on food banks and homeless shelters for nourishment, and very quickly, those banks ran out of supplies. We told viewers about the problem, informed them of how they can help resolve this “emergency” situation, and then updated/reminded viewers about the situation several times in the ensuing weeks.

***Issue #2: Sandy Hook Elementary Shooting (And Aftermath)***

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 12/14-present day (every day in that time period).

Appeared on all 5 News shows for approximately 5-6 minutes on each date.

Tragedy struck the town of Newtown, CT on 12/14, when a man broke his way into an elementary school and killed 26 students and adults. The panic spread nationally about several hot-button issues, like school safety, gun control, mental health facilities, and video game violence. We covered each of these issues extensively in our news shows starting the night of the shooting, and every day thereafter for the rest of December.

### ***Issue #3: General Election Day 2012***

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 10/1-11/07 (every day in that time period).

Appeared on all 5 News shows for approximately 1-2 minutes each, or in the case of election day, stories regarding the election comprised the entirety of our shows.

Every day leading up to the election, 5 News examined the big issues and races that our viewers cared about. What were the stakes? What would be the end result of “yes” or “no” votes in terms of the levies? Why should people care about voting? What issues were people paying the most attention to in the presidential race? Then, on election day, every single story in our shows that night were dedicated to the election, and the day after was almost exclusively dedicated to election aftermath.

### ***Issue #4: Gas Prices Going Way Down***

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 12/14-12/15.

Appeared on all 5 News shows for approximately 2 minutes each.

In the third quarter of 2012, 5 News reported that gas prices could hit a new record high by the end of the year. However, it turns out experts were wrong, and in mid-December, they predicted gas prices could drop all the way to three dollars a gallon because of an unexpected overabundance of oil supplies. 5 News will keep an eye on this situation and keep alerting our viewers to changes in the oil situation/marketplace.

***Issue #5: Big Changes in Harrison Cty. Violent Crime & Drug Task Force***

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 12/11-12/16 (every day in this time period)

Appeared on all 5 News shows for approximately 2-3 minutes each.

The Harrison County Violent Crime and Task Force is one of our area's chief agencies when it comes to making drug and firearm arrests. So, it caused quite a bit of controversy in the Harrison County community when the Harrison County Sheriff's Department left the task force on December 11<sup>th</sup>. In the days after, we examined the affects it would have on the other members of the task force, and the safety of our local communities as a whole. Then, on December 15<sup>th</sup>, a press conference was held where it was announced that two new agencies had joined the task force to make up for the sheriff's department's departure.