

Issues/Programs Report

Second Quarter 2012

Main Focuses:

The Great Power Outage of June 2012, EPA/Coal Industry Continue Their Clash, Primary Election 2012, Bank Robbery Spree, and Cancer Rates Set to Skyrocket

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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 first quarter, dated April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.

Issue #1: The Great Power Outage of June 2012

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 6/29-6/30, and every day after for the next two weeks in the 3rd quarter.

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. In the case of the last two days in the 2nd quarter, stories related to the wind storm and the outages it caused took up every news block of our shows.

A storm called a derecho hit much of West Virginia on the evening of June 29, 2012. WDTV started warning viewers about the possibility of such a storm the morning of June 29. We then cut in live before our 5 pm show to say that it was definitely happening within the next few hours, and we warned our viewers about what to look out for, and how to stay safe in that evening's shows. The wind storm ended up causing more than a million power outages across the tri-state region, and the day after was dedicated to telling people how many outages there were/how much damage it caused our area (property-wise and monetary-wise). It took up to two weeks for some folks to get their power back.

Issue #2: EPA/Coal Industry Continue Their Clash

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: April 4th, 10th, 18th, 23rd, and 29th; May 6th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 22nd, 24th, and 30th; June 6th, 10th, 13th, 14th, 18th, and 23rd.

Appeared on all 5 News shows for approximately 1-2 minutes on each date.

Last quarter, we focused on the fact that the Federal EPA has been ramping up regulations against coal mine owners that they claim are only meant to keep the environment intact and protect nearby residents' health. Coal miners and many legislators, like Sen. Joe Manchin and Rep. David McKinley, feel differently. This quarter, a few new regulations were drafted by the EPA that have caused more backlash among industry supporters. We've been talking to lawmakers to find out why these new regulations would hurt the coal industry, and the families who depend on it. We've also talked to residents to see what they think of all this. We've also contacted the EPA to get their side of this issue, but we've only been able to get press releases. No one will ever call us back. So for their side in all this, we've run whatever info we can throw together from those press releases.

Issue #3: Primary Election 2012

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 4/23-4/30, 5/1-5/9.

Appeared on all 5 News shows for approximately 1-2 minutes each, or in the case of election day, the entire shows.

Every day the week before, we took a look at different counties in our viewing area and told viewers about the big issues/decisions that had to be voted on by residents. On election day, we went live in Harrison County to see how things were going there. We also re-analyzed all the big issues that were up for a vote in each county. That night, it was election coverage wall-to-wall. We had result son the bottom of the TV whenever new results would come in. We cut in live before the 8 o'clock hour. We even had over two hours of strictly election coverage starting at 10 pm.

Issue #4: Bank Robbery Spree

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 5/30-6/13; every day.

Appeared on all 5 News shows for approximately 1-2 minutes each.

At the end of May, a bank robbery spree started in Preston County, one that wouldn't come to an end until two weeks later in Pennsylvania with the two suspects' arrests. The spree spanned five banks in three states. Every day during this span, WDTV alerted viewers about the robberies, what the latest information was, how viewers could help authorities find them, and what they needed to do to stay safe in the case they may end up witnessing a robbery (being inside a bank during such a crime).

Issue #5: Cancer Rates Set to Skyrocket

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 6/4-6/8.

Appeared on all 5 News shows that week for approximately 1-2 minutes each.

A new report shows cancer rates are set to skyrocket in the United States in the next 15 years (a double digit percentage increase). We analyzed why cancer rates are expected to increase by the largest margin in U.S. History. We also examined what the risk factors are that will cause this increase, and asked local medical officials if West Virginians are exposed to all of those risk factors. Essentially, we told viewers if this is a national epidemic that will affect the entire country equally, or if West Virginians are at more risk /less risk than the rest of the country. Finally, we wrapped up our coverage with tips from doctors on what to do to decrease their risks of getting cancer, and how to ensure that cancer cases are more treatable, and not death sentences.