

Journalist finds niche on PBS series

By Clarence Fanto
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — For Berkshire-area native Carrie Saldo, her expanded role as host and producer of the “Connecting Point” news-magazine series on WGBY, the Springfield public TV station, is a dream job.

The nightly half-hour informational telecast focused on western New England began its second season Monday evening with Saldo, 32 — who grew up in Stamford, Vt., and graduated from St. Joseph’s Central High School in Pittsfield and Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y. — now full-time with the station. She hosted the program from January to May 2011 as a part-time staffer.

Shown at 7:30 p.m. weekdays following the PBS News Hour, the telecast has connected with an increasing number of viewers in the region, including Berkshire County, Saldo said during a chat at a Lenox coffee shop.

She earned her multimedia journalistic credentials over the past decade as a reporter at



Carrie Saldo, bottom, takes a plunge from 13,000 feet as part of a skydiving segment.

Photo courtesy Keith Thivierge of Jumptown

The Transcript, The Eagle, WAMC Northeast Public Radio and as a communications specialist at the Berkshire Visitors Bureau in Adams, where she produced online video “webisodes” highlighting county attractions.

As a result of feedback from viewers and station executives, “Connecting Point” will include more nightly segments shot on loca-

tion. This past Friday, Saldo was in Great Barrington preparing a piece on the Railroad Street Youth Project.

A Pittsfield resident who commutes to Springfield daily, Saldo’s quest for off-beat features led her to prepare a segment with Jumptown, a skydiving outfit based in Orange, where she took the leap with a videographer filming her plunge from 13,000 feet.

“I was so scared at the edge of the plane, and you can see it in my eyes, ‘Holy cow!’ It was so much fun,” she said.

Saldo has help in the field from two other producers, and WGBY also includes segments prepared by independent freelancers.

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Her global interests also will be reflected in the broadcast; she returned to Haiti for 12 days early this past summer to revisit some of the areas hardest hit by the devastating earthquake of Jan. 20, 2010, which killed as many as 100,000 people and left at least 1.5 million homeless. Her two-part series will be televised in November.

She first visited Haiti a month after the quake as a volunteer the “Haiti Plunge” project based at the Catholic Outreach to Youth center in North Adams.

A typical half-hour of “Connecting Point” includes a regional news update, two in-studio interviews and an on-location feature.

Saldo has planned a series of in-the-field segments produced in Berkshire County, including a close-up view of the Soldier On home for veterans in Pittsfield and the Berkshire Arts and Technology charter school in Adams. Saldo says she’s eager to consider ideas submitted by viewers.

“This show is definitely the next step I wanted to take and was hoping to take in my career,” said Saldo. “I love news and I love to relate solid stories that are being missed somehow. We cover topical news but it won’t be a hard-news angle. The show connects viewers with the people and places that matter most to western New England.”