



ISSUES & PROGRAMS

WQSS

1st QUARTER 2024

(January, February, March)

Public Affairs

WQSS 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.

1/6: In this edition, we speak with Suzanne Farley of wellspring Inc. This Bangor-based drug recovery organization is on the front lines of leading those who are addicted to recovery. Suzanne talks of the latest drug overdose statistics in the State of Maine, how Narcan is helping, save more lives, but the number of overdoses still continues its cycle of growth. Suzanne also touches on, how funding for wellspring will greatly help those who are committed to recovery meet their goals. We also talk with Tammy Lacher Scully of Belfast. Tammy 's son, Graham, bolted from Dorothy Dix hospital in Bangor a year and a half ago. Graham is challenged with schizophrenia and needs his medication to know that he needs his medication. Tammy explains how family friends and others have helped boost the reward for information that leads to a successful reunion to \$10,000. She also details how and why she is not giving up. Hope on finding her son alive either in Maine or outside the state. This addition runs 20 minutes.



1/13: In this addition, we speak with Maryna Shuliakouskaya of Acadia Management Group. She lived in Elliot, Maine and manages multiple Aroma Joes locations in Southern Maine. She's watching closely the National Labor Relation Board adoption of Joint Employer Rule that could greatly change the way franchise owners must run their businesses. She's concerned expand the definition of joint employer may strip small business owners of authority over their employees. Policy watchers claims an expansion of this rule in 2015 "destroyed" 376,000 jobs and cost small businesses \$33.3 billion -- this as small businesses are struggling with finding and retaining employees while facing inflationary issues.

We also catch up with Shawn Laatsch of the Versant Power Astronomy Center at the University of Maine. The Center is a leader in information ahead of the early April solar eclipse set to be visible in part of Maine in early April. Shawn talks of which locations are best situated to provide people the optimum view of the celestial event -- and how to get there and get back home -- after. Shawn -- who has viewed multiple such eclipses around the world -- explains what Mainers will see -- even if the day is overcast! This edition runs 21:30 minutes.

1/20: This week's edition features a talk with Jan Santerre, an urban forester with the Maine Forest Service. The MFS is part of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry - where Santerre has worked for more than 15 years. The topic was dealing with felled trees and tree branches from a series of wind storms in Maine that began on December 18, 2023. Hundreds of thousands of customers lost electricity and were faced with massive cleanup.

Santerre reiterated that any downed power lines need the attention of power company teams, and other cleanup should be done by licensed and insured arborists.

Also, the MFS stresses that woody debris from storm damage may harbor harmful insects and diseases that threaten other trees. Transporting the debris over distances greater than 10 miles can unintentionally spread pests, such as the Emerald Ash Borer, to new areas. Santerre added that violation of rules governing debris movement jeopardizes eligibility for federal aid in the event of a disaster declaration.

Time 21:02



1/27: This week edition features a conversation with Francine Garland Stark, the executive Director of the Maine coalition to end domestic violence. The coalitions latest report on domestic violence homicide in our state is out. Stark crunches the numbers, notes more than 50% of murders in Maine are domestic violence, homicide related, breaks down the demographics, and talks about progress, the status making into ending what is a scourge.

We also talked with Jay Martin of Bangor. Jay is the son of the designer/architect of Bangor Paul Bunyan statue. The statue is celebrating an anniversary with a special display at Bangor Public library. Jay discusses his father's inspiration, the plans for a "blue ox" to be beside him, and plans to freshen up his look this summer. This addition runs 22 minutes.

2/3: In this edition, we speak with Lance Boucher of the American lung Association in Maine. The association's "state of tobacco control" report is out with the grades which Maine has earned for smoking cessation, taxes, and efforts to end the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Lance discusses Maine's A's, B's, C's and one F — and what the association intends to do to improve Maine's standings.

We also catch up with Melanie Dresser of Camp Capella.

Camp Capella, on the shores of Phillips Lake in Lucerne, serves individuals with disabilities, a well-rounded, recreational and educational program. The camps biggest fundraiser is in late February – the polar dip – in which individuals take pledges and then leap into the frigid waters of Phillips lake. Melanie tells us of the good work of the camp, and some of those pledging this event. we make a pledge during her appearance on our program. This edition runs 20 minutes.

2/10: This week's edition features a talk with Tony Cameron, Chief Executive Officer of the Maine Tourism Association. The MTA has been in existence for more than 100 years and consists of a blend of local leaders and organizations "united in their vision to create economic opportunities and promote the unique quality of Maine tourism." Cameron talked about the impact of weather on tourism, whether it's a lack of snow for winter sports or the impact of a storm - like the one that struck Maine on December 18, 2023 – when hundreds of businesses lose electricity. The MTA was recently compiling statistics of a poll of members affected by that storm. Also of concern is a adequate workforce for the Maine tourism industry. The MTA manages the Maine Tourism Career Center, which leads prospective employees to the job situation they want. "Long term recruitment" and "immediate recruitment retention" are two of the catch phrases of the industry. The MTA states that every 102 additional visitors to Maine supports a new tourism job. Time 20:37



2/17: In this edition we talk with Maine's commissioner of the department of transportation Bruce Van Note. The department's three year, \$4.74 billion work plan is now posted. Van Note discusses what aspects of main transportation needs the work plan covers, why the price tag is as high as it is, and where people can go to see what the department plans to do in their communities.

We also talk with Dennis Harmon, the acting chief patrol agent for the United States customs border protection. Customs and border protection is actively recruiting agents to work in our state. Harmon talks of the benefits, expectations, and salary, plus the personal satisfaction that comes with serving the agency. This segment runs 20 minutes

2/24: In this addition, we talk with Tony, Cameron of the Maine tourism association. The association recently pulled its members about the mid December devastating storms, and how they may have hindered tourism. Tony notes which sectors were most affected, and how staffing issues still remain a great concern ahead of the spring and summer seasons.

We also meet Maine state entomologist Brittany Schappach, who marks February as brown tail moth awareness month. She explains how the "tents" that are still a top specific trees in our state, are not full of dead caterpillars, but merely sleeping caterpillars. She explains the best way to rid yourself of these pests and save yourself a lot of homeowner heartache this summer. This edition runs 19 minutes.

3/2: This week's edition features a talk with Lyle Merrifield of Merrifield Farm in Gorham - the President of the Maine Maple Producers Association. The topic was the new Maple syrup season and the upcoming Maine Maple Weekend on March 23-24, 2024. According to the MMPA, Maine averages 575,00 gallons of syrup each year. Merrifield said that because of a mild winter 2023-24, Maple-tree tapping is earlier than usual - at the beginning of February - and not late February and the beginning of March. He expects the yield to be as good as recent years despite the earlier season. Merrifield said that the warmer winters may necessitate a change in the way sugar-maple farming is done. Instead of just one 6-8 week season in early spring, there may be a need for several seasons during the year as temperatures fluctuate. He said it will cost more for farmers in time and equipment if that happens. As far as expanding markets, Merrifield remarked that the beverage industry - alcoholic and non-alcoholic - are embracing maple syrup as an ingredient. Many recipes can be found at mainemapleproducers.com. Maine Maple Weekend will be celebrated at more than 100 farms in Maine. Participating farms can be found in an interactive map on the website. Maine Maple farms contribute nearly 56 million dollars to the state's economy every year. Time 16:23



3/9: In this addition, we speak with Patrick Woodcock, who is the president and CEO of the Maine State Chamber of commerce. The chamber has great concerns with regulation concerning “forever chemicals” in our state.

Woodcock notes that the measures, as they exist, would change the business dynamic of every business in our state, not being able to deal with or categorize or catalog any products used or sold that contain Forever chemicals.” Woodcock is calling on the legislator to reform its regulations concerning “forever chemicals” this session before the strictest rules in the nation go into effect.

We also meet Christopher, Bunnell, the CEO of a business in Maine called unite GPS. Unite GPS uses, advanced technology to help guide buses to more efficient routes, saving on manpower, and saving on fuel, and more efficiently, picking up and dropping off students. Bunnell notes how his company, based in Southern Maine, saved ONE school district in Texas more than \$1 million a year. He discusses how his technology might better help our state deal with a driver shortage. This edition runs 20 minutes.

3/16: In this addition, we talk with the new chief patrol officer for mains US border protection office in Houlton, Juan Bernal. Bernal talks of how he became a patrol agent, the challenges of the southern border, and the northern border, and the employment opportunities within the US border protection department.

We also meet with Dennis Cyr, the Director of the Can-Am sled dog races in northern Maine. In a difficult decision, Cyr pulled the plug on this year’s event because of a lack of snow. Cyr discusses the economic effect of this difficult decision on the economy, and those participating in the sport, who now must find a different way to qualify for the Iditarod snow races. This edition runs 19:56.

3/23: In this special edition of Maine View, we learn about a new book titled “A Long, Long Time Ago – Major Rock and Roll Concerts in Southern Maine from 1955-1977.” We hear a roundtable discussion of the project- and memories of the time period - from author Fred S. Reiche, long time Maine concert promoter Andrew Govatsos, and Blueberry Broadcasting’s Ryan Cote – who lived through the time as an up-and-coming radio host. The book contains over 600 images of the period in photographs, posters, and news releases. And, 100 per cent of the proceeds from the book are being donated to the Maine Historical Society. Memories flow from the trio about a time when future national headlining acts graced the small stages at clubs and colleges in Maine. Time 23:11



3/30: In this edition, we talk with United Technologies Center student Isabella Byram. Isabella explains what classes UTC is offering, which students are welcomed, and of the recent Skills USA Competition -- during which 18 local students each earned gold medals. Their win leads them to the national competition in Georgia. UTC and its students are working to raise the needed money to finance the students' trips to Georgia. Isabella shares how UTC plans a 5K to help raise the money. Also, Maine State Treasurer Henry Beck opens the books to deliver February "By The Numbers." Beck drops the bottom lines on Maine's "Cash Pool," "Budget Stabilization," Revenue Sharing" and "Unclaimed Property" -- given precise amounts from each account. This edition runs 21:00.