



ISSUES & PROGRAMS

WBKA

1st QUARTER 2023

(JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH)



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Public Affairs

WBKA 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

1/1: In this edition, we talk with the Director of Means, CDC, Dr. Nirav, Shah, about influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. Cases of the flu are shutting down main schools. Hospitals are becoming increasingly concerned with young patients with RSV. And COVID-19 continues to be a concern. Dr. Shaw Describes symptoms of each and what main people can do to protect themselves. We also talk with Paul McCarrier of the Maine craft cannabis Association. Paul looks back at the year in recreational use and medicinal use sales in our state. He looks at other states in our nation which are seeing the "marijuana, retail bubble" beginning to either seep air, or burst! And Paul tells us a bit about the new Director of Maine's office of cannabis policy.

1/8: This week's edition features a talk with Chris Sementelli, Program Manager at Maine General Sports Medicine – which has facilities in Augusta, Oakland, Manchester and Winthrop. Sementelli, who has a Bachelors and Masters Degrees in sports medicine, has been at Maine General since 1990. The topic was getting into physical shape for the new year, and the care and challenges it takes to make it successful. Sementelli said is it important to have baseline of physicality before you begin, to make note of any detractors in training such as obesity or high blood pressure. It may take a visit to a primary physician to determine. Soreness is expected when you start an activity, he said, but make sure it is not an injury when it happens. Also, Sementelli said it's good to have goals in training and to stick to a schedule of activity. In the wake of the cardiac arrest recently suffered by NFL player Damar Hamlin of the Buffalo Bills during a game, Sementelli commented on the importance of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at venues where people and athletes are active. And knowledge of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is useful if and when AEDs are not available.



1/15: This edition features, a conversation with Noel Bonham — the state Director of Maine AARP. He outlines his organizations legislative agenda as the newly elected state legislature begins work in Augusta. He shares hopes for what might be included in the governors to your budget, and looks back at past initiatives that AARP Maine has seen implemented within state government. We also meet former university of southern Maine police chief, Lisa Beecher. She has written a book about her families, struggle with her husband’s mental illness, called “living with Mr. Fahrenheit.” She talks about the stigma of mental illness, and it’s prevalence among law-enforcement officers, who are frequently put in stressful situations, yet expected to endure without evidence of harm. This edition runs 21 minutes and 30 seconds.

1/22: This edition features, a conversation with Mark Latti of Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Maine's winter -- so far -- has been a roll coaster of warm weather then cold weather -- causing the ice on Maine's lakes, ponds, rivers and streams to be questionable. Latti cites specific locations where the ice is too thin for sledding and ice fishing. He also reflects on two incidents this season in which snowmobilers have lost their lives crashing through the ice. Finally, Latti mentions the work of Maine's Game Wardens, canines and -- most notably -- the divers -- who are being called out -- seemingly every week.

Also -- we catch up with Bangor International Airport Director Tony Caruso. Maine's Martin Luther King Junior snowstorm caused BGR -- which RARELY closes -- to close. Caruso talks about the challenges to runway snow removal crews and to passengers and staff after the storm dumped 5" to 6" of sleet on our state. Caruso also mentions the latest round up of "drunken angry Brits" who've caused international flights to have to divert to Bangor International Airport.

This edition runs 21:30

1/29: This edition features a talk with Lena Minervino, Development Director of the Maine chapter of the American Heart Association. The topics are the activities of the AHA, and the importance of February as Heart Month. Minervino outlines the reasons heart attacks happen, including obesity, high blood pressure, lack of exercise, family history, and the need to get a physical and heart screening every year. Minervino also developed the effort called “Hard Hats with Heart” – to improve the health and wellness of Maine’s construction and related workforce. Other year-long efforts include the Blood Pressure Cuff Loaner Program, the annual Heart Walk fundraiser, and teaching Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation in high schools.

For more information, see www.heart.org/maine.



2/5: In this edition, we welcome Bangor police Sergeant Jason McAmbley into our studio with three members of the Bangor Community Action Team.

The department formed "B Dash CAT" to muster responders trained in social services and public interaction to answer public welfare calls.

The members take the calls that police officers had been taking, and in the "B-CAT" first week in service, saved the department, scores of hours of manpower. We also meet Gavin, Robinson, community relations manager for Bangor Savings Bank. The bank's foundation is again sponsoring "community matters more." In this sales-department, arranged interview, Robinson, details how people go to a website and vote for nominated nonprofits so that they might win thousands of dollars in grants. He explains that even if a person's favorite nonprofit is not among the nominated, they can write in "they are nonprofit for their possibly winning a grant. This edition runs 18 minutes and 30 seconds.

2/12: This edition features a conversation with Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) concerning her bill that would prohibit the President from selling assets from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China. Collins discusses the need for the bill, the complexities of making it effective, and reacts to the news that President Biden said he would veto the measure. We also mention to Collins recent news items that list her as the four most fiscally powerful people in Washington -- all of them women!

We also catch up with Maine Tourism Association Executive Director Tony Cameron. Tony details the latest survey from MTA members who list "finding workforce" as among the top three issues they are facing as they plan for Maine's summer tourism season. Tony expresses the concerns of members about staffing up and maintaining service for tourists. He also addresses the specters of inflation and the cost of doing business in our time. This edition runs 22:30

2/19: This week's edition features a talk with Rick Sieberg, the Chief of the Gardiner Fire Department and the director of ambulance services based in Gardiner. Sieberg is a 25-year veteran of the department, and took over from retired chief Al Nelson in 2020. The ambulance service serves the city of Gardiner and neighboring towns Chelsea, Farmingdale, Litchfield, Pittston, Randolph, Richmond and West Gardiner – an area of 240 square miles. Sieberg explains that the role of a firefighter is adjoined with Emergency Medical Services accredited training, and all of the full-time Gardiner firefighter staff are also EMS trained. Recently there have been large fires in Gardiner, including one that destroyed the historical Laura Richards house, and a difficult fire in a three-story building on Main Street. Sieberg said there is a need in all area fire departments for additional employees. He said there are always a handful of high school-age job shadows, but ever fewer fully trained volunteers. The chief said he is always ready to talk with someone who is interested in the profession. Qualifications include a high school diploma, ambition to learn and study, and physical fitness to carry up to 40 pounds of equipment to a fire or emergency scene. Time 20:30



2/26: This edition features a conversation with Kristine Grow of the Coalition for Medicare Choices. Kristine unscrambles the "alphabet soup" of Medicare and Medicaid Part A B C and so on. She talks of recent actions in Washington -- fronted by US Senators Susan Collins and Angus King of Maine -- to better fill the "donut hole" and give older Americans better understanding and opportunity to secure coverage for medications and medical coverage.

We also welcome back Maine State Treasurer Henry Beck.

Beck monthly details the status of Maine's Cash Pool (read: check book) Rainy Day Fund (read: emergency account) Revenue Sharing (read: sending some collected tax money back to municipalities) and Unclaimed Property (read: cash or valuables individuals have lost track of that the state has and is holding until they might claim it.)

Beck notes at least one of Maine's accounts is reaching a statutory limit, in that law says Maine cannot have "x amount of dollars" in a specific account. This edition runs 22:00

3/5: This edition features a conversation with accountant Tom Hicks of JT Hicks and Company, a regular guest on one Blueberry Broadcasting's programs. Tom puts down his calculator this Tax Season to answer taxing questions. Tom addresses when it could be better to itemize versus taking the standard deduction, whether filing jointly or separately could work better for married couples, and the perils of using on-line tax prep services.

We also talk with Tim Hobbs, Regional Director of the Small Business Administration. Who knew that -- like FEMA and Washington DC -- the SBA can grant disaster declaration grants. Tim talks of the (in)frequency of Maine businesses and small profits taking advantage of the opportunity, the process, and how large the grants might be for what circumstances. This edition, too, runs 22:00

3/12: 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 Sunday Weekend on March 25-26. Despite variable temperatures over the winter, and an early tapping of Maple trees, Merrifield expects a strong yield and good flavor of syrup this year. According to the MMPA, Maine averages 575,00 gallons of syrup each year, and Maple farms contribute 55.6 million dollars to state's economy yearly. Maine Maple Weekend will take place at many of the 250 statewide farms in the MMPA. There will be demonstrations, camaraderie, and of course maple treats free of charge. The MMPA encourages people send in their favorite maple syrup recipes, to mainemapleproducers.com, that might be included in an upcoming cookbook. Merryfield said his personal favorite is seared scallops with a maple syrup glaze. Time 16:45



3/19: This edition features, a conversation with Cathy Ryder of eastern Maine community college. Americorp Vista is hosting a “fill the van” event on March 28. The college is inviting people to donate nonperishable food items to help the College feed food insecure students. Cathy explains that the make-up of community college students often find them strained to make ends meet, and still provide for themselves and their families. Cathy details the time and the location of the event.

We also meet Elizabeth Downing and Dr. Dennis Cox of the University of Maine. Dr. Dennis Cox has conducted, literally, thousands of student vocalists over more than four decades. Hundreds of them are returning to the University of Maine campus later this month for a concert, celebrating his contributions to their lives and the college music department. Participants, Elizabeth, and Dr. Cox, talk of the power of music, the influence of Dr. Cox, and the details of the event. This episode runs 21 minutes.

3/26: This edition features, a conversation with Laurie Marston of Adworks. Her organization is working with Maine’s gambling control board to help people who admit a problem with gambling to “self exclude” themselves from casinos in Maine. Marston details how the program works in Oxford and Bangor, how How the commission would like to see the program succeed beyond bricks and mortar, gambling locations, and marks march as gambling addiction awareness month.

We also talk with Melanie Van Aken of John T Cyr busing. She is the Director of safety in training for this long-standing main business. She addresses the challenges. Her company and others are facing in the shortage of bus drivers. Many drivers have retired, new federal restrictions and requirements, prevents him from joining the profession, and many people don’t want to deal with middle school children, raging with hormones, jumping up and down in the back of their bus. Aken describes what the state could do to help alleviate the shortage. This edition runs 22 minutes and 30 seconds.