

# **Issues/Programs Report**

**First Quarter 2016**

## **Main Focuses:**

**West Virginia Legislative Session, PEIA Retiree Benefits  
Crisis, Elkins Fatal Police Shooting & Winter Storm  
Jonas**

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3/31/16**

The licensee of station, WDTV, 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 January 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016.

***Issue #1: West Virginia Legislative Session***

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 1/13-3/14 (every day).

WHEN: First at 5, 5 News at 5:30, 5 News at 6, 5 News at 11, Daybreak, and Midday shows for approximately 2-3 minutes each on all dates indicated above.

**Story:**

5 News was the source for all news and political interviews during this year's legislative session.

Every weekday, Nate Smail hosted Eye on the Legislature, a segment dedicated to finding out what bills were discussed/passed/rejected in the House of Delegates. Each weekday had a different delegate call in, and Nate also asked what they thought of bills debated in the Senate.

5 News also dug deep into the controversial bills that our viewers cared about, and got political and educational experts to comment on them, as well as opinions from our viewers.

## ***Issue #2: PEIA Retiree Benefits Crisis***

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 1/13-1/15, 1/25-1/27, 2/9-2/11, 2/24-2/26, 3/2-3/4, 3/7-3/12, 3/30.

WHEN: First at 5, 5 News at 5:30, 5 News at 6, 5 News at 11, Daybreak, and Midday shows for approximately 2-3 minutes each, each day in the date range indicated above.

### Story:

One of the most pressing/talked about issues during this year's legislative session was the PEIA retiree benefits crisis. Legislators debated endlessly about how to come up with the tens of millions of dollars necessary to solve the crisis, but were ultimately unable to come up with a budget that would restore the fund to solvency.

Bear in mind, the legislature was unable to agree on a budget at all, so there is a chance this issue could be worked out when the legislature reconvenes for a special session in April 2016.

## ***Issue #3: Elkins Fatal Police Shooting***

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 1/16-1/22

WHEN: First at 5, 5 News at 5:30, 5 News at 6, 5 News at 11, Daybreak, and Midday shows for approximately 1-3 minutes each.

### Story:

Yellow police tape was the only thing left at the scene along Ward Avenue in Elkins, where police shot and killed 26-year-old William Waldron late one January night after he allegedly pointed a shotgun at officers who were serving a search warrant.

5 News spoke with some neighbors to find out what they heard and saw.

5 News also followed up every day over the course of the following week to get updates from investigators, and look at the impact the shooting had on the community.

#### ***Issue #4: Winter Storm Jonas***

Date(s)/Time(s) Aired: 1/20-1/26

WHEN: First at 5, 5 News at 5:30, 5 News at 6, 5 News at 11, Daybreak, and Midday shows for approximately 2-3 minutes each.

#### **Story:**

Winter Storm Jonas hit our viewing area (and much of the East Coast) like a ton of bricks, unleashing 2-3 feet of snow in a 24 hour period in some of our worst hit communities.

We warned people for days beforehand about the risks of the storm, and tracked using our four live Doppler radars the progress of the system.

During the storm, we were live outside showing the ferocity of Jonas, and tracking how much snow we were getting.

We were on the air throughout the afternoon as the storm started. During the shows, it was all weather and Jonas-related stories every single minute.

In the evening and overnight into Saturday, we continued to cut-in live to alert our viewers and track the storm system. Saturday morning, we did a live Jonas special from 8 am until 930 am.

We continued our coverage of one of the worst snowstorms to hit our area in decades throughout the weekend and into the following week. We showed what a struggle it was for people to dig out and return to work/school.