

PROGRAMS 2024

2ND QUARTER ISSUES AND

WXBK-FM NEW YORK CITY.

94.7-FM

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

3.14.24 Air Date: 3.31.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Shakira “Lady Kay” Brunson- Spoken Word Artist

Shakira "Lady Kay" Brunson is a 29-year-old, Westchester Born and Raised, Writer, Host, and Curator, and Spoken word artist.

She has been writing since 3rd grade and has been performing since high school. Her debut poetry narrative Man of Your Word was released in the summer of 2021. She has two upcoming children's books in the works. Having performed her poetry across the country for over 10 years Lady Kay is also a prominent spoken word artist in the Poetry community and she is also currently a host of The Rose Garden events.

Lady Kay is currently working on several new writing projects besides her books that will accent her aberrant writing style which always boasts amazing reviews. Lady Kay's writing is suspenseful and often features unpopular opinions which leaves readers wanting more.

With a nonconformist writing style, Lady Kay's work consistently confronts readers with a new point of view worth considering. One quote she always keeps close to her heart: "It takes both sunshine and rain to blossom, embrace 'em!

Lady Kay recognizes that her foundation was premised upon reading and writing and the love of short stories at the early age of her 3rd-grade year. She had a teacher who embraced her interest and nurtured her forward to become a woman of the arts today.

Lady Kay is inspired that journaling and releasing your truth in any form of art is a window of healing and would encourage the younger generation to lean into the art of books as the foundation of creative thinking.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

4.2.24 Air Date: 4.7.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Miriam Racchh – CEO Black Latin Asian Charter Collaborative

A dynamic advocate for education reform, Miriam Raccah has over 20 years of experience leading non-profit organizations dedicated to innovation in urban education. Most notably, she co-founded Girls Preparatory Charter Schools and the Public Prep Network.

Black Latinx Asian Charter Collaborative (BLACC) is a nonprofit organization that serves 24 community-based public charter schools representing more than 14,000 students across New York.

BLACC has member schools in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Long Island, Mt. Vernon, and Buffalo. BLACC is dedicated to elevating charter schools founded and led by people of color. BLACC represents educators and stakeholders in the community who, through shared experiences, acknowledge a hopeful opportunity in the sector: community based schools founded by leaders of color are powerful vehicles for change and progress.

While many local and national organizations seek to advance the interests of public charter schools, BLACC is the only organization specifically supporting the success and growth of new and existing public charter schools led by educators of color in the state of New York. BLACC works together with local charter schools to ensure the needs of their communities are at the forefront of education reform. The benefits and importance of recruiting, training, supporting, and retaining more educators and school leaders of color.

Over 125,000 students of color attend public charter schools across NYC. Over 90% of students in NYC charter schools are Black, Latinx or Asian, however only 10% of the city's charter schools were founded, or are led by, people of color. • This inequity is reflected in the traditional public school system. More than 65% of NYC public school students are Black or Latinx – yet their teachers represent fewer than 18%. One-third of all New York public schools have zero Black or Latinx teachers. Inclusive schools, where leadership and staff reflect the communities they serve, radically alter life outcomes for students of color. For example, Black elementary students who have one Black teacher by third grade are 13% more likely to go to college, while those who have two or more represent 32%.

BLACC has advocated for the READ Act, which calls to expand programs for loan forgiveness and tax abatement to support and retain teachers of color; alternative certification pathways, and the creation of a third charter school authorizer. BLACC's recent (March 26) rally in Albany to bring attention to the fact that the NY State Education Dept. has prevented public charter schools from accessing some state grants for years, totaling over \$1b. More than 1,200 New York City charter school students and parents traveled to Albany on March 26 and joined officials from the Black Latinx Asian Charter Collaborative (BLACC) to rally and call on the NYS Education Department to end the discriminatory treatment of charter schools and fulfill its obligation to provide funding commensurate with funding provided to traditional public schools.

Roughly 15 percent of NYS students attend charter schools, and about 90 The a need for policies that acknowledge the destabilizing impacts of childhood trauma and for more funding for trauma-informed resources for students. 46% of US children (0-17) have experienced at least one traumatic event defined as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). There is a strong connection between trauma and student learning, behavior, and social outcomes; exacerbating disabilities and hindering academic success. Trauma may manifest in perceptible emotional and behavioral disorders that, on their own, qualify for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). However, without treating trauma as a root cause, IEPs will be deficient and fail to achieve their desired outcomes. Students

need IEPs that are explicitly designed to identify and address trauma-sourced disabilities.

Schools are already self-enacting trauma-informed policies and creating their own trauma-responsive education plans; however, it is far from universal. The lack of funding limits the availability and effectiveness of these essential interventions.

- NY public schools are not efficiently represented.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

4.8.24 Air Date: 4.14.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Jumaane Williams- Public Advocate

NYC Public Advocate's Statement on the Governor's 'Subway Safety' Plan “How many surges of law enforcement into the subway will satisfy the political desire of city and state leaders to address riders’ fears being fanned by those same leaders? This is the fifth or sixth in recent years, and even in response to real concerns and crimes, it remains unsustainable.

Militarizing the subway with the National Guard and suggesting a wholesale ban on individuals from accessing public transportation are dangerous misuses of resources that could be better spent addressing these issues at their root. It’s one thing to have conductors announce increased police presence on the platform. It’s another entirely to further criminalize the public on public transit while neglecting the real improvements these resources could be devoted to, like fixing the subway itself.”

Militarizing the subway with the National Guard and suggesting a wholesale ban on individuals from accessing public transportation are dangerous misuses of resources that could be better spent addressing

these issues at their root. It's one thing to have conductors announce increased police presence on the platform. It's another entirely to further criminalize the public on public transit while neglecting the real improvements these resources could be devoted to, like fixing the subway itself.

New Yorkers deserve to be and feel safe on our subway. So instead of posturing to look 'tough on crime,' stuck in the same conversations, let's get serious about safety, and what it involves.

Public Advocate wants there to be a strategic action plan that moves forward to make significant change. He feels too much time has been spent discussing the problems.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

4.17.24 Air Date: 4.21.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Tania Kinsella- First Deputy Commissioner NYPD

NYPD First Deputy Commissioner Tania I. Kinsella embarked on her distinguished law enforcement career as a police officer in July 2003. Since then, she has made significant contributions across various precincts, including the 120th, 13th, 68th, 122nd, Police Service Area 1, Patrol Borough Staten Island, and the Patrol Services Bureau.

Her dedication and excellence led her to be promoted through the ranks: Sergeant in July 2008, Lieutenant in August 2013, Captain in November 2016, Deputy Inspector in May 2019, Inspector in July 2021, Deputy Chief in December 2022, and First Deputy Commissioner in July 2023. In her current role as the First Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, her impact expands to a broader horizon. With the oversight of industry-leading tactics and training initiatives and a robust disciplinary system, she shoulders the immense responsibility of fostering professionalism and fairness among the 55,000-member police

force. Leading by example, First Deputy Commissioner Kinsella champions the values of integrity and accountability, ensuring that every member of the police department adheres to the highest standards of conduct.

Her vision is to create a cohesive and responsible police department, one that upholds the principles of justice while maintaining the safety and security of New York City's residents. As the First Deputy Commissioner, Tania I. Kinsella stands as a beacon of leadership, ensuring that the New York City Police Department continues to evolve, adapt, and serve all five boroughs with honor and distinction.

She prioritizes her two children first, sets meditation time and focuses on the 24 hours ahead of her and leading her team to impact change.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 4.22.24 Air Date: 4.28.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Andrea Haynes- Executive Director | Caregiver of an Autistic Son

Many people with autism experience other medical, behavioral or mental health issues that affect their quality of life including attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety and depression and more.

Andrea was a teen mom at the age of 15 when she recognized by the time her son was 2-3 years old, that he was facing signs of disorders that warranted her immediate attention.

Andrea learned through many obstacles while navigating as a teenage mom with a child with a disability to lean in and learn where the resources were. It took many years for her to feel confident on how to ask the right questions and to become persistent at finding appropriate caregiving opportunities for her son.

Elijah, despite facing the challenges of a pervasive developmental disorder, has found his passion in music and is an active participant at the FDMG Music School where he shines as a singer and an accomplished trumpet and piano player. Elijah cherishes moments spent with his family and spends some weekends in Rockland County, where he is supported by the respite team of Visions, a nonprofit dedicated to serving visually impaired individuals throughout New York City.

Andrea continues to nurture advocacy for her son and others like him by supporting small businesses that encourage inclusivity.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 4.24.24 Air Date: 5.5.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Jennie Pu- Director – Hoboken Newark Library

When Jennie Pu became Director of Hoboken Library in 2021, she stepped into a historic institution that had steadily served the Hoboken community for nearly 130 years. Since then, she has transformed the library into a vibrant community hub that offers robust youth programming, pop up libraries in schools, and rich partnerships with more than 50 community organizations. From going “library fine free” to providing social services, Jennie has championed inclusivity to ensure the library is a welcoming space for all. She recently led the multimillion-dollar historic restoration of the main library, building new and innovative spaces like the first free, public maker space in Hoboken.

Under Jennie’s leadership, Hoboken Public Library has emerged as a beacon for intellectual freedom and the right to read in the state of New Jersey. She led a successful citywide readathon of banned books and, through her efforts, Hoboken Public Library and the City of Hoboken were declared book sanctuaries - the first in New Jersey. Her passion inspired a statewide movement, with nine other libraries in the state becoming book sanctuaries.

A recognized leader in her field, Jennie serves on state, regional, and national boards including New Jersey Library Association and Urban Libraries Council. She actively works with library leaders across New Jersey and beyond to help them advocate for legislation protecting the freedom to read. In 2024 she was

appointed to the American Library Association's Policy Corps, United Against Book Bans cadre. She has held roles in cultural arts and educational organizations including The Wing Luke Museum (a Smithsonian Institution affiliate), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, K-12 school libraries, and academia. She is a certified school library media specialist.

The library, specifically Hoboken Public Library, is also home to several community events and resources that are open to the public.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 5. 8.24 Air Date: 5.12.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Lucinda Cross- Founder & CEO Worldwide Activate

When women are released from jail or prison, they are often ill-prepared to reencounter and address the serious problems they faced before incarceration, such as victimization, an unstable family life, difficulties in school, limited work experience, financial issues, poverty, substance use disorders, mental health issues, a lack of vocational skills, and parenting difficulties. Women also tend to face new concerns upon reentering society, such as legal issues, financial restitution, and new trauma or re-traumatization that they experienced while incarcerated.

But this should NOT DEFINE their potential or limit their opportunities for a productive whole future. Lucinda Cross, media personality, and leadership trainer for women, was listed as Forbes Next 1000, stands tall as Verizon's Small Business Comeback Coach, and was honored with the Lifetime

Achievement award by President, Barack Obama. As the visionary Founder and CEO of Activate Worldwide, a forceful entity dedicated to women's empowerment, at-risk youth, and women reentry advocate. Lucinda is a beacon of inspiration and a true catalyst for transformation. Her voice resonates far and wide, having graced the stages of CNN, the Today Show, BET, ABC, NBC and Essence, to name a few

Having served as a women's leadership empowerment trainer for Fortune 500 companies like NIKE, Prudential Securities, DELTA Air Line, and ESSENCE Magazine, Lucinda brings a wealth of experience. The Department of Justice seeks her expertise for co-convening women's initiatives, mobilizing women, and providing insights into empowerment, reentry, and development.

Reentry Summit on 6/2 is in its 5th year and is dedicated to empowering individuals who have been justice-impacted to be able to tap into a myriad of support and resources. The goal is to ensure that they are being acclimated with all fair and equal access. This event is open and free to the public.

Mother's Day

- The resilience of you as a mother and pushing through difficult moments in your life, but you must allow yourself grace each day.
- The importance of unity and finding a collective of like-minded individuals to support each other is important for you to have vulnerable and safe spaces to release and share.

Women's needs during reentry can be different from men's due to differing experiences and relative access to critical resources (e.g., history of abuse, poverty, substance use, family support, dependent children).

Before a woman's release from prison or jail, individuals working with her should assess her needs and develop a reentry plan to ensure that the following are identified and ready to assist with the transition: community-based mental health and substance use treatment providers, healthcare coverage providers (e.g., Medicaid), housing and other social supports, and advocacy organizations. An effective reentry plan should be strengths-based, trauma-informed, and individualized.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 5.13.24 Air Date: 5.19.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Dr. Ogadinma McGeachy- Diabetes- GOAL FAMILY MEDICAL
P.C.

According to the National Institute of Health, a study found that the chance of developing diabetes was significantly higher for black adults than for white adults (about 66 more cases of diabetes per 1,000 people). A study found that biological risk factors—including weight and fat around the abdomen—are primarily responsible for higher rates of diabetes for black Americans compared with white Americans.

The study suggests that making positive changes in known risk factors, like losing excess weight, can help reduce the racial health disparity for developing diabetes. It would be fair to say that Obesity is driving these factors.

We recently lost a beloved colleague who made an indelible mark on music culture DJ Mister Cee- Calvin Lebrun from a diagnosis of diabetes-related coronary artery/kidney disease,". Take the opportunity to continue to educate our audience on being proactive in taking care of our health. Dr. Ogadinma McGeachy is a board-certified Family Medicine Physician with over 15 years of experience. She serves as an adjunct professor at Molloy University, LIU, and NYU School of Nursing. She has worked in Brooklyn and Queens for over a decade and now has a private practice (GOAL Family Medical) in Lynbrook NY.

Before people develop type 2 diabetes, they usually develop prediabetes— a condition where blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not quite high enough for a diabetes diagnosis. Having prediabetes puts you at higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

In type 1 diabetes, your immune system attacks your pancreas— an organ near your stomach— and destroys the cells in it that produce insulin.

In type 2 diabetes, your body does not properly use the insulin it makes. Healthcare providers call this insulin resistance. To compensate for insulin resistance, your pancreas works harder to

make even more insulin. Over time, your pancreas can't keep up with your body's insulin needs. It stops being able to produce enough insulin to keep your blood sugar levels normal. Some people living with type 2 diabetes can manage their blood sugar with healthy eating and keeping active—but many people also need to add pills or injections. Type 2 diabetes progresses over time, and you will likely need to add more medications later on.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –

Audacy Recorded: 5.22.24 Air Date: 5.26.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Ron Richter- CEO & Executive Director-JCCA – “Foster Care”

May is Foster Care Awareness Month - a perfect time to highlight the history and progress of the foster care system. We hope to educate the tristate on

- The origins of the modern foster care system right here in New York
- How the foster care system has changed over the years
- How child welfare agencies and policymakers are improving outcomes today.

Ron Richter is the CEO of JCCA - a child welfare organization that has supported children and foster families for more than 200 years across NYC, including at their state-of-the-art offices in the Bronx. He previously served as Commissioner of NYC's Administration for Child Services and a Family court judge.

One of New York's oldest child and family services organizations, JCCA provides the highest quality child welfare and mental health services to more than 17,000 children and their families every year. JCCA's transformative programs include foster and residential care, educational assistance and remediation, behavioral health and wellness services, case management, and child maltreatment prevention. Since 1822, JCCA has worked with New York's neediest and most vulnerable children and families to ensure that their safety, permanency, and well-being lead to a life of stability and promise.

There are mentoring, interning, and foster care opportunities for those who want to support foster care youth. There is a need for positive affirming caregivers to support LGBTQIA+ youth in the system.

It is always the goal that foster care is a short-term stay and the emphasis is to offer care and resources to the family/parents to return the children/youth to its family in a safe and supportive environment.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 5.28.24 Air Date: 6.2.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Matthew Fraser - Chief Technology Officer
NYC Office of Technology and Innovation

Matthew Fraser, whose story as a Brooklyn native leading the city's efforts to bridge the digital divide and make government run better for everyday people is a compelling one. CTO Fraser is responsible for coordinating the city's tech-related projects and policy. Through his leadership as the first African American CTO in this position, NYC is democratizing access to tech for historically underserved New Yorkers, particularly Black residents, and empowering Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) in the tech space. Two years into the Adams administration, the NYC Office of Technology and Innovation, which CTO Fraser leads, is providing New Yorkers with critical access to wealth- and business-building opportunities, government services, and essentials like broadband.

The CTO is overseeing the nation's first comprehensive Artificial Intelligence Action Plan to help city agencies use these tools responsibly and effectively on behalf of New Yorkers. CTO's vision includes using AI to better connect residents to services + optimize agency services to better serve their mission. AI is also already important in our efforts to protect the city's cybersecurity.

The MyCity one-stop shop, launched in March 2023, has helped more than 10,000 working families + an estimated 17,000 children gain access to childcare subsidies.

OTI redesigned the Jobs NYC talent portal to connect New Yorkers to career opportunities, free employment services, and workforce development training. The talent portal is available through our MyCity portal.

OTI is continuing to provide free internet and cable TV access to 330,000 New Yorkers in public housing through Big Apple Connect, the nation's largest municipal broadband program. This is particularly notable now since funding is winding down for the federal Affordable Connectivity Program. Big Apple Connect has 80 percent adoption citywide. (Press Release)

OTI's efforts to bridge the digital divide go beyond providing New Yorkers with access to high-speed internet, devices, and digital skills training; our efforts also involve empowering businesses/entrepreneurs who have traditionally lacked opportunities in tech. In Fiscal Year 2023, we processed 315 M/WBE tech procurements totaling over \$245 million.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –

Audacy Recorded: 6.2.24 Air Date: 6.9.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Hope Daley Derry – A Song For Life- 501c3 Non-Profit

Founded as a nonprofit 501(c)3 in 2019, A Song for Life was conceived after a loved one was the victim of a random act of gun violence in 2017, leaving them paralyzed and halting their music career.

Our mission is to provide a common platform where artists can combine their artistry with advocacy. We aim to end the perception that violence exists in a vacuum. Violence and its origins are intersectional: mental illness, food insecurity, poverty, education inequality, and other factors are all directly linked to the epidemic of violence in communities all over the world. Our network of approximately 100 artist ambassadors is encouraged to use their influence & their music as a language that transcends barriers. The hope is that this music can contribute to a future where violence is less likely to take root.

Hope conceptualized the organization after a loved one was the victim of a random act of gun violence in 2017, leaving them paralyzed and halting their artistic career. By encouraging artists to combine their artistry with advocacy, the organization is helping artists raise awareness about a wide variety of social causes. She believes issues in a community of education inequality, mental health, bullying, and more are all tied to violence and gun violence in our communities.

They aim to end the perception that violence exists in a vacuum. Violence rears its head most in neighborhoods that are underresourced in terms of food, education & finance. Violence and its origins are intersectional—mental illness, food insecurity, poverty, education, and other factors are all directly linked to the epidemic of violence in communities all over the world. A Song For Life connects artists to opportunities across mentorship, live events, music creation and collaboration, and performances that allow them to raise awareness about these different, interconnected issues plaguing our communities.

A Red Carpet event and live performance of the EP at The Billie Holiday Theater on June 15, 2024, will bring together 200 of the project's collaborators, A Song For Life's partners, and influencers/VIPs to celebrate the release of the newest project, a music EP entitled, [Let Her Rock~ A Love Letter](#). and further communicate our mission and vision.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 6.7.24 Air Date: 6.16.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Tariq Nasheed- American Film Producer- "Microphone Check"

Tariq Nasheed is an American film producer and internet personality. Nasheed was born in Detroit, Michigan, and spent most of his youth in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1991, Nasheed moved to Los Angeles, where he began his career as a rapper and later as a dating expert under the "K-Flex" persona, before transitioning into documentary filmmaking.

Nasheed produced the 2011 documentary film Hidden Colors and two sequels, released the horror film The Eugenist in 2013 and co-produced Da Sweet Blood of Jesus (a remake of the 1973 movie Ganja & Hess) with director Spike Lee. In 2023, Nasheed opened the Hidden History Museum in Los Angeles, which features current and historical African-American figures.

[Microphone Check](#) strives to educate audiences on the birth and evolution of hip-hop through compelling interviews, rare footage, and historical context while dispelling erroneous notions. Interview subjects include the people who started it all: Melle Mel, Grandmaster Caz, Coke La Rock, Sha Rock Trixie and Sasa, and others.

The inspiration for "Microphone Check" emerged from the realization that the 50th anniversary of hip-hop is a milestone worth celebrating and commemorating with a deep dive into its origins. As someone who has dedicated their career to exploring and illuminating the hidden facets of history, I saw an opportunity to set the record straight on hip hop's beginnings. We have already made significant progress by assembling these pioneers and capturing their stories on film, but we need your support to take this project to the next level.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 6.18.24 Air Date: 6.23.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Christie Peale- CEO & Executive Director
Center for NYC Neighborhoods

Christie was named CEO & Executive Director of the Center in February 2012. Under her leadership, the Center has become a leading local and national voice for affordable homeownership, while significantly expanding its portfolio of services for homeowners. Christie has been instrumental in organizing foreclosure prevention services statewide with the New York Attorney General's Office, raising millions of dollars for homeowners

recovering from Hurricane Sandy, and launching a \$7.5 million resiliency program for coastal communities. Christie also oversaw the expansion of the New York State Mortgage Assistance Program with an \$80 million loan fund and established one of the nation's largest annual affordable homeownership conferences.

Most recently, Christie has led the organization in administering the New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF). NYS HAF program is being administered by the New York State affordable housing agency, NYS Homes & Community Renewal (HCR), in partnership with Sustainable Neighborhoods LLC, a non-profit dedicated to foreclosure prevention and homeownership preservation. NYS HAF is a federally-funded program designed to help homeowners at risk of default, foreclosure, and displacement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected to assist over 30,000 homeowners throughout the state.

The organization champions Homeowners in New York State Our mission is to promote and protect affordable homeownership in New York so that middle – and working-class families can build strong, thriving communities. They assist with mortgage help, foreclosure assistance, coastal communities that have been impacted by flooding, scam prevention, and other resources for homeowners.

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods was created to combat the issues affecting homeowners in New York City. What started during the mortgage crisis has grown into wraparound services for neighborhoods across the five boroughs. The Center also played a pivotal role in directing federal funds to storm recovery.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 6.18.24 Air Date: 6.30.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Dr. Carla Smith- CEO – LGBTQ Center

Dr. Carla Smith is the Chief Executive Officer of The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (The Center) in New York City, is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and advocating for the LGBTQ+ community in New York. Dr. Smith has dedicated over 25 years to working in social services and advocacy benefitting marginalized communities. She joined The Center in 2024 and is responsible for the financial, programmatic, and operational functions of the organization that provides direct services and advocacy to thousands of LGBTQ+ people annually. As CEO, she also oversees the safe operation of The Center's 50,000 square feet space located in the heart of the West Village.

The over 100-year-old building includes an LGBTQ+ bookstore, mental health clinic, approximately 27,000 square feet of community meeting and event space, a youth drop-in center, café, and computer lab. A recognized authority on social issues impacting vulnerable communities, Dr. Smith is frequently sought for her insights and has spoken extensively in public forums, including NYC City Council and national conferences, about the societal impacts of discrimination and violence.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (The Center) was established in 1983 at the height of the AIDS crisis to provide a safe and affirming place for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers to respond to the urgent threats facing the community. Over the past 40 years, The Center has grown to meet the changing needs of New York's LGBTQ+ community, delivering services that empower people to lead healthy, successful lives.

The Center focuses on empowering LGBTQ+ people and building a strong community. New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center empowers people to lead healthy, successful lives. The Center celebrates diversity and advocates for justice and opportunity.

Thet work toward LGBTQ+ liberation by disrupting systems of oppression affecting BIPOC LGBTQ+ people. We work to strengthen the personal economies of LGBTQ+ people who have long been prevented from generating wealth. We work to disrupt

the systemic racism, sexism, and economic injustices keeping BIPOC, gender nonconforming, and poor people from living healthy and successful lives.

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With a nonconformist writing style, Lady Kay's work consistently confronts readers with a new point of view worth considering. One quote she always keeps close to her heart: "It takes both sunshine and rain to blossom, embrace 'em!

Lady Kay recognizes that her foundation was premised upon reading and writing and the love of short stories at the early age of her 3rd-grade year. She had a teacher who embraced her interest and nurtured her forward to become a woman of the arts today.

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A dynamic advocate for education reform, Miriam Raccah has over 20 years of experience leading non-profit organizations dedicated to innovation in urban education. Most notably, she co-founded Girls Preparatory Charter Schools and the Public Prep Network.

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While many local and national organizations seek to advance the interests of public charter schools, BLACC is the only organization specifically supporting the success and growth of new and existing public charter schools led by educators of color in the state of New York. BLACC works together with local charter schools to ensure the needs of their communities are at the forefront of education reform. The benefits and importance of recruiting, training, supporting, and retaining more educators and school leaders of color.

Over 125,000 students of color attend public charter schools across NYC. Over 90% of students in NYC charter schools are Black, Latinx or Asian, however only 10% of the city's charter schools were founded, or are led by, people of color. • This inequity is reflected in the traditional public school system. More than 65% of NYC public school students are Black or Latinx – yet their teachers represent fewer than 18%. One-third of all New York public schools have zero Black or Latinx teachers. Inclusive schools, where leadership and staff reflect the communities they serve, radically alter life outcomes for students of color. For example, Black elementary students who have one Black teacher by third grade are 13% more likely to go to college, while those who have two or more represent 32%.

BLACC has advocated for the READ Act, which calls to expand programs for loan forgiveness and tax abatement to support and retain teachers of color; alternative certification pathways, and the creation of a third charter school authorizer. BLACC's recent (March 26) rally in Albany to bring attention to the fact that the NY State Education Dept. has prevented public charter schools from accessing some state grants for years, totaling over \$1b. More than 1,200 New York City charter school students and parents traveled to Albany on March 26 and joined officials from the Black Latinx Asian Charter Collaborative (BLACC) to rally and call on the NYS Education Department to end the discriminatory treatment of charter schools and fulfill its obligation to provide funding commensurate with funding provided to traditional public schools.

Roughly 15 percent of NYS students attend charter schools, and about 90 The a need for policies that acknowledge the destabilizing impacts of childhood trauma and for more funding for trauma-informed resources for students. 46% of US children (0-17) have experienced at least one traumatic event defined as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). There is a strong connection between trauma and student learning, behavior, and social outcomes; exacerbating disabilities and hindering academic success. Trauma may manifest in perceptible emotional and behavioral disorders that, on their own, qualify for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). However, without treating trauma as a root cause, IEPs will be deficient and fail to achieve their desired outcomes. Students

need IEPs that are explicitly designed to identify and address trauma-sourced disabilities.

Schools are already self-enacting trauma-informed policies and creating their own trauma-responsive education plans; however, it is far from universal. The lack of funding limits the availability and effectiveness of these essential interventions.

- NY public schools are not efficiently represented.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

4.8.24 Air Date: 4.14.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Jumaane Williams- Public Advocate

NYC Public Advocate's Statement on the Governor's 'Subway Safety' Plan “How many surges of law enforcement into the subway will satisfy the political desire of city and state leaders to address riders’ fears being fanned by those same leaders? This is the fifth or sixth in recent years, and even in response to real concerns and crimes, it remains unsustainable.

Militarizing the subway with the National Guard and suggesting a wholesale ban on individuals from accessing public transportation are dangerous misuses of resources that could be better spent addressing these issues at their root. It’s one thing to have conductors announce increased police presence on the platform. It’s another entirely to further criminalize the public on public transit while neglecting the real improvements these resources could be devoted to, like fixing the subway itself.”

Militarizing the subway with the National Guard and suggesting a wholesale ban on individuals from accessing public transportation are dangerous misuses of resources that could be better spent addressing

these issues at their root. It's one thing to have conductors announce increased police presence on the platform. It's another entirely to further criminalize the public on public transit while neglecting the real improvements these resources could be devoted to, like fixing the subway itself.

New Yorkers deserve to be and feel safe on our subway. So instead of posturing to look 'tough on crime,' stuck in the same conversations, let's get serious about safety, and what it involves.

Public Advocate wants there to be a strategic action plan that moves forward to make significant change. He feels too much time has been spent discussing the problems.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

4.17.24 Air Date: 4.21.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Tania Kinsella- First Deputy Commissioner NYPD

NYPD First Deputy Commissioner Tania I. Kinsella embarked on her distinguished law enforcement career as a police officer in July 2003. Since then, she has made significant contributions across various precincts, including the 120th, 13th, 68th, 122nd, Police Service Area 1, Patrol Borough Staten Island, and the Patrol Services Bureau.

Her dedication and excellence led her to be promoted through the ranks: Sergeant in July 2008, Lieutenant in August 2013, Captain in November 2016, Deputy Inspector in May 2019, Inspector in July 2021, Deputy Chief in December 2022, and First Deputy Commissioner in July 2023. In her current role as the First Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, her impact expands to a broader horizon. With the oversight of industry-leading tactics and training initiatives and a robust disciplinary system, she shoulders the immense responsibility of fostering professionalism and fairness among the 55,000-member police

force. Leading by example, First Deputy Commissioner Kinsella champions the values of integrity and accountability, ensuring that every member of the police department adheres to the highest standards of conduct.

Her vision is to create a cohesive and responsible police department, one that upholds the principles of justice while maintaining the safety and security of New York City's residents. As the First Deputy Commissioner, Tania I. Kinsella stands as a beacon of leadership, ensuring that the New York City Police Department continues to evolve, adapt, and serve all five boroughs with honor and distinction.

She prioritizes her two children first, sets meditation time and focuses on the 24 hours ahead of her and leading her team to impact change.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 4.22.24 Air Date: 4.28.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Andrea Haynes- Executive Director | Caregiver of an Autistic Son

Many people with autism experience other medical, behavioral or mental health issues that affect their quality of life including attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety and depression and more.

Andrea was a teen mom at the age of 15 when she recognized by the time her son was 2-3 years old, that he was facing signs of disorders that warranted her immediate attention.

Andrea learned through many obstacles while navigating as a teenage mom with a child with a disability to lean in and learn where the resources were. It took many years for her to feel confident on how to ask the right questions and to become persistent at finding appropriate caregiving opportunities for her son.

Elijah, despite facing the challenges of a pervasive developmental disorder, has found his passion in music and is an active participant at the FDMG Music School where he shines as a singer and an accomplished trumpet and piano player. Elijah cherishes moments spent with his family and spends some weekends in Rockland County, where he is supported by the respite team of Visions, a nonprofit dedicated to serving visually impaired individuals throughout New York City.

Andrea continues to nurture advocacy for her son and others like him by supporting small businesses that encourage inclusivity.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 4.24.24 Air Date: 5.5.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Jennie Pu- Director – Hoboken Newark Library

When Jennie Pu became Director of Hoboken Library in 2021, she stepped into a historic institution that had steadily served the Hoboken community for nearly 130 years. Since then, she has transformed the library into a vibrant community hub that offers robust youth programming, pop up libraries in schools, and rich partnerships with more than 50 community organizations. From going “library fine free” to providing social services, Jennie has championed inclusivity to ensure the library is a welcoming space for all. She recently led the multimillion-dollar historic restoration of the main library, building new and innovative spaces like the first free, public maker space in Hoboken.

Under Jennie’s leadership, Hoboken Public Library has emerged as a beacon for intellectual freedom and the right to read in the state of New Jersey. She led a successful citywide readathon of banned books and, through her efforts, Hoboken Public Library and the City of Hoboken were declared book sanctuaries - the first in New Jersey. Her passion inspired a statewide movement, with nine other libraries in the state becoming book sanctuaries.

A recognized leader in her field, Jennie serves on state, regional, and national boards including New Jersey Library Association and Urban Libraries Council. She actively works with library leaders across New Jersey and beyond to help them advocate for legislation protecting the freedom to read. In 2024 she was

appointed to the American Library Association's Policy Corps, United Against Book Bans cadre. She has held roles in cultural arts and educational organizations including The Wing Luke Museum (a Smithsonian Institution affiliate), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, K-12 school libraries, and academia. She is a certified school library media specialist.

The library, specifically Hoboken Public Library, is also home to several community events and resources that are open to the public.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 5. 8.24 Air Date: 5.12.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Lucinda Cross- Founder & CEO Worldwide Activate

When women are released from jail or prison, they are often ill-prepared to reencounter and address the serious problems they faced before incarceration, such as victimization, an unstable family life, difficulties in school, limited work experience, financial issues, poverty, substance use disorders, mental health issues, a lack of vocational skills, and parenting difficulties. Women also tend to face new concerns upon reentering society, such as legal issues, financial restitution, and new trauma or re-traumatization that they experienced while incarcerated.

But this should NOT DEFINE their potential or limit their opportunities for a productive whole future. Lucinda Cross, media personality, and leadership trainer for women, was listed as Forbes Next 1000, stands tall as Verizon's Small Business Comeback Coach, and was honored with the Lifetime

Achievement award by President, Barack Obama. As the visionary Founder and CEO of Activate Worldwide, a forceful entity dedicated to women's empowerment, at-risk youth, and women reentry advocate. Lucinda is a beacon of inspiration and a true catalyst for transformation. Her voice resonates far and wide, having graced the stages of CNN, the Today Show, BET, ABC, NBC and Essence, to name a few

Having served as a women's leadership empowerment trainer for Fortune 500 companies like NIKE, Prudential Securities, DELTA Air Line, and ESSENCE Magazine, Lucinda brings a wealth of experience. The Department of Justice seeks her expertise for co-convening women's initiatives, mobilizing women, and providing insights into empowerment, reentry, and development.

Reentry Summit on 6/2 is in its 5th year and is dedicated to empowering individuals who have been justice-impacted to be able to tap into a myriad of support and resources. The goal is to ensure that they are being acclimated with all fair and equal access. This event is open and free to the public.

Mother's Day

- The resilience of you as a mother and pushing through difficult moments in your life, but you must allow yourself grace each day.
- The importance of unity and finding a collective of like-minded individuals to support each other is important for you to have vulnerable and safe spaces to release and share.

Women's needs during reentry can be different from men's due to differing experiences and relative access to critical resources (e.g., history of abuse, poverty, substance use, family support, dependent children).

Before a woman's release from prison or jail, individuals working with her should assess her needs and develop a reentry plan to ensure that the following are identified and ready to assist with the transition: community-based mental health and substance use treatment providers, healthcare coverage providers (e.g., Medicaid), housing and other social supports, and advocacy organizations. An effective reentry plan should be strengths-based, trauma-informed, and individualized.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 5.13.24 Air Date: 5.19.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Dr. Ogadinma McGeachy- Diabetes- GOAL FAMILY MEDICAL
P.C.

According to the National Institute of Health, a study found that the chance of developing diabetes was significantly higher for black adults than for white adults (about 66 more cases of diabetes per 1,000 people). A study found that biological risk factors—including weight and fat around the abdomen—are primarily responsible for higher rates of diabetes for black Americans compared with white Americans.

The study suggests that making positive changes in known risk factors, like losing excess weight, can help reduce the racial health disparity for developing diabetes. It would be fair to say that Obesity is driving these factors.

We recently lost a beloved colleague who made an indelible mark on music culture DJ Mister Cee- Calvin Lebrun from a diagnosis of diabetes-related coronary artery/kidney disease,". Take the opportunity to continue to educate our audience on being proactive in taking care of our health. Dr. Ogadinma McGeachy is a board-certified Family Medicine Physician with over 15 years of experience. She serves as an adjunct professor at Molloy University, LIU, and NYU School of Nursing. She has worked in Brooklyn and Queens for over a decade and now has a private practice (GOAL Family Medical) in Lynbrook NY.

Before people develop type 2 diabetes, they usually develop prediabetes— a condition where blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not quite high enough for a diabetes diagnosis. Having prediabetes puts you at higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

In type 1 diabetes, your immune system attacks your pancreas— an organ near your stomach— and destroys the cells in it that produce insulin.

In type 2 diabetes, your body does not properly use the insulin it makes. Healthcare providers call this insulin resistance. To compensate for insulin resistance, your pancreas works harder to

make even more insulin. Over time, your pancreas can't keep up with your body's insulin needs. It stops being able to produce enough insulin to keep your blood sugar levels normal. Some people living with type 2 diabetes can manage their blood sugar with healthy eating and keeping active—but many people also need to add pills or injections. Type 2 diabetes progresses over time, and you will likely need to add more medications later on.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –

Audacy Recorded: 5.22.24 Air Date: 5.26.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Ron Richter- CEO & Executive Director-JCCA – “Foster Care”

May is Foster Care Awareness Month - a perfect time to highlight the history and progress of the foster care system. We hope to educate the tristate on

- The origins of the modern foster care system right here in New York
- How the foster care system has changed over the years
- How child welfare agencies and policymakers are improving outcomes today.

Ron Richter is the CEO of JCCA - a child welfare organization that has supported children and foster families for more than 200 years across NYC, including at their state-of-the-art offices in the Bronx. He previously served as Commissioner of NYC's Administration for Child Services and a Family court judge.

One of New York's oldest child and family services organizations, JCCA provides the highest quality child welfare and mental health services to more than 17,000 children and their families every year. JCCA's transformative programs include foster and residential care, educational assistance and remediation, behavioral health and wellness services, case management, and child maltreatment prevention. Since 1822, JCCA has worked with New York's neediest and most vulnerable children and families to ensure that their safety, permanency, and well-being lead to a life of stability and promise.

There are mentoring, interning, and foster care opportunities for those who want to support foster care youth. There is a need for positive affirming caregivers to support LGBTQIA+ youth in the system.

It is always the goal that foster care is a short-term stay and the emphasis is to offer care and resources to the family/parents to return the children/youth to its family in a safe and supportive environment.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 5.28.24 Air Date: 6.2.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Matthew Fraser - Chief Technology Officer
NYC Office of Technology and Innovation

Matthew Fraser, whose story as a Brooklyn native leading the city's efforts to bridge the digital divide and make government run better for everyday people is a compelling one. CTO Fraser is responsible for coordinating the city's tech-related projects and policy. Through his leadership as the first African American CTO in this position, NYC is democratizing access to tech for historically underserved New Yorkers, particularly Black residents, and empowering Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) in the tech space. Two years into the Adams administration, the NYC Office of Technology and Innovation, which CTO Fraser leads, is providing New Yorkers with critical access to wealth- and business-building opportunities, government services, and essentials like broadband.

The CTO is overseeing the nation's first comprehensive Artificial Intelligence Action Plan to help city agencies use these tools responsibly and effectively on behalf of New Yorkers. CTO's vision includes using AI to better connect residents to services + optimize agency services to better serve their mission. AI is also already important in our efforts to protect the city's cybersecurity.

The MyCity one-stop shop, launched in March 2023, has helped more than 10,000 working families + an estimated 17,000 children gain access to childcare subsidies.

OTI redesigned the Jobs NYC talent portal to connect New Yorkers to career opportunities, free employment services, and workforce development training. The talent portal is available through our MyCity portal.

OTI is continuing to provide free internet and cable TV access to 330,000 New Yorkers in public housing through Big Apple Connect, the nation's largest municipal broadband program. This is particularly notable now since funding is winding down for the federal Affordable Connectivity Program. Big Apple Connect has 80 percent adoption citywide. (Press Release)

OTI's efforts to bridge the digital divide go beyond providing New Yorkers with access to high-speed internet, devices, and digital skills training; our efforts also involve empowering businesses/entrepreneurs who have traditionally lacked opportunities in tech. In Fiscal Year 2023, we processed 315 M/WBE tech procurements totaling over \$245 million.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –

Audacy Recorded: 6.2.24 Air Date: 6.9.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Hope Daley Derry – A Song For Life- 501c3 Non-Profit

Founded as a nonprofit 501(c)3 in 2019, A Song for Life was conceived after a loved one was the victim of a random act of gun violence in 2017, leaving them paralyzed and halting their music career.

Our mission is to provide a common platform where artists can combine their artistry with advocacy. We aim to end the perception that violence exists in a vacuum. Violence and its origins are intersectional: mental illness, food insecurity, poverty, education inequality, and other factors are all directly linked to the epidemic of violence in communities all over the world. Our network of approximately 100 artist ambassadors is encouraged to use their influence & their music as a language that transcends barriers. The hope is that this music can contribute to a future where violence is less likely to take root.

Hope conceptualized the organization after a loved one was the victim of a random act of gun violence in 2017, leaving them paralyzed and halting their artistic career. By encouraging artists to combine their artistry with advocacy, the organization is helping artists raise awareness about a wide variety of social causes. She believes issues in a community of education inequality, mental health, bullying, and more are all tied to violence and gun violence in our communities.

They aim to end the perception that violence exists in a vacuum. Violence rears its head most in neighborhoods that are underresourced in terms of food, education & finance. Violence and its origins are intersectional—mental illness, food insecurity, poverty, education, and other factors are all directly linked to the epidemic of violence in communities all over the world. A Song For Life connects artists to opportunities across mentorship, live events, music creation and collaboration, and performances that allow them to raise awareness about these different, interconnected issues plaguing our communities.

A Red Carpet event and live performance of the EP at The Billie Holiday Theater on June 15, 2024, will bring together 200 of the project's collaborators, A Song For Life's partners, and influencers/VIPs to celebrate the release of the newest project, a music EP entitled, [Let Her Rock~ A Love Letter](#). and further communicate our mission and vision.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 6.7.24 Air Date: 6.16.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Tariq Nasheed- American Film Producer- "Microphone Check"

Tariq Nasheed is an American film producer and internet personality. Nasheed was born in Detroit, Michigan, and spent most of his youth in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1991, Nasheed moved to Los Angeles, where he began his career as a rapper and later as a dating expert under the "K-Flex" persona, before transitioning into documentary filmmaking.

Nasheed produced the 2011 documentary film Hidden Colors and two sequels, released the horror film The Eugenist in 2013 and co-produced Da Sweet Blood of Jesus (a remake of the 1973 movie Ganja & Hess) with director Spike Lee. In 2023, Nasheed opened the Hidden History Museum in Los Angeles, which features current and historical African-American figures.

[Microphone Check](#) strives to educate audiences on the birth and evolution of hip-hop through compelling interviews, rare footage, and historical context while dispelling erroneous notions. Interview subjects include the people who started it all: Melle Mel, Grandmaster Caz, Coke La Rock, Sha Rock Trixie and Sasa, and others.

The inspiration for "Microphone Check" emerged from the realization that the 50th anniversary of hip-hop is a milestone worth celebrating and commemorating with a deep dive into its origins. As someone who has dedicated their career to exploring and illuminating the hidden facets of history, I saw an opportunity to set the record straight on hip hop's beginnings. We have already made significant progress by assembling these pioneers and capturing their stories on film, but we need your support to take this project to the next level.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 6.18.24 Air Date: 6.23.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Christie Peale- CEO & Executive Director
Center for NYC Neighborhoods

Christie was named CEO & Executive Director of the Center in February 2012. Under her leadership, the Center has become a leading local and national voice for affordable homeownership, while significantly expanding its portfolio of services for homeowners. Christie has been instrumental in organizing foreclosure prevention services statewide with the New York Attorney General's Office, raising millions of dollars for homeowners

recovering from Hurricane Sandy, and launching a \$7.5 million resiliency program for coastal communities. Christie also oversaw the expansion of the New York State Mortgage Assistance Program with an \$80 million loan fund and established one of the nation's largest annual affordable homeownership conferences.

Most recently, Christie has led the organization in administering the New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF). NYS HAF program is being administered by the New York State affordable housing agency, NYS Homes & Community Renewal (HCR), in partnership with Sustainable Neighborhoods LLC, a non-profit dedicated to foreclosure prevention and homeownership preservation. NYS HAF is a federally-funded program designed to help homeowners at risk of default, foreclosure, and displacement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected to assist over 30,000 homeowners throughout the state.

The organization champions Homeowners in New York State Our mission is to promote and protect affordable homeownership in New York so that middle – and working-class families can build strong, thriving communities. They assist with mortgage help, foreclosure assistance, coastal communities that have been impacted by flooding, scam prevention, and other resources for homeowners.

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods was created to combat the issues affecting homeowners in New York City. What started during the mortgage crisis has grown into wraparound services for neighborhoods across the five boroughs. The Center also played a pivotal role in directing federal funds to storm recovery.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 6.18.24 Air Date: 6.30.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Dr. Carla Smith- CEO – LGBTQ Center

Dr. Carla Smith is the Chief Executive Officer of The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (The Center) in New York City, is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering and advocating for the LGBTQ+ community in New York. Dr. Smith has dedicated over 25 years to working in social services and advocacy benefitting marginalized communities. She joined The Center in 2024 and is responsible for the financial, programmatic, and operational functions of the organization that provides direct services and advocacy to thousands of LGBTQ+ people annually. As CEO, she also oversees the safe operation of The Center's 50,000 square feet space located in the heart of the West Village.

The over 100-year-old building includes an LGBTQ+ bookstore, mental health clinic, approximately 27,000 square feet of community meeting and event space, a youth drop-in center, café, and computer lab. A recognized authority on social issues impacting vulnerable communities, Dr. Smith is frequently sought for her insights and has spoken extensively in public forums, including NYC City Council and national conferences, about the societal impacts of discrimination and violence.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (The Center) was established in 1983 at the height of the AIDS crisis to provide a safe and affirming place for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers to respond to the urgent threats facing the community. Over the past 40 years, The Center has grown to meet the changing needs of New York's LGBTQ+ community, delivering services that empower people to lead healthy, successful lives.

The Center focuses on empowering LGBTQ+ people and building a strong community. New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center empowers people to lead healthy, successful lives. The Center celebrates diversity and advocates for justice and opportunity.

Thet work toward LGBTQ+ liberation by disrupting systems of oppression affecting BIPOC LGBTQ+ people. We work to strengthen the personal economies of LGBTQ+ people who have long been prevented from generating wealth. We work to disrupt

the systemic racism, sexism, and economic injustices keeping BIPOC, gender nonconforming, and poor people from living healthy and successful lives.

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

WJFK PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
2nd Quarter
(4/01/24 – 6/30/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Youth/Economic

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director of 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3)

Title: A Good Healthy Start in Life: First 1000 Days

Nearly 11% of children aged 0-5 live in food insecure households. USDA defines nutrition security as consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations. D.C. has one of the highest rates of food insecurity for children.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Frank Holloman, Director of the Division of Transplantation (DoT) at HRSA's Health Systems Bureau (HSB)

Title: Donate Life

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will observe National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 24-30) to raise awareness on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. More than 106-thousand people are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list and every 9 minutes a new person is added. Washington DC is one of the top ten states with the lowest donor registration rates.

Issues: Transportation/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Marty Schwartz, Founder/President, Vehicles for Change and Mike Stanton, National Automotive Dealers Association, President/CEO

Title: 4 Local Families Receive a Car

VFC accepts and repairs donated cars, then awards them to pre-qualified families for as little as \$950, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service-type agencies. As a nonprofit organization, VFC receives 99 percent of its car donations from the public. Since 1999, VFC has awarded over 8,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 28,000 people. VFC's Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center is an employer-driven, paid internship social enterprise designed to provide auto technician training to individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including many recently released from incarceration.

Issues: Transportation/Community News

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ragina Ali, Manager Public & Government Affairs

Title: Spring Travel

AAA projects 43.8 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Memorial Day holiday travel period. This year's total number of travelers is a 4% increase over last year and comes close to matching 2005's record of 44 million Memorial Day travelers. This Memorial Day weekend drivers can expect similar gas prices as last year when the national average was roughly \$3.57. Pump prices rose this spring but have held somewhat steady in recent weeks. Prices may creep higher as the summer driving season gets underway. The wildcard remains the cost of oil, and unlike last year, there are now two wars in the Middle East and Ukraine that could affect the oil market.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Environment

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy's 1 Thing/Audacy Conversations: Earth Month

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

Issues: Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Title: Passover During A War

With the war in Israel ongoing, the meaning of Passover in the Jewish community brings extra reflection. The history of Passover and its significance within Judaism and in Jewish communities was shared. How the themes of Passover, overcoming injustice and inequality, are resonating with Jewish families and communities today. The reform created a resource for families to include at their Seder service this year. Leaders are encouraging families and friends to use the Passover Seder as an opportunity to engage in new dialogue during this politically divisive time.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Youth

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kathon VanHook, Founder/CEO God Speak, D.C.

Title: Serving the Community Through Love

God Speak, D.C. is a non-profit organization that focuses on uplifting those who are disparaged in the District of Columbia. Events and outreach programs for community members; especially the youth. Community leaders, business men and women and religious leaders comprise the

organization. The goals are to provide resources for food, shelter, employment, quality education and health care for the cities citizen.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Dr. Natasha Flake, President, American Association of Endodontists

Title: The Superheros of Tooth Saving

We live in a disposable, all-things-recyclable era. Yet some things are truly worth saving, preserving and revering. Take our teeth, for instance: a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, a signal of overall good health. Our natural teeth are worth saving. And no one is better equipped to do that than an endodontist. The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Community News

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Kelly Cleary, Senior Director of Education and Support Programs for Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Title: Allergy Food Awareness

Food allergies can have a profound impact on individuals' social lives and overall well-being. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and support, FARE creates communities that accommodate the needs of individuals with food allergies. This means that more people can actively participate in social gatherings, celebrations, school activities, and other events without feeling excluded or at risk. It promotes a sense of belonging and improves the overall quality of life for everyone involved.

Issues: Community News/youth/Education

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ryan Tauriainen, Executive Director, Teach for America, D.C. Region

Title: Teacher Appreciation

Teach for America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring every child receives an excellent and equitable education. They share ideas on how parents and students can express their appreciation for their hardworking and dedicated educators from snacks, coffee, gift certificates, flowers and more. Teachers' well-being directly impacts the success of students and the entire education community, which is why families need to express to our teachers how much they are appreciated and how Teacher Appreciation Week is a time when families can ensure that teachers feel valued, empowered, and equipped to make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Education

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sadij Smiley, Founder/CEO

Title: Supporting Families After a Still Birth

Stillborn And Infant Loss Support (SAILS) is a dedicated group of bereaved parents, community advocates, public health activists, and mental health champions who share a profound understanding of the pain of pregnancy loss. The non-profit leads with empathy, compassion, and unwavering determination to fulfill their mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by pregnancy loss. Bornintosilence.org

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – David Jaffe, dean AU, Washington College of Law & Co-Chair, Priti Langer, Survivor, and Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores

Title: Lawyers Have Heart National Walking Day

1 in 4 adults spend more than eight hours a day seated. This amount of sedentary time is bad for individuals' physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day. Getting the recommended amount of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination of those activities per week) is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

Issues: Human Services/Community News

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Natasha M. Flake, President of the American Association of Endodontists

Title: Superheros of Saving Teeth

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News/Political

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Robert Cain, DO, President/CEO, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Title: Health Disparities of Rural and Minority Patients

Healthcare workers are facing a moral crisis. The corporatization of medicine and government requirements have permanently altered medical care, causing many doctors to feel stressed and detached from their work. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) wants to address these issues and bring back a holistic approach to healthcare. Osteopathic doctors, or DOs, are trained to look beyond symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact well-being.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture/Education/Government

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Vinu Ilakkuvan, Co-Director, Healthy Together Fairfax

Title: Healthy Together Fairfax (Virginia)

Healthy Together Fairfax (HTF) is a fun and free interactive event for the community focused on healthy and active living. The event includes free health screenings, access to community services and resources, fitness classes, hands-on activities, and ‘bite-sized’ learning for all ages. Participants can also explore the trails and playgrounds at Franconia Park located in Springfield, Virginia.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Brigadier General Mike Eastman, Executive Director of Onward Ops, and Andrea McCarren, President of the PenFed Foundation

Title: Military to Civilian Life

Onward OPS and PenFed Foundation are both veteran nonprofit organizations, are teaming up to empower service members as they transition from military service to civilian life. Nearly 200-thousand men and women leave the U.S. Military service each year. The transition out of uniformed service can be difficult. Onward Ops pairs new veterans with mentors from their community, focusing on the 12 months before leaving the military and reintegrating into civilian life. The program helps service members begin new lives and stay ahead of serious issues like suicide, PTSD and homelessness. 10-thousand service members were enrolled in the program last year.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Clinton Wright, Vascular Neurologist and Associate Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Title: Strokes in Young Adults

Young adults make up 10 to 15 percent of the stroke population with stroke rates among those younger than 55 increasing 67 percent between 2002 and 2018. Additionally, the risk of a first stroke is almost twice as high for non-Hispanic Black adults as it is for white people.

The National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), developed the Know Stroke campaign to help educate the public about stroke symptoms and the importance of getting to the hospital quickly. Face, Arm, Speech and Time (F.A.S.T.).

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy I'm Listening: Talk away the Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Issues: Human Service/Economy/Culture/Political

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Antonio Ciaccia, Leading Health Policy Expert

Title: Prescription Drug Costs in Maryland

Maryland lawmakers are working on new legislation that would enable eligible hospitals to receive a discount on medications through a federal program. However, while the program was created with good intentions, it has ended up costing consumers billions of dollars.

The controversial 340B program was created to provide medicine discounts to hospitals, who would then pass the savings on to its uninsured and vulnerable patients. However, a new report from 46brooklyn highlights that the opposite is occurring. Patients are now spending 2.5 more times on medicines at 340B program entities than at non-340B entities.

Issues: Community News/Economy

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ross Borden, AI expert and the founder of leading travel publisher Matador Network

Title: Summer Travel Plans Using A.I.

Artificial Intelligence is a hot news story for a number of reasons, mostly because of AI's potential to help make people's lives easier. And one often-complicated event that could benefit from AI is summer travel. AI is considered to be much easier, there are no ads, and it answers very specific queries that a simple web search could not handle. There are no pages to scroll through. It can map out a tour of speak easies in Mexico City in a flash and recommend destinations for budget travel near you. It can handle special needs requests that would otherwise require hours of research. It saves time and reduces stress. It is the future of travel planning, and the possibilities are endless.

Issues: Culture/Political/Government

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Title: Voting Concerns for Women of Color: Rising Costs and Reproductive Justice Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration of three women of color-led national reproductive justice organizations, released results a poll of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI),

Black, and Latina/x women voters demonstrating how their views on socioeconomic issues often align. The poll found that Reproductive Justice issues such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes and lowering the costs of food, housing and living, are top of mind for these voters.

Issues: Government/Economy/Human Service/Political/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone – Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Pacific Research Institute
Title: The latest Advancements in COVID Medications and Therapeutics
Dr. Wayne Winegarden's research was pivotal in bringing attention to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) as a powerful tool to help prevent and treat COVID-19. His work highlights the need to expedite the review and approval of new treatments and why multiple lifesaving therapies are necessary for immunocompromised patients who cannot take antivirals or receive vaccines. As an expert in pharmacoeconomics, Winegarden's expertise includes identifying regulatory obstacles that stand between patients and the latest innovative advancements in medications and therapeutics, including the newly U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized mAb therapy, Pemgarda, which has demonstrated effectiveness against COVID and its variants.

Issues: Government/Culture/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone –
Title: American Red Cross Military Support
The "Hero Care Network," organized by the Red Cross, helps military families connect with their loved ones and help them travel back home during time of emergencies. The service is vital and is available online, by phone, through the Red Cross mobile app or in person, 24 hours a day. The nonprofit also offers a variety of free resiliency workshops in-person and online, to provide military members, veterans, their families and caregivers with effective tools for facing challenges and stress.

Issues: Youth/Economy/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Aaron Hilger, CEO, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Title: Job Opportunities in the Trades with the Toolbelt Generation
SMACNA is an international trade association that provides opportunities in the trades for DC residents and to those across the country. Currently there is a workforce gap in the trades. College enrollment is down due to high post education costs, and not all high school graduates are interested in attending college. There are great benefits in having a job in trades for workers and communities (better buildings, indoor air quality, etc.). How to enter a job in the trades in DC (smacna.org).

Issues: Youth/Culture/Political/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Ruben Arquilevich, VP of Camps for Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Title: Jewish Summer Camp

After a year in which antisemitism reached its highest levels in recent history, thousands of Jewish campers, and staff from across the world will be gathering for a summer of Jewish camping like none other before. Camp will be a critical offer a needed respite from social media and the tumult that has rocked many camper's campuses and communities. A record level of Israelis - 120 campers and 300 staff - will travel to Reform Jewish camps across North America this summer. These camps will provide a safe and tolerant space for Israelis who are still recovering from the violence of October 7th and will provide valuable opportunities for the relationships between Israeli and North American Jews to deepen and evolve. By engaging directly with Israelis, campers and camp staff will be able to gain a more different and comprehensive understanding of Israel and the conflict in Gaza.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Youth/Government/Political/Community Service/Economy

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Matthew Cook, CEO, Children's Hospital Association

Title: Advocate for Children's Health

Family Advocacy Day brings together patients and their families from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and urge Congress to prioritize children's health. These advocates will share their compelling health care journeys, highlighting the critical roles children's hospitals have played in their lives.

Issues: Human Services/Youth/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Stuart Lustig, National Medical Executive for Behavioral Health at Cigna and board certified child psychiatrist with a deep expertise in child mental health.

Title: Study of Resilience in Communities during Social Injustice and the Pandemic

Americans are being tested in ways we never could have imagined. For some, it's homeschooling, or the fear (or reality) of job loss or catching the coronavirus that's causing them the most anxiety. For many young adults, it's feeling the impact of the deaths of Black Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. All of these issues are taking a toll on us; children, parents and workers alike, with potential long-term repercussions for our physical and mental health. That's why it's important to study our ability to bounce back from these challenges and understand how best to confront the crises we face today and will face tomorrow. Techniques to cope were discussed.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Anabel Kingsley, Trichologist, Brand President, Hair Care Brand, Philip Kingsley

Title: Hair Shedding

Understanding how nutrition affects hair health is crucial. Breakfast and lunch should be balanced and high in protein. Blood tests check for deficits, such as low ferritin (iron storage). A treatment regimen might then optimize and promote healthy hair growth. A change in eating habits, nutritional deficiencies, or low-calorie diets are considered the culprits to hair shedding; loss of hair.

Issues: Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jean Sachs, CEO of Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Title: No One Missed Campaign: Beyond Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread from the breasts to other areas of the body. At this time, it is not considered a curable disease, but it’s possible to maintain a good quality of life while on treatment. Biomarker testing analyzes tumors for mutations, examining the makeup and what causes it to grow and spread and can test for treatment resistance. Unfortunately, not all MBC patients receive biomarker testing upon diagnosis. The *No One Missed* campaign raises awareness for biomarker testing as a critical part of metastatic cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Senior Manager, Policy, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: \$5 Co-pays for Mental Health Visits and Prescriptions for Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared a mental health crisis and urged all stakeholders to increase access to care for youth. D.C. is stepping up to the plate: Now, youth under the age of 19 can now receive unlimited mental and behavioral health visits and prescriptions for only a \$5 co-pay with no deductibles across all DC Health Link Standard Plans. The positive impact of

this \$5 policy change on youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the district cannot be overstated; it's literally saving lives.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jonathon Rendina, Senior Director of Research, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: Free Cancer Screening and Care

District residents can sign up for free cancer screening and care with agreeing to a simple blood test that detects and measures potentially cancerous cells circulating within the bloodstream.

With this new technology, Galleri provides a solution for detecting many common cancers that do not have a targeted screening available. They're especially looking for patients from groups that bear a higher burden of cancer-related health disparities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ community. (www.whitman-walker.org/institute/research/include-study)

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

WJFK PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
2nd Quarter
(4/01/24 – 6/30/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Youth/Economic

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director of 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3)

Title: A Good Healthy Start in Life: First 1000 Days

Nearly 11% of children aged 0-5 live in food insecure households. USDA defines nutrition security as consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations. D.C. has one of the highest rates of food insecurity for children.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Frank Holloman, Director of the Division of Transplantation (DoT) at HRSA's Health Systems Bureau (HSB)

Title: Donate Life

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will observe National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 24-30) to raise awareness on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. More than 106-thousand people are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list and every 9 minutes a new person is added. Washington DC is one of the top ten states with the lowest donor registration rates.

Issues: Transportation/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Marty Schwartz, Founder/President, Vehicles for Change and Mike Stanton, National Automotive Dealers Association, President/CEO

Title: 4 Local Families Receive a Car

VFC accepts and repairs donated cars, then awards them to pre-qualified families for as little as \$950, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service-type agencies. As a nonprofit organization, VFC receives 99 percent of its car donations from the public. Since 1999, VFC has awarded over 8,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 28,000 people. VFC's Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center is an employer-driven, paid internship social enterprise designed to provide auto technician training to individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including many recently released from incarceration.

Issues: Transportation/Community News

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ragina Ali, Manager Public & Government Affairs

Title: Spring Travel

AAA projects 43.8 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Memorial Day holiday travel period. This year's total number of travelers is a 4% increase over last year and comes close to matching 2005's record of 44 million Memorial Day travelers. This Memorial Day weekend drivers can expect similar gas prices as last year when the national average was roughly \$3.57. Pump prices rose this spring but have held somewhat steady in recent weeks. Prices may creep higher as the summer driving season gets underway. The wildcard remains the cost of oil, and unlike last year, there are now two wars in the Middle East and Ukraine that could affect the oil market.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Environment

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy's 1 Thing/Audacy Conversations: Earth Month

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

Issues: Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Title: Passover During A War

With the war in Israel ongoing, the meaning of Passover in the Jewish community brings extra reflection. The history of Passover and its significance within Judaism and in Jewish communities was shared. How the themes of Passover, overcoming injustice and inequality, are resonating with Jewish families and communities today. The reform created a resource for families to include at their Seder service this year. Leaders are encouraging families and friends to use the Passover Seder as an opportunity to engage in new dialogue during this politically divisive time.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Youth

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kathon VanHook, Founder/CEO God Speak, D.C.

Title: Serving the Community Through Love

God Speak, D.C. is a non-profit organization that focuses on uplifting those who are disparaged in the District of Columbia. Events and outreach programs for community members; especially the youth. Community leaders, business men and women and religious leaders comprise the

organization. The goals are to provide resources for food, shelter, employment, quality education and health care for the cities citizen.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Dr. Natasha Flake, President, American Association of Endodontists

Title: The Superheros of Tooth Saving

We live in a disposable, all-things-recyclable era. Yet some things are truly worth saving, preserving and revering. Take our teeth, for instance: a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, a signal of overall good health. Our natural teeth are worth saving. And no one is better equipped to do that than an endodontist. The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Community News

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Kelly Cleary, Senior Director of Education and Support Programs for Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Title: Allergy Food Awareness

Food allergies can have a profound impact on individuals' social lives and overall well-being. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and support, FARE creates communities that accommodate the needs of individuals with food allergies. This means that more people can actively participate in social gatherings, celebrations, school activities, and other events without feeling excluded or at risk. It promotes a sense of belonging and improves the overall quality of life for everyone involved.

Issues: Community News/youth/Education

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ryan Tauriainen, Executive Director, Teach for America, D.C. Region

Title: Teacher Appreciation

Teach for America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring every child receives an excellent and equitable education. They share ideas on how parents and students can express their appreciation for their hardworking and dedicated educators from snacks, coffee, gift certificates, flowers and more. Teachers' well-being directly impacts the success of students and the entire education community, which is why families need to express to our teachers how much they are appreciated and how Teacher Appreciation Week is a time when families can ensure that teachers feel valued, empowered, and equipped to make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Education

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sadij Smiley, Founder/CEO

Title: Supporting Families After a Still Birth

Stillborn And Infant Loss Support (SAILS) is a dedicated group of bereaved parents, community advocates, public health activists, and mental health champions who share a profound understanding of the pain of pregnancy loss. The non-profit leads with empathy, compassion, and unwavering determination to fulfill their mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by pregnancy loss. Bornintosilence.org

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – David Jaffe, dean AU, Washington College of Law & Co-Chair, Priti Langer, Survivor, and Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores

Title: Lawyers Have Heart National Walking Day

1 in 4 adults spend more than eight hours a day seated. This amount of sedentary time is bad for individuals' physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day. Getting the recommended amount of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination of those activities per week) is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

Issues: Human Services/Community News

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Natasha M. Flake, President of the American Association of Endodontists

Title: Superheros of Saving Teeth

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News/Political

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Robert Cain, DO, President/CEO, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Title: Health Disparities of Rural and Minority Patients

Healthcare workers are facing a moral crisis. The corporatization of medicine and government requirements have permanently altered medical care, causing many doctors to feel stressed and detached from their work. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) wants to address these issues and bring back a holistic approach to healthcare. Osteopathic doctors, or DOs, are trained to look beyond symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact well-being.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture/Education/Government

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Vinu Ilakkuvan, Co-Director, Healthy Together Fairfax

Title: Healthy Together Fairfax (Virginia)

Healthy Together Fairfax (HTF) is a fun and free interactive event for the community focused on healthy and active living. The event includes free health screenings, access to community services and resources, fitness classes, hands-on activities, and ‘bite-sized’ learning for all ages. Participants can also explore the trails and playgrounds at Franconia Park located in Springfield, Virginia.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Brigadier General Mike Eastman, Executive Director of Onward Ops, and Andrea McCarren, President of the PenFed Foundation

Title: Military to Civilian Life

Onward OPS and PenFed Foundation are both veteran nonprofit organizations, are teaming up to empower service members as they transition from military service to civilian life. Nearly 200-thousand men and women leave the U.S. Military service each year. The transition out of uniformed service can be difficult. Onward Ops pairs new veterans with mentors from their community, focusing on the 12 months before leaving the military and reintegrating into civilian life. The program helps service members begin new lives and stay ahead of serious issues like suicide, PTSD and homelessness. 10-thousand service members were enrolled in the program last year.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Clinton Wright, Vascular Neurologist and Associate Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Title: Strokes in Young Adults

Young adults make up 10 to 15 percent of the stroke population with stroke rates among those younger than 55 increasing 67 percent between 2002 and 2018. Additionally, the risk of a first stroke is almost twice as high for non-Hispanic Black adults as it is for white people.

The National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), developed the Know Stroke campaign to help educate the public about stroke symptoms and the importance of getting to the hospital quickly. Face, Arm, Speech and Time (F.A.S.T.).

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy I'm Listening: Talk away the Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Issues: Human Service/Economy/Culture/Political

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Antonio Ciaccia, Leading Health Policy Expert

Title: Prescription Drug Costs in Maryland

Maryland lawmakers are working on new legislation that would enable eligible hospitals to receive a discount on medications through a federal program. However, while the program was created with good intentions, it has ended up costing consumers billions of dollars.

The controversial 340B program was created to provide medicine discounts to hospitals, who would then pass the savings on to its uninsured and vulnerable patients. However, a new report from 46brooklyn highlights that the opposite is occurring. Patients are now spending 2.5 more times on medicines at 340B program entities than at non-340B entities.

Issues: Community News/Economy

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ross Borden, AI expert and the founder of leading travel publisher Matador Network

Title: Summer Travel Plans Using A.I.

Artificial Intelligence is a hot news story for a number of reasons, mostly because of AI's potential to help make people's lives easier. And one often-complicated event that could benefit from AI is summer travel. AI is considered to be much easier, there are no ads, and it answers very specific queries that a simple web search could not handle. There are no pages to scroll through. It can map out a tour of speak easies in Mexico City in a flash and recommend destinations for budget travel near you. It can handle special needs requests that would otherwise require hours of research. It saves time and reduces stress. It is the future of travel planning, and the possibilities are endless.

Issues: Culture/Political/Government

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Title: Voting Concerns for Women of Color: Rising Costs and Reproductive Justice Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration of three women of color-led national reproductive justice organizations, released results a poll of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI),

Black, and Latina/x women voters demonstrating how their views on socioeconomic issues often align. The poll found that Reproductive Justice issues such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes and lowering the costs of food, housing and living, are top of mind for these voters.

Issues: Government/Economy/Human Service/Political/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone – Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Pacific Research Institute
Title: The latest Advancements in COVID Medications and Therapeutics
Dr. Wayne Winegarden's research was pivotal in bringing attention to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) as a powerful tool to help prevent and treat COVID-19. His work highlights the need to expedite the review and approval of new treatments and why multiple lifesaving therapies are necessary for immunocompromised patients who cannot take antivirals or receive vaccines. As an expert in pharmacoeconomics, Winegarden's expertise includes identifying regulatory obstacles that stand between patients and the latest innovative advancements in medications and therapeutics, including the newly U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized mAb therapy, Pemgarda, which has demonstrated effectiveness against COVID and its variants.

Issues: Government/Culture/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone –
Title: American Red Cross Military Support
The "Hero Care Network," organized by the Red Cross, helps military families connect with their loved ones and help them travel back home during time of emergencies. The service is vital and is available online, by phone, through the Red Cross mobile app or in person, 24 hours a day. The nonprofit also offers a variety of free resiliency workshops in-person and online, to provide military members, veterans, their families and caregivers with effective tools for facing challenges and stress.

Issues: Youth/Economy/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Aaron Hilger, CEO, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Title: Job Opportunities in the Trades with the Toolbelt Generation
SMACNA is an international trade association that provides opportunities in the trades for DC residents and to those across the country. Currently there is a workforce gap in the trades. College enrollment is down due to high post education costs, and not all high school graduates are interested in attending college. There are great benefits in having a job in trades for workers and communities (better buildings, indoor air quality, etc.). How to enter a job in the trades in DC (smacna.org).

Issues: Youth/Culture/Political/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Ruben Arquilevich, VP of Camps for Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Title: Jewish Summer Camp

After a year in which antisemitism reached its highest levels in recent history, thousands of Jewish campers, and staff from across the world will be gathering for a summer of Jewish camping like none other before. Camp will be a critical offer a needed respite from social media and the tumult that has rocked many camper's campuses and communities. A record level of Israelis - 120 campers and 300 staff - will travel to Reform Jewish camps across North America this summer. These camps will provide a safe and tolerant space for Israelis who are still recovering from the violence of October 7th and will provide valuable opportunities for the relationships between Israeli and North American Jews to deepen and evolve. By engaging directly with Israelis, campers and camp staff will be able to gain a more different and comprehensive understanding of Israel and the conflict in Gaza.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Youth/Government/Political/Community Service/Economy

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Matthew Cook, CEO, Children's Hospital Association

Title: Advocate for Children's Health

Family Advocacy Day brings together patients and their families from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and urge Congress to prioritize children's health. These advocates will share their compelling health care journeys, highlighting the critical roles children's hospitals have played in their lives.

Issues: Human Services/Youth/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Stuart Lustig, National Medical Executive for Behavioral Health at Cigna and board certified child psychiatrist with a deep expertise in child mental health.

Title: Study of Resilience in Communities during Social Injustice and the Pandemic

Americans are being tested in ways we never could have imagined. For some, it's homeschooling, or the fear (or reality) of job loss or catching the coronavirus that's causing them the most anxiety. For many young adults, it's feeling the impact of the deaths of Black Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. All of these issues are taking a toll on us; children, parents and workers alike, with potential long-term repercussions for our physical and mental health. That's why it's important to study our ability to bounce back from these challenges and understand how best to confront the crises we face today and will face tomorrow. Techniques to cope were discussed.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Anabel Kingsley, Trichologist, Brand President, Hair Care Brand, Philip Kingsley

Title: Hair Shedding

Understanding how nutrition affects hair health is crucial. Breakfast and lunch should be balanced and high in protein. Blood tests check for deficits, such as low ferritin (iron storage). A treatment regimen might then optimize and promote healthy hair growth. A change in eating habits, nutritional deficiencies, or low-calorie diets are considered the culprits to hair shedding; loss of hair.

Issues: Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jean Sachs, CEO of Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Title: No One Missed Campaign: Beyond Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread from the breasts to other areas of the body. At this time, it is not considered a curable disease, but it’s possible to maintain a good quality of life while on treatment. Biomarker testing analyzes tumors for mutations, examining the makeup and what causes it to grow and spread and can test for treatment resistance. Unfortunately, not all MBC patients receive biomarker testing upon diagnosis. The *No One Missed* campaign raises awareness for biomarker testing as a critical part of metastatic cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Senior Manager, Policy, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: \$5 Co-pays for Mental Health Visits and Prescriptions for Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared a mental health crisis and urged all stakeholders to increase access to care for youth. D.C. is stepping up to the plate: Now, youth under the age of 19 can now receive unlimited mental and behavioral health visits and prescriptions for only a \$5 co-pay with no deductibles across all DC Health Link Standard Plans. The positive impact of

this \$5 policy change on youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the district cannot be overstated; it's literally saving lives.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jonathon Rendina, Senior Director of Research, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: Free Cancer Screening and Care

District residents can sign up for free cancer screening and care with agreeing to a simple blood test that detects and measures potentially cancerous cells circulating within the bloodstream.

With this new technology, Galleri provides a solution for detecting many common cancers that do not have a targeted screening available. They're especially looking for patients from groups that bear a higher burden of cancer-related health disparities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ community. (www.whitman-walker.org/institute/research/include-study)

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
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Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
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Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
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Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
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WJFK PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
2nd Quarter
(4/01/24 – 6/30/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Youth/Economic

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director of 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3)

Title: A Good Healthy Start in Life: First 1000 Days

Nearly 11% of children aged 0-5 live in food insecure households. USDA defines nutrition security as consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations. D.C. has one of the highest rates of food insecurity for children.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Frank Holloman, Director of the Division of Transplantation (DoT) at HRSA's Health Systems Bureau (HSB)

Title: Donate Life

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will observe National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 24-30) to raise awareness on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. More than 106-thousand people are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list and every 9 minutes a new person is added. Washington DC is one of the top ten states with the lowest donor registration rates.

Issues: Transportation/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Marty Schwartz, Founder/President, Vehicles for Change and Mike Stanton, National Automotive Dealers Association, President/CEO

Title: 4 Local Families Receive a Car

VFC accepts and repairs donated cars, then awards them to pre-qualified families for as little as \$950, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service-type agencies. As a nonprofit organization, VFC receives 99 percent of its car donations from the public. Since 1999, VFC has awarded over 8,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 28,000 people. VFC's Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center is an employer-driven, paid internship social enterprise designed to provide auto technician training to individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including many recently released from incarceration.

Issues: Transportation/Community News

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ragina Ali, Manager Public & Government Affairs

Title: Spring Travel

AAA projects 43.8 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Memorial Day holiday travel period. This year's total number of travelers is a 4% increase over last year and comes close to matching 2005's record of 44 million Memorial Day travelers. This Memorial Day weekend drivers can expect similar gas prices as last year when the national average was roughly \$3.57. Pump prices rose this spring but have held somewhat steady in recent weeks. Prices may creep higher as the summer driving season gets underway. The wildcard remains the cost of oil, and unlike last year, there are now two wars in the Middle East and Ukraine that could affect the oil market.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Environment

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy's 1 Thing/Audacy Conversations: Earth Month

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

Issues: Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Title: Passover During A War

With the war in Israel ongoing, the meaning of Passover in the Jewish community brings extra reflection. The history of Passover and its significance within Judaism and in Jewish communities was shared. How the themes of Passover, overcoming injustice and inequality, are resonating with Jewish families and communities today. The reform created a resource for families to include at their Seder service this year. Leaders are encouraging families and friends to use the Passover Seder as an opportunity to engage in new dialogue during this politically divisive time.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Youth

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kathon VanHook, Founder/CEO God Speak, D.C.

Title: Serving the Community Through Love

God Speak, D.C. is a non-profit organization that focuses on uplifting those who are disparaged in the District of Columbia. Events and outreach programs for community members; especially the youth. Community leaders, business men and women and religious leaders comprise the

organization. The goals are to provide resources for food, shelter, employment, quality education and health care for the cities citizen.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Dr. Natasha Flake, President, American Association of Endodontists

Title: The Superheros of Tooth Saving

We live in a disposable, all-things-recyclable era. Yet some things are truly worth saving, preserving and revering. Take our teeth, for instance: a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, a signal of overall good health. Our natural teeth are worth saving. And no one is better equipped to do that than an endodontist. The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Community News

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Kelly Cleary, Senior Director of Education and Support Programs for Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Title: Allergy Food Awareness

Food allergies can have a profound impact on individuals' social lives and overall well-being. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and support, FARE creates communities that accommodate the needs of individuals with food allergies. This means that more people can actively participate in social gatherings, celebrations, school activities, and other events without feeling excluded or at risk. It promotes a sense of belonging and improves the overall quality of life for everyone involved.

Issues: Community News/youth/Education

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ryan Tauriainen, Executive Director, Teach for America, D.C. Region

Title: Teacher Appreciation

Teach for America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring every child receives an excellent and equitable education. They share ideas on how parents and students can express their appreciation for their hardworking and dedicated educators from snacks, coffee, gift certificates, flowers and more. Teachers' well-being directly impacts the success of students and the entire education community, which is why families need to express to our teachers how much they are appreciated and how Teacher Appreciation Week is a time when families can ensure that teachers feel valued, empowered, and equipped to make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Education

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sadij Smiley, Founder/CEO

Title: Supporting Families After a Still Birth

Stillborn And Infant Loss Support (SAILS) is a dedicated group of bereaved parents, community advocates, public health activists, and mental health champions who share a profound understanding of the pain of pregnancy loss. The non-profit leads with empathy, compassion, and unwavering determination to fulfill their mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by pregnancy loss. Borningtosilence.org

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – David Jaffe, dean AU, Washington College of Law & Co-Chair, Priti Langer, Survivor, and Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores

Title: Lawyers Have Heart National Walking Day

1 in 4 adults spend more than eight hours a day seated. This amount of sedentary time is bad for individuals' physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day. Getting the recommended amount of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination of those activities per week) is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

Issues: Human Services/Community News

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Natasha M. Flake, President of the American Association of Endodontists

Title: Superheros of Saving Teeth

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News/Political

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Robert Cain, DO, President/CEO, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Title: Health Disparities of Rural and Minority Patients

Healthcare workers are facing a moral crisis. The corporatization of medicine and government requirements have permanently altered medical care, causing many doctors to feel stressed and detached from their work. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) wants to address these issues and bring back a holistic approach to healthcare. Osteopathic doctors, or DOs, are trained to look beyond symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact well-being.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture/Education/Government

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Vinu Ilakkuvan, Co-Director, Healthy Together Fairfax

Title: Healthy Together Fairfax (Virginia)

Healthy Together Fairfax (HTF) is a fun and free interactive event for the community focused on healthy and active living. The event includes free health screenings, access to community services and resources, fitness classes, hands-on activities, and ‘bite-sized’ learning for all ages. Participants can also explore the trails and playgrounds at Franconia Park located in Springfield, Virginia.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Brigadier General Mike Eastman, Executive Director of Onward Ops, and Andrea McCarren, President of the PenFed Foundation

Title: Military to Civilian Life

Onward OPS and PenFed Foundation are both veteran nonprofit organizations, are teaming up to empower service members as they transition from military service to civilian life. Nearly 200-thousand men and women leave the U.S. Military service each year. The transition out of uniformed service can be difficult. Onward Ops pairs new veterans with mentors from their community, focusing on the 12 months before leaving the military and reintegrating into civilian life. The program helps service members begin new lives and stay ahead of serious issues like suicide, PTSD and homelessness. 10-thousand service members were enrolled in the program last year.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Clinton Wright, Vascular Neurologist and Associate Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Title: Strokes in Young Adults

Young adults make up 10 to 15 percent of the stroke population with stroke rates among those younger than 55 increasing 67 percent between 2002 and 2018. Additionally, the risk of a first stroke is almost twice as high for non-Hispanic Black adults as it is for white people.

The National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), developed the Know Stroke campaign to help educate the public about stroke symptoms and the importance of getting to the hospital quickly. Face, Arm, Speech and Time (F.A.S.T.).

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy I'm Listening: Talk away the Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Issues: Human Service/Economy/Culture/Political

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Antonio Ciaccia, Leading Health Policy Expert

Title: Prescription Drug Costs in Maryland

Maryland lawmakers are working on new legislation that would enable eligible hospitals to receive a discount on medications through a federal program. However, while the program was created with good intentions, it has ended up costing consumers billions of dollars.

The controversial 340B program was created to provide medicine discounts to hospitals, who would then pass the savings on to its uninsured and vulnerable patients. However, a new report from 46brooklyn highlights that the opposite is occurring. Patients are now spending 2.5 more times on medicines at 340B program entities than at non-340B entities.

Issues: Community News/Economy

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ross Borden, AI expert and the founder of leading travel publisher Matador Network

Title: Summer Travel Plans Using A.I.

Artificial Intelligence is a hot news story for a number of reasons, mostly because of AI's potential to help make people's lives easier. And one often-complicated event that could benefit from AI is summer travel. AI is considered to be much easier, there are no ads, and it answers very specific queries that a simple web search could not handle. There are no pages to scroll through. It can map out a tour of speak easies in Mexico City in a flash and recommend destinations for budget travel near you. It can handle special needs requests that would otherwise require hours of research. It saves time and reduces stress. It is the future of travel planning, and the possibilities are endless.

Issues: Culture/Political/Government

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Title: Voting Concerns for Women of Color: Rising Costs and Reproductive Justice Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration of three women of color-led national reproductive justice organizations, released results a poll of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI),

Black, and Latina/x women voters demonstrating how their views on socioeconomic issues often align. The poll found that Reproductive Justice issues such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes and lowering the costs of food, housing and living, are top of mind for these voters.

Issues: Government/Economy/Human Service/Political/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone – Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Pacific Research Institute
Title: The latest Advancements in COVID Medications and Therapeutics
Dr. Wayne Winegarden's research was pivotal in bringing attention to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) as a powerful tool to help prevent and treat COVID-19. His work highlights the need to expedite the review and approval of new treatments and why multiple lifesaving therapies are necessary for immunocompromised patients who cannot take antivirals or receive vaccines. As an expert in pharmacoeconomics, Winegarden's expertise includes identifying regulatory obstacles that stand between patients and the latest innovative advancements in medications and therapeutics, including the newly U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized mAb therapy, Pemgarda, which has demonstrated effectiveness against COVID and its variants.

Issues: Government/Culture/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone –
Title: American Red Cross Military Support
The "Hero Care Network," organized by the Red Cross, helps military families connect with their loved ones and help them travel back home during time of emergencies. The service is vital and is available online, by phone, through the Red Cross mobile app or in person, 24 hours a day. The nonprofit also offers a variety of free resiliency workshops in-person and online, to provide military members, veterans, their families and caregivers with effective tools for facing challenges and stress.

Issues: Youth/Economy/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Aaron Hilger, CEO, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Title: Job Opportunities in the Trades with the Toolbelt Generation
SMACNA is an international trade association that provides opportunities in the trades for DC residents and to those across the country. Currently there is a workforce gap in the trades. College enrollment is down due to high post education costs, and not all high school graduates are interested in attending college. There are great benefits in having a job in trades for workers and communities (better buildings, indoor air quality, etc.). How to enter a job in the trades in DC (smacna.org).

Issues: Youth/Culture/Political/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Ruben Arquilevich, VP of Camps for Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Title: Jewish Summer Camp

After a year in which antisemitism reached its highest levels in recent history, thousands of Jewish campers, and staff from across the world will be gathering for a summer of Jewish camping like none other before. Camp will be a critical offer a needed respite from social media and the tumult that has rocked many camper's campuses and communities. A record level of Israelis - 120 campers and 300 staff - will travel to Reform Jewish camps across North America this summer. These camps will provide a safe and tolerant space for Israelis who are still recovering from the violence of October 7th and will provide valuable opportunities for the relationships between Israeli and North American Jews to deepen and evolve. By engaging directly with Israelis, campers and camp staff will be able to gain a more different and comprehensive understanding of Israel and the conflict in Gaza.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Youth/Government/Political/Community Service/Economy

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Matthew Cook, CEO, Children's Hospital Association

Title: Advocate for Children's Health

Family Advocacy Day brings together patients and their families from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and urge Congress to prioritize children's health. These advocates will share their compelling health care journeys, highlighting the critical roles children's hospitals have played in their lives.

Issues: Human Services/Youth/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Stuart Lustig, National Medical Executive for Behavioral Health at Cigna and board certified child psychiatrist with a deep expertise in child mental health.

Title: Study of Resilience in Communities during Social Injustice and the Pandemic

Americans are being tested in ways we never could have imagined. For some, it's homeschooling, or the fear (or reality) of job loss or catching the coronavirus that's causing them the most anxiety. For many young adults, it's feeling the impact of the deaths of Black Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. All of these issues are taking a toll on us; children, parents and workers alike, with potential long-term repercussions for our physical and mental health. That's why it's important to study our ability to bounce back from these challenges and understand how best to confront the crises we face today and will face tomorrow. Techniques to cope were discussed.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Anabel Kingsley, Trichologist, Brand President, Hair Care Brand, Philip Kingsley

Title: Hair Shedding

Understanding how nutrition affects hair health is crucial. Breakfast and lunch should be balanced and high in protein. Blood tests check for deficits, such as low ferritin (iron storage). A treatment regimen might then optimize and promote healthy hair growth. A change in eating habits, nutritional deficiencies, or low-calorie diets are considered the culprits to hair shedding; loss of hair.

Issues: Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jean Sachs, CEO of Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Title: No One Missed Campaign: Beyond Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread from the breasts to other areas of the body. At this time, it is not considered a curable disease, but it’s possible to maintain a good quality of life while on treatment. Biomarker testing analyzes tumors for mutations, examining the makeup and what causes it to grow and spread and can test for treatment resistance. Unfortunately, not all MBC patients receive biomarker testing upon diagnosis. The *No One Missed* campaign raises awareness for biomarker testing as a critical part of metastatic cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Senior Manager, Policy, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: \$5 Co-pays for Mental Health Visits and Prescriptions for Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared a mental health crisis and urged all stakeholders to increase access to care for youth. D.C. is stepping up to the plate: Now, youth under the age of 19 can now receive unlimited mental and behavioral health visits and prescriptions for only a \$5 co-pay with no deductibles across all DC Health Link Standard Plans. The positive impact of

this \$5 policy change on youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the district cannot be overstated; it's literally saving lives.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jonathon Rendina, Senior Director of Research, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: Free Cancer Screening and Care

District residents can sign up for free cancer screening and care with agreeing to a simple blood test that detects and measures potentially cancerous cells circulating within the bloodstream.

With this new technology, Galleri provides a solution for detecting many common cancers that do not have a targeted screening available. They're especially looking for patients from groups that bear a higher burden of cancer-related health disparities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ community. (www.whitman-walker.org/institute/research/include-study)

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

WJFK PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
2nd Quarter
(4/01/24 – 6/30/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Youth/Economic

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director of 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3)

Title: A Good Healthy Start in Life: First 1000 Days

Nearly 11% of children aged 0-5 live in food insecure households. USDA defines nutrition security as consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations. D.C. has one of the highest rates of food insecurity for children.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Frank Holloman, Director of the Division of Transplantation (DoT) at HRSA's Health Systems Bureau (HSB)

Title: Donate Life

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will observe National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 24-30) to raise awareness on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. More than 106-thousand people are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list and every 9 minutes a new person is added. Washington DC is one of the top ten states with the lowest donor registration rates.

Issues: Transportation/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Marty Schwartz, Founder/President, Vehicles for Change and Mike Stanton, National Automotive Dealers Association, President/CEO

Title: 4 Local Families Receive a Car

VFC accepts and repairs donated cars, then awards them to pre-qualified families for as little as \$950, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service-type agencies. As a nonprofit organization, VFC receives 99 percent of its car donations from the public. Since 1999, VFC has awarded over 8,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 28,000 people. VFC's Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center is an employer-driven, paid internship social enterprise designed to provide auto technician training to individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including many recently released from incarceration.

Issues: Transportation/Community News

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ragina Ali, Manager Public & Government Affairs

Title: Spring Travel

AAA projects 43.8 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Memorial Day holiday travel period. This year's total number of travelers is a 4% increase over last year and comes close to matching 2005's record of 44 million Memorial Day travelers. This Memorial Day weekend drivers can expect similar gas prices as last year when the national average was roughly \$3.57. Pump prices rose this spring but have held somewhat steady in recent weeks. Prices may creep higher as the summer driving season gets underway. The wildcard remains the cost of oil, and unlike last year, there are now two wars in the Middle East and Ukraine that could affect the oil market.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Environment

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy's 1 Thing/Audacy Conversations: Earth Month

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

Issues: Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Title: Passover During A War

With the war in Israel ongoing, the meaning of Passover in the Jewish community brings extra reflection. The history of Passover and its significance within Judaism and in Jewish communities was shared. How the themes of Passover, overcoming injustice and inequality, are resonating with Jewish families and communities today. The reform created a resource for families to include at their Seder service this year. Leaders are encouraging families and friends to use the Passover Seder as an opportunity to engage in new dialogue during this politically divisive time.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Youth

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kathon VanHook, Founder/CEO God Speak, D.C.

Title: Serving the Community Through Love

God Speak, D.C. is a non-profit organization that focuses on uplifting those who are disparaged in the District of Columbia. Events and outreach programs for community members; especially the youth. Community leaders, business men and women and religious leaders comprise the

organization. The goals are to provide resources for food, shelter, employment, quality education and health care for the cities citizen.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Dr. Natasha Flake, President, American Association of Endodontists

Title: The Superheros of Tooth Saving

We live in a disposable, all-things-recyclable era. Yet some things are truly worth saving, preserving and revering. Take our teeth, for instance: a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, a signal of overall good health. Our natural teeth are worth saving. And no one is better equipped to do that than an endodontist. The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Community News

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Kelly Cleary, Senior Director of Education and Support Programs for Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Title: Allergy Food Awareness

Food allergies can have a profound impact on individuals' social lives and overall well-being. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and support, FARE creates communities that accommodate the needs of individuals with food allergies. This means that more people can actively participate in social gatherings, celebrations, school activities, and other events without feeling excluded or at risk. It promotes a sense of belonging and improves the overall quality of life for everyone involved.

Issues: Community News/youth/Education

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ryan Tauriainen, Executive Director, Teach for America, D.C. Region

Title: Teacher Appreciation

Teach for America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring every child receives an excellent and equitable education. They share ideas on how parents and students can express their appreciation for their hardworking and dedicated educators from snacks, coffee, gift certificates, flowers and more. Teachers' well-being directly impacts the success of students and the entire education community, which is why families need to express to our teachers how much they are appreciated and how Teacher Appreciation Week is a time when families can ensure that teachers feel valued, empowered, and equipped to make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Education

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sadij Smiley, Founder/CEO

Title: Supporting Families After a Still Birth

Stillborn And Infant Loss Support (SAILS) is a dedicated group of bereaved parents, community advocates, public health activists, and mental health champions who share a profound understanding of the pain of pregnancy loss. The non-profit leads with empathy, compassion, and unwavering determination to fulfill their mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by pregnancy loss. Bornintosilence.org

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – David Jaffe, dean AU, Washington College of Law & Co-Chair, Priti Langer, Survivor, and Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores

Title: Lawyers Have Heart National Walking Day

1 in 4 adults spend more than eight hours a day seated. This amount of sedentary time is bad for individuals' physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day. Getting the recommended amount of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination of those activities per week) is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

Issues: Human Services/Community News

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Natasha M. Flake, President of the American Association of Endodontists

Title: Superheros of Saving Teeth

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News/Political

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Robert Cain, DO, President/CEO, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Title: Health Disparities of Rural and Minority Patients

Healthcare workers are facing a moral crisis. The corporatization of medicine and government requirements have permanently altered medical care, causing many doctors to feel stressed and detached from their work. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) wants to address these issues and bring back a holistic approach to healthcare. Osteopathic doctors, or DOs, are trained to look beyond symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact well-being.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture/Education/Government

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Vinu Ilakkuvan, Co-Director, Healthy Together Fairfax

Title: Healthy Together Fairfax (Virginia)

Healthy Together Fairfax (HTF) is a fun and free interactive event for the community focused on healthy and active living. The event includes free health screenings, access to community services and resources, fitness classes, hands-on activities, and 'bite-sized' learning for all ages. Participants can also explore the trails and playgrounds at Franconia Park located in Springfield, Virginia.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The "100 Deadliest Days" is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Brigadier General Mike Eastman, Executive Director of Onward Ops, and Andrea McCarren, President of the PenFed Foundation

Title: Military to Civilian Life

Onward OPS and PenFed Foundation are both veteran nonprofit organizations, are teaming up to empower service members as they transition from military service to civilian life. Nearly 200-thousand men and women leave the U.S. Military service each year. The transition out of uniformed service can be difficult. Onward Ops pairs new veterans with mentors from their community, focusing on the 12 months before leaving the military and reintegrating into civilian life. The program helps service members begin new lives and stay ahead of serious issues like suicide, PTSD and homelessness. 10-thousand service members were enrolled in the program last year.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Clinton Wright, Vascular Neurologist and Associate Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Title: Strokes in Young Adults

Young adults make up 10 to 15 percent of the stroke population with stroke rates among those younger than 55 increasing 67 percent between 2002 and 2018. Additionally, the risk of a first stroke is almost twice as high for non-Hispanic Black adults as it is for white people.

The National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), developed the Know Stroke campaign to help educate the public about stroke symptoms and the importance of getting to the hospital quickly. Face, Arm, Speech and Time (F.A.S.T.).

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy I'm Listening: Talk away the Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Issues: Human Service/Economy/Culture/Political

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Antonio Ciaccia, Leading Health Policy Expert

Title: Prescription Drug Costs in Maryland

Maryland lawmakers are working on new legislation that would enable eligible hospitals to receive a discount on medications through a federal program. However, while the program was created with good intentions, it has ended up costing consumers billions of dollars.

The controversial 340B program was created to provide medicine discounts to hospitals, who would then pass the savings on to its uninsured and vulnerable patients. However, a new report from 46brooklyn highlights that the opposite is occurring. Patients are now spending 2.5 more times on medicines at 340B program entities than at non-340B entities.

Issues: Community News/Economy

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ross Borden, AI expert and the founder of leading travel publisher Matador Network

Title: Summer Travel Plans Using A.I.

Artificial Intelligence is a hot news story for a number of reasons, mostly because of AI's potential to help make people's lives easier. And one often-complicated event that could benefit from AI is summer travel. AI is considered to be much easier, there are no ads, and it answers very specific queries that a simple web search could not handle. There are no pages to scroll through. It can map out a tour of speak easies in Mexico City in a flash and recommend destinations for budget travel near you. It can handle special needs requests that would otherwise require hours of research. It saves time and reduces stress. It is the future of travel planning, and the possibilities are endless.

Issues: Culture/Political/Government

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Title: Voting Concerns for Women of Color: Rising Costs and Reproductive Justice Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration of three women of color-led national reproductive justice organizations, released results a poll of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI),

Black, and Latina/x women voters demonstrating how their views on socioeconomic issues often align. The poll found that Reproductive Justice issues such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes and lowering the costs of food, housing and living, are top of mind for these voters.

Issues: Government/Economy/Human Service/Political/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone – Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Pacific Research Institute
Title: The latest Advancements in COVID Medications and Therapeutics
Dr. Wayne Winegarden's research was pivotal in bringing attention to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) as a powerful tool to help prevent and treat COVID-19. His work highlights the need to expedite the review and approval of new treatments and why multiple lifesaving therapies are necessary for immunocompromised patients who cannot take antivirals or receive vaccines. As an expert in pharmacoeconomics, Winegarden's expertise includes identifying regulatory obstacles that stand between patients and the latest innovative advancements in medications and therapeutics, including the newly U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized mAb therapy, Pemgarda, which has demonstrated effectiveness against COVID and its variants.

Issues: Government/Culture/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone –
Title: American Red Cross Military Support
The "Hero Care Network," organized by the Red Cross, helps military families connect with their loved ones and help them travel back home during time of emergencies. The service is vital and is available online, by phone, through the Red Cross mobile app or in person, 24 hours a day. The nonprofit also offers a variety of free resiliency workshops in-person and online, to provide military members, veterans, their families and caregivers with effective tools for facing challenges and stress.

Issues: Youth/Economy/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Aaron Hilger, CEO, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Title: Job Opportunities in the Trades with the Toolbelt Generation
SMACNA is an international trade association that provides opportunities in the trades for DC residents and to those across the country. Currently there is a workforce gap in the trades. College enrollment is down due to high post education costs, and not all high school graduates are interested in attending college. There are great benefits in having a job in trades for workers and communities (better buildings, indoor air quality, etc.). How to enter a job in the trades in DC (smacna.org).

Issues: Youth/Culture/Political/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Ruben Arquilevich, VP of Camps for Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Title: Jewish Summer Camp

After a year in which antisemitism reached its highest levels in recent history, thousands of Jewish campers, and staff from across the world will be gathering for a summer of Jewish camping like none other before. Camp will be a critical offer a needed respite from social media and the tumult that has rocked many camper's campuses and communities. A record level of Israelis - 120 campers and 300 staff - will travel to Reform Jewish camps across North America this summer. These camps will provide a safe and tolerant space for Israelis who are still recovering from the violence of October 7th and will provide valuable opportunities for the relationships between Israeli and North American Jews to deepen and evolve. By engaging directly with Israelis, campers and camp staff will be able to gain a more different and comprehensive understanding of Israel and the conflict in Gaza.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Youth/Government/Political/Community Service/Economy

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Matthew Cook, CEO, Children's Hospital Association

Title: Advocate for Children's Health

Family Advocacy Day brings together patients and their families from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and urge Congress to prioritize children's health. These advocates will share their compelling health care journeys, highlighting the critical roles children's hospitals have played in their lives.

Issues: Human Services/Youth/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Stuart Lustig, National Medical Executive for Behavioral Health at Cigna and board certified child psychiatrist with a deep expertise in child mental health.

Title: Study of Resilience in Communities during Social Injustice and the Pandemic

Americans are being tested in ways we never could have imagined. For some, it's homeschooling, or the fear (or reality) of job loss or catching the coronavirus that's causing them the most anxiety. For many young adults, it's feeling the impact of the deaths of Black Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. All of these issues are taking a toll on us; children, parents and workers alike, with potential long-term repercussions for our physical and mental health. That's why it's important to study our ability to bounce back from these challenges and understand how best to confront the crises we face today and will face tomorrow. Techniques to cope were discussed.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Anabel Kingsley, Trichologist, Brand President, Hair Care Brand, Philip Kingsley

Title: Hair Shedding

Understanding how nutrition affects hair health is crucial. Breakfast and lunch should be balanced and high in protein. Blood tests check for deficits, such as low ferritin (iron storage). A treatment regimen might then optimize and promote healthy hair growth. A change in eating habits, nutritional deficiencies, or low-calorie diets are considered the culprits to hair shedding; loss of hair.

Issues: Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jean Sachs, CEO of Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Title: No One Missed Campaign: Beyond Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread from the breasts to other areas of the body. At this time, it is not considered a curable disease, but it’s possible to maintain a good quality of life while on treatment. Biomarker testing analyzes tumors for mutations, examining the makeup and what causes it to grow and spread and can test for treatment resistance. Unfortunately, not all MBC patients receive biomarker testing upon diagnosis. The *No One Missed* campaign raises awareness for biomarker testing as a critical part of metastatic cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Senior Manager, Policy, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: \$5 Co-pays for Mental Health Visits and Prescriptions for Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared a mental health crisis and urged all stakeholders to increase access to care for youth. D.C. is stepping up to the plate: Now, youth under the age of 19 can now receive unlimited mental and behavioral health visits and prescriptions for only a \$5 co-pay with no deductibles across all DC Health Link Standard Plans. The positive impact of

this \$5 policy change on youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the district cannot be overstated; it's literally saving lives.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jonathon Rendina, Senior Director of Research, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: Free Cancer Screening and Care

District residents can sign up for free cancer screening and care with agreeing to a simple blood test that detects and measures potentially cancerous cells circulating within the bloodstream.

With this new technology, Galleri provides a solution for detecting many common cancers that do not have a targeted screening available. They're especially looking for patients from groups that bear a higher burden of cancer-related health disparities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ community. (www.whitman-walker.org/institute/research/include-study)

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

WJFK PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
2nd Quarter
(4/01/24 – 6/30/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Youth/Economic

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director of 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3)

Title: A Good Healthy Start in Life: First 1000 Days

Nearly 11% of children aged 0-5 live in food insecure households. USDA defines nutrition security as consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations. D.C. has one of the highest rates of food insecurity for children.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Frank Holloman, Director of the Division of Transplantation (DoT) at HRSA's Health Systems Bureau (HSB)

Title: Donate Life

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will observe National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 24-30) to raise awareness on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. More than 106-thousand people are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list and every 9 minutes a new person is added. Washington DC is one of the top ten states with the lowest donor registration rates.

Issues: Transportation/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Marty Schwartz, Founder/President, Vehicles for Change and Mike Stanton, National Automotive Dealers Association, President/CEO

Title: 4 Local Families Receive a Car

VFC accepts and repairs donated cars, then awards them to pre-qualified families for as little as \$950, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service-type agencies. As a nonprofit organization, VFC receives 99 percent of its car donations from the public. Since 1999, VFC has awarded over 8,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 28,000 people. VFC's Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center is an employer-driven, paid internship social enterprise designed to provide auto technician training to individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including many recently released from incarceration.

Issues: Transportation/Community News

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ragina Ali, Manager Public & Government Affairs

Title: Spring Travel

AAA projects 43.8 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Memorial Day holiday travel period. This year's total number of travelers is a 4% increase over last year and comes close to matching 2005's record of 44 million Memorial Day travelers. This Memorial Day weekend drivers can expect similar gas prices as last year when the national average was roughly \$3.57. Pump prices rose this spring but have held somewhat steady in recent weeks. Prices may creep higher as the summer driving season gets underway. The wildcard remains the cost of oil, and unlike last year, there are now two wars in the Middle East and Ukraine that could affect the oil market.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Environment

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy's 1 Thing/Audacy Conversations: Earth Month

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

Issues: Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Title: Passover During A War

With the war in Israel ongoing, the meaning of Passover in the Jewish community brings extra reflection. The history of Passover and its significance within Judaism and in Jewish communities was shared. How the themes of Passover, overcoming injustice and inequality, are resonating with Jewish families and communities today. The reform created a resource for families to include at their Seder service this year. Leaders are encouraging families and friends to use the Passover Seder as an opportunity to engage in new dialogue during this politically divisive time.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Youth

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kathon VanHook, Founder/CEO God Speak, D.C.

Title: Serving the Community Through Love

God Speak, D.C. is a non-profit organization that focuses on uplifting those who are disparaged in the District of Columbia. Events and outreach programs for community members; especially the youth. Community leaders, business men and women and religious leaders comprise the

organization. The goals are to provide resources for food, shelter, employment, quality education and health care for the cities citizen.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Dr. Natasha Flake, President, American Association of Endodontists

Title: The Superheros of Tooth Saving

We live in a disposable, all-things-recyclable era. Yet some things are truly worth saving, preserving and revering. Take our teeth, for instance: a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, a signal of overall good health. Our natural teeth are worth saving. And no one is better equipped to do that than an endodontist. The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Community News

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Kelly Cleary, Senior Director of Education and Support Programs for Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Title: Allergy Food Awareness

Food allergies can have a profound impact on individuals' social lives and overall well-being. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and support, FARE creates communities that accommodate the needs of individuals with food allergies. This means that more people can actively participate in social gatherings, celebrations, school activities, and other events without feeling excluded or at risk. It promotes a sense of belonging and improves the overall quality of life for everyone involved.

Issues: Community News/youth/Education

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ryan Tauriainen, Executive Director, Teach for America, D.C. Region

Title: Teacher Appreciation

Teach for America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring every child receives an excellent and equitable education. They share ideas on how parents and students can express their appreciation for their hardworking and dedicated educators from snacks, coffee, gift certificates, flowers and more. Teachers' well-being directly impacts the success of students and the entire education community, which is why families need to express to our teachers how much they are appreciated and how Teacher Appreciation Week is a time when families can ensure that teachers feel valued, empowered, and equipped to make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Education

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sadij Smiley, Founder/CEO

Title: Supporting Families After a Still Birth

Stillborn And Infant Loss Support (SAILS) is a dedicated group of bereaved parents, community advocates, public health activists, and mental health champions who share a profound understanding of the pain of pregnancy loss. The non-profit leads with empathy, compassion, and unwavering determination to fulfill their mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by pregnancy loss. Borningtosilence.org

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – David Jaffe, dean AU, Washington College of Law & Co-Chair, Priti Langer, Survivor, and Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores

Title: Lawyers Have Heart National Walking Day

1 in 4 adults spend more than eight hours a day seated. This amount of sedentary time is bad for individuals' physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day. Getting the recommended amount of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination of those activities per week) is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

Issues: Human Services/Community News

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Natasha M. Flake, President of the American Association of Endodontists

Title: Superheros of Saving Teeth

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News/Political

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Robert Cain, DO, President/CEO, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Title: Health Disparities of Rural and Minority Patients

Healthcare workers are facing a moral crisis. The corporatization of medicine and government requirements have permanently altered medical care, causing many doctors to feel stressed and detached from their work. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) wants to address these issues and bring back a holistic approach to healthcare. Osteopathic doctors, or DOs, are trained to look beyond symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact well-being.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture/Education/Government

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Vinu Ilakkuvan, Co-Director, Healthy Together Fairfax

Title: Healthy Together Fairfax (Virginia)

Healthy Together Fairfax (HTF) is a fun and free interactive event for the community focused on healthy and active living. The event includes free health screenings, access to community services and resources, fitness classes, hands-on activities, and ‘bite-sized’ learning for all ages. Participants can also explore the trails and playgrounds at Franconia Park located in Springfield, Virginia.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Brigadier General Mike Eastman, Executive Director of Onward Ops, and Andrea McCarren, President of the PenFed Foundation

Title: Military to Civilian Life

Onward OPS and PenFed Foundation are both veteran nonprofit organizations, are teaming up to empower service members as they transition from military service to civilian life. Nearly 200-thousand men and women leave the U.S. Military service each year. The transition out of uniformed service can be difficult. Onward Ops pairs new veterans with mentors from their community, focusing on the 12 months before leaving the military and reintegrating into civilian life. The program helps service members begin new lives and stay ahead of serious issues like suicide, PTSD and homelessness. 10-thousand service members were enrolled in the program last year.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Clinton Wright, Vascular Neurologist and Associate Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Title: Strokes in Young Adults

Young adults make up 10 to 15 percent of the stroke population with stroke rates among those younger than 55 increasing 67 percent between 2002 and 2018. Additionally, the risk of a first stroke is almost twice as high for non-Hispanic Black adults as it is for white people.

The National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), developed the Know Stroke campaign to help educate the public about stroke symptoms and the importance of getting to the hospital quickly. Face, Arm, Speech and Time (F.A.S.T.).

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy I'm Listening: Talk away the Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Issues: Human Service/Economy/Culture/Political

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Antonio Ciaccia, Leading Health Policy Expert

Title: Prescription Drug Costs in Maryland

Maryland lawmakers are working on new legislation that would enable eligible hospitals to receive a discount on medications through a federal program. However, while the program was created with good intentions, it has ended up costing consumers billions of dollars.

The controversial 340B program was created to provide medicine discounts to hospitals, who would then pass the savings on to its uninsured and vulnerable patients. However, a new report from 46brooklyn highlights that the opposite is occurring. Patients are now spending 2.5 more times on medicines at 340B program entities than at non-340B entities.

Issues: Community News/Economy

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ross Borden, AI expert and the founder of leading travel publisher Matador Network

Title: Summer Travel Plans Using A.I.

Artificial Intelligence is a hot news story for a number of reasons, mostly because of AI's potential to help make people's lives easier. And one often-complicated event that could benefit from AI is summer travel. AI is considered to be much easier, there are no ads, and it answers very specific queries that a simple web search could not handle. There are no pages to scroll through. It can map out a tour of speak easies in Mexico City in a flash and recommend destinations for budget travel near you. It can handle special needs requests that would otherwise require hours of research. It saves time and reduces stress. It is the future of travel planning, and the possibilities are endless.

Issues: Culture/Political/Government

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Title: Voting Concerns for Women of Color: Rising Costs and Reproductive Justice Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration of three women of color-led national reproductive justice organizations, released results a poll of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI),

Black, and Latina/x women voters demonstrating how their views on socioeconomic issues often align. The poll found that Reproductive Justice issues such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes and lowering the costs of food, housing and living, are top of mind for these voters.

Issues: Government/Economy/Human Service/Political/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone – Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Pacific Research Institute
Title: The latest Advancements in COVID Medications and Therapeutics
Dr. Wayne Winegarden's research was pivotal in bringing attention to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) as a powerful tool to help prevent and treat COVID-19. His work highlights the need to expedite the review and approval of new treatments and why multiple lifesaving therapies are necessary for immunocompromised patients who cannot take antivirals or receive vaccines. As an expert in pharmacoeconomics, Winegarden's expertise includes identifying regulatory obstacles that stand between patients and the latest innovative advancements in medications and therapeutics, including the newly U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized mAb therapy, Pemgarda, which has demonstrated effectiveness against COVID and its variants.

Issues: Government/Culture/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone –
Title: American Red Cross Military Support
The "Hero Care Network," organized by the Red Cross, helps military families connect with their loved ones and help them travel back home during time of emergencies. The service is vital and is available online, by phone, through the Red Cross mobile app or in person, 24 hours a day. The nonprofit also offers a variety of free resiliency workshops in-person and online, to provide military members, veterans, their families and caregivers with effective tools for facing challenges and stress.

Issues: Youth/Economy/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Aaron Hilger, CEO, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Title: Job Opportunities in the Trades with the Toolbelt Generation
SMACNA is an international trade association that provides opportunities in the trades for DC residents and to those across the country. Currently there is a workforce gap in the trades. College enrollment is down due to high post education costs, and not all high school graduates are interested in attending college. There are great benefits in having a job in trades for workers and communities (better buildings, indoor air quality, etc.). How to enter a job in the trades in DC (smacna.org).

Issues: Youth/Culture/Political/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Ruben Arquilevich, VP of Camps for Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Title: Jewish Summer Camp

After a year in which antisemitism reached its highest levels in recent history, thousands of Jewish campers, and staff from across the world will be gathering for a summer of Jewish camping like none other before. Camp will be a critical offer a needed respite from social media and the tumult that has rocked many camper's campuses and communities. A record level of Israelis - 120 campers and 300 staff - will travel to Reform Jewish camps across North America this summer. These camps will provide a safe and tolerant space for Israelis who are still recovering from the violence of October 7th and will provide valuable opportunities for the relationships between Israeli and North American Jews to deepen and evolve. By engaging directly with Israelis, campers and camp staff will be able to gain a more different and comprehensive understanding of Israel and the conflict in Gaza.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Youth/Government/Political/Community Service/Economy

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Matthew Cook, CEO, Children's Hospital Association

Title: Advocate for Children's Health

Family Advocacy Day brings together patients and their families from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and urge Congress to prioritize children's health. These advocates will share their compelling health care journeys, highlighting the critical roles children's hospitals have played in their lives.

Issues: Human Services/Youth/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Stuart Lustig, National Medical Executive for Behavioral Health at Cigna and board certified child psychiatrist with a deep expertise in child mental health.

Title: Study of Resilience in Communities during Social Injustice and the Pandemic

Americans are being tested in ways we never could have imagined. For some, it's homeschooling, or the fear (or reality) of job loss or catching the coronavirus that's causing them the most anxiety. For many young adults, it's feeling the impact of the deaths of Black Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. All of these issues are taking a toll on us; children, parents and workers alike, with potential long-term repercussions for our physical and mental health. That's why it's important to study our ability to bounce back from these challenges and understand how best to confront the crises we face today and will face tomorrow. Techniques to cope were discussed.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Anabel Kingsley, Trichologist, Brand President, Hair Care Brand, Philip Kingsley

Title: Hair Shedding

Understanding how nutrition affects hair health is crucial. Breakfast and lunch should be balanced and high in protein. Blood tests check for deficits, such as low ferritin (iron storage). A treatment regimen might then optimize and promote healthy hair growth. A change in eating habits, nutritional deficiencies, or low-calorie diets are considered the culprits to hair shedding; loss of hair.

Issues: Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jean Sachs, CEO of Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Title: No One Missed Campaign: Beyond Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread from the breasts to other areas of the body. At this time, it is not considered a curable disease, but it’s possible to maintain a good quality of life while on treatment. Biomarker testing analyzes tumors for mutations, examining the makeup and what causes it to grow and spread and can test for treatment resistance. Unfortunately, not all MBC patients receive biomarker testing upon diagnosis. The *No One Missed* campaign raises awareness for biomarker testing as a critical part of metastatic cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Senior Manager, Policy, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: \$5 Co-pays for Mental Health Visits and Prescriptions for Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared a mental health crisis and urged all stakeholders to increase access to care for youth. D.C. is stepping up to the plate: Now, youth under the age of 19 can now receive unlimited mental and behavioral health visits and prescriptions for only a \$5 co-pay with no deductibles across all DC Health Link Standard Plans. The positive impact of

this \$5 policy change on youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the district cannot be overstated; it's literally saving lives.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jonathon Rendina, Senior Director of Research, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: Free Cancer Screening and Care

District residents can sign up for free cancer screening and care with agreeing to a simple blood test that detects and measures potentially cancerous cells circulating within the bloodstream.

With this new technology, Galleri provides a solution for detecting many common cancers that do not have a targeted screening available. They're especially looking for patients from groups that bear a higher burden of cancer-related health disparities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ community. (www.whitman-walker.org/institute/research/include-study)

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

WJFK PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
2nd Quarter
(4/01/24 – 6/30/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Youth/Economic

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director of 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3)

Title: A Good Healthy Start in Life: First 1000 Days

Nearly 11% of children aged 0-5 live in food insecure households. USDA defines nutrition security as consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations. D.C. has one of the highest rates of food insecurity for children.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Frank Holloman, Director of the Division of Transplantation (DoT) at HRSA's Health Systems Bureau (HSB)

Title: Donate Life

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will observe National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 24-30) to raise awareness on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. More than 106-thousand people are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list and every 9 minutes a new person is added. Washington DC is one of the top ten states with the lowest donor registration rates.

Issues: Transportation/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Marty Schwartz, Founder/President, Vehicles for Change and Mike Stanton, National Automotive Dealers Association, President/CEO

Title: 4 Local Families Receive a Car

VFC accepts and repairs donated cars, then awards them to pre-qualified families for as little as \$950, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service-type agencies. As a nonprofit organization, VFC receives 99 percent of its car donations from the public. Since 1999, VFC has awarded over 8,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 28,000 people. VFC's Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center is an employer-driven, paid internship social enterprise designed to provide auto technician training to individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including many recently released from incarceration.

Issues: Transportation/Community News

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ragina Ali, Manager Public & Government Affairs

Title: Spring Travel

AAA projects 43.8 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Memorial Day holiday travel period. This year's total number of travelers is a 4% increase over last year and comes close to matching 2005's record of 44 million Memorial Day travelers. This Memorial Day weekend drivers can expect similar gas prices as last year when the national average was roughly \$3.57. Pump prices rose this spring but have held somewhat steady in recent weeks. Prices may creep higher as the summer driving season gets underway. The wildcard remains the cost of oil, and unlike last year, there are now two wars in the Middle East and Ukraine that could affect the oil market.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Environment

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy's 1 Thing/Audacy Conversations: Earth Month

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

Issues: Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Title: Passover During A War

With the war in Israel ongoing, the meaning of Passover in the Jewish community brings extra reflection. The history of Passover and its significance within Judaism and in Jewish communities was shared. How the themes of Passover, overcoming injustice and inequality, are resonating with Jewish families and communities today. The reform created a resource for families to include at their Seder service this year. Leaders are encouraging families and friends to use the Passover Seder as an opportunity to engage in new dialogue during this politically divisive time.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Youth

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kathon VanHook, Founder/CEO God Speak, D.C.

Title: Serving the Community Through Love

God Speak, D.C. is a non-profit organization that focuses on uplifting those who are disparaged in the District of Columbia. Events and outreach programs for community members; especially the youth. Community leaders, business men and women and religious leaders comprise the

organization. The goals are to provide resources for food, shelter, employment, quality education and health care for the cities citizen.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Dr. Natasha Flake, President, American Association of Endodontists

Title: The Superheros of Tooth Saving

We live in a disposable, all-things-recyclable era. Yet some things are truly worth saving, preserving and revering. Take our teeth, for instance: a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, a signal of overall good health. Our natural teeth are worth saving. And no one is better equipped to do that than an endodontist. The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Community News

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Kelly Cleary, Senior Director of Education and Support Programs for Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Title: Allergy Food Awareness

Food allergies can have a profound impact on individuals' social lives and overall well-being. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and support, FARE creates communities that accommodate the needs of individuals with food allergies. This means that more people can actively participate in social gatherings, celebrations, school activities, and other events without feeling excluded or at risk. It promotes a sense of belonging and improves the overall quality of life for everyone involved.

Issues: Community News/youth/Education

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ryan Tauriainen, Executive Director, Teach for America, D.C. Region

Title: Teacher Appreciation

Teach for America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring every child receives an excellent and equitable education. They share ideas on how parents and students can express their appreciation for their hardworking and dedicated educators from snacks, coffee, gift certificates, flowers and more. Teachers' well-being directly impacts the success of students and the entire education community, which is why families need to express to our teachers how much they are appreciated and how Teacher Appreciation Week is a time when families can ensure that teachers feel valued, empowered, and equipped to make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Education

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sadij Smiley, Founder/CEO

Title: Supporting Families After a Still Birth

Stillborn And Infant Loss Support (SAILS) is a dedicated group of bereaved parents, community advocates, public health activists, and mental health champions who share a profound understanding of the pain of pregnancy loss. The non-profit leads with empathy, compassion, and unwavering determination to fulfill their mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by pregnancy loss. Bornintosilence.org

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – David Jaffe, dean AU, Washington College of Law & Co-Chair, Priti Langer, Survivor, and Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores

Title: Lawyers Have Heart National Walking Day

1 in 4 adults spend more than eight hours a day seated. This amount of sedentary time is bad for individuals' physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day. Getting the recommended amount of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination of those activities per week) is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

Issues: Human Services/Community News

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Natasha M. Flake, President of the American Association of Endodontists

Title: Superheros of Saving Teeth

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News/Political

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Robert Cain, DO, President/CEO, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Title: Health Disparities of Rural and Minority Patients

Healthcare workers are facing a moral crisis. The corporatization of medicine and government requirements have permanently altered medical care, causing many doctors to feel stressed and detached from their work. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) wants to address these issues and bring back a holistic approach to healthcare. Osteopathic doctors, or DOs, are trained to look beyond symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact well-being.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture/Education/Government

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Vinu Ilakkuvan, Co-Director, Healthy Together Fairfax

Title: Healthy Together Fairfax (Virginia)

Healthy Together Fairfax (HTF) is a fun and free interactive event for the community focused on healthy and active living. The event includes free health screenings, access to community services and resources, fitness classes, hands-on activities, and ‘bite-sized’ learning for all ages. Participants can also explore the trails and playgrounds at Franconia Park located in Springfield, Virginia.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Brigadier General Mike Eastman, Executive Director of Onward Ops, and Andrea McCarren, President of the PenFed Foundation

Title: Military to Civilian Life

Onward OPS and PenFed Foundation are both veteran nonprofit organizations, are teaming up to empower service members as they transition from military service to civilian life. Nearly 200-thousand men and women leave the U.S. Military service each year. The transition out of uniformed service can be difficult. Onward Ops pairs new veterans with mentors from their community, focusing on the 12 months before leaving the military and reintegrating into civilian life. The program helps service members begin new lives and stay ahead of serious issues like suicide, PTSD and homelessness. 10-thousand service members were enrolled in the program last year.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Clinton Wright, Vascular Neurologist and Associate Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Title: Strokes in Young Adults

Young adults make up 10 to 15 percent of the stroke population with stroke rates among those younger than 55 increasing 67 percent between 2002 and 2018. Additionally, the risk of a first stroke is almost twice as high for non-Hispanic Black adults as it is for white people.

The National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), developed the Know Stroke campaign to help educate the public about stroke symptoms and the importance of getting to the hospital quickly. Face, Arm, Speech and Time (F.A.S.T.).

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy I'm Listening: Talk away the Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Issues: Human Service/Economy/Culture/Political

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Antonio Ciaccia, Leading Health Policy Expert

Title: Prescription Drug Costs in Maryland

Maryland lawmakers are working on new legislation that would enable eligible hospitals to receive a discount on medications through a federal program. However, while the program was created with good intentions, it has ended up costing consumers billions of dollars.

The controversial 340B program was created to provide medicine discounts to hospitals, who would then pass the savings on to its uninsured and vulnerable patients. However, a new report from 46brooklyn highlights that the opposite is occurring. Patients are now spending 2.5 more times on medicines at 340B program entities than at non-340B entities.

Issues: Community News/Economy

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ross Borden, AI expert and the founder of leading travel publisher Matador Network

Title: Summer Travel Plans Using A.I.

Artificial Intelligence is a hot news story for a number of reasons, mostly because of AI's potential to help make people's lives easier. And one often-complicated event that could benefit from AI is summer travel. AI is considered to be much easier, there are no ads, and it answers very specific queries that a simple web search could not handle. There are no pages to scroll through. It can map out a tour of speak easies in Mexico City in a flash and recommend destinations for budget travel near you. It can handle special needs requests that would otherwise require hours of research. It saves time and reduces stress. It is the future of travel planning, and the possibilities are endless.

Issues: Culture/Political/Government

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Title: Voting Concerns for Women of Color: Rising Costs and Reproductive Justice Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration of three women of color-led national reproductive justice organizations, released results a poll of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI),

Black, and Latina/x women voters demonstrating how their views on socioeconomic issues often align. The poll found that Reproductive Justice issues such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes and lowering the costs of food, housing and living, are top of mind for these voters.

Issues: Government/Economy/Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone – Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Pacific Research Institute

Title: The latest Advancements in COVID Medications and Therapeutics

Dr. Wayne Winegarden's research was pivotal in bringing attention to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) as a powerful tool to help prevent and treat COVID-19. His work highlights the need to expedite the review and approval of new treatments and why multiple lifesaving therapies are necessary for immunocompromised patients who cannot take antivirals or receive vaccines. As an expert in pharmacoeconomics, Winegarden's expertise includes identifying regulatory obstacles that stand between patients and the latest innovative advancements in medications and therapeutics, including the newly U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized mAb therapy, Pemgarda, which has demonstrated effectiveness against COVID and its variants.

Issues: Government/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone –

Title: American Red Cross Military Support

The "Hero Care Network," organized by the Red Cross, helps military families connect with their loved ones and help them travel back home during time of emergencies. The service is vital and is available online, by phone, through the Red Cross mobile app or in person, 24 hours a day. The nonprofit also offers a variety of free resiliency workshops in-person and online, to provide military members, veterans, their families and caregivers with effective tools for facing challenges and stress.

Issues: Youth/Economy/Community News

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Aaron Hilger, CEO, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association

Title: Job Opportunities in the Trades with the Toolbelt Generation

SMACNA is an international trade association that provides opportunities in the trades for DC residents and to those across the country. Currently there is a workforce gap in the trades. College enrollment is down due to high post education costs, and not all high school graduates are interested in attending college. There are great benefits in having a job in trades for workers and communities (better buildings, indoor air quality, etc.). How to enter a job in the trades in DC (smacna.org).

Issues: Youth/Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ruben Arquilevich, VP of Camps for Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)

Title: Jewish Summer Camp

After a year in which antisemitism reached its highest levels in recent history, thousands of Jewish campers, and staff from across the world will be gathering for a summer of Jewish camping like none other before. Camp will be a critical offer a needed respite from social media and the tumult that has rocked many camper's campuses and communities. A record level of Israelis - 120 campers and 300 staff - will travel to Reform Jewish camps across North America this summer. These camps will provide a safe and tolerant space for Israelis who are still recovering from the violence of October 7th and will provide valuable opportunities for the relationships between Israeli and North American Jews to deepen and evolve. By engaging directly with Israelis, campers and camp staff will be able to gain a more different and comprehensive understanding of Israel and the conflict in Gaza.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Youth/Government/Political/Community Service/Economy

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Matthew Cook, CEO, Children's Hospital Association

Title: Advocate for Children's Health

Family Advocacy Day brings together patients and their families from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and urge Congress to prioritize children's health. These advocates will share their compelling health care journeys, highlighting the critical roles children's hospitals have played in their lives.

Issues: Human Services/Youth/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Stuart Lustig, National Medical Executive for Behavioral Health at Cigna and board certified child psychiatrist with a deep expertise in child mental health.

Title: Study of Resilience in Communities during Social Injustice and the Pandemic

Americans are being tested in ways we never could have imagined. For some, it's homeschooling, or the fear (or reality) of job loss or catching the coronavirus that's causing them the most anxiety. For many young adults, it's feeling the impact of the deaths of Black Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. All of these issues are taking a toll on us; children, parents and workers alike, with potential long-term repercussions for our physical and mental health. That's why it's important to study our ability to bounce back from these challenges and understand how best to confront the crises we face today and will face tomorrow. Techniques to cope were discussed.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Anabel Kingsley, Trichologist, Brand President, Hair Care Brand, Philip Kingsley

Title: Hair Shedding

Understanding how nutrition affects hair health is crucial. Breakfast and lunch should be balanced and high in protein. Blood tests check for deficits, such as low ferritin (iron storage). A treatment regimen might then optimize and promote healthy hair growth. A change in eating habits, nutritional deficiencies, or low-calorie diets are considered the culprits to hair shedding; loss of hair.

Issues: Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jean Sachs, CEO of Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Title: No One Missed Campaign: Beyond Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread from the breasts to other areas of the body. At this time, it is not considered a curable disease, but it’s possible to maintain a good quality of life while on treatment. Biomarker testing analyzes tumors for mutations, examining the makeup and what causes it to grow and spread and can test for treatment resistance. Unfortunately, not all MBC patients receive biomarker testing upon diagnosis. The *No One Missed* campaign raises awareness for biomarker testing as a critical part of metastatic cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Senior Manager, Policy, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: \$5 Co-pays for Mental Health Visits and Prescriptions for Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared a mental health crisis and urged all stakeholders to increase access to care for youth. D.C. is stepping up to the plate: Now, youth under the age of 19 can now receive unlimited mental and behavioral health visits and prescriptions for only a \$5 co-pay with no deductibles across all DC Health Link Standard Plans. The positive impact of

this \$5 policy change on youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the district cannot be overstated; it's literally saving lives.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jonathon Rendina, Senior Director of Research, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: Free Cancer Screening and Care

District residents can sign up for free cancer screening and care with agreeing to a simple blood test that detects and measures potentially cancerous cells circulating within the bloodstream.

With this new technology, Galleri provides a solution for detecting many common cancers that do not have a targeted screening available. They're especially looking for patients from groups that bear a higher burden of cancer-related health disparities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ community. (www.whitman-walker.org/institute/research/include-study)

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

WJFK PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
2nd Quarter
(4/01/24 – 6/30/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Youth/Economic

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director of 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3)

Title: A Good Healthy Start in Life: First 1000 Days

Nearly 11% of children aged 0-5 live in food insecure households. USDA defines nutrition security as consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations. D.C. has one of the highest rates of food insecurity for children.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Frank Holloman, Director of the Division of Transplantation (DoT) at HRSA's Health Systems Bureau (HSB)

Title: Donate Life

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will observe National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 24-30) to raise awareness on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. More than 106-thousand people are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list and every 9 minutes a new person is added. Washington DC is one of the top ten states with the lowest donor registration rates.

Issues: Transportation/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Marty Schwartz, Founder/President, Vehicles for Change and Mike Stanton, National Automotive Dealers Association, President/CEO

Title: 4 Local Families Receive a Car

VFC accepts and repairs donated cars, then awards them to pre-qualified families for as little as \$950, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service-type agencies. As a nonprofit organization, VFC receives 99 percent of its car donations from the public. Since 1999, VFC has awarded over 8,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 28,000 people. VFC's Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center is an employer-driven, paid internship social enterprise designed to provide auto technician training to individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including many recently released from incarceration.

Issues: Transportation/Community News

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ragina Ali, Manager Public & Government Affairs

Title: Spring Travel

AAA projects 43.8 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Memorial Day holiday travel period. This year's total number of travelers is a 4% increase over last year and comes close to matching 2005's record of 44 million Memorial Day travelers. This Memorial Day weekend drivers can expect similar gas prices as last year when the national average was roughly \$3.57. Pump prices rose this spring but have held somewhat steady in recent weeks. Prices may creep higher as the summer driving season gets underway. The wildcard remains the cost of oil, and unlike last year, there are now two wars in the Middle East and Ukraine that could affect the oil market.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Environment

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy's 1 Thing/Audacy Conversations: Earth Month

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

Issues: Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Title: Passover During A War

With the war in Israel ongoing, the meaning of Passover in the Jewish community brings extra reflection. The history of Passover and its significance within Judaism and in Jewish communities was shared. How the themes of Passover, overcoming injustice and inequality, are resonating with Jewish families and communities today. The reform created a resource for families to include at their Seder service this year. Leaders are encouraging families and friends to use the Passover Seder as an opportunity to engage in new dialogue during this politically divisive time.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Youth

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kathon VanHook, Founder/CEO God Speak, D.C.

Title: Serving the Community Through Love

God Speak, D.C. is a non-profit organization that focuses on uplifting those who are disparaged in the District of Columbia. Events and outreach programs for community members; especially the youth. Community leaders, business men and women and religious leaders comprise the

organization. The goals are to provide resources for food, shelter, employment, quality education and health care for the cities citizen.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Dr. Natasha Flake, President, American Association of Endodontists

Title: The Superheros of Tooth Saving

We live in a disposable, all-things-recyclable era. Yet some things are truly worth saving, preserving and revering. Take our teeth, for instance: a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, a signal of overall good health. Our natural teeth are worth saving. And no one is better equipped to do that than an endodontist. The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Community News

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Kelly Cleary, Senior Director of Education and Support Programs for Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Title: Allergy Food Awareness

Food allergies can have a profound impact on individuals' social lives and overall well-being. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and support, FARE creates communities that accommodate the needs of individuals with food allergies. This means that more people can actively participate in social gatherings, celebrations, school activities, and other events without feeling excluded or at risk. It promotes a sense of belonging and improves the overall quality of life for everyone involved.

Issues: Community News/youth/Education

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ryan Tauriainen, Executive Director, Teach for America, D.C. Region

Title: Teacher Appreciation

Teach for America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring every child receives an excellent and equitable education. They share ideas on how parents and students can express their appreciation for their hardworking and dedicated educators from snacks, coffee, gift certificates, flowers and more. Teachers' well-being directly impacts the success of students and the entire education community, which is why families need to express to our teachers how much they are appreciated and how Teacher Appreciation Week is a time when families can ensure that teachers feel valued, empowered, and equipped to make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Education

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sadij Smiley, Founder/CEO

Title: Supporting Families After a Still Birth

Stillborn And Infant Loss Support (SAILS) is a dedicated group of bereaved parents, community advocates, public health activists, and mental health champions who share a profound understanding of the pain of pregnancy loss. The non-profit leads with empathy, compassion, and unwavering determination to fulfill their mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by pregnancy loss. Borningtosilence.org

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – David Jaffe, dean AU, Washington College of Law & Co-Chair, Priti Langer, Survivor, and Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores

Title: Lawyers Have Heart National Walking Day

1 in 4 adults spend more than eight hours a day seated. This amount of sedentary time is bad for individuals' physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day. Getting the recommended amount of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination of those activities per week) is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

Issues: Human Services/Community News

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Natasha M. Flake, President of the American Association of Endodontists

Title: Superheros of Saving Teeth

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News/Political

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Robert Cain, DO, President/CEO, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Title: Health Disparities of Rural and Minority Patients

Healthcare workers are facing a moral crisis. The corporatization of medicine and government requirements have permanently altered medical care, causing many doctors to feel stressed and detached from their work. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) wants to address these issues and bring back a holistic approach to healthcare. Osteopathic doctors, or DOs, are trained to look beyond symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact well-being.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture/Education/Government

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Vinu Ilakkuvan, Co-Director, Healthy Together Fairfax

Title: Healthy Together Fairfax (Virginia)

Healthy Together Fairfax (HTF) is a fun and free interactive event for the community focused on healthy and active living. The event includes free health screenings, access to community services and resources, fitness classes, hands-on activities, and ‘bite-sized’ learning for all ages. Participants can also explore the trails and playgrounds at Franconia Park located in Springfield, Virginia.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Brigadier General Mike Eastman, Executive Director of Onward Ops, and Andrea McCarren, President of the PenFed Foundation

Title: Military to Civilian Life

Onward OPS and PenFed Foundation are both veteran nonprofit organizations, are teaming up to empower service members as they transition from military service to civilian life. Nearly 200-thousand men and women leave the U.S. Military service each year. The transition out of uniformed service can be difficult. Onward Ops pairs new veterans with mentors from their community, focusing on the 12 months before leaving the military and reintegrating into civilian life. The program helps service members begin new lives and stay ahead of serious issues like suicide, PTSD and homelessness. 10-thousand service members were enrolled in the program last year.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Clinton Wright, Vascular Neurologist and Associate Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Title: Strokes in Young Adults

Young adults make up 10 to 15 percent of the stroke population with stroke rates among those younger than 55 increasing 67 percent between 2002 and 2018. Additionally, the risk of a first stroke is almost twice as high for non-Hispanic Black adults as it is for white people.

The National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), developed the Know Stroke campaign to help educate the public about stroke symptoms and the importance of getting to the hospital quickly. Face, Arm, Speech and Time (F.A.S.T.).

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy I'm Listening: Talk away the Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Issues: Human Service/Economy/Culture/Political

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Antonio Ciaccia, Leading Health Policy Expert

Title: Prescription Drug Costs in Maryland

Maryland lawmakers are working on new legislation that would enable eligible hospitals to receive a discount on medications through a federal program. However, while the program was created with good intentions, it has ended up costing consumers billions of dollars.

The controversial 340B program was created to provide medicine discounts to hospitals, who would then pass the savings on to its uninsured and vulnerable patients. However, a new report from 46brooklyn highlights that the opposite is occurring. Patients are now spending 2.5 more times on medicines at 340B program entities than at non-340B entities.

Issues: Community News/Economy

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ross Borden, AI expert and the founder of leading travel publisher Matador Network

Title: Summer Travel Plans Using A.I.

Artificial Intelligence is a hot news story for a number of reasons, mostly because of AI's potential to help make people's lives easier. And one often-complicated event that could benefit from AI is summer travel. AI is considered to be much easier, there are no ads, and it answers very specific queries that a simple web search could not handle. There are no pages to scroll through. It can map out a tour of speak easies in Mexico City in a flash and recommend destinations for budget travel near you. It can handle special needs requests that would otherwise require hours of research. It saves time and reduces stress. It is the future of travel planning, and the possibilities are endless.

Issues: Culture/Political/Government

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Title: Voting Concerns for Women of Color: Rising Costs and Reproductive Justice Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration of three women of color-led national reproductive justice organizations, released results a poll of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI),

Black, and Latina/x women voters demonstrating how their views on socioeconomic issues often align. The poll found that Reproductive Justice issues such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes and lowering the costs of food, housing and living, are top of mind for these voters.

Issues: Government/Economy/Human Service/Political/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone – Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Pacific Research Institute
Title: The latest Advancements in COVID Medications and Therapeutics
Dr. Wayne Winegarden's research was pivotal in bringing attention to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) as a powerful tool to help prevent and treat COVID-19. His work highlights the need to expedite the review and approval of new treatments and why multiple lifesaving therapies are necessary for immunocompromised patients who cannot take antivirals or receive vaccines. As an expert in pharmacoeconomics, Winegarden's expertise includes identifying regulatory obstacles that stand between patients and the latest innovative advancements in medications and therapeutics, including the newly U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized mAb therapy, Pemgarda, which has demonstrated effectiveness against COVID and its variants.

Issues: Government/Culture/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone –
Title: American Red Cross Military Support
The "Hero Care Network," organized by the Red Cross, helps military families connect with their loved ones and help them travel back home during time of emergencies. The service is vital and is available online, by phone, through the Red Cross mobile app or in person, 24 hours a day. The nonprofit also offers a variety of free resiliency workshops in-person and online, to provide military members, veterans, their families and caregivers with effective tools for facing challenges and stress.

Issues: Youth/Economy/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Aaron Hilger, CEO, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Title: Job Opportunities in the Trades with the Toolbelt Generation
SMACNA is an international trade association that provides opportunities in the trades for DC residents and to those across the country. Currently there is a workforce gap in the trades. College enrollment is down due to high post education costs, and not all high school graduates are interested in attending college. There are great benefits in having a job in trades for workers and communities (better buildings, indoor air quality, etc.). How to enter a job in the trades in DC (smacna.org).

Issues: Youth/Culture/Political/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Ruben Arquilevich, VP of Camps for Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Title: Jewish Summer Camp

After a year in which antisemitism reached its highest levels in recent history, thousands of Jewish campers, and staff from across the world will be gathering for a summer of Jewish camping like none other before. Camp will be a critical offer a needed respite from social media and the tumult that has rocked many camper's campuses and communities. A record level of Israelis - 120 campers and 300 staff - will travel to Reform Jewish camps across North America this summer. These camps will provide a safe and tolerant space for Israelis who are still recovering from the violence of October 7th and will provide valuable opportunities for the relationships between Israeli and North American Jews to deepen and evolve. By engaging directly with Israelis, campers and camp staff will be able to gain a more different and comprehensive understanding of Israel and the conflict in Gaza.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Youth/Government/Political/Community Service/Economy

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Matthew Cook, CEO, Children's Hospital Association

Title: Advocate for Children's Health

Family Advocacy Day brings together patients and their families from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and urge Congress to prioritize children's health. These advocates will share their compelling health care journeys, highlighting the critical roles children's hospitals have played in their lives.

Issues: Human Services/Youth/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Stuart Lustig, National Medical Executive for Behavioral Health at Cigna and board certified child psychiatrist with a deep expertise in child mental health.

Title: Study of Resilience in Communities during Social Injustice and the Pandemic

Americans are being tested in ways we never could have imagined. For some, it's homeschooling, or the fear (or reality) of job loss or catching the coronavirus that's causing them the most anxiety. For many young adults, it's feeling the impact of the deaths of Black Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. All of these issues are taking a toll on us; children, parents and workers alike, with potential long-term repercussions for our physical and mental health. That's why it's important to study our ability to bounce back from these challenges and understand how best to confront the crises we face today and will face tomorrow. Techniques to cope were discussed.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Anabel Kingsley, Trichologist, Brand President, Hair Care Brand, Philip Kingsley

Title: Hair Shedding

Understanding how nutrition affects hair health is crucial. Breakfast and lunch should be balanced and high in protein. Blood tests check for deficits, such as low ferritin (iron storage). A treatment regimen might then optimize and promote healthy hair growth. A change in eating habits, nutritional deficiencies, or low-calorie diets are considered the culprits to hair shedding; loss of hair.

Issues: Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jean Sachs, CEO of Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Title: No One Missed Campaign: Beyond Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread from the breasts to other areas of the body. At this time, it is not considered a curable disease, but it’s possible to maintain a good quality of life while on treatment. Biomarker testing analyzes tumors for mutations, examining the makeup and what causes it to grow and spread and can test for treatment resistance. Unfortunately, not all MBC patients receive biomarker testing upon diagnosis. The *No One Missed* campaign raises awareness for biomarker testing as a critical part of metastatic cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Senior Manager, Policy, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: \$5 Co-pays for Mental Health Visits and Prescriptions for Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared a mental health crisis and urged all stakeholders to increase access to care for youth. D.C. is stepping up to the plate: Now, youth under the age of 19 can now receive unlimited mental and behavioral health visits and prescriptions for only a \$5 co-pay with no deductibles across all DC Health Link Standard Plans. The positive impact of

this \$5 policy change on youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the district cannot be overstated; it's literally saving lives.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jonathon Rendina, Senior Director of Research, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: Free Cancer Screening and Care

District residents can sign up for free cancer screening and care with agreeing to a simple blood test that detects and measures potentially cancerous cells circulating within the bloodstream.

With this new technology, Galleri provides a solution for detecting many common cancers that do not have a targeted screening available. They're especially looking for patients from groups that bear a higher burden of cancer-related health disparities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ community. (www.whitman-walker.org/institute/research/include-study)

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

WJFK PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
2nd Quarter
(4/01/24 – 6/30/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Youth/Economic

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director of 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3)

Title: A Good Healthy Start in Life: First 1000 Days

Nearly 11% of children aged 0-5 live in food insecure households. USDA defines nutrition security as consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations. D.C. has one of the highest rates of food insecurity for children.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Frank Holloman, Director of the Division of Transplantation (DoT) at HRSA's Health Systems Bureau (HSB)

Title: Donate Life

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will observe National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 24-30) to raise awareness on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. More than 106-thousand people are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list and every 9 minutes a new person is added. Washington DC is one of the top ten states with the lowest donor registration rates.

Issues: Transportation/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Marty Schwartz, Founder/President, Vehicles for Change and Mike Stanton, National Automotive Dealers Association, President/CEO

Title: 4 Local Families Receive a Car

VFC accepts and repairs donated cars, then awards them to pre-qualified families for as little as \$950, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service-type agencies. As a nonprofit organization, VFC receives 99 percent of its car donations from the public. Since 1999, VFC has awarded over 8,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 28,000 people. VFC's Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center is an employer-driven, paid internship social enterprise designed to provide auto technician training to individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including many recently released from incarceration.

Issues: Transportation/Community News

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ragina Ali, Manager Public & Government Affairs

Title: Spring Travel

AAA projects 43.8 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Memorial Day holiday travel period. This year's total number of travelers is a 4% increase over last year and comes close to matching 2005's record of 44 million Memorial Day travelers. This Memorial Day weekend drivers can expect similar gas prices as last year when the national average was roughly \$3.57. Pump prices rose this spring but have held somewhat steady in recent weeks. Prices may creep higher as the summer driving season gets underway. The wildcard remains the cost of oil, and unlike last year, there are now two wars in the Middle East and Ukraine that could affect the oil market.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Environment

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy's 1 Thing/Audacy Conversations: Earth Month

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

Issues: Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Title: Passover During A War

With the war in Israel ongoing, the meaning of Passover in the Jewish community brings extra reflection. The history of Passover and its significance within Judaism and in Jewish communities was shared. How the themes of Passover, overcoming injustice and inequality, are resonating with Jewish families and communities today. The reform created a resource for families to include at their Seder service this year. Leaders are encouraging families and friends to use the Passover Seder as an opportunity to engage in new dialogue during this politically divisive time.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Youth

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kathon VanHook, Founder/CEO God Speak, D.C.

Title: Serving the Community Through Love

God Speak, D.C. is a non-profit organization that focuses on uplifting those who are disparaged in the District of Columbia. Events and outreach programs for community members; especially the youth. Community leaders, business men and women and religious leaders comprise the

organization. The goals are to provide resources for food, shelter, employment, quality education and health care for the cities citizen.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Dr. Natasha Flake, President, American Association of Endodontists

Title: The Superheros of Tooth Saving

We live in a disposable, all-things-recyclable era. Yet some things are truly worth saving, preserving and revering. Take our teeth, for instance: a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, a signal of overall good health. Our natural teeth are worth saving. And no one is better equipped to do that than an endodontist. The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Community News

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Kelly Cleary, Senior Director of Education and Support Programs for Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Title: Allergy Food Awareness

Food allergies can have a profound impact on individuals' social lives and overall well-being. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and support, FARE creates communities that accommodate the needs of individuals with food allergies. This means that more people can actively participate in social gatherings, celebrations, school activities, and other events without feeling excluded or at risk. It promotes a sense of belonging and improves the overall quality of life for everyone involved.

Issues: Community News/youth/Education

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ryan Tauriainen, Executive Director, Teach for America, D.C. Region

Title: Teacher Appreciation

Teach for America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring every child receives an excellent and equitable education. They share ideas on how parents and students can express their appreciation for their hardworking and dedicated educators from snacks, coffee, gift certificates, flowers and more. Teachers' well-being directly impacts the success of students and the entire education community, which is why families need to express to our teachers how much they are appreciated and how Teacher Appreciation Week is a time when families can ensure that teachers feel valued, empowered, and equipped to make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Education

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sadij Smiley, Founder/CEO

Title: Supporting Families After a Still Birth

Stillborn And Infant Loss Support (SAILS) is a dedicated group of bereaved parents, community advocates, public health activists, and mental health champions who share a profound understanding of the pain of pregnancy loss. The non-profit leads with empathy, compassion, and unwavering determination to fulfill their mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by pregnancy loss. Borningtosilence.org

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – David Jaffe, dean AU, Washington College of Law & Co-Chair, Priti Langer, Survivor, and Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores

Title: Lawyers Have Heart National Walking Day

1 in 4 adults spend more than eight hours a day seated. This amount of sedentary time is bad for individuals' physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day. Getting the recommended amount of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination of those activities per week) is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

Issues: Human Services/Community News

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Natasha M. Flake, President of the American Association of Endodontists

Title: Superheros of Saving Teeth

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News/Political

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Robert Cain, DO, President/CEO, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Title: Health Disparities of Rural and Minority Patients

Healthcare workers are facing a moral crisis. The corporatization of medicine and government requirements have permanently altered medical care, causing many doctors to feel stressed and detached from their work. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) wants to address these issues and bring back a holistic approach to healthcare. Osteopathic doctors, or DOs, are trained to look beyond symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact well-being.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture/Education/Government

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Vinu Ilakkuvan, Co-Director, Healthy Together Fairfax

Title: Healthy Together Fairfax (Virginia)

Healthy Together Fairfax (HTF) is a fun and free interactive event for the community focused on healthy and active living. The event includes free health screenings, access to community services and resources, fitness classes, hands-on activities, and ‘bite-sized’ learning for all ages. Participants can also explore the trails and playgrounds at Franconia Park located in Springfield, Virginia.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Brigadier General Mike Eastman, Executive Director of Onward Ops, and Andrea McCarren, President of the PenFed Foundation

Title: Military to Civilian Life

Onward OPS and PenFed Foundation are both veteran nonprofit organizations, are teaming up to empower service members as they transition from military service to civilian life. Nearly 200-thousand men and women leave the U.S. Military service each year. The transition out of uniformed service can be difficult. Onward Ops pairs new veterans with mentors from their community, focusing on the 12 months before leaving the military and reintegrating into civilian life. The program helps service members begin new lives and stay ahead of serious issues like suicide, PTSD and homelessness. 10-thousand service members were enrolled in the program last year.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Clinton Wright, Vascular Neurologist and Associate Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Title: Strokes in Young Adults

Young adults make up 10 to 15 percent of the stroke population with stroke rates among those younger than 55 increasing 67 percent between 2002 and 2018. Additionally, the risk of a first stroke is almost twice as high for non-Hispanic Black adults as it is for white people.

The National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), developed the Know Stroke campaign to help educate the public about stroke symptoms and the importance of getting to the hospital quickly. Face, Arm, Speech and Time (F.A.S.T.).

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy I'm Listening: Talk away the Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Issues: Human Service/Economy/Culture/Political

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Antonio Ciaccia, Leading Health Policy Expert

Title: Prescription Drug Costs in Maryland

Maryland lawmakers are working on new legislation that would enable eligible hospitals to receive a discount on medications through a federal program. However, while the program was created with good intentions, it has ended up costing consumers billions of dollars.

The controversial 340B program was created to provide medicine discounts to hospitals, who would then pass the savings on to its uninsured and vulnerable patients. However, a new report from 46brooklyn highlights that the opposite is occurring. Patients are now spending 2.5 more times on medicines at 340B program entities than at non-340B entities.

Issues: Community News/Economy

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ross Borden, AI expert and the founder of leading travel publisher Matador Network

Title: Summer Travel Plans Using A.I.

Artificial Intelligence is a hot news story for a number of reasons, mostly because of AI's potential to help make people's lives easier. And one often-complicated event that could benefit from AI is summer travel. AI is considered to be much easier, there are no ads, and it answers very specific queries that a simple web search could not handle. There are no pages to scroll through. It can map out a tour of speak easies in Mexico City in a flash and recommend destinations for budget travel near you. It can handle special needs requests that would otherwise require hours of research. It saves time and reduces stress. It is the future of travel planning, and the possibilities are endless.

Issues: Culture/Political/Government

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Title: Voting Concerns for Women of Color: Rising Costs and Reproductive Justice Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration of three women of color-led national reproductive justice organizations, released results a poll of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI),

Black, and Latina/x women voters demonstrating how their views on socioeconomic issues often align. The poll found that Reproductive Justice issues such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes and lowering the costs of food, housing and living, are top of mind for these voters.

Issues: Government/Economy/Human Service/Political/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone – Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Pacific Research Institute
Title: The latest Advancements in COVID Medications and Therapeutics
Dr. Wayne Winegarden's research was pivotal in bringing attention to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) as a powerful tool to help prevent and treat COVID-19. His work highlights the need to expedite the review and approval of new treatments and why multiple lifesaving therapies are necessary for immunocompromised patients who cannot take antivirals or receive vaccines. As an expert in pharmacoeconomics, Winegarden's expertise includes identifying regulatory obstacles that stand between patients and the latest innovative advancements in medications and therapeutics, including the newly U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized mAb therapy, Pemgarda, which has demonstrated effectiveness against COVID and its variants.

Issues: Government/Culture/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone –
Title: American Red Cross Military Support
The "Hero Care Network," organized by the Red Cross, helps military families connect with their loved ones and help them travel back home during time of emergencies. The service is vital and is available online, by phone, through the Red Cross mobile app or in person, 24 hours a day. The nonprofit also offers a variety of free resiliency workshops in-person and online, to provide military members, veterans, their families and caregivers with effective tools for facing challenges and stress.

Issues: Youth/Economy/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Aaron Hilger, CEO, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Title: Job Opportunities in the Trades with the Toolbelt Generation
SMACNA is an international trade association that provides opportunities in the trades for DC residents and to those across the country. Currently there is a workforce gap in the trades. College enrollment is down due to high post education costs, and not all high school graduates are interested in attending college. There are great benefits in having a job in trades for workers and communities (better buildings, indoor air quality, etc.). How to enter a job in the trades in DC (smacna.org).

Issues: Youth/Culture/Political/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Ruben Arquilevich, VP of Camps for Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Title: Jewish Summer Camp

After a year in which antisemitism reached its highest levels in recent history, thousands of Jewish campers, and staff from across the world will be gathering for a summer of Jewish camping like none other before. Camp will be a critical offer a needed respite from social media and the tumult that has rocked many camper's campuses and communities. A record level of Israelis - 120 campers and 300 staff - will travel to Reform Jewish camps across North America this summer. These camps will provide a safe and tolerant space for Israelis who are still recovering from the violence of October 7th and will provide valuable opportunities for the relationships between Israeli and North American Jews to deepen and evolve. By engaging directly with Israelis, campers and camp staff will be able to gain a more different and comprehensive understanding of Israel and the conflict in Gaza.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Youth/Government/Political/Community Service/Economy

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Matthew Cook, CEO, Children's Hospital Association

Title: Advocate for Children's Health

Family Advocacy Day brings together patients and their families from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and urge Congress to prioritize children's health. These advocates will share their compelling health care journeys, highlighting the critical roles children's hospitals have played in their lives.

Issues: Human Services/Youth/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Stuart Lustig, National Medical Executive for Behavioral Health at Cigna and board certified child psychiatrist with a deep expertise in child mental health.

Title: Study of Resilience in Communities during Social Injustice and the Pandemic

Americans are being tested in ways we never could have imagined. For some, it's homeschooling, or the fear (or reality) of job loss or catching the coronavirus that's causing them the most anxiety. For many young adults, it's feeling the impact of the deaths of Black Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. All of these issues are taking a toll on us; children, parents and workers alike, with potential long-term repercussions for our physical and mental health. That's why it's important to study our ability to bounce back from these challenges and understand how best to confront the crises we face today and will face tomorrow. Techniques to cope were discussed.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Anabel Kingsley, Trichologist, Brand President, Hair Care Brand, Philip Kingsley

Title: Hair Shedding

Understanding how nutrition affects hair health is crucial. Breakfast and lunch should be balanced and high in protein. Blood tests check for deficits, such as low ferritin (iron storage). A treatment regimen might then optimize and promote healthy hair growth. A change in eating habits, nutritional deficiencies, or low-calorie diets are considered the culprits to hair shedding; loss of hair.

Issues: Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jean Sachs, CEO of Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Title: No One Missed Campaign: Beyond Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread from the breasts to other areas of the body. At this time, it is not considered a curable disease, but it’s possible to maintain a good quality of life while on treatment. Biomarker testing analyzes tumors for mutations, examining the makeup and what causes it to grow and spread and can test for treatment resistance. Unfortunately, not all MBC patients receive biomarker testing upon diagnosis. The *No One Missed* campaign raises awareness for biomarker testing as a critical part of metastatic cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Senior Manager, Policy, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: \$5 Co-pays for Mental Health Visits and Prescriptions for Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared a mental health crisis and urged all stakeholders to increase access to care for youth. D.C. is stepping up to the plate: Now, youth under the age of 19 can now receive unlimited mental and behavioral health visits and prescriptions for only a \$5 co-pay with no deductibles across all DC Health Link Standard Plans. The positive impact of

this \$5 policy change on youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the district cannot be overstated; it's literally saving lives.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jonathon Rendina, Senior Director of Research, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: Free Cancer Screening and Care

District residents can sign up for free cancer screening and care with agreeing to a simple blood test that detects and measures potentially cancerous cells circulating within the bloodstream.

With this new technology, Galleri provides a solution for detecting many common cancers that do not have a targeted screening available. They're especially looking for patients from groups that bear a higher burden of cancer-related health disparities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ community. (www.whitman-walker.org/institute/research/include-study)



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

WCBS-AM

(WCBS-AM provides full simulcast on WCBS-FM HD2)

2nd Quarter, 2024
(April 1st- June 30th 2024)

Prepared by:

Ray Martel – Executive Producer of Programming and Operations

**Issues of Concern to New York City
Addressed in Responsive Programming in the Quarter**

Public Safety

- SEVERAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN OUR AREA TAKE PART IN A CRACKDOWN ON DISTRACTED DRIVING STARTING TODAY...
- THREE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED YESTERDAY DURING A RAID AT A BRONX HOME WHERE A GROUP OF DRUG DEALING SQUATTERS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ARRESTED...
- A NEW REPORT IS COMING OUT IN SUFFOLK COUNTY WITH PROPOSED CHANGES FOR THE HANDLING OF CHILD ABUSE COMPLAINTS, FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF THOMAS VALVA
- STARTING FRIDAY NIGHT, NEWARK WILL IMPLEMENT A CURFEW FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18...
- CONNECTICUT IS SET TO EXPAND WHO CAN ACCESS JUVENILE RECORDS FOR GUN BACKGROUND CHECKS
- NYPD OFFICERS IN RIOT GEAR BREAK UP THE PROTESTS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TAKING BACK CONTROL OF HAMILTON HALL
- THE HOUSE APPROVES A BILL MANDATING THE CREATION OF SAFETY STANDARDS FOR LITHIUM ION BATTERIES USED FOR SCOOTERS AND E-BIKES...
- AS THE POOLS AND BEACHES OPEN FOR THE SUMMER, NEW YORK ANNOUNCES A PLAN TO SPEND FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO HIRE LIFESAVERS...
- NEW YORK CITY LOWERS SOME LIFEGUARD STANDARDS IN AN EFFORT TO DEAL WITH A SHORTAGE
- A BEAR IS EUTHANIZED AFTER RANSACKING A HOME IN CONNECTICUT.....BEAR SIGHTINGS HAVE ALSO INCREASED IN NORTH JERSEY...
- THE NYPD WILL BE OUT IN FORCE AT TODAY'S ISRAEL DAY PARADE ON FIFTH AVENUE AS MAYOR ADAMS WARNS ANY PROTESTERS TO KEEP IT PEACEFUL
- LONG ISLAND MAIL CARRIERS WERE ATTACKED BY DOGS 65 TIMES LAST YEAR

- A BOIL WATER ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT FOR THOUSANDS IN NASSAU COUNTY

CRIME

- THE FBI IS ONCE AGAIN SEARCHING FARMS IN ORANGE COUNTY, LOOKING FOR A SUSPECTED GAMBINO GRAVEYARD...
- THE LATEST POLICE STATS SHOW NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY CRIMES TICKING DOWN A BIT
- ON LONG ISLAND POLICE ARE LOOKING INTO A STRING OF ROBBERIES TARGETING HOMES AND BUSINESSES
- ON LONG ISLAND...POLICE ARE SEARCHING A WOODED AREA NEAR MANORVILLE. IT'S REPORTEDLY PART OF THE GILGO BEACH SERIAL MURDER INVESTIGATION
- POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF A BABY ON STATEN ISLAND
- TWO PEOPLE ARE NOW CHARGED WITH MURDER...IN THE BETHPAGE BODY PARTS CASE
- DOZENS OF PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS BROKE INTO AN ACADEMIC BUILDING AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TAKING IT OVER EARLY THIS MORNING, BARRICADING THEMSELVES INSIDE
- DOZENS OF DEMONSTRATORS ARE ARRESTED AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY AFTER STAYING ON CAMPUS PAST AN 11-PM DEADLINE TO LEAVE.....
- THE GILGO BEACH INVESTIGATION IS EXPANDING TO INCLUDE OTHER UNSOLVED MURDERS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY
- COPS ARE LOOKING FOR A BRONX MAN ACCUSED OF THROWING A BELT AROUND A WOMAN'S NECK BEFORE RAPING HER
- NYPD OFFICERS SHOT DEAD AN ARMED SUSPECT IN EAST FLATBUSH
- THE NYPD IS SEARCHING FOR THE PERSON WHO PUNCHED STEVE BUSCEMI IN THE FACE IN AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK IN KIPS BAY...
- A FEMALE TOURIST IS STABBED BY A MAN ON A WHEELCHAIR IN HELL'S KITCHEN...

- A SUSPECT IS BEING QUESTIONED IN THE FATAL SHOOTING OF A 16 YEAR OLD LAST WEEK IN SOHO
- POLICE IN NEW JERSEY ARE HUNTING FOR SCAMMERS WHO ARE TRYING TO EXTORT MONEY FROM PEOPLE BY CLAIMING THEY MUST PAY A FINE FOR MISSING JURY DUTY
- ONE MAN IS DEAD AFTER A POLICE INVOLVED SHOOTING IN OVERNIGHT IN BUSHWICK. ALSO IN BROOKLYN, COPS SAY AN ARMED SUSPECT TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THEM DURING A CHASE WAS STRUCK BY A POLICE CAR
- TWO NYPD OFFICERS ARE RECOVERING AT ELMHURST HOSPITAL AFTER BEING SHOT OVERNIGHT IN QUEENS...
- A MAN IS IN STABLE CONDITION AFTER BEING SLASHED IN THE NECK IN A RANDOM, UNPROVOKED ATTACK IN THE EAST VILLAGE...
- A 17 YEAR OLD IS RECOVERING AFTER BEING SHOT AT A PROM PARTY IN A LUXURY HIGH RISE IN BROOKLYN...
- A MAN IS CHARGED WITH KIDNAPPING A WOMAN AND A CHILD, AFTER HE'S ARRESTED ON THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE...
- NEW JERSEY POLICE ARE TRYING TO LOCATE THE FATHER OF A BABY WHO TOOK THE CHILD WITH HIM 12 DAYS AGO AND NEVER RETURNED...
- A TENSE HOSTAGE SITUATION IN BROOKLYN ENDED PEACEFULLY AFTER MORE THAN TWO HOURS LAST NIGHT. AN ARMED MAN TOOK A WORKER AND A CUSTOMER HOSTAGE INSIDE A MONEY TRANSFER STORE AT IRVING AVENUE AND LINDEN STREET IN BUSHWICK AROUND 9PM...
- BURGLARS IN FLORHAM PARK USE WI-FI JAMMERS TO PREVENT VICTIMS FROM REACHING POLICE FOR HELP...
- A 13 YEAR OLD IS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AT KISSENA PARK IN FLUSHING...

Economy/Jobs

- JAKE'S 58 IS BREAKING GROUND TODAY ON A HUGE EXPANSION THAT WILL DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF BETTING TERMINALS AND MAKE IT A LOT EASIER FOR VISITORS TO FIND A PLACE TO PARK
- STREET VENDORS HAVE BEEN RALLYING IN LOWER MANHATTAN TODAY .CALLING FOR EASIER ACCESS TO PERMITS THAT ALLOW THEM TO SELL THEIR WARES
- NEW YORK'S NEW STATE BUDGET INCLUDES AN EXTENSION OF EXTENDS MAYORAL CONTROL OF CITY SCHOOLS AND A CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL POT SHOPS
- A FINAL \$237 BILLION STATE BUDGET WAS APPROVED NEARLY THREE WEEKS LATE
- NEW YORK'S EMBATTLED CANNABIS LEADER IS STEPPING DOWN... CHRIS ALEXANDER, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF CANNABIS MANAGEMENT TOLD GOVERNOR HOCHUL HE'S LEAVING - HIS JOB IN TWO WEEKS

Transportation

- AS CONGESTION PRICING ROLLS TOWARD A POSSIBLE JUNE ROLL OUT, OFFICIALS IN ROCKLAND ARE PLEADING: DON'T FORGET ROCKLAND AND BERGEN COMMUTERS...
- NEW JERSEY'S LAWSUIT LOOKING TO BLOCK CONGESTION PRICING IS BEING HEARD IN FEDERAL COURT IN NEWARK TODAY
- INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTIONS ARE CONTINUING THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND AFTER INITIAL SURVEYS FOUND NO DAMAGE TO SUBWAYS, BRIDGES AND TUNNELS
- A GOOD CHUNK OF THE BQE IS SHUTTING DOWN FOR REPAIRS ALL WEEKEND
- THE CITY'S SPEED LIMIT MAY DROP TO 20 MILES AN HOUR
- THE MTA IS TRYING TO GET DRIVERS TO SWITCH TO THE TRAINS WITH A FARE BREAK. THE AGENCY IS SET TO OFFER A TEN PERCENT DISCOUNT TO MONTHLY LIRR AND METRO NORTH RIDERS ON FARES WITHIN THE CITY

- I-95 IN BOTH DIRECTIONS IN NORWALK WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR DAYS, AFTER A FIERY TANKER TRUCK CRASH DAMAGED AN OVERPASS
- CONNECTICUT ROAD CREWS ARE WORKING TO DEMOLISH THE I-95 OVERPASS IN NORWALK THAT WAS SCORCHED BY THURSDAY'S TANKER TRUCK FIRE
- WRONG WAY CRASHES HAVE CLAIMED 11 LIVES IN CONNECTICUT THIS YEAR, INCLUDING FOUR YESTERDAY IN A CRASH THAT SHUT DOWN THE MERRITT FOR HOURS...
- SOME NEW MASS TRANSIT OPTIONS WILL BE PART OF A PILOT PROGRAM IN ORANGE AND ROCKLAND, JUST AHEAD OF CONGESTION PRICES...
- ROUTE 80 IS STILL A MESS THIS MORNING, AFTER A FIERY COLLISION IN HACKENSACK JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT THAT INVOLVED AT LEAST TWO TRUCKS
- THERE MAY BE CONTINUING TRAIN ISSUES TODAY BETWEEN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S OVERHEAD WIRES MESS...
- UP TO THREE MILLION PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO PASS THROUGH AIRPORT CHECKPOINTS TODAY, MAKING THIS THE BUSIEST DAY FOR TRAVEL IN NEARLY 20 YEARS...
- THE LIRR IS ROLLING OUT SATURDAY DISCOUNTS FOR MONTHLY RIDERS THIS SUMMER...
- THE BQE HAS FULLY RE-OPENED -- NEARLY 24 HOURS EARLIER THAN EXPECTED
- GOVERNOR HOCHUL IS REPORTEDLY HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART AND IS LOOKING TO DELAY CONGESTION PRICING...
- GOVERNOR HOCHUL HAS INDEFINITELY DELAYED THE START OF CONGESTION PRICING - WHICH WAS SET TO BEGIN JUNE 30TH
- ALBANY LAWMAKERS ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE TODAY ON A BILL THAT WOULD GIVE THE MTA A ONE BILLION DOLLAR BAILOUT, TO COVER THE MONEY THAT WOULD'VE COME IN FROM CONGESTION PRICING...
- PART OF THE FDR IS CLOSED THIS WEEKEND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

- THE HEAD OF THE MTA SAYS NOW THAT CONGESTION PRICING IS OFF THE TABLE, THE FOCUS IS ON KEEPING THE SYSTEM RUNNING, AND THAT COULD MEAN SOME PROJECTS GET NIXED...

Health

- A RACCOON TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES AFTER BEING KILLED BY SIX DOGS IN FAIRFIELD...
- AS THE SUPREME COURT PREPARES TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN A CASE THAT WILL DECIDE THE FUTURE OF ACCESS TO AN ABORTION DRUG, A LOCAL LAWMAKERS IS INTRODUCING A BILL TO PROTECT THAT ACCESS..
- THE CITY WANTS TO SLAP SUGAR WARNINGS ON FOOD AND DRINKS AT FAST FOOD JOINTS AND COFFEE SHOPS
- WHAT'S BEING CALLED A MIRACLE DRUG IS CREDITED WITH SAVING A BRONX FIREFIGHTER WHO COLLAPSED WHILE BATTLING A BLAZE
- A NEW STUDY FINDS 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS WHO DIDN'T WEAR PROTECTIVE GEAR AT GROUND ZERO HAD A HIGHER DEMENTIA RISK

Environment

- A 4.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE ROCKS NEW JERSEY AND THE METRO AREA - IT COULD BE FELT AS FAR SOUTH AS BALTIMORE, AND AS FAR NORTH AS MASSACHUSETTS
- MORE AFTERSHOCKS ARE POSSIBLE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AFTER A DOZEN IN THE WAKE OF FRIDAY'S 4.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE WITH MORE POSSIBLE INTO NEXT WEEK
- IT'S ECLIPSE DAY. MILLIONS WILL BE LOOKING TO THE SKY THIS AFTERNOON FOR A RARE SOLAR ECLIPSE...
- IN CONNECTICUT IT'S SHAPING UP TO BE A BRUTAL TICK SEASON...
- THE BATTLE OVER LARGE SCALE BATTERY FARMS ARE HEATING UP, WITH OFFICIALS IN THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY CALLING ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS...

Sports

- UCONN WINS ITS SECOND CONSECUTIVE NCAA TITLE BEATING PERDUE BY 15 IN THE MEN'S FINAL...
- NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE BRUCE BLAKEMAN VOWS TO APPEAL AFTER A FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSED THE COUNTY'S LAWSUIT AGAINST STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL LETITIA JAMES IN THEIR ONGOING BATTLE OVER NASSAU'S TRANSGENDER SPORTS BAN
- JOHN STERLING ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT AS THE VOICE OF THE YANKEES... HE WILL BE HONORED IN THE BRONX ON SATURDAY...
- THE KNICKS TAKE A 2-0 LEAD OVER THE PACERS THANKS TO A DRAMATIC SECOND HALF PERFORMANCE BY JALEN BRUNSON WHO RETURNED FROM AN EARLY GAME INJURY...
- A JUDGE STRIKES DOWN A NASSAU COUNTY BAN ON TRANSGENDER ATHLETES IN WOMEN'S SPORTS
- SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER TEED OFF ON TIME THIS MORNING AFTER HE WAS ARRESTED ON HIS WAY TO THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP...
- PLAYOFF HOPES END FOR THE KNICKS AFTER A CRUSHING GAME 7 LOSS TO THE PACERS AT THE GARDEN
- IN SPORTS....THE METS CUT RELIEVER JORGE LOPEZ AFTER A MELTDOWN ON AND OFF THE MOUND...
- THE BIG GAME AT THE T-20 CRICKET WORLD CUP AT EISENHOWER PARK ENDS WITH A WIN FOR INDIA OVER PAKISTAN

Politics

- THE MAYOR DEFENDS TOP RANKING NYPD OFFICIALS WHO USED THEIR OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS TO GO AFTER CRITICS - INCLUDING REPORTERS
- THE CORRUPTION TRIAL OF SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ WILL START ON TIME NEXT MONTH...BUT HIS WIFE'S TRIAL WILL BE DELAYED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS
- FORMER CONGRESSMAN GEORGE SANTOS HAS DECIDED HE WILL NOT RUN FOR CONGRESS THIS YEAR...

- PRESIDENT BIDEN IS SET TO TRAVEL TO WESTCHESTER FOR A HIGH PRICED FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY ACTOR MICAEL DOUGLAS AND CATHERINE ZETA JONES
- FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN NEW JERSEY, HOLDING A BIG RALLY ON THE BEACH IN WILDWOOD
- DISAGREEMENTS OVER THE MIDEAST AND WHAT REPRESENTS HATE SPEECH PLAYED A BIG ROLE IN LAST NIGHT'S CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DEBATE IN WESTCHESTER...
- THIS IS PRIMARY DAY IN NEW JERSEY, WHERE SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ CONFIRMS HE WILL BE RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION AS AN INDEPENDENT..
- .
- FORMER CONGRESSMAN MONDAIRE JONES WILL ENDORSE GEORGE LATIMER FOR CONGRESS, BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS WITH CONGRESSMAN JAMAAL BOWMAN OVER THE WAR IN GAZA...

Terrorism

- MORE THAN A THOUSAND PEOPLE PROTEST OUTSIDE A TEANECK SYNAGOGUE DURING A CEREMONY HONORING THE VICTIMS OF LAST OCTOBER'S HAMAS ATTACK IN ISRAEL...
- FAMILIES OF HOSTAGES BEING HELD IN GAZA AND NEW YORK AREA JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS GATHERED ON THE EAST SIDE TO URGE THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF LOVED ONES AND THOSE HELD CAPTIVE BY HAMAS
- NEW JERSEY OFFICIALS ARE CONDEMNING THE VANDALISM DISCOVERED AT A CENTER FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY DURING A CELEBRATION FOR THE END OF RAMADAN...
- IRAN HAS LAUNCHED A DRONE ATTACK ON ISRAEL AND AIR RAID SIRENS HAVE SOUNDED IN JERUSALEM AS A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD IN THE SKIES. US DEFENSE SAYS US CONTINUES TO "SHOOT DOWN IRANIAN-LAUNCHED DRONES"
- AS THE WORLD BRACES FOR ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO IRAN'S MISSILE AND DRONE ATTACK, NEW YORK CITY'S COUNTER TERRORISM TASK FORCE IS AT THE READY FOR ANY TROUBLE HERE...

- THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS AN EMERGENCY MEETING CALLING FOR RESTRAINT IN RESPONSE
- ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN NEW JERSEY MORE THAN DOUBLED LAST YEAR..
- POLICE STEP UP PATROLS AT SYNAGOGUES ACROSS THE FIVE BOROUGHES AHEAD OF PASSOVER
- A YALE STUDENT IS RECOVERING AFTER SHE WAS STABBED IN THE EYE WITH A PALESTINIAN FLAG DURING A PROTEST AT THE IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL... POLICE ARE SEARCHING FOR THE SUSPECT
- THE NYPD IS INVESTIGATING THREATS AGAINST THREE SYNAGOGUES IN MANHATTAN AND ONE IN BROOKLYN
- FOUR TEENAGERS IN RAMAPO ARE CHARGED WITH HATE CRIMES FOR ALLEGEDLY ATTACKING JEWS DURING THE SABBATH...
- NASSAU COUNTY WILL BE STEPPING UP SECURITY AFTER A PRO-ISIS GROUP REPORTEDLY POSTED A GRAPHIC IMAGE OF THE LONG ISLAND VENUE HOSTING THE CRICKET WORLD CUP NEXT MONTH..
- A MAN HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH HATE CRIMES AFTER YELLING ANTISEMITIC STATEMENTS AND TRYING TO MOW DOWN PEDESTRIANS OUTSIDE AN ORTHODOX JEWISH SCHOOL IN BROOKLYN...
- NEARLY THREE DOZEN PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS ARE ARRESTED TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM

Justice

- FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP WILL BECOME THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO FACE A CRIMINAL TRIAL WHEN JURY SELECTION BEGINS TOMORROW IN HIS HUSH MONEY CASE
- DOZENS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISMISSED BECAUSE THEY SAID THEY COULD NOT BE IMPARTIAL...
- ACCUSED GILGO BEACH SERIAL REX HEURMANN APPEARED IN COURT TODAY AS 7 THOUSAND PAGES OF EVIDENCE WERE TURNED OVER TO HIS LAWYERS...

- FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP FACES POSSIBLE CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR POSTING ABOUT THE CASE ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- THE MANHATTAN DA LOOKING TO RE-TRY HARVEY WEINSTEIN AFTER A NEW YORK APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS HIS 2020 RAPE CONVICTION
- DONALD TRUMP IS FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR VIOLATING THE GAG ORDER IN HIS HUSH MONEY CASE
- TRUMP'S BEEN FINED NINE-THOUSAND DOLLARS...AND THREATENED WITH JAIL IF HE KEEPS VIOLATING THE GAG ORDER
- THE MAN ACCUSED OF FATALLY SHOOTING NYPD DETECTIVE JONATHAN DILLER HAS BEEN ARRAIGNED ON MURDER CHARGES
- JURY SELECTION RESUMES TODAY IN SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ' CORRUPTION TRIAL...
- A MAN WHO SPENT 23 YEARS IN PRISON FOR A MURDER HE DIDN'T COMMIT...HAS HIS CONVICTION THROWN OUT
- A FEDERAL JUDGE WILL HEAR ARGUMENTS TODAY IN LAWSUITS TRYING TO BLOCK CONGESTION PRICING...
- "SON OF SAM" KILLER DAVID BERKOWITZ HAS BEEN DENIED PAROLE AFTER HIS TWELFTH BOARD APPEARANCE
- THE FIRST CRIMINAL TRIAL AGAINST A FORMER PRESIDENT GOES TO THE JURY TODAY, AS 12 NEW YORKERS BEGIN TO DECIDE DONALD TRUMP'S FATE IN HIS HUSH MONEY TRIAL...
- FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY ON ALL 34 FELONY COUNTS OF FALSIFYING BUSINESS RECORDS
- MICHELE TROCONIS GETS 14 YEARS IN PRISON THE JENNIFER DULOS KILLING IN CONNECTICUT
- THE NYPD MAKES AN ARREST IN THE STABBING DEATH OF A BRONX WOMAN NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO...

Education

- NEW YORK'S COURT SYSTEM WANTS TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT HOW AI MAY BE USED IN CASES...
- MORE THAN 100 PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS GET ARRESTED AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
- LONG ISLAND SCHOOLS GET A BOOST IN STATE AID
- COLUMBIA GIVES STUDENTS THE OPTION OF REMOTE LEARNING AFTER FIVE DAYS OF PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTS
- PRO-PALESTINIAN NYU STUDENTS WALKED OUT OF CLASSES TODAY IN SOLIDARITY WITH DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE ARRESTED LAST NIGHT. THIS, AS COLUMBIA SETS UP A SECURITY CHECKPOINT TO KEEP NON-STUDENTS AND STAFF OFF THE CAMPUS
- NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR DAVID BANKS IS ON CAPITOL HILL THIS MORNING TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS ABOUT HOW HE IS HANDLING ANTISEMITISM IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM...
- STONYBROOK PLANS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR MAIN GRADUATION CEREMONY ON MAY 17TH...
- A DARIEN MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR AN ALLEGED LESSON ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST THAT PUT A POSITIVE SPIN ON HITLER...

Weather

- WE CONTINUE TO TRACK THOSE BIG STORMS THAT HAVE BEEN MOVING ACROSS OUR AREA THIS MORNING, INCLUDING A REPORT OF AN UNCONFIRMED TORNADO THAT MAY HAVE TOUCHED DOWN IN ORANGE COUNTY...
- HE WET WEATHER IS AFFECTING THINGS IN THE AIR, AS WELL AS ON THE GROUND – MORE FROM LAGUARDIA... SEVERAL TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE AREA HAD TO CANCEL THEIR MEMORIAL DAY PARADES TODAY BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER. IN NEW JERSEY, THOSE INCLUDED WAYNE, SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, CRANFORD, AND WESTFIELD ... AND IN CONNECTICUT, RIDGEFIELD, WILTON, NEW CANAAN, KENT, AND LITCHFIELD

- A LINE OF THUNDERSTORMS IS HEADING IN OUR DIRECTION
- A DANGEROUS HEAT WAVE EXPECTED TO UNFOLD FROM THE MIDWEST TO THE NORTHEAST THIS WEEK, BRINGING 90-DEGREE WEATHER TO NEW YORK CITY
- TEMPERATURES WILL BE CLIMBING INTO THE NINETIES THIS WEEK, WITH NO RAIN IN THE FORECAST. MAYOR ADAMS AND GOVERNOR HOCHUL INCREASE RESOURCES TO HELP NEW YORKERS DEAL WITH THE HEAT, INCLUDING OPENING COOLING CENTERS
- HEAT ADVISORIES HAVE BEEN ISSUED AS TENS OF MILLIONS PREPARE TO DEAL WITH INTENSE HEAT THIS WEEK...
- WESTCHESTER IS OPENING POOLS AND BEACHES EARLY THIS WEEK TO HELP RESIDENTS BATTLE THE HEAT...

Housing/Homelessness/Immigration

- NEW YORK STATE WILL TRANSFORM A 13 ACRE SITE ON LONG ISLAND INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- ONE IN FIVE NEW YORK CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY... THE HIGHEST RATES ARE IN THE BRONX AND BROOKLYN..ACCORDING TO A NEW STATE REPORT
- TODAY IS THE DAY THE CITY IS BEGINNING TO EVICT MIGRANTS FROM SHELTERS. THE FIRST WAVE WILL AFFECT ADULT MIGRANTS WHO WERE GIVEN 30-DAY NOTICES A MONTH AGO. IT'S PART OF THE CITY'S PUSH TO ENFORCE STRICTER TIME LIMITS ON SHELTER STAYS
- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS, NEW YORK FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP PAYING FOR RENT CAN APPLY FOR A FEDERAL VOUCHER PROGRAM KNOWN AS SECTION EIGHT...
- TWO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AT A HOTEL IN YONKERS SERVING AS A SHELTER FOR MIGRANTS AFTER A WORKER AT THE HOTEL CALLED POLICE TO SAY SOMEONE WAS ACTING VIOLENTLY...
- THE RENT GUIDELINES BOARD IS SET TO TAKE A FINAL VOTE TONIGHT TO APPROVE INCREASES FOR RENT-STABILIZED APARTMENTS

- FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR, TENANTS IN RENT STABILIZED APARTMENTS WILL SEE THEIR RENTS GO UP...
- THIS LAST FULL DAY OF SPRING WILL PUSH TEMPERATURES IN THE CITY NEAR THE 90 DEGREE MARK...
- HUNDREDS OF COOLING CENTERS WILL BE CLOSED TODAY IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH...
- NO RELIEF IN SIGHT, NOT YET, WITH ANOTHER DAY WHERE HEAT AND HUMIDITY WILL COMBINE TO MAKE IT FEEL LIKE 100 OR MORE...

**WCBS AM Programs That Address Community Issues
(Regularly Scheduled Public Affairs Programs)**

	<u>Public Affairs Program</u>	<u>Schedule and Description</u>
	The Opening Bell Report	Weekday mornings at 930am, a full half hour of business news focused on consumer issues
	CBS 60 Minutes	Simulcast of CBS News Program Sunday nights at 7pm
	Health and Well Being	Daily feature focusing on a wide variety of medical topics including medicine, diet, mental health, and proper eating
	The Small Business Report with Ed Walsh	Daily Small Business minutes providing tips and tools for business owners and operators.
	Eye On Travel	Peter Greenberg discusses travel issues and navigating through the post pandemic world. Updates on restrictions and procedures
	Eye on Veterans	Daily Report focusing on stories about and important to United States Military Veterans
	All Well and Good	Daily Report focusing on health and ways to improve your daily attitude, energy and well being.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: WCBS Small Business Reports DATE OF BROADCAST: Daily TIME OF BROADCAST: VARIES DAILY DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 1 minute
	PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Business Reporter Ed Walsh delivers a daily report on a small business trend or personality on recovery, survival, and resilience. https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/podcasts/small-business-report-with-joe-connolly-196

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Business/Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: Small Business Spotlight DATE OF BROADCAST: Wednesday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple airing across the day and online DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: Audio/Video PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Weekly series highlighting the inspiring stories of individual business owners and entrepreneurs focused tightly in the past year to helping inspire the pandemic recovery https://wcbs880.radio.com/categories/small-business-spotlight

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Community Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Difference Makers DATE OF BROADCAST: Monday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple times across the day DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 2 minute features
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: News stories focused on members of the community doing something to contribute to the greater good during the pandemic https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/difference-makers	

ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Weekend Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Sunday's TIME OF BROADCAST: 5am DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Locally produced, weekly public affairs show focusing on local issues, Veterans issues, health and well being and issues that affect the local broadcast area as well as national stories of local interest and importance https://www.audacy.com/seattlewolf/hosts/conversations	

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ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Audacy Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Quertery TIME OF BROADCAST: 7pm, Second Thursday of Feb DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Nationally produced public affairs "Town Hall" format program focusing on topics that affect everyone. From Downtowns, Youth Sports, Entertainment & Public Tolling, Audacy Conversations brings experts and public officials together to talk about issues affecting the post pandemic world. https://www.audacy.com/kywnewsradio/topic/the-state-of-entertainment	

Public Service Announcements

Throughout the quarter, the station aired weekly/periodic PSAs providing information on a variety of local community activities and issues. Representative examples of such PSAs include the following:

Audacy 1 Thing
Emergency Prep
Fatherhood Involvement
Vaccinate Your Family
Alzheimers Awareness
US DOH
Animal Adoption
FDA Drug Disposal
Ending Hunger
Drugged Driving
Distracted Driving
Type 2 Diabetes
Supporting Pets
American Psychiatric Assoc.
Love Has No Labels
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
NJ Dept. Human Svcs/CBVI
NYSBA
Valerie Fund

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

2nd Quarter

April 1st thru June 30th 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

WJFK PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
2nd Quarter
(4/01/24 – 6/30/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Youth/Economic

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director of 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions (501C3)

Title: A Good Healthy Start in Life: First 1000 Days

Nearly 11% of children aged 0-5 live in food insecure households. USDA defines nutrition security as consistent access, availability, and affordability of foods and beverages that promote well-being, prevent disease, and, if needed, treat disease, particularly among racial/ethnic minority populations, lower income populations. D.C. has one of the highest rates of food insecurity for children.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Frank Holloman, Director of the Division of Transplantation (DoT) at HRSA's Health Systems Bureau (HSB)

Title: Donate Life

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will observe National Donate Life Month (NDLM) and National Pediatric Transplant Week (April 24-30) to raise awareness on the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation. More than 106-thousand people are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list and every 9 minutes a new person is added. Washington DC is one of the top ten states with the lowest donor registration rates.

Issues: Transportation/Community News/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Marty Schwartz, Founder/President, Vehicles for Change and Mike Stanton, National Automotive Dealers Association, President/CEO

Title: 4 Local Families Receive a Car

VFC accepts and repairs donated cars, then awards them to pre-qualified families for as little as \$950, enabling low-income families to become self-sufficient. Eligible families are referred to VFC through partnering social service-type agencies. As a nonprofit organization, VFC receives 99 percent of its car donations from the public. Since 1999, VFC has awarded over 8,000 cars to low-income families, changing the lives of more than 28,000 people. VFC's Full Circle Auto Repair and Training Center is an employer-driven, paid internship social enterprise designed to provide auto technician training to individuals with multiple barriers to employment, including many recently released from incarceration.

Issues: Transportation/Community News

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ragina Ali, Manager Public & Government Affairs

Title: Spring Travel

AAA projects 43.8 million travelers will head 50 miles or more from home over the Memorial Day holiday travel period. This year's total number of travelers is a 4% increase over last year and comes close to matching 2005's record of 44 million Memorial Day travelers. This Memorial Day weekend drivers can expect similar gas prices as last year when the national average was roughly \$3.57. Pump prices rose this spring but have held somewhat steady in recent weeks. Prices may creep higher as the summer driving season gets underway. The wildcard remains the cost of oil, and unlike last year, there are now two wars in the Middle East and Ukraine that could affect the oil market.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Environment

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy's 1 Thing/Audacy Conversations: Earth Month

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

Issues: Culture/Political/Community News

Date: 04/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism

Title: Passover During A War

With the war in Israel ongoing, the meaning of Passover in the Jewish community brings extra reflection. The history of Passover and its significance within Judaism and in Jewish communities was shared. How the themes of Passover, overcoming injustice and inequality, are resonating with Jewish families and communities today. The reform created a resource for families to include at their Seder service this year. Leaders are encouraging families and friends to use the Passover Seder as an opportunity to engage in new dialogue during this politically divisive time.

Issues: Community News/Government/Culture

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Amy Street, National Director for Military Sexual Trauma (MST), Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

Title: Sexual assault Awareness and Prevention Month

During Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) every April, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) highlights its resources and treatment services for Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) and expands the national conversation to reduce stigma and raise awareness of treatment options. VA uses the term MST to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment that occurred during military service. VA's 2024 SAAPM campaign message is "Finding Your Path to Healing." VA understands that healing after MST takes time, that MST can affect Veterans in many different ways, and that there is no one-size-fits-all path to healing. That's why VA offers free, MST-related resources and treatment services year-round that are tailored for each survivor.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Youth

Date: 04/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kathon VanHook, Founder/CEO God Speak, D.C.

Title: Serving the Community Through Love

God Speak, D.C. is a non-profit organization that focuses on uplifting those who are disparaged in the District of Columbia. Events and outreach programs for community members; especially the youth. Community leaders, business men and women and religious leaders comprise the

organization. The goals are to provide resources for food, shelter, employment, quality education and health care for the cities citizen.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Dr. Natasha Flake, President, American Association of Endodontists

Title: The Superheros of Tooth Saving

We live in a disposable, all-things-recyclable era. Yet some things are truly worth saving, preserving and revering. Take our teeth, for instance: a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, a signal of overall good health. Our natural teeth are worth saving. And no one is better equipped to do that than an endodontist. The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Community News

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Kelly Cleary, Senior Director of Education and Support Programs for Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)

Title: Allergy Food Awareness

Food allergies can have a profound impact on individuals' social lives and overall well-being. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and support, FARE creates communities that accommodate the needs of individuals with food allergies. This means that more people can actively participate in social gatherings, celebrations, school activities, and other events without feeling excluded or at risk. It promotes a sense of belonging and improves the overall quality of life for everyone involved.

Issues: Community News/youth/Education

Date: 05/05/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ryan Tauriainen, Executive Director, Teach for America, D.C. Region

Title: Teacher Appreciation

Teach for America is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring every child receives an excellent and equitable education. They share ideas on how parents and students can express their appreciation for their hardworking and dedicated educators from snacks, coffee, gift certificates, flowers and more. Teachers' well-being directly impacts the success of students and the entire education community, which is why families need to express to our teachers how much they are appreciated and how Teacher Appreciation Week is a time when families can ensure that teachers feel valued, empowered, and equipped to make a lasting impact in the lives of their students.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Education

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sadij Smiley, Founder/CEO

Title: Supporting Families After a Still Birth

Stillborn And Infant Loss Support (SAILS) is a dedicated group of bereaved parents, community advocates, public health activists, and mental health champions who share a profound understanding of the pain of pregnancy loss. The non-profit leads with empathy, compassion, and unwavering determination to fulfill their mission and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those impacted by pregnancy loss. Borningtosilence.org

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 05/12/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – David Jaffe, dean AU, Washington College of Law & Co-Chair, Priti Langer, Survivor, and Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores

Title: Lawyers Have Heart National Walking Day

1 in 4 adults spend more than eight hours a day seated. This amount of sedentary time is bad for individuals' physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day. Getting the recommended amount of physical activity (at least 150 minutes of moderate, 75 minutes of vigorous activity, or a combination of those activities per week) is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression.

Issues: Human Services/Community News

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Natasha M. Flake, President of the American Association of Endodontists

Title: Superheros of Saving Teeth

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE), which represents 8,000 root canal specialists known as endodontists, wants to ease people's fears and encourage them to act more quickly when they experience tooth pain. An endodontist has 2-3 years of specialty training beyond dental school and should be the first person you call with tooth pain.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News/Political

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Robert Cain, DO, President/CEO, Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Title: Health Disparities of Rural and Minority Patients

Healthcare workers are facing a moral crisis. The corporatization of medicine and government requirements have permanently altered medical care, causing many doctors to feel stressed and detached from their work. The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) wants to address these issues and bring back a holistic approach to healthcare. Osteopathic doctors, or DOs, are trained to look beyond symptoms to understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact well-being.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture/Education/Government

Date: 05/19/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Vinu Ilakkuvan, Co-Director, Healthy Together Fairfax

Title: Healthy Together Fairfax (Virginia)

Healthy Together Fairfax (HTF) is a fun and free interactive event for the community focused on healthy and active living. The event includes free health screenings, access to community services and resources, fitness classes, hands-on activities, and ‘bite-sized’ learning for all ages. Participants can also explore the trails and playgrounds at Franconia Park located in Springfield, Virginia.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Brigadier General Mike Eastman, Executive Director of Onward Ops, and Andrea McCarren, President of the PenFed Foundation

Title: Military to Civilian Life

Onward OPS and PenFed Foundation are both veteran nonprofit organizations, are teaming up to empower service members as they transition from military service to civilian life. Nearly 200-thousand men and women leave the U.S. Military service each year. The transition out of uniformed service can be difficult. Onward Ops pairs new veterans with mentors from their community, focusing on the 12 months before leaving the military and reintegrating into civilian life. The program helps service members begin new lives and stay ahead of serious issues like suicide, PTSD and homelessness. 10-thousand service members were enrolled in the program last year.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Community News

Date: 05/26/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Clinton Wright, Vascular Neurologist and Associate Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Title: Strokes in Young Adults

Young adults make up 10 to 15 percent of the stroke population with stroke rates among those younger than 55 increasing 67 percent between 2002 and 2018. Additionally, the risk of a first stroke is almost twice as high for non-Hispanic Black adults as it is for white people.

The National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), developed the Know Stroke campaign to help educate the public about stroke symptoms and the importance of getting to the hospital quickly. Face, Arm, Speech and Time (F.A.S.T.).

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Youth

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy Media Network

Title: Audacy I'm Listening: Talk away the Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ Community

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Issues: Human Service/Economy/Culture/Political

Date: 06/02/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Antonio Ciaccia, Leading Health Policy Expert

Title: Prescription Drug Costs in Maryland

Maryland lawmakers are working on new legislation that would enable eligible hospitals to receive a discount on medications through a federal program. However, while the program was created with good intentions, it has ended up costing consumers billions of dollars.

The controversial 340B program was created to provide medicine discounts to hospitals, who would then pass the savings on to its uninsured and vulnerable patients. However, a new report from 46brooklyn highlights that the opposite is occurring. Patients are now spending 2.5 more times on medicines at 340B program entities than at non-340B entities.

Issues: Community News/Economy

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Ross Borden, AI expert and the founder of leading travel publisher Matador Network

Title: Summer Travel Plans Using A.I.

Artificial Intelligence is a hot news story for a number of reasons, mostly because of AI's potential to help make people's lives easier. And one often-complicated event that could benefit from AI is summer travel. AI is considered to be much easier, there are no ads, and it answers very specific queries that a simple web search could not handle. There are no pages to scroll through. It can map out a tour of speak easies in Mexico City in a flash and recommend destinations for budget travel near you. It can handle special needs requests that would otherwise require hours of research. It saves time and reduces stress. It is the future of travel planning, and the possibilities are endless.

Issues: Culture/Political/Government

Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Regina Davis Moss, PhD, MPH, MCHES, President & CEO, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

Title: Voting Concerns for Women of Color: Rising Costs and Reproductive Justice Intersections of Our Lives, a collaboration of three women of color-led national reproductive justice organizations, released results a poll of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI),

Black, and Latina/x women voters demonstrating how their views on socioeconomic issues often align. The poll found that Reproductive Justice issues such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes and lowering the costs of food, housing and living, are top of mind for these voters.

Issues: Government/Economy/Human Service/Political/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone – Wayne Winegarden, Ph.D., Senior Fellow at the Pacific Research Institute
Title: The latest Advancements in COVID Medications and Therapeutics
Dr. Wayne Winegarden's research was pivotal in bringing attention to monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) as a powerful tool to help prevent and treat COVID-19. His work highlights the need to expedite the review and approval of new treatments and why multiple lifesaving therapies are necessary for immunocompromised patients who cannot take antivirals or receive vaccines. As an expert in pharmacoeconomics, Winegarden's expertise includes identifying regulatory obstacles that stand between patients and the latest innovative advancements in medications and therapeutics, including the newly U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized mAb therapy, Pemgarda, which has demonstrated effectiveness against COVID and its variants.

Issues: Government/Culture/Community News
Date: 06/09/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)
Source: Phone –
Title: American Red Cross Military Support
The "Hero Care Network," organized by the Red Cross, helps military families connect with their loved ones and help them travel back home during time of emergencies. The service is vital and is available online, by phone, through the Red Cross mobile app or in person, 24 hours a day. The nonprofit also offers a variety of free resiliency workshops in-person and online, to provide military members, veterans, their families and caregivers with effective tools for facing challenges and stress.

Issues: Youth/Economy/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Aaron Hilger, CEO, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Title: Job Opportunities in the Trades with the Toolbelt Generation
SMACNA is an international trade association that provides opportunities in the trades for DC residents and to those across the country. Currently there is a workforce gap in the trades. College enrollment is down due to high post education costs, and not all high school graduates are interested in attending college. There are great benefits in having a job in trades for workers and communities (better buildings, indoor air quality, etc.). How to enter a job in the trades in DC (smacna.org).

Issues: Youth/Culture/Political/Community News
Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)
Source: Phone – Ruben Arquilevich, VP of Camps for Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
Title: Jewish Summer Camp

After a year in which antisemitism reached its highest levels in recent history, thousands of Jewish campers, and staff from across the world will be gathering for a summer of Jewish camping like none other before. Camp will be a critical offer a needed respite from social media and the tumult that has rocked many camper's campuses and communities. A record level of Israelis - 120 campers and 300 staff - will travel to Reform Jewish camps across North America this summer. These camps will provide a safe and tolerant space for Israelis who are still recovering from the violence of October 7th and will provide valuable opportunities for the relationships between Israeli and North American Jews to deepen and evolve. By engaging directly with Israelis, campers and camp staff will be able to gain a more different and comprehensive understanding of Israel and the conflict in Gaza.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Human Service

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Joi Bannister, Certified Interpreter, Founder Joyful Signing

Title: Signing with a Purpose

Joyful signing was founded by Joi Bannister in 2009 to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation to the DC region in a freelance capacity. Since 2009, Joyful Signing has provided thousands of hours of accessibility services throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area and beyond. As the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community and world at large have shifted, they have also strengthened their capacity for virtual services, allowing them to service even more individuals and organizations throughout the nation.

Issues: Youth/Government/Political/Community Service/Economy

Date: 06/16/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Matthew Cook, CEO, Children's Hospital Association

Title: Advocate for Children's Health

Family Advocacy Day brings together patients and their families from across the nation to meet with lawmakers and urge Congress to prioritize children's health. These advocates will share their compelling health care journeys, highlighting the critical roles children's hospitals have played in their lives.

Issues: Human Services/Youth/Culture/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Stuart Lustig, National Medical Executive for Behavioral Health at Cigna and board certified child psychiatrist with a deep expertise in child mental health.

Title: Study of Resilience in Communities during Social Injustice and the Pandemic

Americans are being tested in ways we never could have imagined. For some, it's homeschooling, or the fear (or reality) of job loss or catching the coronavirus that's causing them the most anxiety. For many young adults, it's feeling the impact of the deaths of Black Americans like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. All of these issues are taking a toll on us; children, parents and workers alike, with potential long-term repercussions for our physical and mental health. That's why it's important to study our ability to bounce back from these challenges and understand how best to confront the crises we face today and will face tomorrow. Techniques to cope were discussed.

Issues: Youth/Education/Transportation/Community News

Date: 06/23/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Candice Lightner, Founder, We Save Lives and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Title: 100 Deadliest Days

The “100 Deadliest Days” is the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day when fatal teen crashes increase dramatically. Nationwide, over 7,000 people died in teen-related crashes from 2010–2019 during this summer period. We Save Lives, brings awareness about drunk driving, drowsy driving and distracted driving.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Anabel Kingsley, Trichologist, Brand President, Hair Care Brand, Philip Kingsley

Title: Hair Shedding

Understanding how nutrition affects hair health is crucial. Breakfast and lunch should be balanced and high in protein. Blood tests check for deficits, such as low ferritin (iron storage). A treatment regimen might then optimize and promote healthy hair growth. A change in eating habits, nutritional deficiencies, or low-calorie diets are considered the culprits to hair shedding; loss of hair.

Issues: Human Service/Political/Community News

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jean Sachs, CEO of Living Beyond Breast Cancer

Title: No One Missed Campaign: Beyond Metastatic Breast Cancer

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC), also known as stage IV breast cancer, is breast cancer that has spread from the breasts to other areas of the body. At this time, it is not considered a curable disease, but it's possible to maintain a good quality of life while on treatment. Biomarker testing analyzes tumors for mutations, examining the makeup and what causes it to grow and spread and can test for treatment resistance. Unfortunately, not all MBC patients receive biomarker testing upon diagnosis. The *No One Missed* campaign raises awareness for biomarker testing as a critical part of metastatic cancer diagnosis and treatment plan.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lienna Feleke-Eshete, Senior Manager, Policy, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: \$5 Co-pays for Mental Health Visits and Prescriptions for Youth

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared a mental health crisis and urged all stakeholders to increase access to care for youth. D.C. is stepping up to the plate: Now, youth under the age of 19 can now receive unlimited mental and behavioral health visits and prescriptions for only a \$5 co-pay with no deductibles across all DC Health Link Standard Plans. The positive impact of

this \$5 policy change on youth of color and LGBTQIA+ youth in the district cannot be overstated; it's literally saving lives.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Political/Culture

Date: 06/29/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jonathon Rendina, Senior Director of Research, Whitman-Walker Institute

Title: Free Cancer Screening and Care

District residents can sign up for free cancer screening and care with agreeing to a simple blood test that detects and measures potentially cancerous cells circulating within the bloodstream.

With this new technology, Galleri provides a solution for detecting many common cancers that do not have a targeted screening available. They're especially looking for patients from groups that bear a higher burden of cancer-related health disparities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and members of the LGBTQ community. (www.whitman-walker.org/institute/research/include-study)



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

WCBS-AM

(WCBS-AM provides full simulcast on WCBS-FM HD2)

2nd Quarter, 2024
(April 1st- June 30th 2024)

Prepared by:

Ray Martel – Executive Producer of Programming and Operations

**Issues of Concern to New York City
Addressed in Responsive Programming in the Quarter**

Public Safety

- SEVERAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN OUR AREA TAKE PART IN A CRACKDOWN ON DISTRACTED DRIVING STARTING TODAY...
- THREE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED YESTERDAY DURING A RAID AT A BRONX HOME WHERE A GROUP OF DRUG DEALING SQUATTERS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ARRESTED...
- A NEW REPORT IS COMING OUT IN SUFFOLK COUNTY WITH PROPOSED CHANGES FOR THE HANDLING OF CHILD ABUSE COMPLAINTS, FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF THOMAS VALVA
- STARTING FRIDAY NIGHT, NEWARK WILL IMPLEMENT A CURFEW FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18...
- CONNECTICUT IS SET TO EXPAND WHO CAN ACCESS JUVENILE RECORDS FOR GUN BACKGROUND CHECKS
- NYPD OFFICERS IN RIOT GEAR BREAK UP THE PROTESTS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TAKING BACK CONTROL OF HAMILTON HALL
- THE HOUSE APPROVES A BILL MANDATING THE CREATION OF SAFETY STANDARDS FOR LITHIUM ION BATTERIES USED FOR SCOOTERS AND E-BIKES...
- AS THE POOLS AND BEACHES OPEN FOR THE SUMMER, NEW YORK ANNOUNCES A PLAN TO SPEND FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO HIRE LIFESAVERS...
- NEW YORK CITY LOWERS SOME LIFEGUARD STANDARDS IN AN EFFORT TO DEAL WITH A SHORTAGE
- A BEAR IS EUTHANIZED AFTER RANSACKING A HOME IN CONNECTICUT.....BEAR SIGHTINGS HAVE ALSO INCREASED IN NORTH JERSEY...
- THE NYPD WILL BE OUT IN FORCE AT TODAY'S ISRAEL DAY PARADE ON FIFTH AVENUE AS MAYOR ADAMS WARNS ANY PROTESTERS TO KEEP IT PEACEFUL
- LONG ISLAND MAIL CARRIERS WERE ATTACKED BY DOGS 65 TIMES LAST YEAR

- A BOIL WATER ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT FOR THOUSANDS IN NASSAU COUNTY

CRIME

- THE FBI IS ONCE AGAIN SEARCHING FARMS IN ORANGE COUNTY, LOOKING FOR A SUSPECTED GAMBINO GRAVEYARD...
- THE LATEST POLICE STATS SHOW NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY CRIMES TICKING DOWN A BIT
- ON LONG ISLAND POLICE ARE LOOKING INTO A STRING OF ROBBERIES TARGETING HOMES AND BUSINESSES
- ON LONG ISLAND...POLICE ARE SEARCHING A WOODED AREA NEAR MANORVILLE. IT'S REPORTEDLY PART OF THE GILGO BEACH SERIAL MURDER INVESTIGATION
- POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF A BABY ON STATEN ISLAND
- TWO PEOPLE ARE NOW CHARGED WITH MURDER...IN THE BETHPAGE BODY PARTS CASE
- DOZENS OF PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS BROKE INTO AN ACADEMIC BUILDING AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TAKING IT OVER EARLY THIS MORNING, BARRICADING THEMSELVES INSIDE
- DOZENS OF DEMONSTRATORS ARE ARRESTED AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY AFTER STAYING ON CAMPUS PAST AN 11-PM DEADLINE TO LEAVE.....
- THE GILGO BEACH INVESTIGATION IS EXPANDING TO INCLUDE OTHER UNSOLVED MURDERS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY
- COPS ARE LOOKING FOR A BRONX MAN ACCUSED OF THROWING A BELT AROUND A WOMAN'S NECK BEFORE RAPING HER
- NYPD OFFICERS SHOT DEAD AN ARMED SUSPECT IN EAST FLATBUSH
- THE NYPD IS SEARCHING FOR THE PERSON WHO PUNCHED STEVE BUSCEMI IN THE FACE IN AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK IN KIPS BAY...
- A FEMALE TOURIST IS STABBED BY A MAN ON A WHEELCHAIR IN HELL'S KITCHEN...

- A SUSPECT IS BEING QUESTIONED IN THE FATAL SHOOTING OF A 16 YEAR OLD LAST WEEK IN SOHO
- POLICE IN NEW JERSEY ARE HUNTING FOR SCAMMERS WHO ARE TRYING TO EXTORT MONEY FROM PEOPLE BY CLAIMING THEY MUST PAY A FINE FOR MISSING JURY DUTY
- ONE MAN IS DEAD AFTER A POLICE INVOLVED SHOOTING IN OVERNIGHT IN BUSHWICK. ALSO IN BROOKLYN, COPS SAY AN ARMED SUSPECT TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THEM DURING A CHASE WAS STRUCK BY A POLICE CAR
- TWO NYPD OFFICERS ARE RECOVERING AT ELMHURST HOSPITAL AFTER BEING SHOT OVERNIGHT IN QUEENS...
- A MAN IS IN STABLE CONDITION AFTER BEING SLASHED IN THE NECK IN A RANDOM, UNPROVOKED ATTACK IN THE EAST VILLAGE...
- A 17 YEAR OLD IS RECOVERING AFTER BEING SHOT AT A PROM PARTY IN A LUXURY HIGH RISE IN BROOKLYN...
- A MAN IS CHARGED WITH KIDNAPPING A WOMAN AND A CHILD, AFTER HE'S ARRESTED ON THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE...
- NEW JERSEY POLICE ARE TRYING TO LOCATE THE FATHER OF A BABY WHO TOOK THE CHILD WITH HIM 12 DAYS AGO AND NEVER RETURNED...
- A TENSE HOSTAGE SITUATION IN BROOKLYN ENDED PEACEFULLY AFTER MORE THAN TWO HOURS LAST NIGHT. AN ARMED MAN TOOK A WORKER AND A CUSTOMER HOSTAGE INSIDE A MONEY TRANSFER STORE AT IRVING AVENUE AND LINDEN STREET IN BUSHWICK AROUND 9PM...
- BURGLARS IN FLORHAM PARK USE WI-FI JAMMERS TO PREVENT VICTIMS FROM REACHING POLICE FOR HELP...
- A 13 YEAR OLD IS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AT KISSENA PARK IN FLUSHING...

Economy/Jobs

- JAKE'S 58 IS BREAKING GROUND TODAY ON A HUGE EXPANSION THAT WILL DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF BETTING TERMINALS AND MAKE IT A LOT EASIER FOR VISITORS TO FIND A PLACE TO PARK
- STREET VENDORS HAVE BEEN RALLYING IN LOWER MANHATTAN TODAY .CALLING FOR EASIER ACCESS TO PERMITS THAT ALLOW THEM TO SELL THEIR WARES
- NEW YORK'S NEW STATE BUDGET INCLUDES AN EXTENSION OF EXTENDS MAYORAL CONTROL OF CITY SCHOOLS AND A CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL POT SHOPS
- A FINAL \$237 BILLION STATE BUDGET WAS APPROVED NEARLY THREE WEEKS LATE
- NEW YORK'S EMBATTLED CANNABIS LEADER IS STEPPING DOWN... CHRIS ALEXANDER, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF CANNABIS MANAGEMENT TOLD GOVERNOR HOCHUL HE'S LEAVING - HIS JOB IN TWO WEEKS

Transportation

- AS CONGESTION PRICING ROLLS TOWARD A POSSIBLE JUNE ROLL OUT, OFFICIALS IN ROCKLAND ARE PLEADING: DON'T FORGET ROCKLAND AND BERGEN COMMUTERS...
- NEW JERSEY'S LAWSUIT LOOKING TO BLOCK CONGESTION PRICING IS BEING HEARD IN FEDERAL COURT IN NEWARK TODAY
- INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTIONS ARE CONTINUING THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND AFTER INITIAL SURVEYS FOUND NO DAMAGE TO SUBWAYS, BRIDGES AND TUNNELS
- A GOOD CHUNK OF THE BQE IS SHUTTING DOWN FOR REPAIRS ALL WEEKEND
- THE CITY'S SPEED LIMIT MAY DROP TO 20 MILES AN HOUR
- THE MTA IS TRYING TO GET DRIVERS TO SWITCH TO THE TRAINS WITH A FARE BREAK. THE AGENCY IS SET TO OFFER A TEN PERCENT DISCOUNT TO MONTHLY LIRR AND METRO NORTH RIDERS ON FARES WITHIN THE CITY

- I-95 IN BOTH DIRECTIONS IN NORWALK WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR DAYS, AFTER A FIERY TANKER TRUCK CRASH DAMAGED AN OVERPASS
- CONNECTICUT ROAD CREWS ARE WORKING TO DEMOLISH THE I-95 OVERPASS IN NORWALK THAT WAS SCORCHED BY THURSDAY'S TANKER TRUCK FIRE
- WRONG WAY CRASHES HAVE CLAIMED 11 LIVES IN CONNECTICUT THIS YEAR, INCLUDING FOUR YESTERDAY IN A CRASH THAT SHUT DOWN THE MERRITT FOR HOURS...
- SOME NEW MASS TRANSIT OPTIONS WILL BE PART OF A PILOT PROGRAM IN ORANGE AND ROCKLAND, JUST AHEAD OF CONGESTION PRICES...
- ROUTE 80 IS STILL A MESS THIS MORNING, AFTER A FIERY COLLISION IN HACKENSACK JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT THAT INVOLVED AT LEAST TWO TRUCKS
- THERE MAY BE CONTINUING TRAIN ISSUES TODAY BETWEEN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S OVERHEAD WIRES MESS...
- UP TO THREE MILLION PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO PASS THROUGH AIRPORT CHECKPOINTS TODAY, MAKING THIS THE BUSIEST DAY FOR TRAVEL IN NEARLY 20 YEARS...
- THE LIRR IS ROLLING OUT SATURDAY DISCOUNTS FOR MONTHLY RIDERS THIS SUMMER...
- THE BQE HAS FULLY RE-OPENED -- NEARLY 24 HOURS EARLIER THAN EXPECTED
- GOVERNOR HOCHUL IS REPORTEDLY HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART AND IS LOOKING TO DELAY CONGESTION PRICING...
- GOVERNOR HOCHUL HAS INDEFINITELY DELAYED THE START OF CONGESTION PRICING - WHICH WAS SET TO BEGIN JUNE 30TH
- ALBANY LAWMAKERS ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE TODAY ON A BILL THAT WOULD GIVE THE MTA A ONE BILLION DOLLAR BAILOUT, TO COVER THE MONEY THAT WOULD'VE COME IN FROM CONGESTION PRICING...
- PART OF THE FDR IS CLOSED THIS WEEKEND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

- THE HEAD OF THE MTA SAYS NOW THAT CONGESTION PRICING IS OFF THE TABLE, THE FOCUS IS ON KEEPING THE SYSTEM RUNNING, AND THAT COULD MEAN SOME PROJECTS GET NIXED...

Health

- A RACCOON TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES AFTER BEING KILLED BY SIX DOGS IN FAIRFIELD...
- AS THE SUPREME COURT PREPARES TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN A CASE THAT WILL DECIDE THE FUTURE OF ACCESS TO AN ABORTION DRUG, A LOCAL LAWMAKERS IS INTRODUCING A BILL TO PROTECT THAT ACCESS..
- THE CITY WANTS TO SLAP SUGAR WARNINGS ON FOOD AND DRINKS AT FAST FOOD JOINTS AND COFFEE SHOPS
- WHAT'S BEING CALLED A MIRACLE DRUG IS CREDITED WITH SAVING A BRONX FIREFIGHTER WHO COLLAPSED WHILE BATTLING A BLAZE
- A NEW STUDY FINDS 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS WHO DIDN'T WEAR PROTECTIVE GEAR AT GROUND ZERO HAD A HIGHER DEMENTIA RISK

Environment

- A 4.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE ROCKS NEW JERSEY AND THE METRO AREA - IT COULD BE FELT AS FAR SOUTH AS BALTIMORE, AND AS FAR NORTH AS MASSACHUSETTS
- MORE AFTERSHOCKS ARE POSSIBLE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AFTER A DOZEN IN THE WAKE OF FRIDAY'S 4.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE WITH MORE POSSIBLE INTO NEXT WEEK
- IT'S ECLIPSE DAY. MILLIONS WILL BE LOOKING TO THE SKY THIS AFTERNOON FOR A RARE SOLAR ECLIPSE...
- IN CONNECTICUT IT'S SHAPING UP TO BE A BRUTAL TICK SEASON...
- THE BATTLE OVER LARGE SCALE BATTERY FARMS ARE HEATING UP, WITH OFFICIALS IN THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY CALLING ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS...

Sports

- UCONN WINS ITS SECOND CONSECUTIVE NCAA TITLE BEATING PERDUE BY 15 IN THE MEN'S FINAL...
- NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE BRUCE BLAKEMAN VOWS TO APPEAL AFTER A FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSED THE COUNTY'S LAWSUIT AGAINST STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL LETITIA JAMES IN THEIR ONGOING BATTLE OVER NASSAU'S TRANSGENDER SPORTS BAN
- JOHN STERLING ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT AS THE VOICE OF THE YANKEES... HE WILL BE HONORED IN THE BRONX ON SATURDAY...
- THE KNICKS TAKE A 2-0 LEAD OVER THE PACERS THANKS TO A DRAMATIC SECOND HALF PERFORMANCE BY JALEN BRUNSON WHO RETURNED FROM AN EARLY GAME INJURY...
- A JUDGE STRIKES DOWN A NASSAU COUNTY BAN ON TRANSGENDER ATHLETES IN WOMEN'S SPORTS
- SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER TEED OFF ON TIME THIS MORNING AFTER HE WAS ARRESTED ON HIS WAY TO THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP...
- PLAYOFF HOPES END FOR THE KNICKS AFTER A CRUSHING GAME 7 LOSS TO THE PACERS AT THE GARDEN
- IN SPORTS....THE METS CUT RELIEVER JORGE LOPEZ AFTER A MELTDOWN ON AND OFF THE MOUND...
- THE BIG GAME AT THE T-20 CRICKET WORLD CUP AT EISENHOWER PARK ENDS WITH A WIN FOR INDIA OVER PAKISTAN

Politics

- THE MAYOR DEFENDS TOP RANKING NYPD OFFICIALS WHO USED THEIR OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS TO GO AFTER CRITICS - INCLUDING REPORTERS
- THE CORRUPTION TRIAL OF SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ WILL START ON TIME NEXT MONTH...BUT HIS WIFE'S TRIAL WILL BE DELAYED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS
- FORMER CONGRESSMAN GEORGE SANTOS HAS DECIDED HE WILL NOT RUN FOR CONGRESS THIS YEAR...

- PRESIDENT BIDEN IS SET TO TRAVEL TO WESTCHESTER FOR A HIGH PRICED FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY ACTOR MICAEL DOUGLAS AND CATHERINE ZETA JONES
- FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN NEW JERSEY, HOLDING A BIG RALLY ON THE BEACH IN WILDWOOD
- DISAGREEMENTS OVER THE MIDEAST AND WHAT REPRESENTS HATE SPEECH PLAYED A BIG ROLE IN LAST NIGHT'S CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DEBATE IN WESTCHESTER...
- THIS IS PRIMARY DAY IN NEW JERSEY, WHERE SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ CONFIRMS HE WILL BE RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION AS AN INDEPENDENT..
- .
- FORMER CONGRESSMAN MONDAIRE JONES WILL ENDORSE GEORGE LATIMER FOR CONGRESS, BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS WITH CONGRESSMAN JAMAAL BOWMAN OVER THE WAR IN GAZA...

Terrorism

- MORE THAN A THOUSAND PEOPLE PROTEST OUTSIDE A TEANECK SYNAGOGUE DURING A CEREMONY HONORING THE VICTIMS OF LAST OCTOBER'S HAMAS ATTACK IN ISRAEL...
- FAMILIES OF HOSTAGES BEING HELD IN GAZA AND NEW YORK AREA JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS GATHERED ON THE EAST SIDE TO URGE THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF LOVED ONES AND THOSE HELD CAPTIVE BY HAMAS
- NEW JERSEY OFFICIALS ARE CONDEMNING THE VANDALISM DISCOVERED AT A CENTER FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY DURING A CELEBRATION FOR THE END OF RAMADAN...
- IRAN HAS LAUNCHED A DRONE ATTACK ON ISRAEL AND AIR RAID SIRENS HAVE SOUNDED IN JERUSALEM AS A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD IN THE SKIES. US DEFENSE SAYS US CONTINUES TO "SHOOT DOWN IRANIAN-LAUNCHED DRONES"
- AS THE WORLD BRACES FOR ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO IRAN'S MISSILE AND DRONE ATTACK, NEW YORK CITY'S COUNTER TERRORISM TASK FORCE IS AT THE READY FOR ANY TROUBLE HERE...

- THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS AN EMERGENCY MEETING CALLING FOR RESTRAINT IN RESPONSE
- ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN NEW JERSEY MORE THAN DOUBLED LAST YEAR..
- POLICE STEP UP PATROLS AT SYNAGOGUES ACROSS THE FIVE BOROUGHES AHEAD OF PASSOVER
- A YALE STUDENT IS RECOVERING AFTER SHE WAS STABBED IN THE EYE WITH A PALESTINIAN FLAG DURING A PROTEST AT THE IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL... POLICE ARE SEARCHING FOR THE SUSPECT
- THE NYPD IS INVESTIGATING THREATS AGAINST THREE SYNAGOGUES IN MANHATTAN AND ONE IN BROOKLYN
- FOUR TEENAGERS IN RAMAPO ARE CHARGED WITH HATE CRIMES FOR ALLEGEDLY ATTACKING JEWS DURING THE SABBATH...
- NASSAU COUNTY WILL BE STEPPING UP SECURITY AFTER A PRO-ISIS GROUP REPORTEDLY POSTED A GRAPHIC IMAGE OF THE LONG ISLAND VENUE HOSTING THE CRICKET WORLD CUP NEXT MONTH..
- A MAN HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH HATE CRIMES AFTER YELLING ANTISEMITIC STATEMENTS AND TRYING TO MOW DOWN PEDESTRIANS OUTSIDE AN ORTHODOX JEWISH SCHOOL IN BROOKLYN...
- NEARLY THREE DOZEN PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS ARE ARRESTED TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM

Justice

- FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP WILL BECOME THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO FACE A CRIMINAL TRIAL WHEN JURY SELECTION BEGINS TOMORROW IN HIS HUSH MONEY CASE
- DOZENS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISMISSED BECAUSE THEY SAID THEY COULD NOT BE IMPARTIAL...
- ACCUSED GILGO BEACH SERIAL REX HEURMANN APPEARED IN COURT TODAY AS 7 THOUSAND PAGES OF EVIDENCE WERE TURNED OVER TO HIS LAWYERS...

- FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP FACES POSSIBLE CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR POSTING ABOUT THE CASE ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- THE MANHATTAN DA LOOKING TO RE-TRY HARVEY WEINSTEIN AFTER A NEW YORK APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS HIS 2020 RAPE CONVICTION
- DONALD TRUMP IS FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR VIOLATING THE GAG ORDER IN HIS HUSH MONEY CASE
- TRUMP'S BEEN FINED NINE-THOUSAND DOLLARS...AND THREATENED WITH JAIL IF HE KEEPS VIOLATING THE GAG ORDER
- THE MAN ACCUSED OF FATALLY SHOOTING NYPD DETECTIVE JONATHAN DILLER HAS BEEN ARRAIGNED ON MURDER CHARGES
- JURY SELECTION RESUMES TODAY IN SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ' CORRUPTION TRIAL...
- A MAN WHO SPENT 23 YEARS IN PRISON FOR A MURDER HE DIDN'T COMMIT...HAS HIS CONVICTION THROWN OUT
- A FEDERAL JUDGE WILL HEAR ARGUMENTS TODAY IN LAWSUITS TRYING TO BLOCK CONGESTION PRICING...
- "SON OF SAM" KILLER DAVID BERKOWITZ HAS BEEN DENIED PAROLE AFTER HIS TWELFTH BOARD APPEARANCE
- THE FIRST CRIMINAL TRIAL AGAINST A FORMER PRESIDENT GOES TO THE JURY TODAY, AS 12 NEW YORKERS BEGIN TO DECIDE DONALD TRUMP'S FATE IN HIS HUSH MONEY TRIAL...
- FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY ON ALL 34 FELONY COUNTS OF FALSIFYING BUSINESS RECORDS
- MICHELE TROCONIS GETS 14 YEARS IN PRISON THE JENNIFER DULOS KILLING IN CONNECTICUT
- THE NYPD MAKES AN ARREST IN THE STABBING DEATH OF A BRONX WOMAN NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO...

Education

- NEW YORK'S COURT SYSTEM WANTS TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT HOW AI MAY BE USED IN CASES...
- MORE THAN 100 PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS GET ARRESTED AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
- LONG ISLAND SCHOOLS GET A BOOST IN STATE AID
- COLUMBIA GIVES STUDENTS THE OPTION OF REMOTE LEARNING AFTER FIVE DAYS OF PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTS
- PRO-PALESTINIAN NYU STUDENTS WALKED OUT OF CLASSES TODAY IN SOLIDARITY WITH DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE ARRESTED LAST NIGHT. THIS, AS COLUMBIA SETS UP A SECURITY CHECKPOINT TO KEEP NON-STUDENTS AND STAFF OFF THE CAMPUS
- NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR DAVID BANKS IS ON CAPITOL HILL THIS MORNING TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS ABOUT HOW HE IS HANDLING ANTISEMITISM IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM...
- STONYBROOK PLANS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR MAIN GRADUATION CEREMONY ON MAY 17TH...
- A DARIEN MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR AN ALLEGED LESSON ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST THAT PUT A POSITIVE SPIN ON HITLER...

Weather

- WE CONTINUE TO TRACK THOSE BIG STORMS THAT HAVE BEEN MOVING ACROSS OUR AREA THIS MORNING, INCLUDING A REPORT OF AN UNCONFIRMED TORNADO THAT MAY HAVE TOUCHED DOWN IN ORANGE COUNTY...
- HE WET WEATHER IS AFFECTING THINGS IN THE AIR, AS WELL AS ON THE GROUND – MORE FROM LAGUARDIA... SEVERAL TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE AREA HAD TO CANCEL THEIR MEMORIAL DAY PARADES TODAY BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER. IN NEW JERSEY, THOSE INCLUDED WAYNE, SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, CRANFORD, AND WESTFIELD ... AND IN CONNECTICUT, RIDGEFIELD, WILTON, NEW CANAAN, KENT, AND LITCHFIELD

- A LINE OF THUNDERSTORMS IS HEADING IN OUR DIRECTION
- A DANGEROUS HEAT WAVE EXPECTED TO UNFOLD FROM THE MIDWEST TO THE NORTHEAST THIS WEEK, BRINGING 90-DEGREE WEATHER TO NEW YORK CITY
- TEMPERATURES WILL BE CLIMBING INTO THE NINETIES THIS WEEK, WITH NO RAIN IN THE FORECAST. MAYOR ADAMS AND GOVERNOR HOCHUL INCREASE RESOURCES TO HELP NEW YORKERS DEAL WITH THE HEAT, INCLUDING OPENING COOLING CENTERS
- HEAT ADVISORIES HAVE BEEN ISSUED AS TENS OF MILLIONS PREPARE TO DEAL WITH INTENSE HEAT THIS WEEK...
- WESTCHESTER IS OPENING POOLS AND BEACHES EARLY THIS WEEK TO HELP RESIDENTS BATTLE THE HEAT...

Housing/Homelessness/Immigration

- NEW YORK STATE WILL TRANSFORM A 13 ACRE SITE ON LONG ISLAND INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- ONE IN FIVE NEW YORK CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY... THE HIGHEST RATES ARE IN THE BRONX AND BROOKLYN..ACCORDING TO A NEW STATE REPORT
- TODAY IS THE DAY THE CITY IS BEGINNING TO EVICT MIGRANTS FROM SHELTERS. THE FIRST WAVE WILL AFFECT ADULT MIGRANTS WHO WERE GIVEN 30-DAY NOTICES A MONTH AGO. IT'S PART OF THE CITY'S PUSH TO ENFORCE STRICTER TIME LIMITS ON SHELTER STAYS
- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS, NEW YORK FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP PAYING FOR RENT CAN APPLY FOR A FEDERAL VOUCHER PROGRAM KNOWN AS SECTION EIGHT...
- TWO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AT A HOTEL IN YONKERS SERVING AS A SHELTER FOR MIGRANTS AFTER A WORKER AT THE HOTEL CALLED POLICE TO SAY SOMEONE WAS ACTING VIOLENTLY...
- THE RENT GUIDELINES BOARD IS SET TO TAKE A FINAL VOTE TONIGHT TO APPROVE INCREASES FOR RENT-STABILIZED APARTMENTS

- FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR, TENANTS IN RENT STABILIZED APARTMENTS WILL SEE THEIR RENTS GO UP...
- THIS LAST FULL DAY OF SPRING WILL PUSH TEMPERATURES IN THE CITY NEAR THE 90 DEGREE MARK...
- HUNDREDS OF COOLING CENTERS WILL BE CLOSED TODAY IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH...
- NO RELIEF IN SIGHT, NOT YET, WITH ANOTHER DAY WHERE HEAT AND HUMIDITY WILL COMBINE TO MAKE IT FEEL LIKE 100 OR MORE...

**WCBS AM Programs That Address Community Issues
(Regularly Scheduled Public Affairs Programs)**

	<u>Public Affairs Program</u>	<u>Schedule and Description</u>
	The Opening Bell Report	Weekday mornings at 930am, a full half hour of business news focused on consumer issues
	CBS 60 Minutes	Simulcast of CBS News Program Sunday nights at 7pm
	Health and Well Being	Daily feature focusing on a wide variety of medical topics including medicine, diet, mental health, and proper eating
	The Small Business Report with Ed Walsh	Daily Small Business minutes providing tips and tools for business owners and operators.
	Eye On Travel	Peter Greenberg discusses travel issues and navigating through the post pandemic world. Updates on restrictions and procedures
	Eye on Veterans	Daily Report focusing on stories about and important to United States Military Veterans
	All Well and Good	Daily Report focusing on health and ways to improve your daily attitude, energy and well being.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: WCBS Small Business Reports DATE OF BROADCAST: Daily TIME OF BROADCAST: VARIES DAILY DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 1 minute
	PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Business Reporter Ed Walsh delivers a daily report on a small business trend or personality on recovery, survival, and resilience. https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/podcasts/small-business-report-with-joe-connolly-196

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Business/Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: Small Business Spotlight DATE OF BROADCAST: Wednesday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple airing across the day and online DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: Audio/Video PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Weekly series highlighting the inspiring stories of individual business owners and entrepreneurs focused tightly in the past year to helping inspire the pandemic recovery https://wcbs880.radio.com/categories/small-business-spotlight

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Community Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Difference Makers DATE OF BROADCAST: Monday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple times across the day DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 2 minute features
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: News stories focused on members of the community doing something to contribute to the greater good during the pandemic https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/difference-makers	

ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Weekend Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Sunday's TIME OF BROADCAST: 5am DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Locally produced, weekly public affairs show focusing on local issues, Veterans issues, health and well being and issues that affect the local broadcast area as well as national stories of local interest and importance https://www.audacy.com/seattlewolf/hosts/conversations	

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ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Audacy Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Quertery TIME OF BROADCAST: 7pm, Second Thursday of Feb DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Nationally produced public affairs "Town Hall" format program focusing on topics that affect everyone. From Downtowns, Youth Sports, Entertainment & Public Tolling, Audacy Conversations brings experts and public officials together to talk about issues affecting the post pandemic world. https://www.audacy.com/kywnewsradio/topic/the-state-of-entertainment	

Public Service Announcements

Throughout the quarter, the station aired weekly/periodic PSAs providing information on a variety of local community activities and issues. Representative examples of such PSAs include the following:

Audacy 1 Thing
Emergency Prep
Fatherhood Involvement
Vaccinate Your Family
Alzheimers Awareness
US DOH
Animal Adoption
FDA Drug Disposal
Ending Hunger
Drugged Driving
Distracted Driving
Type 2 Diabetes
Supporting Pets
American Psychiatric Assoc.
Love Has No Labels
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
NJ Dept. Human Svcs/CBVI
NYSBA
Valerie Fund

1ST QUARTER 2024 ISSUES AND PROGRAMS – WXBK-FM NEW YORK CITY (94.7)

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

1.3.24 Air Date: 1.7.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Marsha Coleman Jr.- Financial Expert

In the New Year of 2024, we are taking an intentional look at best practices to set a consistent foundation for our finances. This includes understanding how to recognize when you have a lot of debt and how to create a plan to address it. The importance of building your credit score and being reasonable about the time to do so, and the critical nature of preparing for your retirement through savings, and employer 401K and 403B plans.

Without access to good financial advice, you will continue to repeat past mistakes. You must create a relationship with you and money that builds, grows, and expands with others.

Earning additional income aka “side hustle” is not a bad idea. There are quite a few opportunities that could be beneficial to your income. It requires you to research. One listed was [hotbreadkitchen.com](https://www.hotbreadkitchen.com).

Here are some additional tips:

Live within your means.

Ask yourself if your spending habits are putting you in a difficult position financially. Living within your means can be achieved by creating and sticking to a budget and understanding how debt can impact you.

Start saving and investing.

Start tracking how much you save each year and aim to save 10% to 15% of your income as an “investment” in yourself.

Retirement savings - being proactive in preparation for our golden years (know your limits for 2024). This includes taking advantage of your 401k or 403B Plan. In addition to Social Security, which should not be a standalone option for your retirement, you must build a plan to secure your retirement future.

Building financial stability and wealth can be challenging — especially for many Black Americans, who also face the aftereffects of decades of inequality.

But to close the wealth gap, we must participate in positioning ourselves for success.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy

Recorded: 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.14.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute

Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Ayanna Horsford- Afro Latina- STEM Medical Field

Ayanna is a proud Afro-Latina pursuing a career in the healthcare profession and completed my B.S. in Biology with a minor in chemistry at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y. Passionate about the sciences, she has been able to experience both wet-lab and clinical research. At Manhattan College, and able to further develop her research skills such as lab safety, pipetting, mastering concentration conversation to make samples, qPCR, in situ-hybridizations, etc.

Now, at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, she works in a clinical research setting. Interacting with patients and improving health conditions through her current role has truly impacted her ambition towards a career in medicine. Familiarity in both areas of research has allowed her to grow fonder of medicine and become aware of the several steps involved in developing healthcare. Ayanna now works with uninsured populations at NYU Langone, where she is responsible for recruiting and enrolling patients with hypertension to participate in a cardiology research study.

Here are some STEM Education Statistics for Black Women:

- While women make up half of the U.S. population and dominate undergraduate enrollment, they still are only little more than a third of those employed in STEM. occupations.
- And while Black and white students enter STEM majors at the same rate, Black students leave those majors at a rate of 40%, compared with 29% percent of white students.
- Only 5.7% of U.S. doctors are Black, with Black women accounting for half of that population.
- Black workers make up 9-10% of the total STEM workforce, with Hispanic workers representing 15%.

Health Disparities Statistics :(sources: CDC, Health, United States, 2020-21, KFF).

- In the first quarter of 2023, 1 in 4 Hispanic adults ages 18-24 lacked health insurance, a greater percentage than Black, non-Hispanic adults (10.1%), White, non-Hispanic adults (6.9%), and Asian, non-Hispanic adults (2.7%).

- Non-Hispanic Black people are more likely than people in other racial and ethnic groups to die of heart disease.
- At birth, AIAN and Black people had a shorter life expectancy (65.2 and 70.8 years, respectively) compared to White people (76.4) as of 2021, and AIAN, Hispanic, and Black people experienced larger declines in life expectancy than White people between 2019 and 2021.
- Black infants were more than two times as likely to die as White infants (10.4 vs. 4.4 per 1,000), and AIAN infants were nearly twice as likely to die as White infants (7.7 vs. 4.4 per 1,000) as of 2021. Black and AIAN women also had the highest rates of pregnancy-related mortality.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:
 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.21.24
 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
 Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Georey Roehm - Executive Director – Runway Green Education Collective

Floyd Bennett Field was the site of NYC’s first municipal airport. For the last 50 years, these 1,300 acres of ecologically rich National Park Service land have gone mostly unused. A nonprofit organization called Runway Green Education Collective—in partnership with the National Park Service—is developing a 7-acre experiential education campus at Floyd Bennett Field.

Runway Green will support 50,000 students, in grades K-12, from hundreds of NYC public schools each year with world-class resources and opportunities to learn skills and mindsets focused on sustainability, to solve real-world problems, and to earn job credentials in the careers of the future. This once-in-generation project was conceived to help advance solutions to major challenges—including educational inequity, economic injustice, and climate change—by empowering young people from under-served communities to forge pathways to careers in which they will attain economic freedom and build a better world.

The campus is envisioned as a “learning ecosystem” – a community-based approach to education that offers deeply personalized opportunities to all students, with learning taking place at a nurturing home base, at learning hubs, and at real-world field sites—versus set in singular school buildings.

Georey Roehm recently gave a presentation about learning ecosystems at a conference hosted by Education Reimagined. Nothing like this exists in New

York City. Open year-round, the campus will provide students opportunities to learn, work, and intern with an ecosystem of partner nonprofit organizations. Facilities and nonprofit partnerships include: • A solar panel workshop, where students will earn job credentials while building sustainable energy sources to operate the net zero campus with Solar One. • A three-acre farm, where students will gain skills for careers in sustainable agriculture and feed our neighbors with

The Campaign Against Hunger. • World-class science labs built and operated by NY Sun Works, preparing students for careers in local agriculture and hydroponic farming. • A ropes course and campsites, where students will build self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills with NYC Outward Bound Schools. • Access to Jamaica Bay where students will learn skills to save our oceans and prepare for careers in marine biology and advocacy with Billion Oyster Project.

A partnership with Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy with whom students will become environmental stewards, engaging in advocacy to preserve and improve the surrounding shorelines and parklands. • A partnership with the City University of New York's Science + Resilience Institute, with which students will conduct hands-on research about coastal resiliency and the impacts of climate change. • An amphitheater where students will experience performing arts, including the history, movement, and beauty of African Diasporic culture with Asase Yaa.

Additionally, the campus will feature a new 240-student high school operated by Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School that will be built through a gut renovation of Floyd Bennett Field's Building 272. Runway Green, in partnership with the eco-friendly transit provider Circuit, is committed to sustainable forms of transportation to and from Floyd Bennett Field, ensuring accessibility for all. The Collective views the 7-acre campus as just the first phase in an even larger reimagining of Floyd Bennett Field as the preeminent hub of education, research, innovation, and workforce development. Floyd Bennett Field (1,300 acres) is more than twice the combined size of Brooklyn Navy Yard (300 acres), Governor's Island (175 acres), and Industry City (35 acres). The Collective recently brought on board three high-profile advisors with extensive connections and experience on big projects: Kathy Wylde, President, and CEO of the Partnership for New York; Stephen Cockrell, CEO of the Fund for Public Schools; and Carl Weisbrod, former Chairman of the New York City Planning Commission and Director of the New York City Department of Planning. The design of Runway Green has been developed by three renowned firms: SCAPE, ARO, and Colloqate.

Their work on this project has been informed by extensive input from Brooklyn community members. Funding and timeline Runway Green Education Collective has a fully negotiated lease with the National Park Service to develop and construct the 7-acre campus and is currently conducting a capital fundraising campaign to finalize the financing. Thus far, the Collective has secured \$27 million in funding for the campus from the City, State, and Federal governments, banks, foundations, and individual donors. The City of New York's September 2023 lease with the National Park Service to build a migrant shelter at Floyd Bennett Field included language requiring the construction of the campus and giving the project \$2.5 million. The Collective plans to finish its capital campaign in 2024 and begin construction, starting with the renovation of Building 272, in the first quarter of 2025. The first part of the campus—including the high school, farm, and ropes course—will open in 2026. The campus will be completed by 2028.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.18.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to
9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host:
Patricia Robinson

Guest: Michael T. Pugh- President & CEO LISC

Michael has worked for the most local to the largest financial institutions, which makes him well-qualified to discuss financial mobility. He also praises the role of good financial advice and forecasts how AI can create alternative methods for building credit.

Community organizations and resident leaders have the resources they need to actualize changes envisioned by the community. They can build on their strengths and have strong and diverse networks to maximize their capacity and achieve greater impact.

In this equitable journey, Michael works to preserve and develop affordable housing as part of neighborhood revitalization plans, to protect residents from displacement and meet community needs for affordable, equitable, and mixed-use housing options. We offer project-based technical assistance, recoverable grants, financing, and equity to help

community partners innovate, solve problems, and build capacity to achieve their housing goals.

CDFIs have an opportunity because of the connection to the community, and the lived experience that allows them to connect with members of the community. Cdfi's are more understanding, and acknowledging, of the issues present in BIPOC communities and the importance of connecting small businesses to capital.

Compound interest is a fundamental tenet of finance that greatly facilitates your ability to accumulate wealth, especially by leaning into the 401k pretax opportunities in the workplace.

Financial Education should start early in any home, as a foundation to train young people in the understanding of what they need vs what they want and to support incentives on how they earn those opportunities.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.25.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Andrey Yancey- Assistant Brand Manager – 94.7 FM The Block

Transformational leadership in unique workspaces requires a special skillset.

Transformational leaders are full of energy, passion, and drive. It is not a surprise that these qualities can be the things that can make or break an organization.

When you have a lot of people who are looking to enter the industry, the importance on navigating that advice on how they show up to present themselves is important. It should reflect a connection to purpose first versus, a look at what the industry can do for you.

Coaching talent in the industry takes on different spheres of life and experiences but being able to support talent who have been through

many different work experiences in different spaces , some trauma associated, and helping them to feel included and safe allows them to exercise their best potential.

Continual communication is needed in the media space, because it is where you get your feedback and one should not expect that it is always unfavorable, but a redirecon or an assessment to get talent in alignment with staons repertoire.

A transformaonal leadership style can only be successful if you maintain open lines of communicaon with team members to transfer the vision of a task.

Continual communication is needed in this industry because transformational leadership style can only be successful if you maintain open lines of communication with team members to transfer the vision of a task.

Have the humility to know that there's much you do not know about others' experiences. Getting comfortable with discomfort and embracing risk are key to successful inclusive leadership.

Taking care of yourself, a healthy diet, resting, will help you to avoid burnout, and set realistic expectations for yourself.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

2.27.24 Air Date: 3.3.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Leah Rambo- President- Non-Traditional Employment for Women

Leah Rambo has been named the President of Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW]. The pioneering nonprofit prepares, trains, and places women in careers in the skilled construction, utility, and maintenance trades, helping women build meaningful careers, and achieve economic independence and a secure future for themselves and their families. NEW also provides a pipeline of qualified workers to industries that build, move, power, green, and maintain New York.

NEW was founded in 1978 and has since increased the number of women participating in trade careers from two percent to seven percent.

The organization runs two flagship programs out of its Manhattan (Chelsea) and Brooklyn (Industry City) locations, preparing about 350 women annually to work as carpenters, electricians, ironworkers, laborers, plumbers, and operating engineers, and more. Graduates earn starting hourly wages of over \$19/hour and typically receive comprehensive benefits through their employer.

“This role presents an opportunity for me to advance my commitment to drive gender diversity and equality in the construction trades. It is an honor to be named president of NEW, an organization I have long admired for its leadership and network of opportunity for women. I’m looking forward to furthering the organization’s legacy in partnership with staff, the Board of Directors, unions and other workforce development leaders.

Leah’s interest in the building trades dates to her adolescence, when, at the age of 10, she asked for a tool set, rather than a doll, for a present. She attended high school at Brooklyn Tech and then launched a 35-year career in the labor movement. In addition to her role at the Women’s Bureau and several roles at Local 28, she also served on the Sheet Metal Air Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) International’s Women’s Committee, Recruitment and Retention Council, and was an instructor for the International Training Institute, where she trained sheet metal instructors from across the country. She is also a certified OSHA Outreach Instructor. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Labor Education from the National Labor College.

About Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW)

NEW is a nonprofit organization that prepares, trains, and places women in careers in the skilled construction, utility, and maintenance trades. For over 40 years, NEW

has increased the number of women represented in trade careers in New York City and helped women achieve economic independence.

For more information, visit <https://www.new-nyc.org/>.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

2.29.24 Air Date: 3.10.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Marsha Coleman Jr. -Founder MCJ Dynasty – Financial Expert

Building a financially secure retirement is a challenge for many Americans, but it's especially steep if you are Black.

The numbers paint a glaring picture. Black workers ages 51 to 64 are the least likely among all racial and ethnic groups to have a retirement account, according to a July 2023 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Income is one of the most important factors affecting how much money people can save for retirement, and Black workers in the U.S. earn less than their white counterparts. African Americans who are aging now, the boomer generation, a lot of them didn't seek that financial advice.

However, Marsha suggests that you need to participate in your 401k/403b plan, and when and if you receive a raise-allocate a portion of that raise to your retirement plan.

Some tips include:

Make sure you evaluate your withdrawal rate with your financial professional at least annually to ensure that you are not drawing too much or too little and are taking life changes into account.

Look for financial wellness counseling, either from work or the community. Some companies offer employees counseling for debt management, budgeting, and emergency savings.

Some of the benefits of a retirement plan are :

- It allows you to invest now for financial security when you retire. • It provides tax advantages and incentives for you and your employees (if applicable).
- It reduces your stress and gives you peace of mind before and during retirement.
- It helps you make informed decisions and get on the same page with your spouse or partner.
 - It offers returns on investment and cost savings over time.
 - It protects you from emergencies and inflation.
 - It gives you a source of income if you have no pension.
 - It enables you to leave a legacy for your loved ones.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 3.12.24 Air Date: 3.17.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30
Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia
Robinson

Guest: Sean Ebony Cole- Founder & Executive Director- Destination
Tomorrow

Destination Tomorrow, a Black Trans-led LGBTQ+ center in Atlanta, is a grant recipient of the City of Atlanta's largest investment in the Transgender community.

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens announced \$55,000 in funding to be allocated to three on-the ground community organizations. With the ongoing attacks on the Transgender community, specifically seen in the recent murders of Trans Black women in Atlanta, there is an urgent need for governing leaders to be held accountable for implementing safeguards for the community.

Sean Ebony Coleman, the center's founder, and executive director and the only Black Trans Grantmaker nationally, will be using these funds to open a new LGBTQ+ mentoring pilot program to provide critical support for Transgender individuals who are notoriously underrepresented in the region.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman announced a lawsuit Wednesday against New York Attorney General Letitia James. It comes after James issued a cease-and-desist order against Blakeman over Nassau County's ban affecting transgender athletes. Blakeman issued an executive order on Feb. 22 banning sports organizations from county run athletic facilities if they allow transgender girls and women to compete on female teams.

The order specifically requires any sports teams, leagues, programs, or organizations seeking a permit from the county's parks and recreation department to "expressly designate" whether they are male, female, or coed based on their members' "biological sex at birth."

The order, which went into effect immediately, impacts more than 100 sites, from ballfields to basketball and tennis courts, swimming pools and ice rinks across the suburban New York City region, which is located just east of Queens and is the state's wealthiest county. This is not precluding anybody from participating in sports," said Blakeman.

"What it is, it's identifying that there are women and girls who spend a tremendous amount of time and effort to excel and compete in their sports that are women's sports.... And it is an unfair advantage for someone who is a biological male to compete against a biological female."

Sean recognizes the harm being done by this executive order and will continue to build his scale of advocates to support equal and fair rights for the transgender community. He states that education should begin with understanding the terminology of the LGBTQ+ community, recognizing their humanity, and understanding the issues that they face. While some progress is being made in this direction Transgender individuals still face a greater risk of violence when using public spaces due to their gender identity, including being verbally harassed, physically assaulted, or sexually assaulted. This is unacceptable.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:
3.11.24 Air Date: 3.24.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Dr. Oadinma McGeachy- Board Certified Physician

Research shows that most health outcomes for black patients are better when they are treated by black doctors. That research is critical given that African Americans in the United States experience poorer health outcomes across a variety of diseases and conditions. — regardless of income level.

Dr. Ogadinma McGeachy is a board-certified Family Medicine Physician with over 15 years of experience. She serves as an adjunct professor at Molloy University, LIU, and NYU School of Nursing. She has worked in Brooklyn and Queens for over a decade and now has a private practice (GOAL Family Medical) in Lynbrook NY.

The practice's mission is to provide the highest quality medical service by offering comprehensive and compassionate care. Their vision includes working with the community to achieve the best health possible. This is accomplished through educating people about safe and healthy lifestyles, preventive medicine, screening/early detection of illnesses, and prompt management of diseases when they do occur. They are inclusive and take pride in caring for people from all levels of society.

It is important to do a self-check annually to make sure you are identifying silent illnesses, and you are ahead of any health problems. Black women often are in the mode of being “superwoman” and with that comes self-care neglect. It is encouraged

that you find time to balance yourself, so you are well-abled to continue being great in your field.

As a Black physician, discrimination still exists even at this level. Dr. McGeachy experiences exclusion in the medical facility in which her practice exists. She is not respected as a physician even in the space where she has committed to care for the community. She recognizes this and pushes forward with positive momentum and discernment about referrals to those who exhibit discriminatory behaviors.

All stakeholders with an interest in advancing medicine and research must commit to prioritizing health equity.

1ST QUARTER 2024 ISSUES AND PROGRAMS – WXBK-FM NEW YORK CITY (94.7)

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

1.3.24 Air Date: 1.7.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Marsha Coleman Jr.- Financial Expert

In the New Year of 2024, we are taking an intentional look at best practices to set a consistent foundation for our finances. This includes understanding how to recognize when you have a lot of debt and how to create a plan to address it. The importance of building your credit score and being reasonable about the time to do so, and the critical nature of preparing for your retirement through savings, and employer 401K and 403B plans.

Without access to good financial advice, you will continue to repeat past mistakes. You must create a relationship with you and money that builds, grows, and expands with others.

Earning additional income aka “side hustle” is not a bad idea. There are quite a few opportunities that could be beneficial to your income. It requires you to research. One listed was hotbreadkitchen.com.

Here are some additional tips:

Live within your means.

Ask yourself if your spending habits are putting you in a difficult position financially. Living within your means can be achieved by creating and sticking to a budget and understanding how debt can impact you.

Start saving and investing.

Start tracking how much you save each year and aim to save 10% to 15% of your income as an “investment” in yourself.

Retirement savings - being proactive in preparation for our golden years (know your limits for 2024). This includes taking advantage of your 401k or 403B Plan. In addition to Social Security, which should not be a standalone option for your retirement, you must build a plan to secure your retirement future.

Building financial stability and wealth can be challenging — especially for many Black Americans, who also face the aftereffects of decades of inequality.

But to close the wealth gap, we must participate in positioning ourselves for success.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy

Recorded: 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.14.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute

Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Ayanna Horsford- Afro Latina- STEM Medical Field

Ayanna is a proud Afro-Latina pursuing a career in the healthcare profession and completed my B.S. in Biology with a minor in chemistry at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y. Passionate about the sciences, she has been able to experience both wet-lab and clinical research. At Manhattan College, and able to further develop her research skills such as lab safety, pipetting, mastering concentration conversation to make samples, qPCR, in situ-hybridizations, etc.

Now, at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, she works in a clinical research setting. Interacting with patients and improving health conditions through her current role has truly impacted her ambition towards a career in medicine. Familiarity in both areas of research has allowed her to grow fonder of medicine and become aware of the several steps involved in developing healthcare. Ayanna now works with uninsured populations at NYU Langone, where she is responsible for recruiting and enrolling patients with hypertension to participate in a cardiology research study.

Here are some STEM Education Statistics for Black Women:

- While women make up half of the U.S. population and dominate undergraduate enrollment, they still are only little more than a third of those employed in STEM. occupations.
- And while Black and white students enter STEM majors at the same rate, Black students leave those majors at a rate of 40%, compared with 29% percent of white students.
- Only 5.7% of U.S. doctors are Black, with Black women accounting for half of that population.
- Black workers make up 9-10% of the total STEM workforce, with Hispanic workers representing 15%.

Health Disparities Statistics :(sources: CDC, Health, United States, 2020-21, KFF).

- In the first quarter of 2023, 1 in 4 Hispanic adults ages 18-24 lacked health insurance, a greater percentage than Black, non-Hispanic adults (10.1%), White, non-Hispanic adults (6.9%), and Asian, non-Hispanic adults (2.7%).

- Non-Hispanic Black people are more likely than people in other racial and ethnic groups to die of heart disease.
- At birth, AIAN and Black people had a shorter life expectancy (65.2 and 70.8 years, respectively) compared to White people (76.4) as of 2021, and AIAN, Hispanic, and Black people experienced larger declines in life expectancy than White people between 2019 and 2021.
- Black infants were more than two times as likely to die as White infants (10.4 vs. 4.4 per 1,000), and AIAN infants were nearly twice as likely to die as White infants (7.7 vs. 4.4 per 1,000) as of 2021. Black and AIAN women also had the highest rates of pregnancy-related mortality.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:
 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.21.24
 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
 Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Georey Roehm - Executive Director – Runway Green Education Collective

Floyd Bennett Field was the site of NYC’s first municipal airport. For the last 50 years, these 1,300 acres of ecologically rich National Park Service land have gone mostly unused. A nonprofit organization called Runway Green Education Collective—in partnership with the National Park Service—is developing a 7-acre experiential education campus at Floyd Bennett Field.

Runway Green will support 50,000 students, in grades K-12, from hundreds of NYC public schools each year with world-class resources and opportunities to learn skills and mindsets focused on sustainability, to solve real-world problems, and to earn job credentials in the careers of the future. This once-in-generation project was conceived to help advance solutions to major challenges—including educational inequity, economic injustice, and climate change—by empowering young people from under-served communities to forge pathways to careers in which they will attain economic freedom and build a better world.

The campus is envisioned as a “learning ecosystem” – a community-based approach to education that offers deeply personalized opportunities to all students, with learning taking place at a nurturing home base, at learning hubs, and at real-world field sites—versus set in singular school buildings.

Georey Roehm recently gave a presentation about learning ecosystems at a conference hosted by Education Reimagined. Nothing like this exists in New

York City. Open year-round, the campus will provide students opportunities to learn, work, and intern with an ecosystem of partner nonprofit organizations. Facilities and nonprofit partnerships include:

- A solar panel workshop, where students will earn job credentials while building sustainable energy sources to operate the net zero campus with Solar One.
- A three-acre farm, where students will gain skills for careers in sustainable agriculture and feed our neighbors with

The Campaign Against Hunger.

- World-class science labs built and operated by NY Sun Works, preparing students for careers in local agriculture and hydroponic farming.
- A ropes course and campsites, where students will build self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills with NYC Outward Bound Schools.
- Access to Jamaica Bay where students will learn skills to save our oceans and prepare for careers in marine biology and advocacy with Billion Oyster Project.

A partnership with Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy with whom students will become environmental stewards, engaging in advocacy to preserve and improve the surrounding shorelines and parklands.

- A partnership with the City University of New York's Science + Resilience Institute, with which students will conduct hands-on research about coastal resiliency and the impacts of climate change.
- An amphitheater where students will experience performing arts, including the history, movement, and beauty of African Diasporic culture with Asase Yaa.

Additionally, the campus will feature a new 240-student high school operated by Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School that will be built through a gut renovation of Floyd Bennett Field's Building 272. Runway Green, in partnership with the eco-friendly transit provider Circuit, is committed to sustainable forms of transportation to and from Floyd Bennett Field, ensuring accessibility for all. The Collective views the 7-acre campus as just the first phase in an even larger reimagining of Floyd Bennett Field as the preeminent hub of education, research, innovation, and workforce development. Floyd Bennett Field (1,300 acres) is more than twice the combined size of Brooklyn Navy Yard (300 acres), Governor's Island (175 acres), and Industry City (35 acres). The Collective recently brought on board three high-profile advisors with extensive connections and experience on big projects: Kathy Wylde, President, and CEO of the Partnership for New York; Stephen Cockrell, CEO of the Fund for Public Schools; and Carl Weisbrod, former Chairman of the New York City Planning Commission and Director of the New York City Department of Planning. The design of Runway Green has been developed by three renowned firms: SCAPE, ARO, and Colloqate.

Their work on this project has been informed by extensive input from Brooklyn community members. Funding and timeline Runway Green Education Collective has a fully negotiated lease with the National Park Service to develop and construct the 7-acre campus and is currently conducting a capital fundraising campaign to finalize the financing. Thus far, the Collective has secured \$27 million in funding for the campus from the City, State, and Federal governments, banks, foundations, and individual donors. The City of New York's September 2023 lease with the National Park Service to build a migrant shelter at Floyd Bennett Field included language requiring the construction of the campus and giving the project \$2.5 million. The Collective plans to finish its capital campaign in 2024 and begin construction, starting with the renovation of Building 272, in the first quarter of 2025. The first part of the campus—including the high school, farm, and ropes course—will open in 2026. The campus will be completed by 2028.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.18.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to
9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host:
Patricia Robinson

Guest: Michael T. Pugh- President & CEO LISC

Michael has worked for the most local to the largest financial institutions, which makes him well-qualified to discuss financial mobility. He also praises the role of good financial advice and forecasts how AI can create alternative methods for building credit.

Community organizations and resident leaders have the resources they need to actualize changes envisioned by the community. They can build on their strengths and have strong and diverse networks to maximize their capacity and achieve greater impact.

In this equitable journey, Michael works to preserve and develop affordable housing as part of neighborhood revitalization plans, to protect residents from displacement and meet community needs for affordable, equitable, and mixed-use housing options. We offer project-based technical assistance, recoverable grants, financing, and equity to help

community partners innovate, solve problems, and build capacity to achieve their housing goals.

CDFIs have an opportunity because of the connection to the community, and the lived experience that allows them to connect with members of the community. Cdfi's are more understanding, and acknowledging, of the issues present in BIPOC communities and the importance of connecting small businesses to capital.

Compound interest is a fundamental tenet of finance that greatly facilitates your ability to accumulate wealth, especially by leaning into the 401k pretax opportunities in the workplace.

Financial Education should start early in any home, as a foundation to train young people in the understanding of what they need vs what they want and to support incentives on how they earn those opportunities.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.25.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Andrey Yancey- Assistant Brand Manager – 94.7 FM The Block

Transformational leadership in unique workspaces requires a special skillset.

Transformational leaders are full of energy, passion, and drive. It is not a surprise that these qualities can be the things that can make or break an organization.

When you have a lot of people who are looking to enter the industry, the importance on navigating that advice on how they show up to present themselves is important. It should reflect a connection to purpose first versus, a look at what the industry can do for you.

Coaching talent in the industry takes on different spheres of life and experiences but being able to support talent who have been through

many different work experiences in different spaces , some trauma associated, and helping them to feel included and safe allows them to exercise their best potential.

Continual communication is needed in the media space, because it is where you get your feedback and one should not expect that it is always unfavorable, but a redirecon or an assessment to get talent in alignment with staons repertoire.

A transformaonal leadership style can only be successful if you maintain open lines of communicaon with team members to transfer the vision of a task.

Continual communication is needed in this industry because transformational leadership style can only be successful if you maintain open lines of communication with team members to transfer the vision of a task.

Have the humility to know that there's much you do not know about others' experiences. Getting comfortable with discomfort and embracing risk are key to successful inclusive leadership.

Taking care of yourself, a healthy diet, resting, will help you to avoid burnout, and set realistic expectations for yourself.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

2.27.24 Air Date: 3.3.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Leah Rambo- President- Non-Traditional Employment for Women

Leah Rambo has been named the President of Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW). The pioneering nonprofit prepares, trains, and places women in careers in the skilled construction, utility, and maintenance trades, helping women build meaningful careers, and achieve economic independence and a secure future for themselves and their families. NEW also provides a pipeline of qualified workers to industries that build, move, power, green, and maintain New York.

NEW was founded in 1978 and has since increased the number of women participating in trade careers from two percent to seven percent.

The organization runs two flagship programs out of its Manhattan (Chelsea) and Brooklyn (Industry City) locations, preparing about 350 women annually to work as carpenters, electricians, ironworkers, laborers, plumbers, and operating engineers, and more. Graduates earn starting hourly wages of over \$19/hour and typically receive comprehensive benefits through their employer.

“This role presents an opportunity for me to advance my commitment to drive gender diversity and equality in the construction trades. It is an honor to be named president of NEW, an organization I have long admired for its leadership and network of opportunity for women. I’m looking forward to furthering the organization’s legacy in partnership with staff, the Board of Directors, unions and other workforce development leaders.

Leah’s interest in the building trades dates to her adolescence, when, at the age of 10, she asked for a tool set, rather than a doll, for a present. She attended high school at Brooklyn Tech and then launched a 35-year career in the labor movement. In addition to her role at the Women’s Bureau and several roles at Local 28, she also served on the Sheet Metal Air Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) International’s Women’s Committee, Recruitment and Retention Council, and was an instructor for the International Training Institute, where she trained sheet metal instructors from across the country. She is also a certified OSHA Outreach Instructor. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Labor Education from the National Labor College.

About Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW)

NEW is a nonprofit organization that prepares, trains, and places women in careers in the skilled construction, utility, and maintenance trades. For over 40 years, NEW

has increased the number of women represented in trade careers in New York City and helped women achieve economic independence.

For more information, visit <https://www.new-nyc.org/>.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

2.29.24 Air Date: 3.10.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Marsha Coleman Jr. -Founder MCJ Dynasty – Financial Expert

Building a financially secure retirement is a challenge for many Americans, but it's especially steep if you are Black.

The numbers paint a glaring picture. Black workers ages 51 to 64 are the least likely among all racial and ethnic groups to have a retirement account, according to a July 2023 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Income is one of the most important factors affecting how much money people can save for retirement, and Black workers in the U.S. earn less than their white counterparts. African Americans who are aging now, the boomer generation, a lot of them didn't seek that financial advice.

However, Marsha suggests that you need to participate in your 401k/403b plan, and when and if you receive a raise-allocate a portion of that raise to your retirement plan.

Some tips include:

Make sure you evaluate your withdrawal rate with your financial professional at least annually to ensure that you are not drawing too much or too little and are taking life changes into account.

Look for financial wellness counseling, either from work or the community. Some companies offer employees counseling for debt management, budgeting, and emergency savings.

Some of the benefits of a retirement plan are :

- It allows you to invest now for financial security when you retire. • It provides tax advantages and incentives for you and your employees (if applicable).
- It reduces your stress and gives you peace of mind before and during retirement.
- It helps you make informed decisions and get on the same page with your spouse or partner.
 - It offers returns on investment and cost savings over time.
 - It protects you from emergencies and inflation.
 - It gives you a source of income if you have no pension.
 - It enables you to leave a legacy for your loved ones.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 3.12.24 Air Date: 3.17.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30
Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia
Robinson

Guest: Sean Ebony Cole- Founder & Executive Director- Destination
Tomorrow

Destination Tomorrow, a Black Trans-led LGBTQ+ center in Atlanta, is a grant recipient of the City of Atlanta's largest investment in the Transgender community.

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens announced \$55,000 in funding to be allocated to three on-the ground community organizations. With the ongoing attacks on the Transgender community, specifically seen in the recent murders of Trans Black women in Atlanta, there is an urgent need for governing leaders to be held accountable for implementing safeguards for the community.

Sean Ebony Coleman, the center's founder, and executive director and the only Black Trans Grantmaker nationally, will be using these funds to open a new LGBTQ+ mentoring pilot program to provide critical support for Transgender individuals who are notoriously underrepresented in the region.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman announced a lawsuit Wednesday against New York Attorney General Letitia James. It comes after James issued a cease-and-desist order against Blakeman over Nassau County's ban affecting transgender athletes. Blakeman issued an executive order on Feb. 22 banning sports organizations from county run athletic facilities if they allow transgender girls and women to compete on female teams.

The order specifically requires any sports teams, leagues, programs, or organizations seeking a permit from the county's parks and recreation department to "expressly designate" whether they are male, female, or coed based on their members' "biological sex at birth."

The order, which went into effect immediately, impacts more than 100 sites, from ballfields to basketball and tennis courts, swimming pools and ice rinks across the suburban New York City region, which is located just east of Queens and is the state's wealthiest county. This is not precluding anybody from participating in sports," said Blakeman.

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Sean recognizes the harm being done by this executive order and will continue to build his scale of advocates to support equal and fair rights for the transgender community. He states that education should begin with understanding the terminology of the LGBTQ+ community, recognizing their humanity, and understanding the issues that they face. While some progress is being made in this direction Transgender individuals still face a greater risk of violence when using public spaces due to their gender identity, including being verbally harassed, physically assaulted, or sexually assaulted. This is unacceptable.

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that you find time to balance yourself, so you are well-abled to continue being great in your field.

As a Black physician, discrimination still exists even at this level. Dr. McGeachy experiences exclusion in the medical facility in which her practice exists. She is not respected as a physician even in the space where she has committed to care for the community. She recognizes this and pushes forward with positive momentum and discernment about referrals to those who exhibit discriminatory behaviors.

All stakeholders with an interest in advancing medicine and research must commit to prioritizing health equity.

KYW-AM/WIP-HD2 PHILADELPHIA, WPHI-FM JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT

July 1, 2024 – Sept 30, 2024

Station KYW (AM) provides an all-news radio service to Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area at 1060kHz AM, with simulcasts on the FM dial on WPHI-FM at 103.9 MHz and WIP-FM-HD2 at 94.1 MHz HD2. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.

This report was prepared and placed in the station's public inspection file on **September 27th, 2024**. The report was prepared and reviewed by Newsroom Operations Manager, Dennis Edward.

Bridging Philly is KYW Newsradio's half-hour public affairs show that airs Saturdays at 9:30p and Sundays at 8:30a

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Arts and Culture - Page 16

Education - Page 34

Elections and Politics - Page 47

Gun Crimes and Public Safety - Page 67

Economy - Page 81

CHILDREN AND HUMAN SERVICES

July

Atlantic City utilizing every government agency to break up homeless encampments under boardwalk

July 1, 2024

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Homeless encampments have long been a problem with elusive solutions for officials in Atlantic City. But for the first time in recent history, every government agency in the city, as well as casino groups and other community organizations, are working together to tackle the issue.

The initiative first offers services to people in need, then begins to break up encampments in places they shouldn't be, like under the boardwalk. Over the years, there have been several encampment fires on the boardwalk, like Garden Pier, creating safety hazards.

Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Evans said people would live under Garden Pier for weeks to months on end. But now, this coordinated approach is already proving successful.

“It’s critical for the right hand to know what the left hand is doing, for every department that has a role plays their part and passes the ball to the next person,” he said.

Department of Health and Human Services Director Jarrod Barnes said his office is often the first contact. They can only offer help, and police are only called if laws are being broken. They try to build trust to get people the help they need.

“We ask every single day, ‘Do you need assistance?’” he said. “If they say, ‘No, thank you,’ we say, ‘Hey look, we’re here. You can come find us at City Hall.’ We’ll come back to that same spot because more than likely, they’re in the same spot every single day. We’ll keep going back to them.

“And eventually, a lot of times they break down and say, ‘Hey look, I do need assistance,’ and we start the process for them.”

Mayor Marty Small said there are dozens of people living on the streets in Atlantic City, many from out of town, and part of this process is also focused on sending people back to where they came from.

Small added that this citywide government approach is a big reason why the city is safer than it has been in recent years, and he said they will keep pushing to make it even better.

'The future is in this room': Parker introduces 16-member Youth Commission at City Hall July 8, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — While introducing her 16-member Youth Commission Monday evening at City Hall, Mayor Cherelle Parker noted there are 345,000 children under age 18 in Philadelphia — nearly 22% of the total population.

“Yet their voices go unheard and they lack representation in government,” she said.

She says the Youth Commission, fully appointed for the first time in eight years, would correct that.

Parker said the city cannot solve some of its thorniest problems — notably, gun violence, which has increasingly involved child victims and shooters — without youth participation, adding this will give youth a chance to bring their issues, thoughts and concerns to the table.

The new commissioners, including Marquis Bailey, were eager to try.

“We are commissioned to be beacons of light among our peers, commissioned to lead with a heightened level of compassion and integrity, commissioned to lead to spread the spirit of love and unity throughout our city, and commissioned to put our boots on the ground and let the city know we are the next generation and we have what it takes to move forward,” Bailey said.

Cindy Johnson is ready to take on the mental health crisis among the city’s youth.

“Our objective is to work with city officials to make policy recommendations and develop programming with youth mental health in mind while creating a safe space for all youth voices to be heard,” Johnson said.

And James King has big ambitions for the Public Safety Subcommittee.

“Our aim is to break the cycle of violence and teach young people how to resolve conflicts,” he said.

Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel said he was impressed.

“The future is in this room. There’s no question about that.”

City Council’s Kensington Caucus convenes hearing on access to drug rehab amid conflicting information

July 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Council’s Kensington Caucus is exploring ways to make drug rehab treatment more accessible as part of its effort to clean up the drug-ravaged neighborhood.

In that vein, Councilmember Quetcy Lozada convened a hearing at Rock Ministries in Kensington on Thursday out of frustration with conflicting information about the availability of treatment for addiction. Health officials and providers say there are beds available for those seeking treatment, but people seeking treatment complain they can’t get access to them.

Jefferson Dr. Phil Durney said a large part of the problem is the mismatch between the level of care in the available beds and the complex medical needs of many of those seeking treatment.

“When patients are coming in with really severe infections, life-threatening infections or severe debility — they can’t walk, they can’t move — that’s when this mismatch occurs,” said Durney.

He and colleague Dr. Chris Martin, testified that this is often the case in Philadelphia with the drug xylazine, which causes massive wounds and infections and is found in almost every street drug.

City health officials said there are currently 120 rehab beds available, but most are for those who need minimal medical care. Only three were available for high-need patients.

Behavioral Health Commissioner Marquita Williams said her department has greatly expanded the number of beds and is working to reduce barriers, but clearly more is needed.

Megan Reed, who also works at Jefferson and specializes in harm reduction, said there are other obstacles like location, language barriers and hours of waiting at intake centers for officials to consider.

“This would be arduous for anyone but for someone going through withdrawal it’s intolerable,” she said. “We should roll out the red carpet when someone is ready to get treatment, not put up obstacles for them to get in it.”

Recommendations made at the meeting included creating a dashboard to make it easy to find available beds and to have housing waiting for patients getting discharge to prevent relapses.

New Jersey launches online hub for disability information, resources

July 26, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — It can be challenging for people with disabilities and their loved ones to find the information and resources they need online. Now, New Jersey has launched an online hub, serving as a one-stop shop for those resources.

The new Disability Information Hub features services and information on opportunities in education, recreation, employment, and more. New Jersey Department of Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman says it was built with input from the communities that will be using it.

“Many services for individuals with disabilities are offered by the state and our community partners and many organizations,” said Adelman.

“This disability hub brings together those resources in one place for New Jersey residents with disabilities and their caregivers, family members and advocates.”

That includes links to about 200 programs and services from the Departments of Human Services, Health, Education, Labor and Workforce Development, Community Affairs, Military

and Veterans Affairs, the Attorney General's Office, the Board of Public Utilities, and the Office of Emergency Management.

"Together, we are breaking down barriers and empowering all New Jerseyans to thrive in their communities," Gov. Phil Murphy said. "I commend the whole-of-government effort to uplift the State's disability community."

Adelman says an audio version of the website is also available for users with impaired vision.

August

Delaware County Health Department offering cold storage equipment to eligible food pantries

August 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Keeping cool has been a challenge this summer, as high temps have continuously exacerbated the region. Pair that with ongoing food insecurity, and vulnerable communities are being stretched thin.

To combat the issue, the Delaware County Health Department is awarding cold storage equipment to eligible food pantry nonprofits, making fresh, healthy food more accessible to residents in vulnerable neighborhoods.

"If a food pantry is able to have adequate cold storage, they're really able to expand the offerings that they have beyond just dry goods," said Lora Werner, Delaware County deputy director of health. "They can have really fresh produce and keep it properly cold. And of course, at the health department, we always want to help people keep their food properly cold because that helps prevent the spread of disease."

The initiative is funded by a Health Resources and Services Administration grant.

Applications are currently being accepted. Applicants must meet certain criteria, such as showing proof of nonprofit status and a safe storage area, and being based in a designated food desert.

Montgomery County installing free feminine hygiene product dispensers at all county-owned facilities

August 13, 2024

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Montgomery County is tackling period poverty by stocking public restrooms with free tampons and pads.

“If one resident cannot avail themselves to basic period products, that's not good for me. And so I wanted to ensure that we expanded this policy,” said Jamila Winder, chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Winder says the idea stemmed from conversations with members of the state delegation, and Women's Commission, about how the county's policy worked and was enforced.

“And what we found was there was a real opportunity to expand our part in reducing period poverty,” she said.

Period poverty is the inability to afford to buy menstrual products. A 2021 study of U.S. teenagers found that 23% struggled to afford period products. Some young women have reported using newspaper or used napkins to manage their menstrual cycles.

People may think of Montgomery County as an affluent place to live, says Winder, but she has friends and neighbors who must choose between buying pads or tampons and buying groceries.

“It really is sobering, and it's just such a simple thing,” she said. “And it's a simple thing that we can do as Montgomery County to expand this program and have consistency.”

Previously, the county had stocked some of their facilities with the products and made them available for 25 cents apiece. Now all 269 county-owned bathrooms — including those in parks, courthouses and historic sites, as well as public health centers in Norristown, Pottstown and Willow Grove — will have dispensers.

Winder says it removes a barrier for women who are struggling to find or pay for these necessities: “If they're doing business in the county, or if they're at one of our parks with their children, [they know] that they can access those products free of charge, and we don't ask any questions.”

Similar work is in progress at the state level, too. The Pennsylvania House has passed bills that would make the products eligible under SNAP and WIC and have them available for free in schools. Both bills are with the Senate. The most recent state budget puts \$3 million toward menstrual products for schools.

Philadelphia to open first urgent care center for mental health needs

August 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philly's first urgent care for mental health needs is set to open at the beginning of next month, and city officials hope the new clinic can help offset the demand for behavioral health care.

The Merakey Mental Health Walk-In Clinic, which officially opens on Sept. 3, is the product of a partnership with behavioral health provider Merakey and the city's Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS). It's housed in a white brick building at 3125 North Broad St., just before Allegheny Avenue.

Merakey says the clinic is for adults 18 and older who need same-day mental health care that is not an emergency. Quick counseling sessions, psychiatric evaluations and referrals are among the services people can expect to get at this clinic. Visitors in emergency situations, including suicidal or homicidal thoughts, self-harm or substance use withdrawal, are urged to call 988 or immediately go to a crisis response center.

One of the main goals for Merakey is to help cut down on avoidable visits to emergency rooms and crisis response centers. The clinic will be staffed by Merakey personnel, including therapists ready for walk-in sessions and a psychiatrist on site who can prescribe medication.

According to Merakey, the facility's exam rooms and waiting areas are designed to look like living rooms, providing a calm environment for patients. Visitors are also offered snacks and beverages while waiting to see a professional.

Some of the issues the clinic is intended to address include depression, anxiety, stress, grief, mood disturbances, substance use assessments, and referrals to follow-up resources.

According to DBHIDS, the city has been working on solutions within the behavioral health system since 2019, where it began planning an expansion of its crisis services. Interim Commissioner Dr. Marquita C. Williams says department officials are excited to see many of their plans over the last five years come to life.

New CDC report touts benefits of routine childhood vaccinations, finds many once-common diseases are now forgotten as a result

August 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As kids get their required shots for the start of the school year, a new report shows some of the deadliest vaccine-preventable diseases are unknown by many adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report shows adults ages 18 to 49 are less likely to know about diseases once common in kids, including measles, mumps, pertussis, and diphtheria, because of the efficacy of childhood vaccinations.

“We have an effort called ‘Let's Keep It That Way,’ which is really aimed at educating people about vaccinations so that they understand the importance of vaccination,” said Dr. Georgina Peacock, director of the CDC’s immunization services division.

The agency is celebrating 30 years of its Vaccines for Children Program, which covers the cost of vaccines for parents or guardians who may not be able to afford them. The program is open to anyone 18 years old or younger who is eligible for Medicaid, uninsured or underinsured. Indigenous children are also eligible.

“It provides vaccines for about 50% of children in the United States, and it's a very important program to make sure that children can stay up to date on their vaccinations.”

Last year, the CDC distributed 74 million pediatric vaccines through the program to participating providers. According to the CDC, almost 90% of eligible children born between 2011 and 2020 have received the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine. Peacock says vaccination rates need to stay high to prevent resurgences of serious diseases.

“For example, we are seeing measles cases in different parts of the United States. In most cases, that's because a child or an adult is unvaccinated against measles,” she said. “Therefore, keeping those vaccine coverage rates high is very important.”

Vaccine safety is a concern for some people. In rare cases, there are exceptions from getting a particular vaccine, but Peacock says they are generally safe.

“Millions of children receive, safely, vaccines each year. Some of the common side effects that children have with vaccines are mild, such as a sore arm from the vaccination, or fever or a mild rash,” she explained. “There are serious reactions, but those are extremely rare.”

The CDC report says routine vaccinations prevented approximately 508 million cases of illness, 32 million hospitalizations, and 1,129,000 deaths among people born between 1994 and 2023.

Burlington County awards grants to 6 food assistance programs

August 23, 2024

MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Burlington County is providing grants to six organizations that help feed people who are food insecure.

The first check was delivered Thursday to Virtua Hospital in Mount Holly, which has been running a small food pantry on the first floor for a few years. Burlington County Commissioner Director Felicia Hobson delivered the \$75,000 check to help support the hospital's cause.

On the shelves, you'll find rice, beans, cereals and other non-perishables. Virtua Vice President Stephanie Fendrick said locally sourced fruits and vegetables are also available for free.

“A lot of people are on medications and it's so important to have the food to help absorb those medications,” she said. “It just contributes to one's overall health. It's one of our basic needs as humans.

“Our goal is to touch as many people who need help, who identify themselves as struggling with being able to afford food,” Fendrick continued, “being able to come here, easily access the food, and then help get them connected to other resources in the community.”

Other grant recipients include the Food Bank of South Jersey, the Burlington Township Food Pantry, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Oaks Integrated Care, and the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Food Pantry.

"We also want organizations to know that there's still funds available and they should continue to apply," Hobson said.

September

Harriett's Bookshop aims to send 10 Philly youths to study abroad in Paris this fall September 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When Jeannine A. Cook founded Harriett's Bookshop in 2020, her mission was to celebrate women authors, artists, and activists in honor of historic heroine Harriet Tubman.

Since then, she's opened two new bookshops: Ida's in New Jersey and Josephine's in Paris. And now, she's turning another page.

Come November, she aims to send 10 youths from North Philadelphia to Paris for the chance to study abroad.

Why? Because she says these are the kids that would otherwise rarely be offered such a life-changing opportunity.

She says they worked diligently with the school district to "create the first-ever credit-bearing course for young people in an accelerated high school."

Cook says Tubman is the inspiration behind the trip.

"If you're in the spirit of Harriet Tubman, you know the Underground Railroad is this sacred passage between places with people you may not know are in the railroad with you, but are there to help you move from place to place," she said.

“This is a victory story. Again, I attribute that to Harriet, to Ida [B. Wells], and to Josephine [Baker].”

The bookstore said it is seeking more donations before it can send students to its study abroad program.

Delaware County debuts new automated health care supply kiosks

September 18, 2024

CHESTER, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The future of public health is now in Delaware County, according to officials who have a new way of distributing healthcare supplies to residents.

The Delaware County Health Department has partnered with healthcare technology firm LTS to bring its “TestAndGo” kiosks to the county. The machines, made possible through a \$200,000 state grant, are located outside of the Keystone First building in Chester, the Government Center in Media and the Yeadon Wellness Center.

“Any Delaware County resident can come up to one of our three machines and get free public health supplies,” said Lora Werner, the health department’s interim director. She says the new vending kiosks have COVID-19 and flu tests, condoms, feminine hygiene products, fentanyl test strips, Narcan and more.

Haley Tunney with LTS says the machines let users place orders through a touch screen on the front, allowing free, 24/7 access in exchange for filling out a brief questionnaire. “There’s no sensitive information given,” said Tunney. “It’s mostly an anonymous survey that is done for each product.”

Faith Goldsborough was on hand for the opening of the kiosk in Chester. “I think it’s a pretty good idea because, a lot of stuff that we need for our own benefit and health, we have to pay for it, and some of us don’t have enough money,” she said.

Meanwhile, the new machines caught Stephanie Ray by surprise. “I had no idea that this is what it was — and it’s a good thing, because a lot of things are going on here in Chester. I’m thankful, I’m happy that they have it here,” Ray said.

County health officials hope to eventually add STD testing to the kiosks. Residents can register for the kiosks online or in person at any of the three machines.

The Philadelphia region's blood supply is dangerously low, and the American Red Cross is asking for help

September 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — There is a dire need for blood — right now. The American Red Cross says the supply all around the country, including the Philadelphia region, is dangerously low, so the nonprofit is once again making an appeal for people to roll up their sleeves.

Alana Mauger, regional communications manager for the American Red Cross, Southeastern Pennsylvania, says there was a significant shortage at the end of summer.

“The actual need was significantly higher than what we had expected,” Mauger said.

She says supplies were adequate through July, and then they immediately made efforts to collect donations. Natural disasters, summer vacation and travel, COVID-19 cases — all of these are contributing factors to the blood shortage.

“We're encouraging people to give now, to make sure that the levels continue to be available and improve after the summer shortage,” Mauger said.

“What we're seeing is that happened a little bit, but we're now, we're in September, and we're still seeing that critical need that we have.”

Only three out of 100 Americans donate blood. With the blood supply still at critical levels, every single donation is key to making sure all patients who rely on life-saving transfusions get the care they need.

“The worst-case scenario would be that the blood's not available when someone needs it. And what's really important is that, you know, we can't project when someone's going to need the blood.”

She says blood platelets are needed as well. They only have a shelf life of five days, so that supply has to be continually restocked. The American Red Cross is now offering an incentive for blood and platelet donors.

“If you donate between now and Sept. 30, you will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. Automatically, you're registered for this gift card, and within 30 days, you'll receive the card electronically.”

To find the nearest donation site, go to redcrossblood.org.

Program that provides mental health services to Philly students expands to 2 more schools September 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A program that provides mental health services to Philly students is expanding to two other schools.

Since 2021, counselors and clinicians from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia have offered mental health services to students at Girard College, a five-day boarding school. The school-based mental health pilot helped about 300 students through anxiety and depression, according to Girard President David Hardy.

“When you see children who are going through those issues, it affects all of the other issues in school,” he said. “The fact is, you can’t learn if you have those kinds of struggles.”

Now, the program — funded by the Independence Blue Cross Foundation — is expanding to Hardy Williams Elementary Mastery Charter and the district’s Add B. Anderson School. The program will then be available to about 1,000 Philly students.

Debora Carrera, the mayor’s chief education officer, knows from her experience as a principal that having services available in school makes a difference.

“While we were surrounded by mental health agencies, the students didn’t go,” she noted.

Independence Health Group CEO Greg Deavens told a student mental health summit Thursday that the program has seen results.

“We found that about two-thirds of the students say that the treatment they received helped them to do better or to feel better,” he added.

He said students are six times more likely to continue their treatment if it takes place in a school.

ARTS AND CULTURE

July

Philadelphia Zoo, a pioneer in animal conservation and innovation, celebrates 150th anniversary

July 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — They came by way of steamboat, horse and carriage, train, and foot. On July 1, 1874, about 3,000 people had the opportunity to see nearly 600 animals up close at America's first zoo, the Philadelphia Zoo.

It opened its gates exactly 150 years ago and has become known around the world for its animal care, conservation, and innovation. The zoo, which now houses more than 1,700 animals, recognized the milestone anniversary on Monday with a celebration of its past and present achievements. Visitors were greeted by a brass band, much like they were that first day of operation back in 1874 and a troop of François' langurs.

The Philadelphia Zoo was actually established in 1859, but the grand opening was delayed until 1874 due to the Civil War. Then in 1901, a first-of-its-kind animal health laboratory was built.

“We were trying to understand and learn more about animal physiology and health and really understood that there were diseases that could be transmitted between humans and animals, and there is a whole field of zoonotic diseases now,” said President and CEO Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman.

“The same thing with animal nutrition. We were the first zoo to create animal diets. They were called zoocakes, and there is a whole field of animal nutrition studies.”

Mogerman, who started her job last October, is a part of history, too. She is the first African American and the first woman to lead the zoo.

The Philadelphia Zoo has pioneered many other firsts. In 2011, it launched Zoo360, a trail system where animals move beside guests, above in the treetops, and over people's heads along pathways.

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In 2011, the Philadelphia Zoo launched Zoo360, a trail system where animals move beside guests, above in the treetops, and over people's heads along pathways. Photo credit Philadelphia Zoo

"The 360 trails have now been replicated in more than 70 zoos around the world," said Mogerman.

In the 1960s, Zoo Keys — a memorable visitor favorite — were introduced. Children used the keys to turn on talking story boxes and learn about the animals they see in front of them.

Hollywood royalty was no stranger to the zoo either. In 1979, Rocky proposed to Adrian in "Rocky II," right in front of the tiger enclosure. Decades prior, the Philadelphia Zoo took in a very famous resident. In 1931, the mascot of MGM, Leo the lion, retired to the zoo.

And even after all these years, there's still more to come.

Mogerman says they will be announcing a major exhibit renovation and expansion in the coming months that will "change our campus and strengthen our commitments to our conservation mission and guest experience."

Beach Blaze, BBQ championship & Brian McKnight in AC — a peek at some of this weekend's 'Shore Things'

July 10, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Oh, baby, the brisket's back! This weekend is the New Jersey BBQ State Championship and blues festival in North Wildwood, from Friday to Sunday.

Celebrate 102 years of Broadway's greatest moments with Neil Berg and veteran actors performing powerful vocals and stunning choreography at Surfside Park in Avalon Saturday night.

Singer-songwriter Brian McKnight takes the stage at Ocean Resort Casino Friday night, featuring chart-toppers “Back at One” and “Love Is.”

And the Peach at the Beach Music Festival is Saturday in Atlantic City, with several rock, blues, and jam bands at the Showboat Island Water Park.

Blaze on the Beach

Get ready for The United Civil Servants’ annual Blaze on the Beach at Bar Anticipation in Lake Como on Friday, July 12.

The event, which runs from noon to 5 p.m., benefits children in need.

It's \$75 at the door. There will be \$10 raffle tickets, a BBQ and, of course, an open bar.

"Nobody puts baby in a corner," said fictional character Johnny Castle except, maybe for “Dirty Dancing” movie night in Seaside Heights on Friday, July 12.

Grab your coziest outfit and get ready to watch an American classic with your toes in the sand and the ocean breeze in your hair.

The movie starts at dusk and is for adults only. Attendees will be seated in the vicinity of Beach Patrol North Headquarters.

And what’s a movie night without a beverage? Seaside Heights Business Improvement District will be on the beach selling beer and wine throughout the film.

NJ State BBQ Championship & Anglesea Blues Fest

Grab your bibs and get ready to grub on some mouth-watering meats marinated, seasoned and smoked “to the point of perfection.”

Barbecue teams from around the country will be at 2nd and Olde New Jersey Avenues and surrounding pubs in North Wildwood this weekend to show off their grillin' skills.

The competition kicks off Friday, July 12 at 4 p.m., and runs through Sunday.

There will be live cooking demonstrations, food and top regional and national blues acts on the free, main stage.

Get ready to sing your heart out with Brian McKnight at Oceans Casino Resort in Atlantic City.

The singer-songwriter, who's received 16 GRAMMY nominations, will be taking the stage on Friday, July 12 at Ovation Hall.

Doors open at 8 p.m., the concert starts at 9. For tickets and more information, [click here](#).

And if your vocal cords are still intact by Sunday, you might want to check out Karaoke Night at Asbury Lanes on 209 4th Avenue.

Hosted by Giuseppe, from 7-10:30 p.m. you can sing, bowl, dine and drink all for FREE!

The Peach at the Beach Festival

Music, music, and more music!!!

The Peach at the Beach music festival returns Saturday, July 13 at Island Water Park in Atlantic City.

Check out headliners like Joe Russo's Almost Dead, Dogs in a Pile, Trouble No More, Karina Rykman and Mykal Rose of Black Uhuru.

There will be performers, vendors, oh, and a waterpark for you to take a splash and cool off.

Tickets start at \$79.

Catch a celebration of some of the greatest moments in Broadway history on Saturday, July 13.

It's Neil Berg's 102 years of Broadway! — an “electrifying musical revue” where a cast of Broadway veterans will sing and dance in Surfside Park.

The event starts at 7 p.m. For more information, [click here](#).

Blobfest oozes through Phoenixville for its 25th anniversary celebration

July 12, 2024

PHOENIXVILLE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The sci-fi classic "The Blob" slimed its way into movie theaters in 1958 — and into one Chester County movie house. While the movie has a few years to go before its 70th anniversary, the festival honoring "The Blob" has reached a milestone of its own.

Since 1999, fans of sci-fi, horror, and camp have gathered annually in Phoenixville for Blobfest, a weekend-long festival that celebrates the genre and, specifically, "The Blob."

For the uninitiated, "The Blob" is about a small town under attack from a gelatinous alien blob that consumes anything and everything in its path. The townspeople are helpless as the being grows in size with everything it devours, until a courageous teenager figures out a way to fight it.

Many movie buffs know "The Blob" best as the first lead role for 28-year-old Steve McQueen — who would ultimately become one of the most popular stars in Hollywood with roles in "Bullitt" and "The Towering Inferno."

Screen shot from "The Blob" featuring Steve McQueen and Aneta Corseaut

Steve McQueen (right, with Aneta Corseaut) starred in 1958's "The Blob." It was his first lead role in a movie, and he was credited as "Steven McQueen." Photo credit Paramount Pictures

For Chester County, however, it's a point of pride. "'The Blob' was made by a production company that's right down the road from Phoenixville, in Chester Springs," said Drew Boardman, events director for the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.

"They were actually a Christian film production company and they wanted to get in on the B, sci-fi-horror side of things. So they optioned 'The Blob' [and] they cast then-unknown Steve McQueen."

In fact, the movie's most famous scene was shot at the Colonial Theatre, where the monstrous Blob attacks a crowd of moviegoers.

"They came to the Colonial because [they had the] idea that the blob would ooze out into a movie theater full of people and they would all run out," explained Boardman, "and they paid \$75 for the shoot. And they said, 'We know that this is a low rate, but it will make you infamous.' And to this day, almost 70 years later, we still celebrate that."

That scene of people running out of the theater inspired volunteers at the Colonial to create Blobfest, to honor not only the Chester County cult favorite but the theater itself, which reopened in 1999 after having closed eight years before.

"A group decided in the mid to late '90s to reopen the theater and as they were kind of getting back on their feet, someone said, 'Hey, why don't you show 'The Blob?'" Boardman recalled.

"They showed 'The Blob' and then people just automatically ran out of the theater when the movie was over. From there, year over year, a group of volunteers got together and started putting it together — and then it just became this official festival that now the staff puts together every year, still with an amazing group of volunteers."

Blobfest has since grown into a weekend-long event, with movie screenings, dance parties and an outdoor street fair. "We always have a different theme," said Boardman of the event's programming. In previous years, it has included classic sci-fi and horror movies such as "The Wolfman," "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" and "War of the Worlds" — to correspond with themes like "Blobs and Monsters" and "The Uninvited."

(Another favorite has been "Grease," owing to a scene where the Rydell High teens catch a drive-in showing of "The Blob.")

This year, however, is all about celebrating "The Blob" and Blobfest, and it begins with the centerpiece of the festival: a reenactment of that famous movie theater scene. "Friday night, we have a stage show and do the run-out," said Boardman.

"I thought we were watching the movie," said Adrienne Mathiesen of Millville, New Jersey, of her first run-out experience, "and then they're like, 'No, get ready, let's go!' and then we all ran out and watched the movie later. When we ran out, we were screaming like we were being chased by the blob and there were so many people. There had to be thousands of people who ran into in the crowd."

It isn't only the people running out of the theater who enjoy the run-out. "The whole town comes out to watch and cheer the crowd running down Bridge Street," recalled Blobfest regular Tom Barrett, of New York.

Right after the run-out is the Blob Ball, Boardman said, "which is a '50s-style sock hop. Then on Saturday, we show movies all day."

There will be multiple screenings of the original movie, with an additional run-out Saturday evening. Fans can also watch the 1988 remake, itself a cult favorite. In addition, organizers will show "The Blob" dubbed in Spanish for the first time — its Spanish-language title is "La Masa Devoradora."

Sunday will feature the little-loved 1972 sequel "Beware! The Blob," directed by "Dallas" star Larry Hagman... but with a twist. "That will be live-riffed by Matt McGinnis, who is a writer, director and producer for 'Mystery Science Theater 3000,'" Boardman said. Joining McGinnis will be the long-running comedy show's creator Joel Hodgson and star Emily Marsh. On "Mystery Science Theater 3000," its stars mercilessly mock bad movies in a snarky running commentary, and this screening will follow suit.

Boardman says this year's street fair — happening rain or shine — will be the biggest yet. "We have more vendors than ever. I think we're at about 105, and they're all going to be vintage sci-fi, horror, camp, family-friendly vendors," he said, while acknowledging the rain in the forecast. "Fortunately, it's looking like the hours of the outdoor festival are just going to miss the thunderstorms, which is great news."

For Phoenixville resident Alexander Neff, who has gone to Blobfest on and off since 2011, it's something to share with his 14-year-old son. "Missed a couple after [2011], but my son and I have been going consistently every year for probably six years," he said.

"When he first started to go, it was, 'All right Dad, I'll go with you,' but now I think it's kind of a touchstone moment for him each year. He is getting a bit more of the jokes and things he wouldn't have gotten at a younger age."

They've done the run-out, though Neff admits they haven't done it each year. ("Sometimes it's harder to get tickets than other years," he said.) The street fair is a highlight for them, not only with its vendors but with unique contests like a tinfoil hat-making competition and a sort of Easter egg hunt — but with blobs.

"They've been doing this for a couple of years. There's a ceramic studio in town, Studio 323, and you can go and make a little clay blob with a little face on it. They'll fire it and glaze it red, and they'll make little blobs and they hide them around town," he explained. "The kids go out and find them [and] you get to keep the ceramic blob."

Actor and musician Cedric Crouch of Philadelphia is also a Blobfest regular, having gone to the event almost every year of its existence. "I really like that it's a celebration of everything cool and campy, a throwback to the great '50s sci-fi that I grew up watching as a kid," he said.

In addition, Crouch often performs at the afterparty with his band Psycho '78. "This will be our 10th year playing the afterparty. The event always features a variety of bands playing tribute sets of their favorite artist's music, sort of like the music equivalent of cosplay," he laughed. This year, his band will perform the music of the Misfits.

Blobfest typically draws thousands of camp and kitsch devotees from our area and beyond, but for Neff, it means even more to residents of Phoenixville. "It's just a neat interaction with the community," he said. "It's been important to a lot of people, [the Phoenixville Area Economic Development Corporation] buying the Colonial Theatre. [Association for the Colonial Theatre co-founder] Mary Foote put in a lot of work into saving that building ... [It] really started a seed in the town of regrowth."

The theater has an especially personal meaning for Neff. "My wife and I got married there in 2007. It's pretty important," he cheerfully recalled.

Barrett has a similar attachment to the festival. "I had never heard of Blobfest until eight years ago. The girl I was dating suggested going, and we have gone every year since. We're married now."

Blobfest runs through Sunday evening, with a 3D screening of "Creature from the Black Lagoon" closing it out. "That's our grand finale because that's the movie that we've shown the most at Blobfest over the years," Boardman said. And while Blobfest 25 is all about celebrating the past, Boardman says he's looking forward to the future of Blobfest.

"Next year, we have some ideas up our sleeves, so we're gonna see about expanding it even further ... really playing with the theme and what we offer to all the people coming to experience it, how we can even push it beyond what we currently do in the three days we have," he said.

"I can hint that it'll definitely be campy," he teased. "It generally is campy, but next year will definitely be campier."

August

Kristal Sotomayor wins award at BlackStar Film Festival after 6 years documenting end of Philadelphia cooperation with ICE

August 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Kristal Sotomayor is an unabashed South Philly artist with a bright future ahead of them, or at least that's what audiences of the BlackStar Film Festival are saying now after Sotomayor won its Philadelphia Filmmaker Award following the Philly debut of their short documentary "Expanding Sanctuary."

"It was a big deal," Sotomayor told KYW. "I've been working on the film for over six years."

The film follows longtime South Philly immigrant rights organization Juntos in its fight to end Philadelphia's PARS agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. PARS, which stands for Preliminary Arraignment Reporting System, is a records database shared by the police, District Attorney's Office and the courts. Under the agreement, some of the records on the database were shared with ICE.

ICE would use those records to carry out immigration enforcement (mostly deportation) on individuals who had not been arrested, or accused or convicted of any crime.

"And they ended up winning," Sotomayor said of Juntos' fight to end the PARS agreement. Philadelphia did not renew its PARS agreement with ICE after it expired on Aug. 31, 2018.

By following that fight to its conclusion, “Expanding Sanctuary” also became a message about the power of community, especially the one Sotomayor found in South Philly.

“Making sure the community knew the incredible work they were doing and that we are here to fight for one another,” she said.

**This summer's free Theater in the X show is from, for and about Philadelphia
August 17, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Theatre in the X is presenting its annual free show in Malcolm X Memorial Park next weekend.

This summer’s play, “One Monkey Don’t Stop No Show,” runs Aug. 22-25. It’s a comedy about a middle-class African American family living in Philadelphia in the 1970s, whose lives are turned upside down when their niece, Beverley, comes up from the south to live with them.

“It brings up a lot of different conversations that are timely,” said Executive Director and Co-Founder LaNeshe Miller-White. “Getting people to talk about class versus north versus south versus income levels, and how we are treating each other based on those things, and what we’re assuming about each other based on those things.”

“It is a very nuanced conversation, and especially if you're talking about it where all the people you're talking about are Black.”

The play was written by Philadelphia’s Don Evans, who died a little over a decade ago. Miller-White said his work is not often performed here, so his two sons who still live in the city were very happy to hear this play would get a new life in their father’s hometown.

“They called us and were like, ‘We're so excited that you're doing our dad's work. ... He is a Philadelphia playwright, keeping that alive and doing it here is really important,’” Miller-White said.

Carlo Campbell, another co-founder and co-artistic director of Theatre in the X, is stepping onto the stage in this production. He said while it is a very Philly-based play, its messages expand to the larger Black community.

“It's got a cultural throughline that a lot of people of color — I say Black people, primarily, but people of color can identify with,” he said.

Director Maureen Henighan Booker thinks that anyone, regardless of race, can relate to this show, particularly the relationships within the family.

“If it is a true reflection of a human experience,” she said, “everybody in the building, everybody in the park will hear something, will feel something, will think something.”

Theatre in the X aims to break down barriers that often prevent people from seeing theater, including cost, transportation, and comfort level inside a theater. They put on various productions around the city, but their flagship summer show in Malcolm X Memorial Park is free, close to their target audience in West Philly, and outside in a familiar, relaxed space.

Campbell said he and the other co-founders started the company in 2013 because they wanted to see more opportunities for Black theater workers in shows that weren't focused on Black trauma. He said the group is a reflection of the people and the neighborhood they are built around.

“We are the community, the community is us. I just want to be a part of what I wish I could see. And hopefully, people are seeing what they wish they could see,” Campbell said.

Henighan Booker, who has worked with Theatre in the X previously as assistant director for “Dreamgirls” and “Zooman and the Sign,” says she appreciates that their performances show that Black stories are worthy of being told.

“It is our stories,” she said, “and believe it or not, our stories are enough.”

While the performance is free and BYOC (bring your own chair), you can donate or find more information on Theatre in the X's website.

Philadelphia Bookstore Crawl returns with discounts, giveaways and book signings

August 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Saturday marks the second annual Philadelphia Bookstore Crawl, where lit lovers around the city can pop into local bookshops for giveaways and special events.

It's a choose-your-own-adventure type of crawl, with no designated route for Philly's literati. More than three dozen stores are participating with deals, giveaways and book signings.

This will be the first crawl for sci-fi store Multiverse and its co-owner Sara Hughes, after setting up shop in Chestnut Hill last year.

"There's a really strong small business district here, and so there's really great support and collaboration," she said. "That's just exciting to kind of grow beyond just being a bookstore but actually being an important space in the community."

Christopher Cirillo, manager of Philly AIDS Thrift at Giovanni's Room, said the Philly Bookstore Crawl showcases one of the city's strengths.

"One of the cool things about Philadelphia is it's a very 'bookstore town,' and in all the places that I've lived I find that Philly has a really great independent bookstore scene that I don't see replicated in other places," he said.

"[The Book Crawl] encourages people to explore different neighborhoods in Philadelphia than the ones they might be most familiar with," added Hughes.

Cirillo said last year's event created a lot of buzz.

"Really super exciting to see people that we've never seen before coming in the store, excited about books, talking about the next store that they were gonna go to. Brought a lot of life into the store," he said.

And, he said, the event gives diverse shops the chance to find like-minded patrons.

“Everybody has their own niche audience that they’re looking for. And then the opportunity for new people to be invited into the spaces and to discover what Philly has to offer, as far as bookstores go, is great.”

For an interactive map and a list of participating shops, visit phillybookstorecrawl.com.

September

Opera Philadelphia cuts all tickets to \$11 in 'pick your price' model, hoping to widen audience

September 2, 2024

Opera Philadelphia is lowering all tickets to \$11 under new general director Anthony Roth Costanzo, establishing a “pick your price” model aimed at widening the company’s audience.

Costanzo announced Tuesday the company has raised \$7 million since June 1 when he replaced David Devan, who retired after 13 seasons. The money addressed debt and enabled the new model, in which people can pay more than the minimum if they want to.

“This is chapter one of a long-term turnaround story,” Costanzo said. “Creating a new place for opera in our current time requires risk. It doesn’t require doubling down on safe choices, and that’s going to mean that we have to enable failure.”

Costanzo, a 42-year-old countertenor with an active singing career on the world’s top stages, took over ahead of a 2024-25 season trimmed to nine performances, down from 30 in 2018-19, the last season before the coronavirus pandemic, and 16 in 2022-23. Tickets for this season originally were priced at \$30-\$300.

“Every dollar you spend over \$11 helps to not only support the opera, but support the people who want to come to the opera,” Costanzo said. “It will certainly represent a decrease in income from ticket sales. But it will represent an increase in contributed revenue and I believe also in the future in foundation revenue and hopefully corporate revenue.”

Opera Philadelphia sold 14,211 tickets last season at an average of \$85.77, resulting in 13% of the company’s revenue. In the 2022-23 season, 17,464 tickets were sold at an average of \$78.32, also bringing in 13% of revenue.

This season’s schedule at the Academy of Music, which has about 1,800 full-view seats, includes three performances of Missy Mazzoli’s “The Listeners” beginning with its U.S. premiere on Sept. 25, two performances Joseph Bologne’s “The Anonymous Lover” starting Jan. 31 and four

performances of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" opening April 25. The company scrapped its innovative season-opening festival as part of budget cutting.

Costanzo spoke with Henry Timms, the outgoing president of New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, which since 2022 has relied on a choose-what-you-pay model starting at \$5 for many events during its "Summer for the City" schedule.

Costanzo said the past model had been predicated on including popular titles such as Bizet's "Carmen," intended to spur ticket sales.

"We market to the people who can afford \$150 tickets. That changes the feel of the marketing. It changes the demographics of who we market to and where we market," Costanzo said. "Ticket price and selling tickets becomes a real focal point of how we create art form in our time. And I think that's a shame. I think it limits us and hinders innovation and progress."

Eagles home opener with Jeremiah Trotter, Jane's Addiction at Hard Rock, and other 'Shore Things' this weekend

September 5, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — It's shoulder season down the Shore, or "locals summer" — and there's still plenty of fun left.

Jane's Addiction is performing at the Hard Rock in Atlantic City on Saturday night. Philadelphia Eagles legend Jeremiah Trotter has a VIP meet-and-greet for fans at the Eagles home opener watch party at Draftkings Sportsbook at Resorts Casino. Saturday is the Wildwoods Food and Music Festival. And the Ocean City Pops host a special night with the Duprees at Music Pier on Saturday.

Wildwood Food and Music Festival

The Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce presents the Wildwood Food and Music Street Festival (formerly known as Wildwoods Seafood and Music Festival), featuring a full day of fantastic food, live music, shopping and more. This event is free to attend.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024)

Where: Byrne Plaza, along Pacific Avenue between Oak and Schellenger avenues, downtown Wildwood

The '80s meet the '90s on Saturday night, when Love and Rockets join Jane's Addiction on their North American tour. Love and Rockets, back again after about 15 years, created a fusion of underground rock and pop music that became an early catalyst for alternative rock. Fitting, then, that they should open for Jane's Addiction, the band that took alternative rock mainstream. Expect hits from critically acclaimed and generation-defining albums Nothing's Shocking and Ritual de lo Habitual, as well as a dip into their newest album, Imminent Redemption.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 8 p.m.

Where: Hard Rock Hotel, 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City

Jeremiah Trotter Meet & Greet

Watch the Eagles home opener against the Atlanta Falcons with the Axe Man himself, Eagles Hall of Famer Jeremiah Trotter. Exclusive meet-and-greet tickets (available for \$35) include a VIP seat to watch the game. Trotter played for Washington and Tampa Bay, but he's best known for his career with the Birds, where he was a significant defensive force until he retired in 2009.

When: Friday, Sept. 6, 7 – 8 p.m.

Where: Draftkings Sportsbook at Resorts, 1133 Boardwalk, Atlantic City

Ocean City Pops with the Duprees

It doesn't get more Jersey than the Duprees in Ocean City. The well-loved trio's music has echoed through performance halls for 60 years. This weekend, the unique sound of the Ocean City Pops joins the classic and timeless voices of Tommy Petillo, Jimmy Spinelli and Shawn Stevens for a special night.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Where: Music Pier, 825 Boardwalk, Ocean City, N.J.

Revolutionary War Encampment Weekend at Historic Cold Spring Village

Authentically dressed and armed, professional reenactors bring the American Revolutionary War to life at Historic Cold Spring Village. Visit the encampments of Continentals and Hessians, watch artillery demonstrations, hear a reading of the Declaration of Independence and learn about the flags of the Revolution. Kids can search the village for clues in the Patriot Spy Game.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: Historic Cold Spring Village, 733 Seashore Road, Cape May

African American Museum in Philadelphia debuts new exhibit from CCH Pounder of ‘Avatar,’ ‘NCIS: New Orleans’ fame **September 15, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — “Shared Vision” is the new exhibition that debuted this Saturday at the African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP), and features art from the personal collection of actress CCH Pounder.

Dejay Duckett, vice president of curatorial services at AAMP, spent two years working with Pounder on the collection that is now on display at the museum.

“A lot of pieces in her collection are figurative and portraits,” he said. “And it gives our audiences a chance to see themselves and see people they know and feel that that reflection and these pieces just, they kind of vibrate right off the walls.”

Pounder, who starred in James Cameron’s “Avatar” and is a regular cast member on “NCIS: New Orleans,” said the pieces allow visitors to expand on their idea of African, African American and African diaspora art.

She also participated in a community discussion on Saturday about the collection.

“It first starts by just looking at things in books, hearing art talks, hearing what people are saying about the work and why they do it,” she said. “Some of them, it’s simple as I want to have images of Black people. It’s just that basic and that’s important too. And then other times it’s an emotional degree that you start to see after a while.”

Duckett echoed Pounder’s hope of the art being able to change perspectives.

“There's a feeling and an energy that's in these pieces... it's just powerful. And so you can think about, you know, whether you're an artist or whether you're a lover of art, these pieces just expand your boundaries. Young, old, everyone,” he said. “That's what art does. It makes you think and look at the world differently.”

“Shared Vision” is open now until March 2025, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society announces theme of 2025 Philadelphia Flower Show September 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Get your tickets for “Gardens of Tomorrow” today. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society announced the futuristic motif as the theme of the 2025 Philadelphia Flower Show.

The event aims to explore how gardening can help “shape a better future.”

“‘Gardens of Tomorrow’ invites us to envision a future where our actions today nurture a healthier planet,” Seth Pearsoll, vice president and creative director of the Philadelphia Flower Show, said in a statement. “Through the simple act of gardening and planting trees, we plant seeds of hope for a greener future. The 2025 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show highlights the transformative power of plants and inspires us to create a beautiful, more resilient future together.”

PHS President Matt Rader added that the event “envision[s] a world where gardening is both a joyful hobby and a celebrated force for creating a healthier planet, society, and people.”

New this year is a thematic art series of digitally hybridized flowers, which uses historic photos and illustrations to hint at “what could sprout tomorrow with what we tend to today.”

Founded in 1829 by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Philadelphia Flower Show is the nation’s largest and the world’s longest-running horticultural event.

The 196th annual Philadelphia Flower Show will take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center from March 1 to 9, 2025.

Ticket information can be found at tickets.phsonline.org.

EDUCATION

July

Cheyney University is taken off probation by group that accredits area colleges

July 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The board that accredits the region's colleges has taken Cheyney University off of probation.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education on Monday posted its decision that the historically Black college was no longer on probation.

Cheyney's accreditation had been in jeopardy since November, when the Commission said the college wasn't able to show it was meeting standards for ethics, academics and financial monitoring, among other factors.

Cheyney president Aaron Walton questioned how and why the university was placed on probation, after two groups appointed by the Commission indicated Cheyney was on the right track.

"Two teams coming in and us being put on probation without any warning and discussion seemed somewhat inappropriate," Walton told KYW Newsradio Tuesday.

Pennsylvania state Sen. Vincent Hughes was also among those who objected to the historically Black college being put on probation.

"Many of us are on the record in significant ways, not happy about what went on with Cheyney University with Middle States, and we're very prepared to move forward," Hughes said. "We thank Middle States for seeing what we've been telling folks for a while now — that has been the positive direction of Cheyney University for a few years."

Walton said after several years of increases, Cheyney's enrollment fell 8% last year. "This probationary status came at the height of recruiting season and has lasted into the spring," he said. "So a lot of decisions, a lot of discussions have been made by families and we may not have been the beneficiaries of some of those positive discussions."

Walton says Cheyney ended the spring semester with an enrollment of 724.

“I was pleased with the Commission’s action and the actions that they took to remove us from our probationary status,” Walton said. “I think it signals a new day for Cheyney.”

Pa. Senate passes bill encouraging school districts to ban students’ phone use during day July 4, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania’s Senate on Wednesday approved a bill to encourage school districts to start a pilot program that effectively bans students’ use of cellphones during the school day in an effort to improve their mental health and academic performance.

The bill, which passed 45-5, would authorize grants to school districts to buy locking bags after the district creates a policy requiring students to leave their phones in such bags for the whole school day. It now goes to the state House for consideration.

The bill’s sponsor, Republican state Sen. Ryan Aument of Lancaster, said he hopes that limits on phone use will result in improvements in students’ mental health and academic performance.

“Kids spend so much time on social media and using their smartphones that it’s taking a toll on them mentally, emotionally and academically. Smartphone restrictions have proved successful in reversing these trends,” Aument said.

Under the bill, the policy must provide exemptions for students who have a documented medical condition that requires them to use a cellphone. Participating school districts must track changes over two school years in student mental health, bullying, violence and academic performance.

Grants would be awarded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and separate legislation would be required to set grant amounts and devote money to the purpose.

Most schools already have rules regulating student phone use. But a growing number of state officials have begun endorsing school cellphone bans, and such legislation is emerging in other states.

Last year, Florida became the first state to crack down, passing a law requiring public schools to ban student cellphone use during class time and block access to social media on district Wi-Fi networks. Some districts went further and banned phones for the entire school day.

California allows school districts to limit or ban the use of smartphones by students while at school, and the Los Angeles Unified School District board voted last month for the district to develop such a policy.

The Pennsylvania bill's passage in the state Senate comes two weeks after U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy called on Congress to require warning labels on social media platforms and their effects on young people.

Community demands oversight from Great Valley schools after students lewdly impersonated teachers on TikTok
July 16, 2024

MALVERN, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Teachers and parents packed a school board meeting in Malvern on Monday demanding more oversight and education in social media use after it came to light that middle school students impersonated nearly two dozen of their teachers on TikTok.

A New York Times report earlier this month revealed students at Great Valley Middle School had created fake accounts for at least 22 teachers — some featuring lewd content.

Patrice Motz, a Spanish teacher at Great Valley, said a colleague alerted her about the accounts in late February.

“I had no idea what was going on until I got home and realized I had to make a fake account to go on and see what they were,” she said, “and they were really horrific.”

The account purported to be Motz and suggested that she enjoyed inappropriately touching children.

“They had pulled a family picture from the internet, and the only one I had available ... was my children,” she said. Motz was one of the few teachers to go on the record with The New York Times, which exposed the months-long saga at the school.

“I hate this for our teachers,” said Great Valley community member Jeanette Harpold. “I feel like this has been downplayed. I know a lot of people feel like it’s been covered up.”

Teachers and parents demanded more policies and education around social media use for students, and they want to be a part of those changes.

Superintendent Daniel Goffredo said the district is reviewing such policies and working more social media literacy into the curriculum. There are also early discussions with lawmakers to fill some of the legal gaps of enforcement.

“As we move forward, we recognize both as a superintendent and as a board that it is critically important to look at ways to protect our staff and educate children and parents about the misuse of social media,” he said.

“Every one of us is a stakeholder in this,” added Nikki Salvatico, president of the Great Valley Education Association. “None of us are immune from this happening to us, so we have an opportunity here, and that’s why we’re here.”

Pilot program aims to teach Philly students indoor farming

July 31, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A new program in Philly schools will teach students about careers in hydroponic farming.

The Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) program is designed to expose students at every grade level to aspects of indoor farming — from growing plants to the plumbing, electrical and construction work needed to support them.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor and Industry Nancy Walker and Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding toured Philadelphia’s Fox Chase Farm on Tuesday to tout the \$250,000 state Schools-to-Work grant funding the program.

The program aims to expose 24 students at five Kensington schools to the skills necessary for indoor farming.

“[We are] looking at ways that we can innovate and engage our students to allow them to see careers in a much different format, all while growing,” said Fox Chase Farm principal and manager Dr. Mandy Manna.

The CEA program is offered to students at Gloria Casarez and Frances E. Willard Elementary schools, Russell Conwell Middle, and Jules E. Mastbaum High in Kensington. A fifth yet-to-be-determined school is also expected to participate.

The first phase allows students to take home their school-grown produce, Manna explained. “Imagine every child leaving once a week with a bag of microgreens or lettuce or a fruit that’s been grown.”

The second phase increases the volume to support local food charities, which will create even more career learning opportunities, said Mastbaum High School principal David Lon.

“In working with those food banks, we have marketing programs, we have culinary programs at Mastbaum. So there’s going to be a lot of cross-pollination that happens,” he said.

“Our third phase is being able to produce enough that we’re actually selling to make our program sustainable all through that entrepreneurship from our students,” Manna added.

Hydroponic equipment, she said, will be installed over the next few months, with the first plants — and career aspirations — growing by January.

August

School District of Philadelphia still filling teaching positions with start of new academic year just weeks away

August 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia is still hiring teachers, with three weeks to go before the start of classes. Looking to fill out its teaching corps, the district hosted a hiring event on Monday at school headquarters.

Prospective teachers came with resumes and optimism. About 95% of the district's teaching jobs are filled. That's on pace with this time last year. But that still leaves a few hundred positions open, especially for special education, science and math teachers.

Makalah Lawton, a Central High School graduate, has a degree in history and experience as a math coach. She was a teaching assistant in Washington, D.C., and now she is looking to return to Philly as a full-fledged teacher.

"I'm pretty open. I was a product of the School District of Philadelphia, so I'm actually looking to give back in the same way that I was given to," Lawton said. "But I really want to focus more on the elementary/middle school sector."

Eric Borowsky of Upper Dublin has 10 years of experience as an SAT tutor. He also showed up at Philadelphia school headquarters Monday in the hopes of landing a teaching job with the district.

"Math and English. I taught both doing what I was doing for the SATs, so I have a wide variety of disciplines," he said.

"I'm looking to do something new, and there seemed to be plenty of jobs available. And I think I have something to offer."

As of last week, the district had filled 77% of its bus attendant jobs, 88% of its school climate staff and 92% of its food service workers. A hiring fair for school support staff is scheduled for Wednesday in Mayfair.

NJ senator calls out 'flagrant waste on frivolous crap' at Salem City School District, demands deeper investigation

August 14, 2024

SALEM COUNTY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — A New Jersey state senator wants the attorney general to look deeper into the finances of the Salem City School District, after a recent audit uncovered some potentially wasteful spending there.

Sen. Declan O'Scanlan, a Republican member of the budget committee in Trenton, highlighted several budget items in the report from the state auditor, including a \$75,000 bill for unnecessary international travel and more than \$100,000 spent on college expenses for former students.

“This flagrant waste on frivolous crap should never happen,” O'Scanlan said.

He says Salem school officials should answer for these expenditures as well as several other problems, including apparent failures to meet state guidelines on procurement and the alleged awarding of contracts without proper bidding documentation.

“The bidding rules are pretty straightforward,” O'Scanlon said. “You know the threshold, you know when you have to bid. How are these entities simply ignoring these things? And are they doing it for nefarious purposes? Are they just lazy? Are they incompetent? We need to dig more and find out.”

O'Scanlan says audits like these are extremely important, and there is just not enough transparency with school budgets and municipal budgets all over the state. He wants the office of the state auditor to expand the scope of investigations to ensure taxpayers aren't being ripped off by corrupt or inept local governments.

“We need more oversight, overall, of local government across the board,” he said.

“We probably need to do some more shaming of these professionals, or what should be professionals, for falling down on the job.”

KYW Newsradio has contacted the Salem Schools superintendent for comment.

Philly School District to introduce new English language arts curriculum as part of \$70M overhaul

August 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When classes begin on Aug. 26, teachers in the School District of Philadelphia will use a new English language arts curriculum.

It's part of a \$70 million curriculum overhaul under Superintendent Tony Watlington. A new math curriculum was launched for the 2023-24 school year.

Watlington, in a back-to-school interview with KYW Newsradio, said one thing he learned last year was that even though 83% of teachers said they felt qualified to teach with the new materials, they wanted more training.

"The one Achilles heel is they didn't have enough time for professional development," Watlington said. As a result, he said, teacher training would be a major focus during this school year.

"(a) It's really important to hear the voices of teachers and (b) once we hear the voices of teachers, listen to it and do something about it," Watlington said.

Ideally, the superintendent continued, teachers would be given a year or two before introducing a new curriculum to students. "Unfortunately, the conditions for many of our students were such that we could not afford to wait," he said. Only 21% of third through eighth graders were proficient in math on the state PSSA exams in the 2022-23 school year.

The K-8 English language arts curriculum focuses on building skills, while the high school materials delve into literature.

Watlington said a benefit of standardizing the district's curriculum is that if students move to a different district school, they won't be unfamiliar with the material.

Parents bash NJ school district over proposal to eliminate courtesy busing so close to the start of school

Superintendent says contractor is not renewing its service and district is facing a bus driver shortage

August 22, 2024

DELANCO, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Angry parents gave school officials in Delanco, Burlington County an earful Wednesday night about a proposal to eliminate courtesy busing for some students.

Many parents were upset to learn through the school board's agenda that there was a resolution for a vote to eliminate courtesy busing, specifically for elementary school students who live less than 2 miles from the Delanco Township School District's Pearson Elementary.

"I'm angry. I'm upset. It's not safe," said Alicia Bain, a mother of a 6-year-old. "It takes 22 minutes to walk from my home to here. There is a close to a half a mile ... [without] sidewalks."

Bain and others directed questions at interim Superintendent Leonard Fitts.

"What would you do in our position?" Bain asked.

"I'd be very concerned, just as you are," Fitts replied.

About three weeks ago, Fitts said school officials discovered that the contractor used for busing students in their district — including high schoolers — would not renew their service. He said the district has been searching to hire a bus driver ever since, a problem many other districts have faced.

Parents said in the past, one bus took high schoolers to school first, then turned around and brought the younger kids to their school.

It's unclear exactly how many students this change would impact.

“If they cancel the buses, we’ll have to find another way,” said parent Yamilec Branch. “Somebody is going to be late — my kid is going to be late, I’m going to be late, my husband is going to be late. Something’s got to give.”

Others shared frustration over a lack of communication this close to the start of the new school year. After parents voiced their concerns, the school board decided to table the discussion for now.

The superintendent emphasized the district is actively trying to hire a bus driver.

“It’s not the money. It’s not a reason to make a change. It’s because we do not and we have not been able to get contract services to provide the service,” Fitts stressed. “We are trying. I need your help. If you know of any person who might be in possession of an endorsed bus driver’s license, have them get in touch with us.”

September

Lawmakers introduce measures to hold colleges like UArts accountable for sudden closures September 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — After the University of the Arts suddenly shuttered its doors earlier this year, Pennsylvania Democrats are working to prevent other colleges from doing the same.

“It is not normal for me at age 22 to blame myself for the mistakes of people twice my age,” said Alex McFadden, who graduated from the University of the Arts in the spring before its sudden June closure. “It is not normal for hundreds of people to be fired over Zoom via a scripted speech. It is not normal for students to have to start the process of reapplying to colleges and programs within days.”

Faculty and students were given just a week’s notice.

“The situation with the University of the Arts exposed a pretty wide gap in our state law,” said state Rep. Ben Waxman, which left students and staff floundering.

Waxman and other lawmakers worked on legislation in this year's state budget that he said will "ensure orderly closures, teach-out plans, and preservation of student and administrative records."

"There were no clear procedures for closure that were required," Waxman explained. "There were no preservation of records and plans, and no notification and accountability."

The state budget now sets a deadline of July 1, 2026, for the state Board of Education to create standard procedures for schools of higher learning in order to protect students and staff.

"Colleges and universities are announcing closures at a rate of about one every week," said state Sen. Nikil Saval, who voiced support for the measures. "This thrusts students into precarious positions with loans but without degrees."

The changes, while welcome, are too late for higher education employees like Madison Claus, a former UArts administrative assistant and union organizer.

"I stayed at UArts despite the low pay and despite being always overworked because I believed it was a special place where interdisciplinary art could flourish," she said. So when news spread of its impending closure, she was devastated.

"As a full-time staff member I was shocked, and as an alum I was heartbroken."

Philadelphia School Board president says closures are likely, with district expected to prepare for review of buildings

September 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Board of Education is preparing to take a hard look at how the school district's aging buildings are used. As a result, some schools could be closed or consolidated.

Should a resolution on Thursday's school board meeting agenda be approved, the superintendent would be directed to draw up a plan to make a comprehensive review of its school buildings.

The plan would consider evolving enrollment patterns, and it would include input from parents and the community. Reginald Streater, school board president, told reporters on Tuesday that the goal is to use the resources available to maximize student achievement.

"But I'm not going to gaslight the community. The board doesn't want to gaslight the community and the district doesn't want to gaslight the community," said Streater.

"This process could — or will likely — lead to some closures, but it won't be in a way where that is the only outcome. Because this isn't just about buildings. It's about students. And doing it in a way that is helpful for students."

The district in 2013 closed 24 schools during a budget crisis, but school board President Reginald Streater said this process will be different.

"This will not be like 2013, and that is not what the intent is. It's to engage the community and create a process where there's public-private intergovernmental conversations."

The district plans to hire a firm to help gather community input, and Streater says Mayor Cherelle Parker will be part of the process.

"This isn't the board alone, but where we are working in partnership and collaboration with our mayor."

Streater couldn't give a timeline for when the plan was expected to be presented to the board, and he couldn't say how long the review process would take.

School District of Philadelphia outlines plan to help students and teachers discuss Israel-Hamas war

September 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia is taking steps to ensure that students can discuss the Middle East conflict in class without feeling threatened or unsafe.

The district does not tolerate antisemitism, nor does it tolerate Islamophobia, Superintendent Tony Watlington told the school board Thursday night. He outlined a series of measures to foster classroom environments where students can safely share points of view about the war in Gaza.

Watlington said the district has enlisted a social justice nonprofit to provide staff training at schools.

“We’ve partnered with Facing History and Ourselves to provide professional development and coaching on ways to respect differences for 10 identified schools that seem to be a bit at the epicenter of some of the more pronounced conflict,” he said.

In recent months, the public portion of school board meetings has included allegations of teachers being antisemitic and Palestinian students saying they feel unsupported.

Watlington said Temple University will host student forums and Penn will hold monthly workshops with district and school leaders to discuss antisemitism and Islamophobia. The district will also meet regularly with community advocates.

Philadelphia students have new representation on school board

September 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Two new nonvoting student representatives have taken their seats on the Philadelphia Board of Education.

Charles Rinker, a sophomore at Franklin Learning Center, and Kenzy Ahmed, a junior at Northeast High School, were sworn in at Thursday night's School Board meeting. Jake Benny, a junior at Central High School, took the oath of office as an alternate.

The students participate in board deliberations and give the nine voting adults a student's point of view.

"I will make sure that I represent students' voices responsibly and effectively. And I will do everything in my power to make the progress that is needed to make students feel heard and seen," Rinker said after taking his oath.

"I am profoundly honored to have been elected for the position as one of the three student board representatives," said Ahmed. "I'm genuinely thankful for this role and I'm eager to be the voice for students who struggle to find a voice of their own."

"When we work together we can create instrumental change for the students of Philadelphia. Because they deserve it," Benny said.

"Our job in education is not just to educate our young people, but to help them to know how to lead," Superintendent Tony Watlington said, thanking the students for their service.

The students were chosen from 25 citywide applicants. The mayor's chief education officer, Debora Carrera, told the students that their voices were critical. "Your role is so important because you are representing your peers," she said. "You are bringing to this body what matters to young people. And we want to hear what matters."

The board reinstated student representatives after the city regained control of its schools in 2018.

ELECTIONS & POLITICS

July

Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity: When is an 'official act' official?

July 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Supreme Court on Monday released its ruling in Trump v. United States, stating that a former president has absolute immunity for official acts but not for unofficial acts, extending the delay in the Washington criminal case against Donald Trump on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss and all but ending prospects he could be tried before the November election.

“The Supreme Court for the first time held that future presidents do not need to worry about criminal liability for their official acts, not when they’re president, not after they’re president — not ever,” said Craig Green, a professor at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law.

So, which of Donald Trump's actions in special counsel Jack Smith's indictment are official and which are unofficial? A lower court now must decide.

What makes an 'official act' official?

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion, and every conservative justice, including the three appointed by Trump, sided with him in the historic 6-3 decision.

“He basically said that the president, in order to do his job, needs to have immunity from [prosecution of] what would be official acts,” said Loyola law professor and David W. Burcham Chair in Ethical Advocacy Laurie Levenson.

“Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power entitles a former president to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority,” Roberts wrote. “And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts.”

So, what is an “official act”?

“We're not quite sure,” said Levenson. “It's something that's either defined by his statutory duties or something that the president is called upon to do, like being commander in chief. But there is a presumption that whatever the president does is going to be one of these ‘official acts,’ and the burden is going to be on a prosecutor, like Jack Smith, to show that it's an unofficial or private act.”

Green said the majority refused to say anything about almost all of the allegations.

“The only thing they say for sure is communicating with the Department of Justice is 100% official,” says Green.

The justices, for instance, wiped out Smith’s use of allegations that Trump tried to use the investigative power of the Justice Department to undo the 2020 election results even though officials told him they had uncovered no evidence of pervasive fraud.

“Every other thing: talking to private individuals, talking to state officials, talking on Jan. 6 — all of those things have to be decided by the District Court,” says Green.

That includes Trump talking to state election officials after the election, telling Vice President Mike Pence to reject Electoral College votes on Jan. 6, 2020, and his social media posts and the speech he delivered to supporters in the run-up to the riot at the U.S. Capitol. The Court has left it open for U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, the lower court judge, to decide if these and other actions are official or unofficial acts.

'A king above the law'

Roberts insisted that the president “is not above the law.” But in a fiery dissent for the court's three liberals, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote, “In every use of official power, the President is now a king above the law.”

“She basically said, you know, this really means that we may see the end of the democracy as we know it,” said Levenson.

Particularly worrisome to Green and other critics of the decision is the presumption of immunity from prosecution.

“Presidents and former presidents can be immune from criminal prosecution for stealing things or killing people or defrauding people or accepting bribes or any of the other things that you think are criminal ... for their whole lives. That’s what the Supreme Court said today — if those actions happen inside some bubble of ‘official acts,’ and the boundaries of that bubble are not defined,” said Green.

“I think the Supreme Court probably most honestly would say, ‘Nobody is above the law,’ kind of as the result of today’s ruling. Even the president is not above the law — except when he’s doing his official duties, I think, is the way the Supreme Court ruled today. And that is a first-time, unprecedented ruling. That’s what it is. And I think that for people who are concerned about criminal acts by presidents, I think it’s not a happy result.”

Will Trump stand trial?

If Trump is reelected before the case goes to trial, he will have the authority to tell the Justice Department to drop it, Levenson said. If the trial does not take place before the election, and Trump is not re-elected, he presumably would stand trial soon thereafter.

Before the Supreme Court got involved, a trial judge and a three-judge appellate panel had ruled unanimously that Trump could be prosecuted for actions undertaken while in the White House and in the run-up to Jan. 6.

“For the purpose of this criminal case, former President Trump has become citizen Trump, with all of the defenses of any other criminal defendant,” the appeals court wrote in February. “But any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as president no longer protects him against this prosecution.”

Chutkan ruled against Trump’s immunity claim in December, saying the office of the president “does not confer a lifelong ‘get-out-of-jail-free’ pass.”

Trump’s trial had been scheduled to begin March 4, but the case has been on hold since December to allow Trump to pursue his appeal. Chutkan had indicated at that time she would likely give the two sides at least three months to get ready for trial once the case returns to her court.

That had left the door open to the case potentially going to trial before the election if the Supreme Court — like the lower courts — had ruled that Trump was not immune from prosecution.

But the Supreme Court's ruling that Chutkan must conduct further analysis is expected tie the case up for months with legal wrangling over whether the actions in the indictment were official or unofficial.

KYW Newsradio's Eric Walter contributed to this report.

Attorney files lawsuit to keep Robert F. Kennedy Jr. off New Jersey's presidential ballot this November

July 4, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — A New Jersey attorney has filed a lawsuit to keep Robert F. Kennedy Jr. off the ballot this presidential election, claiming he is violating the state's "sore loser law."

The sore loser law is designed to prevent someone from running in a general election after they lose a primary, attorney Scott Salmon said. But according to an update to the law in 1998, candidates in New Jersey just have to actively seek the nomination, not actually lose a primary.

"It's no longer the rule that you actually have to submit the paperwork and all that stuff to appear on the ballot to be disqualified under it," said Salmon.

Salmon, a Democrat, filed the lawsuit because Kennedy actively sought the Democratic nomination before switching to an independent, which he said clearly violates the sore loser law.

"He filed with the Federal Elections Commission as a Democrat. He started raising money and spending money," Salmon said. "There are countless examples of newspaper articles, radio spots, TV ads and all sorts of things where he talks about running as a Democrat."

Salmon said it's important to uphold the rule of law — and the suit isn't anti-democracy.

"Democracy doesn't mean that every single person who wants to run for office is able to do it," he explained. "There are certain minimum requirements."

Salmon filed a similar lawsuit in 2020 to keep Kanye West off the ballot.

Kennedy's campaign said he is mounting the strongest independent challenge to corporate-funded parties in more than 30 years, including legal battles in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The campaign said the candidate never filed with any state as a Democrat, so he remains eligible as an independent.

The New Jersey Division of Elections said no decision has been made on ballot eligibility for independent candidates. Officials did not comment further, as the case is pending and a court hearing is scheduled for later this month.

Salmon said the situation with Bob Menendez potentially running as an independent for the U.S. Senate isn't a clear violation of the sore loser law in his view, and it is not a case he's currently pursuing. Menendez is currently on trial for charges that he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in gold and cash in exchange for favors benefiting three New Jersey businessmen.

Pa. delegation at RNC in high spirits following Trump's survival of assassination attempt July 15, 2024

MILWAUKEE (KYW Newsradio) — The Republican National Convention in Milwaukee got off to a rousing start: Attendees at the Pennsylvania Delegation Breakfast on Monday learned that the classified documents case against Donald Trump had been dismissed.

Pennsylvania GOP chairman Lawrence Tabas announced it to the crowd, and it was greeted with a standing ovation.

Since Trump's survival of an assassination attempt at a Butler, Pennsylvania rally on Saturday, many Republican delegates have said the party is energized entering the RNC, and a judge's decision to dismiss this case only fuels their enthusiasm.

Pennsylvania Congressman Dan Meuser was at the Trump rally Saturday. While there was a tragic loss of life, he said the former president's response to the shooting galvanized his supporters.

"With all that going on, to stand up, blood on his face, and put his fist up and tell everybody, 'Keep fighting, it's gonna be OK.' That's what he did," he said.

“It just has energized us more coming forward to the convention, that this guy just got shot at an assassination attempt on his life and he is still fighting for America,” added western Pennsylvania delegate Mike McMullen. “And he’s giving a fist bump and a thumbs up — who does that?”

The delegates agree violence has no place in American politics, and it’s time to remove the personal attacks and focus on policy.

Pennsylvania RNC delegation chairman Jim Worthington said the battleground Keystone State is crucial to Trump’s campaign. All eyes will be on the Pennsylvania delegation this week.

“With that being said, it’s important for us to be at our best,” said Worthington. “We’re going to be in the very front of the arena. People are going to be clamoring to speak to us. They’re going to be watching for our reactions, they’re going to be watching for our enthusiasm.”

Pennsylvania Democrats line up to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris for the presidential nomination

July 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With President Joe Biden exiting the presidential race and endorsing his vice president in the runup to the Democratic nomination, state parties are starting to formally announce their support for Kamala Harris. Pennsylvania delegates to the Democratic National Convention indicated on Monday they will switch their votes to her from Biden.

Pennsylvania's delegation and state party chair, state Sen. Sharif Street, says the 185 delegates convened on Zoom and voted by acclamation to support Harris for the top of the Democratic ticket.

Of course, delegates won’t cast their votes for a nominee until the Democratic National Convention next month. Pennsylvania’s 19 electoral votes are up for grabs in November and are crucial once again. The winner of the Keystone State has won the last four presidential elections and 10 out of the last 12.

“We thought, because of Pennsylvania’s critical role in what’s happening nationally, we should be out front and show that we’re a united party, united behind the vice president and then we can get back to talking about the record and not President Biden’s health.”

Street says November’s election may be decided by what Pennsylvanians think.

“We are, many would argue, the most critical battleground state not only for determining the outcome of who will be president but also who will control the Senate,” Street said. “And we have a number of key battleground congressional races, so we have a great chance to flip the House as well.”

Street says Harris has the potential to increase participation among voters who turned away from Biden, including Black voters and young people.

“Young people were saying, 'Why do we have to choose between two 80-year-olds?'" he said.

If elected, Harris would become the first woman, the first Black woman, and the first person of South Asian descent to hold national office.

“I think Black folks will get energized to elect a Black woman president of the United States,” said Street.

Street says it puts the Party in a stronger position.

“It’s created a lot of energy. The party raised almost \$70 million [on Sunday] alone. We are looking really strong, and I think the energy and momentum is with Kamala Harris.”

The Pennsylvania Democratic Party has also endorsed Harris for president.

August

All eyes on Philly: Harris, Walz and Vance to campaign in the city on Tuesday

Updated on August 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — All eyes will be on Philadelphia on Tuesday.

U.S. Vice President and Democratic presidential contender Kamala Harris will make her first public appearance with her newly announced running mate — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz — on Tuesday in Philadelphia.

The location of the rally fueled speculation that she would choose Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro. Adding to the conjecture: Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker posted a video on Friday depicting several Philadelphia-area officials and Democrats promoting Harris, but also playing up Shapiro as her running mate. A person familiar with the mayor's thinking said she had no insider knowledge about Harris' intentions.

Harris and Walz are scheduled to rally at Temple University's Liacouras Center around 5:30 p.m. Tuesday as the first stop on their campaign blitz, but they won't be the only ones campaigning in Philly.

Ohio Sen. JD Vance, Republican Donald Trump's vice presidential running mate, will also be in South Philadelphia Tuesday at noon for his own campaign rally. It will take place at 2300 Arena.

Harris interviewed at least three running mate contenders on Sunday in Washington. They were Shapiro, Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, according to a person familiar with the process who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations. Three other men were in the mix: Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Harris' aggressive, seven-state battleground tour starts in Philadelphia and winds through Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada. Campaign officials say each stop will be loaded with local election officials, religious leaders, union members and more in an effort to show the diversity of her coalition.

Everything about Harris' campaign has been rapid-fire out of necessity. She's only been a candidate for a little over two weeks, since President Joe Biden bowed out of the race following a dismal debate performance and escalating calls within the Democratic Party for him to step aside.

Democratic delegates officially selected Harris as the party's presidential nominee Monday night, according to final vote results released by the Democratic National Committee.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

US Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey crosses the Delaware to campaign for Pennsylvania colleague, Sen. Bob Casey

August 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Sen. Bob Casey on Thursday courted Black voters in Philadelphia with the help of his New Jersey colleague, Sen. Cory Booker, at a church in Northwest Philadelphia.

Bishop J. Louis Felton emceed the two senators' visit to Prince of Peace Church in Strawberry Mansion. He had hosted President Joe Biden at his own church in Mt. Airy, last month.

Felton said people sometimes look askance at mixing church and politics, but he sees a connection.

"We come together today so the church can take a stand for justice, for integrity, for freedom and for a better future for us all," he said.

Only the venue was unusual for Casey. His message was his standard campaign appeal: "I've worked very hard to deliver for the people of this city, whether it's money for schools in Philadelphia, for roads and bridges and high-speed internet, for water systems"

Casey touted his record of defending voting rights, Social Security, health care and bringing home billions in federal dollars to the state, while attacking Republican David McCormick for his support of tax cuts for the highest earners.

“This is a battle, I think, for the ages, in this election,” said Casey.

The congregation were clearly already fans. It could be said Casey was preaching to the choir. But with a close race predicted between Casey and McCormick, Booker stressed how crucial voter turnout in Philadelphia will be in November. He urged the congregation to work on it.

“If we use our power over the next 80 days — that we come out and vote, that we organize, that we call our friends and neighbors and get them to the polls — we will have Kamala Harris in the highest office in the land and Bob Casey back in the United States Senate.”

The Democratic appeal to Black voters came as Donald Trump’s presidential campaign faced renewed criticism on race, after a campaign account published an immigration-related post on X with side-by-side photos — one, of a well-ordered, suburban-looking street, absent of people, labeled “Your neighborhood under Trump;” the other, showing the sidewalk crowded with Black- and brown-skinned people in front of a boarded-up urban storefront, labeled “Your neighborhood under Kamala.”

The Trump campaign denied criticism that the post was racist.

The McCormick campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Push to open more polling places in Philadelphia could take voting to the barbershop or beauty salon

August 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Right now, Philadelphia has lined up 689 polling places for its 1,700 polling divisions. City Commissioner Omar Sabir would like to get that above 700 ahead of Election Day on Nov. 5.

“Private polling locations are essential to the city’s electoral infrastructure providing vital access points for voters in every division,” he said.

Commissioners have raised the rental fee the city pays for hosting a polling place to \$150. That’s up from the previous rental fee of \$110 set in 2018. The fee is also per division, so locations where two or three divisions can fit on the property, it could double or triple the payment.

Sabir said the desired expansion of in-person locations is so voters will be less prone to make errors as can happen with mail-in ballots.

“People are making mistakes with the vote-by-mail ballots. It’s less likely for people to make mistakes if they’re voting on the machines,” he said.

Sabir also believes that having more places to vote will encourage in-person voting, especially if they’re nearby or in familiar places.

“Barbershops, beauty salons. They play a critical role in our communities so we’re really calling on the barbershops, but if you have a senior facility, apartment complex, any location,” he said.

Want to host a polling place on Election Day? Sabir said to contact the City Commissioner’s Office and they’ll send someone out to inspect for ADA compliance.

“By taking this historic step, we are ensuring that every voter in Philadelphia has equal access to a well-run, efficient and fair election process,” said Sabir. “This is a victory for democracy.”

Commonwealth Court rules Pa. can't reject mail-in ballots with missing or incorrect dates

A voter casts a ballot at a drop box standing outside Philadelphia City Hall.

August 30, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Commonwealth Court ruled 4-1 Friday that election officials in Pennsylvania cannot reject a mail-in ballot because of a faulty date on the return envelope.

State law says voters must sign and date mail-in ballot envelopes. But thousands of voters who forgot the date or wrote the wrong one were disenfranchised when their ballots were tossed as a result.

The Commonwealth Court says that violates the state constitution’s free and equal election clause. It ordered Philadelphia and Allegheny County — the named defendants in the suit — to stop enforcing the dating provision. But Ben Geffen of the Public Interest Law Center, who represented the voting rights advocates that brought the case, believes it is applicable through the state.

“Pennsylvania is the birthplace of modern democracy,” Geffen said. “We have a long tradition of free and equal elections. Today’s decision adds to that legacy.”

Though Omar Sabir, city commissioner of Philadelphia, technically lost the case, he is very pleased with the outcome.

“It’s great. I mean, this is a start but the legislature needs to do more to make voting accessible,” Sabir said.

Sabir says voters should still be very careful to read and follow mail-in ballot rules and get them in early so the election board can notify them if they’ve made any mistakes.

The number of mail-in ballots that might otherwise be disqualified for lacking accurate exterior envelope dates is comparatively small in a state where more than 6 million votes will be cast this fall, perhaps exceeding 10,000.

Evidence in litigation surrounding the requirement has indicated older voters have been more likely to have their ballots thrown out for lack of an accurate handwritten date. Far more Democrats than Republicans vote by mail in Pennsylvania.

'A wholesale abandonment'

In a lone dissent, Judge Patricia McCullough said the majority showed “a wholesale abandonment of common sense,” ignoring more than a century of legal precedent and rewriting the 2019 state law that dramatically expanded mail-in voting.

“I must wonder whether walking into a polling place, signing your name, licking an envelope, or going to the mailbox can now withstand the majority's newly minted standard,” McCullough wrote.

The office of Secretary of State Al Schmidt, appointed by Gov. Josh Shapiro, had no immediate comment about how the decision might alter its guidance to counties that run elections. In July, the Department of State told counties that return envelopes should be printed so they already include the full year, “2024,” leaving voters to add the accurate month and day.

“Multiple court cases have now confirmed that the dating of a mail-in ballot envelope, when election officials can already confirm it was sent and received within the legal voting window, provides no purpose to election administration,” the Department of State said in a release.

Tom King, a lawyer who represents the state and national Republican Party groups in the case, said he was disappointed in the decision and “absolutely will appeal.” They had argued the Pennsylvania Supreme Court had “already rejected similar arguments regarding the constitutionality of and the meaningless underlying the dating provisions” in prior cases regarding envelope dates, Ceisler wrote.

A statement released on behalf of Republican Party of Pennsylvania Chairman, Lawrence Tabas said this court order changes a “long-standing law and the rules for voting in Pennsylvania — with less than 70 days before this November’s election — and we will appeal.”

“Recently, both the PA State Supreme Court and a Federal appeals court were rightly deferential to Pennsylvania law and to the legislature’s authority,” the statement continued. “Both upheld the well-settled existing law, which requires Pennsylvania mail-in ballots to be dated in order to be counted. Decisions like the one that came today from the Commonwealth Court, that change the rules on the eve of an election, contribute to public perception that the judiciary is becoming more political and more willing to encroach on legislative authority.”

The plaintiffs include the Black Political Empowerment Project, POWER Interfaith, Make the Road Pennsylvania, OnePA Activists United, New PA Project Education Fund, Casa San José, Pittsburgh United, League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and Common Cause Pennsylvania.

They argued that county elections officials are able to tell whether ballots were cast in time because they are scanned and timestamped upon arrival.

The ACLU of Pennsylvania, which helped represent the plaintiffs, hailed the decision as a win for voters and democracy.

“No one should lose their vote over a simple human error that has no relevance to whether or not the ballot was received on time,” said Mike Lee, the group’s executive director, in an emailed statement.

The Committee of Seventy says every voter should feel confident casting their ballot by mail, knowing that minor mistakes will not keep them from making their voice heard.

“We have always maintained that the requirement to date the mail-in ballot envelope is unnecessary and we are glad to see today’s Commonwealth Court decision confirm that long-standing belief.”

September

Delaware County officials urge voters to be aware of election-related phishing scams September 4, 2024

DELAWARE COUNTY, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Delaware County residents are being targeted with election-related phishing emails and texts. A county election official has some advice for how to avoid the scams, and what to do if anyone should fall into a trap.

The deceptive messages often contain misleading information about voter registration status and mail ballots, and some even attempt to collect personal data through phishing tactics, according to Director of Elections Jim Allen.

“We’re hearing calls from people who have already applied to receive an absentee ballot. They’re getting a text message that says, ‘You haven’t applied yet,’ ‘There’s a problem,’ or something like that,” Allen said.

“Or people who have been registered for 10, 15, 20 or 30 years, who are getting an email that says: Hey you’re not registered.”

Allen says people should look out for certain wording in these messages.

“Any time you receive something that says you need to take urgent action — that should be a red flag,” he said. “You don’t want to click on anything you get as a text message, because it might trigger a phone call.”

He says these scams have one goal.

“It might take you to a website that’s trying to get your personal information — like your Social Security number, your date of birth. They’re trying to commit identity theft.”

Allen encourages anyone who believes they have been the target of such a scam to reach out to the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office. They will be able to report malicious activity or phishing attempts to that office.

Allen advises voters to trust only their official dot-gov websites, e.g., delcopa.gov/vote, for accurate information about voting.

“We urge voters to trust official websites,” he said. “Go to vote.pa.gov/status, and then you’ll be able to check on your voter registration status or your application for a mail ballot.”

Harris, Trump offer starkly different visions for the country in first debate

September 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Sparring on politics and personality, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump showcased their starkly different visions for the country on abortion, immigration and American democracy as they met for the first time Tuesday for perhaps their only debate before November’s presidential election.

The Democratic vice president moved repeatedly to get under the skin of the former Republican president, provoking him with reminders about the 2020 election loss that he still denies and derisive asides at his other false claims.

Harris not only tried to make the case that Trump is unfit for office but tried to use her answers in a way that seemed designed to provoke him into launching into one of the personal attacks that his advisers and supporters have tried to steer him away from. In one moment, Harris turned to Trump and said that as vice president, she had spoken to foreign leaders, “And they say you’re a disgrace.”

Trump again denied his loss to President Joe Biden four years ago, when his efforts to overturn the result inspired the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection.

“Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people,” Harris said, “So let’s be clear about that. And clearly he is having a very difficult time processing that.”

Trump in turn tried to link Harris to Biden, questioning why she hadn't acted on her proposed ideas while serving as vice president, and focused his attacks on Harris over her assignment by Biden to deal with the root causes of illegal migration.

He repeatedly dismissed her and Biden as weak, and cited the praise of Hungary's nationalist prime minister Viktor Orbán to show that he is a widely respected by leaders around the world, saying Orbán calls him the "most feared person."

The high-pressure matchup after a tumultuous campaign summer offered Americans their most detailed look at a campaign that's been dramatically changed. The vice president moved to far more effectively press the Democratic case against Trump than Biden did when he met Trump in June, linking the former president to GOP efforts to restrict abortion access and accusing him of undermining the nation's democracy.

The pair outlined sharply opposite visions of where the nation is and where they intend to take it if elected. Harris promised tax cuts aimed at the middle class and said she would push to restore a federally guaranteed right to abortion overturned by the Supreme Court two years ago. Trump said his proposed tariffs would help the U.S. stop being cheated by allies on trade and said he would work to swiftly end the Russia-Ukraine war, even if it meant Ukraine didn't achieve victory on the battlefield.

Local reactions

About a mile away from the debate, a watch party organized by the Committee of Seventy and other civic organizations packed City Tap House to tune in.

Most of the crowd seemed to be for Harris, but Trump fans still came out to support the former commander-in-chief.

Lauren Cristella with Committee of Seventy commented on "the buzz" currently in the city and state with the election around the corner.

"It's partially a result of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania [playing] such an important role in this election and the attention we're getting," she said.

As the two candidates were pressed on a number of hot-button issues, watch-partygoers paid extra attention, filled out debate BINGO cards and chatted about the different topics under discussion.

For Tiana from West Philly, she said she supports Harris, but wanted to hear from both candidates on certain topics like affordable housing and inflation.

“And also entrepreneurs,” she said. “Being an entrepreneur myself, a woman entrepreneur, I just want to understand what opportunities and policies are they generating?”

Molly Hasson was visiting Philadelphia from Seattle and came to the watch party to hear about certain topics important to her. At the top was the economy.

“I have kids in college and want to know that they have a secure future. You know, just general civil rights, like I think that’s a really important thing in this election, I want to see that move forward,” she said.

Terrill Haigler from North Philly predicted that just like in 2020, whoever wins Pennsylvania will win the election this year.

“To see so many Philadelphians politically engaged and involved is really inspiring to see what November will bring,” he said.

Pro-Palestinian protesters hit Market Street

In the lead-up to the debate at the National Constitution Center and while it was going on, a few hundred Pro-Palestinian protesters gathered at City Hall and marched down Market Street towards the Constitution Center demanding a ceasefire in Gaza and decrying the two-party system.

Protester Talia Giles was one of the hundreds with the Philly Palestine Coalition out to demonstrate against the two-party system.

“It’s a system that doesn’t allow for democracy,” she said.

With that in mind, she said both Harris and Trump don't appeal to them enough to vote for either.

"A lot of times we hear the arguments to have to choose the lesser of two evils," Giles said. "Why should I have to do that? Why should I have to choose what's lesser evil?"

The protests outside the Constitution Center remained largely peaceful, but a few arrests were later reported across social media.

Looking ahead

This was the only debate currently on the calendar between Harris and Trump, and could be the last before voters hit the polls in November.

Harris campaign chief spokesperson Brian Fallon suggested in a post just on X just after the debate ended that the campaign would be open to another clash in October.

When Trump was asked about another debate, he said he wouldn't commit.

"The reason you do a second debate is if you lose, and they lost," he told Fox News host Sean Hannity. "But I'll think about it."

Vice Presidential candidates Tim Walz and J.D. Vance will take the stage for their own debate in New York City on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Atlantic City mayor, wife indicted on child abuse charges for allegedly beating teenage daughter

September 18, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small and his wife, La'Quetta, have been indicted for allegedly beating their teenage daughter.

Marty and La'Quetta Small have been formally indicted on child endangerment charges. Marty Small is facing additional charges of aggravated assault and making terroristic threats.

This is the next step in the legal process after these allegations were initially raised in April. The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office said the couple physically and emotionally abused their then 15-year-old — now 16-year-old — daughter multiple times between December 2023 and January 2024.

The indictment alleges Marty Small knocked her unconscious with a broomstick and "earth-slammed" her down the stairs. La'Quetta Small — who is the superintendent of Atlantic City Public Schools — is accused of hitting her daughter with a belt and punching her in the face.

Last week, Atlantic City High School principal Constance Days-Chapman was indicted on official misconduct, child endangerment and other charges for allegedly failing to notify child welfare authorities that the teenager claimed she was being beaten at home by her parents.

The Smalls have repeatedly said this is a personal family issue that comes with the challenges of raising a teenager and that they are innocent of any wrongdoing.

Their attorney, Ed Jacobs, echoed them, saying the prosecutor's office is meddling in parental affairs and the Smalls are good parents and innocent of these charges. He said the claims outlined against them are incorrect and they will be exonerated.

Marty Small has remained in his position as mayor and said he has no plans to leave.

Philadelphia district attorney scores legal win against impeachment bid from state Republicans

September 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has dealt District Attorney Larry Krasner a victory, effectively putting a stop to a two-year-old effort by state Republicans to impeach him. The Court on Thursday ruled state lawmakers had improperly tried to stretch the impeachment process across two different legislative sessions.

In November of 2022, a resolution to impeach the Democratic district attorney passed along party lines, as the Pennsylvania House was controlled by Republicans at the time. In December, the Republican-controlled Senate accepted the articles of impeachment.

Republicans blamed a rising rate of gun violence on Krasner's office management, his approach to bail hearings, and his choices of crimes to prosecute. Krasner's stance was that those choices were precisely why he had been overwhelmingly elected to a second term with nearly 72% of votes cast.

Krasner called the impeachment the act of a "lame-duck majority" and filed suit in a lower court to overturn the impeachment resolution. The court issued a split ruling, rejecting Krasner's premise that the impeachment could not stretch across multiple legislative sessions, while at the same time ruling that the impeachment did not meet necessary legal standards.

The Republican-controlled Senate never took the House impeachment articles to a trial while it awaited the outcome of the court case, and Krasner never faced expulsion from office.

In considering an appeal from Republicans, the higher court did not address the issue of standards, leaving the lower court's ruling on the issue intact. But it did accept Krasner's argument on the question of legislative sessions, saying that articles of impeachment "became null and void" at the end of 2022, when the legislative session ended.

House Republicans issued a statement after the ruling, acknowledging that the impeachment trial will not move forward, but calling on the court to issue an answer as to whether impeachment was justified.

GUN CRIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

July

PSP unveils informational cards for people with autism to use during police encounters

July 1, 2024

MERION STATION, PA (KYW Newsradio) — An expert at St. Joseph's University applauds Pennsylvania's new ID cards designed to improve interactions between officers and people with autism but says more education is needed.

In an effort to make communication between police officers and people with autism safer, Pennsylvania State Police issued informational cards last week for people on the spectrum to carry. The cards, which can be downloaded from the PSP website, read "I have autism," and include statements like "Loud noises may bother me," and "Please be patient with me."

Katie Spilatore, a sophomore with autism at St. Joe's, said the cards don't cover every scenario.

"Not everybody has all of these. So my suggestion is that there would be a thing where each individual can circle the ones they have trouble with," Spilatore said.

"I may not respond to verbal commands — that's a good one. But escape is definitely an impulse for some people. Like with me, I would say in stressful situations, I would want to run away."

She says seeing someone running away may be a "big red flag" for police, so if they know it's just because they are scared, it may be helpful.

Spilatore said she was concerned when she first heard about the autism cards.

"Because in my experience people could baby talk you, like, talk down to them because they think your intelligence level is lower."

Dr. Joseph McCleery, the executive director of academic programs for the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support at St. Joe's, says while more police training is needed, the card may help guide officers as they interact with people on the spectrum.

“If I had a nonverbal or minimally verbal autistic son, I’d probably really like to have this card,” he said. “To teach them to hand this over to a police officer would probably make me feel a lot better about the situation.”

McCleery said the cards, while a good first step, aren’t for everyone.

“Not all autistic people want to disclose their diagnosis to police officers,” McCleery said. “Sometimes they don’t want to disclose because they might be with other people and they don’t want the other people to know they have autism. Sometimes they don’t want to disclose because they’re worried that people won’t know what to do.”

McCleery has been studying how virtual reality simulations can prepare people with autism for possible encounters with police. He says officers may be suspicious of a lack of eye contact or fidgeting, and the VR exercises are helping autistic people keep themselves still and safer.

“I’m not a police training expert. I’m an autism expert,” McCleery said. “So we’re focusing on what autistic people can do to make sure that they get through those interactions safely and effectively.”

“I’m not a police training expert. I’m an autism expert,” McCleery said. “So we’re focusing on what autistic people can do to make sure that they get through those interactions safely and effectively.”

Spilatore, who is enrolled in the university’s ASPIRE program for autism support, says the cards are a good first step.

“It could work for some people but for others, it’s just offensive,” Spilatore said. “Education needs to be paired with this.”

Philadelphia police identify two suspects wanted in connection with shooting of 7 people in June

July 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police say they have identified two suspects they are looking for in connection with a mass shooting last month in the city’s Strawberry Mansion neighborhood.

Police say 23-year-old Khalif Duren and 20-year-old Amirah Square are wanted for attempted murder, aggravated assault and related gun offenses for the June 19 shooting on North Bambrey Street near West Somerset Street.

Seven people, ranging in age from 16 to 46, were injured in the shooting. A 19-year-old was critically wounded.

Duren was on probation in a negotiated deal with prosecutors for carrying a gun in public.

Anyone with any information about where these two suspects are is urged to call police. To submit a tip via telephone, dial 215-686-TIPS; or text a tip to 215-686-TIPS. Use this electronic form to submit a tip anonymously. All tips will be confidential.

Report finds staffing levels for Philly public safety departments far below what's budgeted July 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Staffing levels in Philadelphia’s public safety departments remain far below what’s budgeted for them, according to a report from the city controller.

Controller Christie Brady says fire, police and prisons, taken together, are 19% below the number of employees budgeted but the prisons alone are 43% below budget.

“It’s critical and I don’t see how they can properly function,” Brady said.

There were nearly 2,000 correctional officers before the pandemic. Now, there are just over 1,000.

Last month, the Parker administration announced a contract extension for prisons employees, including a 4.5% raise and bonuses. It also lifted the residency requirement.

“I know that the city is trying to hire in these departments but it is critically short,” Brady added.

The number of police officers has dropped steadily from more than 6,000 pre-pandemic to under 5,000. The number of firefighters, though, has continued to grow.

There are about 100 more firefighters now than before the pandemic, but the budget for firefighters has grown by 500.

Chester Safe Streets Initiative gets creative this summer to do more with critically understaffed Police Department

July 23, 2024

CHESTER, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Police officials are getting creative in their attempts to get more officers out in the community this summer in the midst of a Police Department staffing shortage.

“We’re darn near 30 officers below what we’re budgeted for,” said Chester Mayor Stefan Roots. “And that’s a lot for a town like ours.”

Roots says, at times of the day when city officials expect to have the most patrol coverage, they actually have the least amount of coverage. So, in response, the Summer 2024 Safe Streets Initiative, launched on July 15, is designed to help the 65% staffed Chester Police Department respond to the increase in crime that typically happens this time of year.

The initiative will last for seven weeks this summer, in all — “but you know that’s the hot time here in the city,” said Roots.

“If a bad guy wants to catch his target, he’s more likely to find it when it’s 80 degrees than 80 degrees.”

In this way, the mayor says, the initiative is a crucial part of the city’s mission to combat violent crime and keep Chester residents safe. It frees up more police officers for patrol duties in two primary ways.

First, those officers’ work schedules are converted from three 8-hour shifts to two 12-hour shifts.

“And what this will do, in a nutshell, is give us more coverage throughout the day of numbers of police officers on the street,” Roots said.

He says that may look like a small increase, but it will go a long way.

Second, placing certain county employees, such as EMS and park police, in non-patrol desk duties also frees up uniformed Chester police officers for patrol duties.

“Delaware County Park Police and Delaware County Emergency Services stepped up, and their officers are doing office jobs that used to be done by uniformed Chester police officers,” said Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer.

The seven-week initiative is just a temporary measure to do more with less through the end of the summer. In the meantime, the Police Department will press on with recruitment efforts, with the ongoing goal of keeping more officers consistently on patrol, said Stollsteimer.

“We’re going to get rid of the residency requirement that you have to be a resident of the city to be hired as a police officer. We want to make sure the pay is scalable to other communities,” the D.A. added.

August

Better watch your speed on these 2 Philadelphia thoroughfares for the next month

August 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Speeders and red-light runners, beware. Police have taken note that, since the start of the pandemic, more drivers are ignoring the rules of the road, and they will be cracking down this month along two busy stretches in the southwest and northeast parts of the city.

Extra officers, with extra ticket books, will be out on Island Avenue, from Bartram Avenue to Woodland Avenue, and on Aramingo Avenue, from Somerset to the Frankford Creek.

"You're going to see a tremendous amount of uniformed vehicles out there on these thoroughfares," said Deputy Police Commissioner James Kelly. "Especially these two, now."

The Island and Aramingo enforcement blitz will run from Monday, Aug. 5, through Friday, Aug. 30.

Kelly says it's part of an ongoing effort to make the streets safer.

"I think people got into this groove that you can do whatever you want — and that's not the case. We're putting a lot of effort into it," he said.

Kelly says it follows similar efforts on North Broad Street, Bustleton Avenue and other arteries.

"I think we've got to give it a longer period of time to really make a good analysis of it. And some of it is just to change the culture of people who just want to drive any way they want, and this lawlessness."

Deputy Commissioner Mike Cram says, overall, the number of crashes is down slightly over last year.

"We've seen about 26,000 accidents, right? Slightly below the pace of last year at this time. On pace for a slight reduction at the end of the year," Cram said.

Kelly says police are also continuing to pay extra attention to Bustleton Avenue which became the route of choice for many after speed cameras were installed along Roosevelt Boulevard.

18-year-old pleads guilty to some charges in Northeast Philly bus stop shooting that injured 8 students

August 7, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — One of the men charged in the Northeast Philadelphia bus stop shooting that injured eight students earlier this year has pleaded guilty to some of the charges on Tuesday, as the rest of the defendants await their day in court.

Authorities said 18-year-old Jaamal Tucker was the getaway driver in the March 6 mass shooting at Cottman and Rising Sun avenues. He pleaded guilty to attempted murder, aggravated assault, conspiracy, simple assault and several counts of reckless endangerment.

The rest of the charges against him were tossed — but it was not a negotiated deal with prosecutors.

Tucker was one of the first suspects arrested in the case. The other defendants — Anhile Buggs, Jermahd Carter and Asir Boone — face similar charges, including attempted murder, aggravated assault, conspiracy and gun offenses.

A fifth suspect, who police said acted as a lookout during the shooting, was also arrested in March. The teenager is not being named due to his age.

Tucker is set to be sentenced in October.

\$150k dedicated to fight transient crime on South Jersey's River Line

August 26, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Officials in South Jersey are dedicating \$150,000 to a program they say will help keep their light rail system clear of transient crime, which they say is on the rise in a number of River Line towns.

Bordentown City Police Chief Shaun Lafferty, who is also president of the Burlington County Association of Police Chiefs, says local authorities are seeing an increase in criminal activity at or near NJ Transit River Line light rail stations.

“We’re concerned about the increasing number of incidents that were occurring in our River Line communities from the light rail, and impact of the ongoing cleanup of the Kensington section of Philadelphia, a well-known haven for many who are lost in addiction,” Lafferty said.

However, officials didn’t have specific details on the magnitude of the problem.

Burlington County Commissioner Allison Eckel says they are lending a hand to the small-town police forces along the River Line that are short on officers and resources.

“Earlier this month, the sheriff began deploying teams of his officers to River Line towns at designated hours to help patrol around River Line stations and nearby neighborhoods,” she said.

“The additional officers create a more visible police presence at and near the stations to help deter crime and act as a force multiplier for local police departments.”

In addition, Eckel said, at these designated times, sheriff officers are available to take criminal suspects from those small-town police departments, where they are processed following arrests, to the Burlington County Detention Center in Mt. Holly.

“Providing this prisoner transport saves local police time and resources and allows their officers to return to patrol and other investigations,” Eckel said.

Officials say this program, which stretches from Palmyra to Bordentown, goes a long way toward keeping officers on the streets and protecting communities.

61-year-old shot in Northeast Philly bank parking lot

August 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A woman was shot in a Wells Fargo bank parking lot Monday morning.

Police say it happened in Rhawnhurst on Bustleton Avenue around 9 a.m.

When officials arrived, they found the 61-year-old with a gunshot wound to her leg. She was transported to a nearby hospital and is expected to be OK.

Police did not recover a weapon and no arrests have been made.

Tips can be sent to Northeast Detectives at 215-686-3153 or the department's tip line at 215-686-8477.

September

Philadelphia police report 30% fewer homicides this summer than last

September 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Gun violence in Philadelphia has continued to trend downward since the all-time high recorded during the height of the pandemic. Although the summer months typically bring a spike, the city’s top cop said there have been far fewer shootings and homicides so far this year compared to last.

The number of homicide and shooting victims to date is currently below pre-pandemic levels. The city reached a record 562 homicides in 2021. In 2023, homicides fell to 410. So far this year, police have reported 183 homicides to date — the lowest it has been since 2016.

In June, July and August of this year, there was a nearly 30% reduction in homicides compared to last year. In August 2023, there were 34 homicides. Last month, there were 23.

Juveniles make up about 10% of shootings and homicides, and those incidents are slowing, too.

“Right now, we’re down almost 58% in murders for juveniles under the age of 18. Last year, we had 34 homicides. This year, we have 10,” said Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel.

One of the largest shootings of the summer happened in July. Nine people — almost all teens — were gunned down on July Fourth at an outdoor gathering. A 19-year-old was killed. Police are still investigating.

However, Bethel credits funding for community programs, more foot patrols in highly violent neighborhoods, a return to fully functional courts, and an increasing solve rate, which leads to less retaliation. He’s hopeful the decline in shootings and homicides will continue.

“We’ve changed our deployment model to be able to effectively prevent and intercept when we do see [violent] activity,” he said.

Sixteen-year-old charged with two murders, five shootings, including death of YBCDul September 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Authorities have charged a teenager in connection with five shootings, including two murders, in the past month.

Aiden Waters, 16, faces dozens of charges, including murder, attempted murder and aggravated assault, in connection to the shooting death of well-known Philly rapper YBCDul, also known as 25-year-old Abdul Vicks.

Vicks died on Aug. 23 after he was shot in the chest along 6th Street near Tabor Road in Olney.

Law enforcement sources told KYW that Waters was in a rival gang that targeted Vicks. Detectives were able to link a stolen car out of Cheltenham used in the shooting back to Waters.

When they arrested Waters, authorities also served a search warrant on his house and found two guns connected to other shootings in his basement, including one that killed 16-year-old Marquis Saunders and injured another 16-year-old back on Aug. 19.

Saunders was shot in the head and killed on Duncannon Street near Olney High School. His funeral happened on Sep. 6.

Assistant District Attorney Cydney Pope described one of the firearms that linked him to the crimes.

“One of them had a switch on it, which made it fully automatic, and that one had an obliterated serial number on it,” she said. “The gun that matches all these incidents was a stolen firearm.”

The gun was also connected to another earlier double shooting on Senter Street near Rising Sun Avenue that saw a 14-year-old shot in the leg, and a 43-year-old grazed by a bullet.

Detectives are also still investigating. They are looking into whether the double shootings and shooting death of Vicks could be connected to two shootings in March. One happened at a bus stop on Rising Sun Avenue and saw eight teens injured, and the other saw a 17-year-old killed on Ogontz Avenue.

Bill Fritze, supervisor of the District Attorney’s Gun Violence Task Force, said parents need to be involved to get guns out of their kids’ hands.

“Go get those guns off the street,” he said. “We have thousands of guns recovered and we are still seeing children being killed, it’s ridiculous. Go into those homes tonight, get those guns out of the house.”

Both Pope and Fritze said in many cases, these teens don’t even know each other, but create the problems and violence.

“I think a lot of this comes from juveniles’ needs to be famous. It’s almost like a social media influencer,” said Fritze.

Pope called it “clout chasing.”

“You are looking for notoriety, you are looking to make a name for yourself,” she said.

Before his arrest, authorities said Waters had never been in trouble with the law.

Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations across Pa. to get \$68M in funding

September 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations (VFRAs) in Pennsylvania are about to receive more than \$68 million in aid.

Auditor General Timothy DeFoor joined local officials Friday at the Warwick Township Fire Company in Jamison to announce the funds. He says it will help over 1,850 VFRAs — which are legally separate from the fire departments they support — in their day-to-day efforts.

The funds not only help pay for equipment and training, but provide insurance for volunteer firefighters and their families. The Southeast/Greater Philadelphia area will be getting about \$20 million.

The money comes from a 2% state tax on fire insurance premiums bought by Pennsylvania residents from out-of-state insurance companies.

“It is crucial that we support the men and women that choose to risk their own lives protecting our communities,” said Senator Frank Farry.

NJ governor, attorney general announce \$14.5M in new grants available for violence intervention and prevention work

September 24, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — New Jersey is opening up a competitive grant program for nonprofits in the state that are working toward reducing violence in their communities.

Gov. Phil Murphy and Attorney General Matt Platkin on Tuesday announced nearly \$14.5 million is available for community-based violence intervention (CBVI) programs throughout the state.

Both say CBVI programs are proven to succeed when they have access to resources for targeted violence intervention at the neighborhood level through mentoring, counseling and trauma support.

Murphy says there's no place for violence and that's why his administration has gone to great lengths to break cycles and ensure residents feel safe.

The state's CBVI programs use a range of strategies, including neighborhood outreach led by credible messengers, mentorship, high-risk intervention and de-escalation services, safe passage for school children in high-crime areas, and case management, counseling, and trauma support.

Platkin says more than 1,000 people have already benefited from these services and this investment will deepen that work.

The maximum grant award for "tertiary service" programs, which provide the most immediate response to violence, is capped at \$750,000. Organizations that provide primary or secondary services may apply for up to \$500,000.

Community groups have until Oct. 21 to apply for funding which will begin in 2025.

The initiative is paid for with funding from the federal American Rescue Plan and the state's Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Fund, which reinvests in communities most affected by cannabis criminalization, according to the Attorney General's Office.

More information about this is posted on the New Jersey Attorney General website.

ECONOMY

July

Aqua PA customers could soon see a significant increase in their water bill July 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Water utility Aqua is asking to increase rates for Pennsylvania customers starting this month, but a state review is expected to delay any change until next year.

Residential Aqua customers were informed they could pay about \$20 per month if the increase is approved by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission. Commercial customers could see their bills go up by more than \$100 per month.

Aqua says it wants to collect a total of \$126.7 million more per year to recover nearly \$1 billion the utility invested in wells, treatment plants and pipelines from 2023 to 2025.

The request was submitted in May, with Aqua asking the increase to go into effect on July 22, 2024, but Aqua tells KYW Newsradio the Utility Commission's review process is expected to delay any change until February of 2025.

Aqua says no bills will be affected in the meantime.

The utility tells KYW it “seeks grants and low interest loans to minimize the financial impact on customers” and said anyone in need of financial assistance should contact them to arrange a payment plan.

Philadelphia tapped as a new home port for Norwegian Cruise Line starting in 2026 July 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia has been chosen as a new home port for a cruise line once again, starting in 2026.

Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Jewel plans to launch 24 cruises to Bermuda and Canada from Philadelphia beginning in April 2026. It's the first time since 2011 that major cruise ships will sail directly out of Philadelphia.

"It's a huge deal for us," said Sean Mahoney, senior director of marketing at the Port of Philadelphia.

The Norwegian Jewel will dock on the eastern end of the Navy Yard, near Pier 122. Mahoney said the port has already started to dredge some of the river and build structures to process passengers on and off the ships.

"We want the pier to be an all-weather pier so that people are protected should any thunderstorms come up," he added.

The port is also developing parking for 2,300 cars.

"It's kind of a mantra in the cruise world: car to bar in 15 minutes. So we want that to happen here in Philadelphia," said Mahoney.

By 2028, officials expect the revived cruise industry could create more than 2,000 jobs and generate more than \$40 million in local and state tax revenue.

In a statement, Gov. Josh Shapiro said Norwegian's new home port gives passengers from across the region another reason to visit Philadelphia's waterfront.

SEPTA Board considers \$725M contract to buy new fleet of cars for Market-Frankford Line

July 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The SEPTA Board is scheduled to vote Thursday on a \$725 million contract to buy all new cars for the Market-Frankford Line.

"This is really going to be a monumental shift in transit service for the region," said SEPTA Chief Operating Officer Scott Sauer. "It's a generational purchase."

Under the contract with Pittsburgh-based Hitachi Rail STS USA, SEPTA would buy 200 cars with options to buy more. The effort would replace the entire 1990s-era fleet on SEPTA's most-used line.

"This equipment has to last 30 to 40 years," he noted.

Sauer said the seating arrangements would look different. The new cars would have longitudinal seating — seats along the side of the car that face inward. Riders won't have to open a door to move between cars either.

"This train is going to be designed with open gangways that will facilitate movement between cars," he said. "It'll create better sight lines for law enforcement or SEPTA staff. They'll be able to see car to car a little easier."

"There will be dedicated space for customers with mobility needs, disabilities, people with strollers or bicycles — there will be designated areas for that. So these are the pretty obvious upgrades you're going to see in a modern fleet replacing our Market-Frankford fleet."

SEPTA is using a \$317 million Federal Transit Administration grant to buy the new cars. The first pilot car is expected to arrive in the fall of 2028, with SEPTA taking delivery of the first production cars in the spring of 2029. All 200 new cars are expected to join the fleet by the spring of 2031.

Two years from now, Sauer said, SEPTA plans to begin the process of replacing the nearly 40-year-old cars on the Broad Street subway. "We could be seeing the Broad Street cars aged out and be replaced within the next decade," he added.

Gov. Shapiro joins Treasury head Yellen to announce IRS Direct File will launch in Pennsylvania

July 30, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Pennsylvania has joined the growing list of states where taxpayers will be able to get free help filing their returns with the IRS through a federal program called Direct File.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen came to Philadelphia personally on Tuesday to make the announcement and was joined by Gov. Josh Shapiro, stoking more speculation about his prospects as a vice presidential candidate.

The Direct File program allows taxpayers earning under \$200,000 a year (\$250,000 for married couples) to file directly with the IRS, without the need for a private, for-profit tax prep services.

"It saves taxpayers money up front," Yellen said. "They do not have to pay to prepare or file their returns and it saves money on the back end by helping them get their refunds and tax credits they deserve."

Her announcement comes a week after Treasury officials announced New Jersey would also join the program, which was piloted in 12 states last year. According to the IRS, more than 140,000 people used the program during the pilot phase, with many of them reporting filing times of about 30 minutes.

“It makes the whole process easier and more efficient,” said Yellen, who added that pilot users saved \$5.6 million in fees and collected \$90 million in refunds.

There are restrictions on who can use the program. In addition to income limits, users must have a simple W-2 or 1099 form for Social Security or unemployment income. People who earn money from tips, gig work, property rental and online payment apps are ineligible for the program.

Gov. Shapiro heaped praise on the Biden-Harris administration for creating the program, calling it a “game-changer,” and for other investments in the commonwealth, highlighting the replacement of lead water service lines and wiring that will connect 276,000 Pennsylvania homes without Wi-Fi to the internet.

“The investments in these infrastructure projects are having a positive impact on people’s lives every single day,” said Shapiro.

Shapiro emerged as a contender to be Vice President Kamala Harris’ running mate shortly after she became the presumptive nominee but he has consistently declined to discuss the matter. However, he’s already become an important campaign surrogate in this crucial swing state.

At the Direct File announcement, the governor said the program shows that the Biden-Harris administration shared his own priorities of a more efficient, responsive government. “Anyone who’s interacted with government knows it can be a frustrating process,” he said. “[Direct File] is going to allow people ease of access to their government.”

August

City of Chester launches multimillion-dollar initiative to beautify facades in business corridor

August 2, 2024

CHESTER, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Several businesses in Chester are getting thousands of dollars from a city initiative to help fix up their storefronts and boost the economy of the downtown area.

Chester's Facade Enhancement Initiative (FEI) aims to revitalize the city's central business district by enhancing the aesthetic of its commercial buildings.

Businesses along the 400 and 500 blocks of Avenue of the States had the opportunity to apply for the program. Each will receive state grants of up to \$50,000 to transform their commercial properties' visual appeal and make the business corridor more inviting to locals and visitors.

"It's a \$2 million program," said Chester Mayor Stefan Roots. "The money will go into architect, 3D renderings of what it will look like, and the contractor that will be doing the work."

Priority was given to minority- and women-owned businesses, reinforcing the city's commitment to equitable development. Applications closed last month and are currently being reviewed.

Many once-abandoned properties have already been rehabbed into art galleries, restaurants and clothing stores that Roots said are beautiful on the inside.

"The young artist community has taken the opportunity to reacquire a lot of the spaces that are right outside the front door of City Hall primarily into artists spaces," he said. "You open your doors and it will blow your mind what these men and women have done."

However, he said their exteriors leave a lot to be desired. That's where FEI comes in. Starting next year, storefronts will undergo reconstruction, including paint, lighting and signage upgrades, among other decorative elements.

"By investing in the aesthetic side of our community, we are not only elevating the visual landscape of our city but also cultivating a sense of community pride and attracting new businesses and visitors to Chester," the mayor said in a statement.

The project will also help stores replace windows, powerwash exteriors and remove security gates.

The city aims to complete the program by the end of 2026.

"The desire has always been to bring back downtown," Roots added. The initiative will "make the outsides look nice and have a consistent look and feel that's modern, that's attractive."

**More than a dozen US mayors convene in Philadelphia to promote Black business growth
August 15, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — More than a dozen mayors from around the country are meeting in Philadelphia Thursday for the African American Chamber of Commerce's fourth annual National Convening of Black Mayors.

AACC President Regina Hairston said the event began four years ago because Black-owned businesses in the Philadelphia region were lagging compared to other U.S. cities.

"We brought mayors from across the country to talk about initiatives in their cities that are growing and scaling Black businesses," she said.

The mayors will be discussing several topics, including advocacy, innovation and support systems, at the Wells Fargo Center, where a business expo will showcase Black-owned businesses.

Mayor Derrick Wood, of Dumfries, Virginia, admires the way Atlanta used its airport to become the city with the highest percentage of Black-owned businesses.

"Forty percent of the contracts in that airport go to Black [businesses]," he said. "We as mayors have to figure out: What is our Atlanta airport, and how do we create that same type of Black wealth in our communities?"

Hairston hopes to increase the 2.5% of Philadelphia businesses with Black owners.

"The point of this event is making sure that our mayors, our ecosystems, our Black businesses are coming together as one so that we are increasing generational wealth for Black businesses and getting folks out of poverty here in Philadelphia," she added.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, of Jackson, Mississippi, said he expects to learn as much as he contributes.

"I think it's our collective genius that ultimately puts us in a position not only for our cities to thrive but to exchange best practices so our communities at large can prosper and be in a better position than we find ourselves currently," he said.

Ironically, though Philadelphia has its first Black mayor in eight years, Cherelle Parker will not be attending. Her office said she was traveling.

76 Place impact report shows potential economic boom with grave consequences for community

August 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Reports on the impact of the Sixers' proposed new arena are out. They detail a major new revenue source for the city but at the expense of one of its most storied communities.

Four reports, completed by a third party but funded by the developers of 76 Place, were released on Monday.

The impact of arena construction on Market East was inconclusive. However, it found a potential spending boom of \$1.9 billion over the next 30 years along with \$390 million in new tax revenue and more than 700 new jobs.

As for Chinatown, it found grave consequences for the community — car congestion, gentrification, and the loss of cultural identity as small, ethnic-owned businesses move away.

The report also showed that one-fifth of all small businesses in Chinatown stood to benefit from the arena's presence, but half of them would be negatively impacted.

The traffic report said a lot more planning was needed to support public transit to 76 Place, as even a marginal increase in people driving to events would gridlock the streets surrounding the arena.

The design report found major concerns because there was no public gathering place outside the arena for people ahead of events listed in any of the plans.

"Our community is, like, literally on the edge, so if this arena comes in, that tips us over," said Vivian Chang, with Asian Americans United, one of the leaders of the Save Chinatown Coalition.

She was among a group of arena opponents who met with Mayor Cherelle Parker ahead of the release.

She said they were not expecting the reports to drop and questioned their intention given how they were funded.

"It's just a little concerning, about who is this for? Is this concern for Chinatown and the rest of Philadelphia," Chang said, "or is it really about what the developers are pushing and wanting?"

The Sixers told KYW they would not comment on the reports until they review them, but a spokesperson said "it is clear already that they support what we've said since we first announced

76 Place: The arena is an appropriate use for Center City and will generate significant new jobs and tax revenue because Philadelphia can support two arenas. Our parking and traffic assumptions are achievable and these findings are more evidence that 76 Place can be developed in a way that protects our neighbors and maximizes benefits to Philadelphia.”

Parker said the reports were released so the public could “understand the implications of such a multi-faceted proposed project for Philadelphia.”

Former industrial site in Camden gets \$1M federal grant for clean up to build homes August 29, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — A former industrial site in Camden will soon be developed for 15 single-family homes thanks to a \$1 million federal grant for cleanup efforts.

The half-acre lot at Front and Elm in North Camden used to be home to a paper factory. Mayor Vic Carstarphen says families will put down their roots and continue the transformation of this neighborhood in the shadow of the Ben Franklin Bridge.

“Changing blightness to brightness, this is what this is,” he said. “Blightness to brightness for the community. Spaces that were environmentally messed up, and changing it for community.”

Money for site remediation is coming from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Administrator and Camden native Olivia Glenn says the federal government is dedicated to improving urban areas like Camden.

“I see today as a fulfillment of the work that the grassroots has done,” she said. “EPA just simply has the pleasure of giving the fiscal support to the vision and the resilience that has long been here.”

Camden City Council President Angel Fuentes says he’s excited about the future because of investments like this.

“Camden was once an economic powerhouse, and it seems like, slowly but surely, we’re getting there,” he said.

So far there’s no timeline on when the homes will be finished.

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September

FTC data analyst warns consumers about sophisticated imposter scams and how to avoid them

September 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Federal Trade Commission is warning people about imposter scams. A data analyst at the FTC has some advice about what to watch out for to avoid them.

There’s been a dramatic jump in the number of impersonation scams — calls from people pretending to be from companies like Amazon and Microsoft, creating panic and fear among consumers. Last year, victims reported losing \$2.7 billion.

“A top theme that we see is a message that looks like a security alert from a bank or Amazon about suspicious activity or an unauthorized charge,” said Emma Fletcher, a senior data researcher.

Fletcher analyzes fraud and scams and says they are becoming more sophisticated. And they target every demographic — not just older citizens, she said.

“A really common theme is that they will make you think there is something wrong with your account.”

She says many times they spoof the phone numbers and text messages of legitimate companies, targeting your money and sometimes personal information.

“They create a fictitious threat and then they position themselves as the people that can make it all go away, but you need to do exactly what we tell you to do to make it go away,” says Fletcher.

“People who call the number in the text or email, or engage — they ultimately end up losing a lot of money while believing they are protecting their money.”

She says they are also using cryptocurrency to get you to move all your money to a bitcoin ATM or something similar to “protect it.”

“There's a lot of kind of tag-teaming going on,” she said. “Say it starts out as Microsoft, and then the supposed Microsoft person tells you, ‘This is much more serious than we thought. We are going to need to send you over to your bank.’ “So then they are claiming to transfer you to your bank.

“And then, from there, your supposed bank may be transferring you to the FTC. And before you know it, you are rushing out to move money, thinking that you are fixing this really major problem that is affecting your identity or your financial future, when in fact this is their ploy to get you to send them money.”

Fletcher says, just take a breath. If you get such a call, make sure to verify the number. Hang up and call the company’s legitimate phone to ensure everything is all right.

“No matter how urgent it seems — ‘It’s your bank,’ ‘It’s your account’ — just find the number for your entity, a number you know is real, and call them.”

Fletcher urges anyone who may have been scammed to contact the FTC, by phone or online at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud), so they can track it and pass it to law enforcement.

“Even the people who this happens to thought it would never happen to them,” she said.

“There’s a threat, there’s a scary thing, but we are going to be the people who help you resolve it.”

This one-time grant helps single parents in Philly afford activities for their kids **September 7, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Low-income, single parents in Philadelphia can apply for a one-time grant to help fund an activity they otherwise couldn’t afford for their children.

Whether a child dreams of learning to swim, mastering martial arts, playing an instrument or boosting their academic skills, this \$1,000 grant, made possible through The Brian Dawkins Impact Foundation in partnership with Caring People Alliance, can help it become a reality.

Brandon Gilmore, vice president of the Boys and Girls Club for Caring People Alliance, says money is often a barrier to opportunity and exposure for kids, especially when there is only one stream of income in a home.

“It increases the opportunity for the household, and it just helps the child feel that they're not just stuck where they're at, there's an opportunity to see something outside of their community,” he said. “I'm not saying their community is a bad place, but there's more to see and do in this world.”

The grant, he says, provides hope.

“Kids who have dreams, they now don't have a barrier, they don't have anyone saying that, ‘Oh, we can't do this because we don't have the money.’”

Applications for the grant must be completed by Sept. 30 at caringpeoplealliance.org.

This year, single parents can also apply for a grant for their own wellness or career advancement.

Bankrate study shows average interest rates for retail cards have hit record highs September 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The holidays are around the corner, and that means retailers will be offering credit card promotions. However, economists say that annual percentage rates have hit an all-time high.

Retail credit cards traditionally tend to carry a higher interest rate than companies that partner with major carriers such as VISA. But a recent Bankrate study finds interest rates for a retail card averages near 30.5 percent.

Those cards are often less selective when approving applicants and some even offer rewards, but Senior Industry Analyst with Bankrate Ted Rossman says it's only a reward if you pay off your statements in full.

“You definitely don't want to fall into the trap of paying interest, or sometimes you're offered those at the point of sale, and it's kind of pressured and it's like do you want to save 10 percent off of today's purchase, not if you're paying 30 percent,” he said.

Rossman says retail card signups have seen a significant decline in recent years — and high interest rates coupled with the buy-now-pay-later approach are most likely contributing to that.

But companies like Affirm, Afterpay, and Klarna have shaken up the landscape of retail shopping.

“Everybody sees that pitch about 'do you want to split today's purchase into installments, maybe it's four interest-free payments over 6 weeks,’” Rossman said. “That has taken over, especially online for a lot of store cards.”

Rossman says it is going to take a while for credit card rates to come down meaningfully once the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates. But he says he expects retail card APRs to remain high.

Philadelphia gets \$12 million USDA grant to grow its urban tree canopy September 19, 2024

WEST PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Government officials, community leaders and members of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society gathered in Malcolm X Park on Thursday to celebrate a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support planting more trees in Philadelphia.

The \$12 million grant, made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act, will go towards the Philly Tree Plan, the city's 10-year plan to equitably grow the city's tree canopy.

Meryl Harrel, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment for the USDA, spoke about the importance of Philly's tree strategy.

“It is such an inspirational plan and vision,” she said. “To be able to help support activating, and realizing and implementing that vision is why we are so grateful to have had this opportunity for resources from the inflation reduction act to invest in urban and community forestry.”

Currently, the average city canopy coverage in Philadelphia is 20%, but some neighborhoods fall as low as 2.5%.

Michael Pearson, president and CEO of Public Health Management Corporation, said the longevity of the city depends on a “healthy and well-cared-for urban forest.”

“That protects us from heat, improves mental and physical health, and serves as a weapon against climate change,” he said.

Correction: A previous version of this story incorrectly attributed Harrel. The current article reflects that change.

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I'm Listening Audacy National Public Affairs
3rd QRT 2024
July 1, 2024- September 30, 2024

Talk Away the Dark: Mental Health and Suicide Prevention during Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Aired on KYW Newsradio at 5:30am on July 7, 2024

In partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Audacy presents a new episode in our I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark limited series featuring host Dr. Maria Boynton, along with her guests, Vic Armstrong and Sarah Dixon-Hackey.

Dr. Boynton is a recipient of the Obama and Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards which honor those in our nation who exhibit outstanding character, work ethic, and dedication to their communities. Dr. Boynton is also a member of the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and is named among Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League.

In this episode, Dr. Boynton is joined by AFSP Expert Vic Armstrong, and Sarah Dixon-Hackey, M.B.A. who currently serves as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison for Clay County Public Health working to identify and bridge health gaps for under-served populations. She is an approved Trainer for the AFSP's "More Than Sad" suicide prevention training for parents and educators and is a certified Mental Health First Aid Trainer, a nationally recognized program by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

Maxed Out: Surviving and Thriving in Turbulent Times

Aired on KYW Newsradio on Thursday, September 5th, 2024 at 7pm

How are you getting by in this economy? The latest Audacy Conversation explores skyrocketing housing and rent costs, increasing daycare and construction and interest rates and more.

I'm Listening

Aired on KYW Newsradio on September 25, 2024 from 7pm - 9pm

I'm Listening is a special program that airs every September on Audacy stations. Every hour in the United States, we lose five people to suicide. During this hour-long special produced by KYW Newsradio and Bridging Philly, we shine the spotlight on the importance of suicide prevention and mental health and wellness.

Eating disorders are serious mental illnesses that can have grim outcomes. Without treatment, up to 20% of people with serious eating disorders die. For those who suffer, it's frightening and eating is complicated. What are the root causes of eating disorders and what treatments are available? Carol McKenzie spoke with Joanie Pagano of Wayne, a mother of three who battled an eating disorder for 34 years. She's now recovered and shares her story.

For teens, coming of age is stressful, and it includes questions about sexual orientation, gender identity and the journey to self-awareness. 4.5% of the US population identifies as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Of those, 39% reported having a mental health issue within the past year. Shara Dae Howard talks with Jasper Liem, the Executive Director of the Attic Youth Center. and Bryant Christie, their Director of Clinical Services.

Social media is part of our lives, but what are our algorithms actually doing to us? Conner Barkon talks with Sherri Hope Culver, Director of the Center for Media and Information Literacy at Temple University, and Rachel Daltry, Director of the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services at West Chester University.

Parents wear many hats, oftentimes juggling work and home life responsibilities while raising children. This year, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, who's been laser focused on mental health, issued an advisory warning about an increase in parental stress, saying it's become a public health problem. According to an American Psychological Association survey, 41% of parents reported they can't function most days because of stress, and 48% said they're completely overwhelmed by it. As the saying goes, you can't pour from an empty cup. So what can parents do to alleviate stress? Denise Nakano talks with Dr. Nicole Johnson, Department Chair of Counseling and Behavioral Health at Thomas Jefferson University.

In 2023 US, Surgeon General Vivek Murphy declared loneliness an epidemic and a national health emergency. Last year, half of US adults suffered from loneliness, and it hasn't gotten much better. It can have adverse effects not only on our physical health but our mental health. So where are we today with regards to this problem, and what can we do to dig ourselves out? Racquel Williams spoke with Dr Matthew Hereford, President and CEO of UPMC's Community Care Behavioral Health, for some answers.

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Bridging Philly
Q3 July - September 2024

Best of Bridging Philly: Finding the right therapist | The Awbury Arboretum
Jul 6, 2024

Navigating the mental health care system is a challenge for the most experienced of patients, but what about people looking to see a therapist for the first time? Where do you start? Do you go to someone who matches your demographic? Is telehealth a good option? Host Racquel Williams asks these questions and more with our panel of therapists.

Then on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard spends some time in nature and introduces us to the poets and musicians who are inspired by the historic Germantown Awbury Arboretum.

Best of Bridging Philly: Focus on Fathers | New: Wissahickon's Doomsday Cave
Jul 13, 2024

The Focus on Fathers parenting education program shows new fathers how to have positive relationships with their kids. The “fathers to the fathers” try to fill in the gaps for men raised without a strong father figure in their lives, through child development education, job readiness, and mental health awareness, with remote and in-person classes.

Then, on Shara in the City, we explore a cave that's said to be built by America's first cult of mystics to predict the apocalypse, right in Wissahickon Park - the Cave of Kelpius.

Friends Select School's Anti-racist Mission | Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey
Jul 20, 2024

While many schools have faced fights over book bans and how they teach about racism, Friends Select School in Philadelphia is taking an actively anti-racist approach to education. As a Quaker school, they follow the same philosophies that the Quakers who fought in the abolitionist movement did, and they're able to incorporate social justice into their curriculum, staff training, and how they interact with the greater Philadelphia community. Racquel Williams speaks with educators and staff from Friends Select to find out how they put their mission into action.

And on Shara in the City, as we get ready to kick off the 2024 Olympics, Shara Dae Howard remembers when Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey came through Philadelphia to inspire over 200 elementary students at Drexel University's Vidas Field Day and give away copies of her children's book, “Running for the Gold: Connecting Kids to Dreams.”

Dr. Ala Stanford On Unifying Philadelphia against COVID | The last living member of The Blue Notes

Jul 27, 2024

When COVID-19 hit, Dr. Ala Stanford stepped up to help Philadelphians get access to information, testing, care, and later, vaccines. She founded the Black Doctors Consortium, and after her work gained national media attention, President Biden appointed her Regional Director of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Now, Dr. Stanford has written a book, “Take Care of Them Like My Own”, coming out August 6 with a launch event at the Kimmel Center. It’s about her personal journey, her work, and the importance of equity and representation in medicine. She talks about all of that with our host, Racquel Williams.

And on Shara in the City, Lloyd Parks is the last living member of the famous Philly R&B group Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes - and he can still hit those high notes in songs like “I Miss You” and “If You Don’t Know Me by Now”. Shara Dae Howard takes a journey through time to hear Lloyd’s story.

PA Human Relations Commission | ABA Center for Kids with Autism

Aug 3, 2024

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission is on tour! Their “Beloved Community” tour is stopping in towns across the state to host open discussions about civil rights issues in each community. Racquel Williams speaks with Executive Director Chad Dion Lassiter to understand the purpose of this tour, the important work PHRC does, and how to reach out if you’re having an issue with any kind of prejudice or discrimination.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard visits the ABA Centers of Pennsylvania in Wayne, a play and therapy center for children with autism, complete with everything from a climbing wall to a bubble machine.

Food Insecurity On The Rise | Pizza with a purpose

Aug 10, 2024

We’ve seen a surge of people facing food insecurity since pandemic relief ended, and the numbers have not gone back down. It’s a particular issue in Philadelphia, where about 22% of people live in poverty - twice the national average. Share Food Program is the city’s leading hunger relief organization. Their executive director, George Matysik, and deputy chief program officer, Cat Bartoli, join host Racquel Williams to discuss the programs they offer - from pantries to delivery, school lunches to senior programs - and how widespread the issue of food insecurity is.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard visits Down North Pizza, where they hire formerly incarcerated people as employees. She joins the staff for a day to make a pizza and learn why their mission is so important.

Rebuilding The City While Learning a Trade | Broad Street Love’s “radical hospitality” Aug 17, 2024

At 55 years old, Marie-Monique Marthol made a life-changing decision to change careers. She learned carpentry through Rebuild’s Workforce Development Program, where participants learn trade skills while revitalizing Philadelphia’s neighborhoods. Marie-Monique joins host Racquel Williams to talk about her experience. We also hear from Rebuild’s Director of Workforce Development, Tiffany Smith, about how Rebuild is bringing more women and people of color into the trades.

Then, on Shara in the City, we visit Broad Street Love, where they provide stabilizing services to those experiencing deep poverty. Shara steps into the shoes of a volunteer, serving restaurant-style meals to folks who have found an affirming and supportive community in this space.

Exposing Youth To Career Paths | Philly’s takes on Olympic breaking Aug 24, 2024

Youth and young adults in Philadelphia can learn about career options and job skills while getting paid through C2L-PHL’s youth work programs, run by JEVS Human Services. Summer and school year job opportunities range from the medical field to government, even working with horses and people with disabilities at Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Academy. Racquel Williams talks with representatives from JEVS, Pegasus, and LNEESC - a nonprofit that works with JEVS to place students in meaningful work experiences - as well as a student who worked at Pegasus this summer.

Then, on Shara in the City, break dancing made its first appearance in the Olympics this year - and with questions over how the culture was represented on an international stage, it might not be back. Shara Dae Howard talks with some Philly OG breakers to get their takes and learn a few moves.

College Parents: It’s Your Time, Too | Life on tour with the Village People Aug 31, 2024

The transition to college can be tough for both students and parents. Whether it’s your first time moving a kid into a dorm or you find yourself with an empty nest after all your kids are out of the house, life is suddenly different. Racquel Williams hosts a panel of moms and advisors to

learn how to parent differently at this stage of life, avoid being a helicopter parent, and embrace your “second act”. She's joined by Jodi Silverman, founder of Moms Who Dare, Beth Allen, a participant in Moms Who Dare and founder of DIY HIP Chicks, and Dr. Deanne DeCrescenzo, Associate Dean of Students in the Division of Student Affairs at Temple University.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard meets a disco legend: Russell Dabney, the drummer for the Village People. Sitting on a Philly stoop, they talk about his career, life on tour, and the unbeatable feeling of watching a crowd do the “YMCA” as he plays.

How Tracking Devices Are Used In Domestic Violence | A place of healing at Still Rise Farms

Sep 7, 2024

Domestic abusers want to have control over their victims, and often, that involves knowing where they are at all times. Tracking devices have made that easier, and devices that look like a phone charger or a child’s toy are readily available. Amanda L. Murray, Center for Hope & Safety's Domestic Violence Liaison to New Jersey’s Division of Child Protection and Permanency, joins host Racquel Williams to discuss what to do if you think you or someone you love is being tracked.

Then, on Shara in the City, we visit Still Rise Farms, a retreat center started by a breast cancer surgeon to encourage healing and holistic well-being. Shara Dae Howard spends the day there fishing and learning with Camp Jill Scott.

Advocating For Pennsylvania Schools | Formerly incarcerated artists at The F.I.R.M.

Sep 14, 2024

Only 1 in 3 fourth graders in Pennsylvania is reading proficiently - a statistic that Teach Plus hopes to change. The organization works to improve student outcomes by empowering teachers to advocate for policy change, as well as helping to recruit a diverse teacher workforce. Laura Boyce, Teach Plus Pennsylvania’s Executive Director, joins host Racquel Williams to talk about the teacher shortage, teacher retention, the latest school budget, and more. Teachers interested in joining a Teach Plus BIPOC affinity group can sign up [here](#) or attend their mixer on September 27.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard visits The Formerly Incarcerated Renaissance Museum, or The F.I.R.M., to find out how this new museum is illuminating the stories of formerly incarcerated people in Philadelphia.

Growing Green Community Spaces | Fireman's Hall Museum

Sep 21, 2024

PECO does more than just keep your lights on - they're marking 20 years of their Green Region Open Space Program, which has provided over \$2.5 million in grants to preserve, protect, and expand green spaces throughout southeastern Pennsylvania. Spaces like gardens and parks are vital for our physical and mental health, but they can be hard to find in the city, especially in disinvested neighborhoods. We hear how PECO has partnered with Natural Lands and Neighborhood Gardens Trust to make nature more accessible to everyone.

Then, on Shara in the City, we visit Fireman's Hall Museum in Old City. The renovated 1898 firehouse is a treasure trove of Philadelphia fire history and home to the first exhibit commemorating the firefighters who died on 9/11.

Election Security With The Committee of Seventy | Habitat for Humanity's all-women build day

Sep 28, 2024

The Committee of Seventy provides essential voter information, not just on how to vote, but on what happens to your ballot after it's submitted. How can you be sure your ballot is counted? Who is at polling places assuring security and safety? Host Raquel Williams speaks with C70's CEO, Lauren Cristella, about their work for a fair and transparent election, and what you should know when you head to the polls or vote by mail.

Then, on Shara in the City, we pick up our tools and get to work with Habitat for Humanity. Shara Dae Howard joins their "building blitz" effort to build affordable housing, kicking off with an all-women build day.

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**KYW-AM/WIP-HD2 PHILADELPHIA, WPHI-FM JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT**

July 1, 2024 – Sept 30, 2024

Station KYW (AM) provides an all-news radio service to Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area at 1060kHz AM, with simulcasts on the FM dial on WPHI-FM at 103.9 MHz and WIP-FM-HD2 at 94.1 MHz HD2. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.

This report was prepared and placed in the station's public inspection file on **September 27th, 2024**. The report was prepared and reviewed by Newsroom Operations Manager, Dennis Edward.

Bridging Philly is KYW Newsradio's half-hour public affairs show that airs Saturdays at 9:30p and Sundays at 8:30a

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CHILDREN AND HUMAN SERVICES

July

Atlantic City utilizing every government agency to break up homeless encampments under boardwalk

July 1, 2024

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Homeless encampments have long been a problem with elusive solutions for officials in Atlantic City. But for the first time in recent history, every government agency in the city, as well as casino groups and other community organizations, are working together to tackle the issue.

The initiative first offers services to people in need, then begins to break up encampments in places they shouldn't be, like under the boardwalk. Over the years, there have been several encampment fires on the boardwalk, like Garden Pier, creating safety hazards.

Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Evans said people would live under Garden Pier for weeks to months on end. But now, this coordinated approach is already proving successful.

“It’s critical for the right hand to know what the left hand is doing, for every department that has a role plays their part and passes the ball to the next person,” he said.

Department of Health and Human Services Director Jarrod Barnes said his office is often the first contact. They can only offer help, and police are only called if laws are being broken. They try to build trust to get people the help they need.

“We ask every single day, ‘Do you need assistance?’” he said. “If they say, ‘No, thank you,’ we say, ‘Hey look, we’re here. You can come find us at City Hall.’ We’ll come back to that same spot because more than likely, they’re in the same spot every single day. We’ll keep going back to them.

“And eventually, a lot of times they break down and say, ‘Hey look, I do need assistance,’ and we start the process for them.”

Mayor Marty Small said there are dozens of people living on the streets in Atlantic City, many from out of town, and part of this process is also focused on sending people back to where they came from.

Small added that this citywide government approach is a big reason why the city is safer than it has been in recent years, and he said they will keep pushing to make it even better.

**'The future is in this room': Parker introduces 16-member Youth Commission at City Hall
July 8, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — While introducing her 16-member Youth Commission Monday evening at City Hall, Mayor Cherelle Parker noted there are 345,000 children under age 18 in Philadelphia — nearly 22% of the total population.

“Yet their voices go unheard and they lack representation in government,” she said.

She says the Youth Commission, fully appointed for the first time in eight years, would correct that.

Parker said the city cannot solve some of its thorniest problems — notably, gun violence, which has increasingly involved child victims and shooters — without youth participation, adding this will give youth a chance to bring their issues, thoughts and concerns to the table.

The new commissioners, including Marquis Bailey, were eager to try.

“We are commissioned to be beacons of light among our peers, commissioned to lead with a heightened level of compassion and integrity, commissioned to lead to spread the spirit of love and unity throughout our city, and commissioned to put our boots on the ground and let the city know we are the next generation and we have what it takes to move forward,” Bailey said.

Cindy Johnson is ready to take on the mental health crisis among the city’s youth.

“Our objective is to work with city officials to make policy recommendations and develop programming with youth mental health in mind while creating a safe space for all youth voices to be heard,” Johnson said.

And James King has big ambitions for the Public Safety Subcommittee.

“Our aim is to break the cycle of violence and teach young people how to resolve conflicts,” he said.

Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel said he was impressed.

“The future is in this room. There’s no question about that.”

City Council’s Kensington Caucus convenes hearing on access to drug rehab amid conflicting information

July 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Council’s Kensington Caucus is exploring ways to make drug rehab treatment more accessible as part of its effort to clean up the drug-ravaged neighborhood.

In that vein, Councilmember Quetcy Lozada convened a hearing at Rock Ministries in Kensington on Thursday out of frustration with conflicting information about the availability of treatment for addiction. Health officials and providers say there are beds available for those seeking treatment, but people seeking treatment complain they can’t get access to them.

Jefferson Dr. Phil Durney said a large part of the problem is the mismatch between the level of care in the available beds and the complex medical needs of many of those seeking treatment.

“When patients are coming in with really severe infections, life-threatening infections or severe debility — they can’t walk, they can’t move — that’s when this mismatch occurs,” said Durney.

He and colleague Dr. Chris Martin, testified that this is often the case in Philadelphia with the drug xylazine, which causes massive wounds and infections and is found in almost every street drug.

City health officials said there are currently 120 rehab beds available, but most are for those who need minimal medical care. Only three were available for high-need patients.

Behavioral Health Commissioner Marquita Williams said her department has greatly expanded the number of beds and is working to reduce barriers, but clearly more is needed.

Megan Reed, who also works at Jefferson and specializes in harm reduction, said there are other obstacles like location, language barriers and hours of waiting at intake centers for officials to consider.

“This would be arduous for anyone but for someone going through withdrawal it’s intolerable,” she said. “We should roll out the red carpet when someone is ready to get treatment, not put up obstacles for them to get in it.”

Recommendations made at the meeting included creating a dashboard to make it easy to find available beds and to have housing waiting for patients getting discharge to prevent relapses.

New Jersey launches online hub for disability information, resources

July 26, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — It can be challenging for people with disabilities and their loved ones to find the information and resources they need online. Now, New Jersey has launched an online hub, serving as a one-stop shop for those resources.

The new Disability Information Hub features services and information on opportunities in education, recreation, employment, and more. New Jersey Department of Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman says it was built with input from the communities that will be using it.

“Many services for individuals with disabilities are offered by the state and our community partners and many organizations,” said Adelman.

“This disability hub brings together those resources in one place for New Jersey residents with disabilities and their caregivers, family members and advocates.”

That includes links to about 200 programs and services from the Departments of Human Services, Health, Education, Labor and Workforce Development, Community Affairs, Military

and Veterans Affairs, the Attorney General's Office, the Board of Public Utilities, and the Office of Emergency Management.

"Together, we are breaking down barriers and empowering all New Jerseyans to thrive in their communities," Gov. Phil Murphy said. "I commend the whole-of-government effort to uplift the State's disability community."

Adelman says an audio version of the website is also available for users with impaired vision.

August

Delaware County Health Department offering cold storage equipment to eligible food pantries

August 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Keeping cool has been a challenge this summer, as high temps have continuously exacerbated the region. Pair that with ongoing food insecurity, and vulnerable communities are being stretched thin.

To combat the issue, the Delaware County Health Department is awarding cold storage equipment to eligible food pantry nonprofits, making fresh, healthy food more accessible to residents in vulnerable neighborhoods.

"If a food pantry is able to have adequate cold storage, they're really able to expand the offerings that they have beyond just dry goods," said Lora Werner, Delaware County deputy director of health. "They can have really fresh produce and keep it properly cold. And of course, at the health department, we always want to help people keep their food properly cold because that helps prevent the spread of disease."

The initiative is funded by a Health Resources and Services Administration grant.

Applications are currently being accepted. Applicants must meet certain criteria, such as showing proof of nonprofit status and a safe storage area, and being based in a designated food desert.

Montgomery County installing free feminine hygiene product dispensers at all county-owned facilities

August 13, 2024

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Montgomery County is tackling period poverty by stocking public restrooms with free tampons and pads.

“If one resident cannot avail themselves to basic period products, that's not good for me. And so I wanted to ensure that we expanded this policy,” said Jamila Winder, chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Winder says the idea stemmed from conversations with members of the state delegation, and Women's Commission, about how the county's policy worked and was enforced.

“And what we found was there was a real opportunity to expand our part in reducing period poverty,” she said.

Period poverty is the inability to afford to buy menstrual products. A 2021 study of U.S. teenagers found that 23% struggled to afford period products. Some young women have reported using newspaper or used napkins to manage their menstrual cycles.

People may think of Montgomery County as an affluent place to live, says Winder, but she has friends and neighbors who must choose between buying pads or tampons and buying groceries.

“It really is sobering, and it's just such a simple thing,” she said. “And it's a simple thing that we can do as Montgomery County to expand this program and have consistency.”

Previously, the county had stocked some of their facilities with the products and made them available for 25 cents apiece. Now all 269 county-owned bathrooms — including those in parks, courthouses and historic sites, as well as public health centers in Norristown, Pottstown and Willow Grove — will have dispensers.

Winder says it removes a barrier for women who are struggling to find or pay for these necessities: “If they're doing business in the county, or if they're at one of our parks with their children, [they know] that they can access those products free of charge, and we don't ask any questions.”

Similar work is in progress at the state level, too. The Pennsylvania House has passed bills that would make the products eligible under SNAP and WIC and have them available for free in schools. Both bills are with the Senate. The most recent state budget puts \$3 million toward menstrual products for schools.

Philadelphia to open first urgent care center for mental health needs

August 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philly's first urgent care for mental health needs is set to open at the beginning of next month, and city officials hope the new clinic can help offset the demand for behavioral health care.

The Merakey Mental Health Walk-In Clinic, which officially opens on Sept. 3, is the product of a partnership with behavioral health provider Merakey and the city's Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS). It's housed in a white brick building at 3125 North Broad St., just before Allegheny Avenue.

Merakey says the clinic is for adults 18 and older who need same-day mental health care that is not an emergency. Quick counseling sessions, psychiatric evaluations and referrals are among the services people can expect to get at this clinic. Visitors in emergency situations, including suicidal or homicidal thoughts, self-harm or substance use withdrawal, are urged to call 988 or immediately go to a crisis response center.

One of the main goals for Merakey is to help cut down on avoidable visits to emergency rooms and crisis response centers. The clinic will be staffed by Merakey personnel, including therapists ready for walk-in sessions and a psychiatrist on site who can prescribe medication.

According to Merakey, the facility's exam rooms and waiting areas are designed to look like living rooms, providing a calm environment for patients. Visitors are also offered snacks and beverages while waiting to see a professional.

Some of the issues the clinic is intended to address include depression, anxiety, stress, grief, mood disturbances, substance use assessments, and referrals to follow-up resources.

According to DBHIDS, the city has been working on solutions within the behavioral health system since 2019, where it began planning an expansion of its crisis services. Interim Commissioner Dr. Marquita C. Williams says department officials are excited to see many of their plans over the last five years come to life.

New CDC report touts benefits of routine childhood vaccinations, finds many once-common diseases are now forgotten as a result

August 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As kids get their required shots for the start of the school year, a new report shows some of the deadliest vaccine-preventable diseases are unknown by many adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report shows adults ages 18 to 49 are less likely to know about diseases once common in kids, including measles, mumps, pertussis, and diphtheria, because of the efficacy of childhood vaccinations.

“We have an effort called ‘Let's Keep It That Way,’ which is really aimed at educating people about vaccinations so that they understand the importance of vaccination,” said Dr. Georgina Peacock, director of the CDC’s immunization services division.

The agency is celebrating 30 years of its Vaccines for Children Program, which covers the cost of vaccines for parents or guardians who may not be able to afford them. The program is open to anyone 18 years old or younger who is eligible for Medicaid, uninsured or underinsured. Indigenous children are also eligible.

“It provides vaccines for about 50% of children in the United States, and it's a very important program to make sure that children can stay up to date on their vaccinations.”

Last year, the CDC distributed 74 million pediatric vaccines through the program to participating providers. According to the CDC, almost 90% of eligible children born between 2011 and 2020 have received the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine. Peacock says vaccination rates need to stay high to prevent resurgences of serious diseases.

“For example, we are seeing measles cases in different parts of the United States. In most cases, that's because a child or an adult is unvaccinated against measles,” she said. “Therefore, keeping those vaccine coverage rates high is very important.”

Vaccine safety is a concern for some people. In rare cases, there are exceptions from getting a particular vaccine, but Peacock says they are generally safe.

“Millions of children receive, safely, vaccines each year. Some of the common side effects that children have with vaccines are mild, such as a sore arm from the vaccination, or fever or a mild rash,” she explained. “There are serious reactions, but those are extremely rare.”

The CDC report says routine vaccinations prevented approximately 508 million cases of illness, 32 million hospitalizations, and 1,129,000 deaths among people born between 1994 and 2023.

Burlington County awards grants to 6 food assistance programs

August 23, 2024

MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Burlington County is providing grants to six organizations that help feed people who are food insecure.

The first check was delivered Thursday to Virtua Hospital in Mount Holly, which has been running a small food pantry on the first floor for a few years. Burlington County Commissioner Director Felicia Hobson delivered the \$75,000 check to help support the hospital's cause.

On the shelves, you'll find rice, beans, cereals and other non-perishables. Virtua Vice President Stephanie Fendrick said locally sourced fruits and vegetables are also available for free.

“A lot of people are on medications and it's so important to have the food to help absorb those medications,” she said. “It just contributes to one's overall health. It's one of our basic needs as humans.

“Our goal is to touch as many people who need help, who identify themselves as struggling with being able to afford food,” Fendrick continued, “being able to come here, easily access the food, and then help get them connected to other resources in the community.”

Other grant recipients include the Food Bank of South Jersey, the Burlington Township Food Pantry, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Oaks Integrated Care, and the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Food Pantry.

"We also want organizations to know that there's still funds available and they should continue to apply," Hobson said.

September

Harriett's Bookshop aims to send 10 Philly youths to study abroad in Paris this fall September 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When Jeannine A. Cook founded Harriett's Bookshop in 2020, her mission was to celebrate women authors, artists, and activists in honor of historic heroine Harriet Tubman.

Since then, she's opened two new bookshops: Ida's in New Jersey and Josephine's in Paris. And now, she's turning another page.

Come November, she aims to send 10 youths from North Philadelphia to Paris for the chance to study abroad.

Why? Because she says these are the kids that would otherwise rarely be offered such a life-changing opportunity.

She says they worked diligently with the school district to "create the first-ever credit-bearing course for young people in an accelerated high school."

Cook says Tubman is the inspiration behind the trip.

"If you're in the spirit of Harriet Tubman, you know the Underground Railroad is this sacred passage between places with people you may not know are in the railroad with you, but are there to help you move from place to place," she said.

“This is a victory story. Again, I attribute that to Harriet, to Ida [B. Wells], and to Josephine [Baker].”

The bookstore said it is seeking more donations before it can send students to its study abroad program.

Delaware County debuts new automated health care supply kiosks

September 18, 2024

CHESTER, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The future of public health is now in Delaware County, according to officials who have a new way of distributing healthcare supplies to residents.

The Delaware County Health Department has partnered with healthcare technology firm LTS to bring its “TestAndGo” kiosks to the county. The machines, made possible through a \$200,000 state grant, are located outside of the Keystone First building in Chester, the Government Center in Media and the Yeadon Wellness Center.

“Any Delaware County resident can come up to one of our three machines and get free public health supplies,” said Lora Werner, the health department’s interim director. She says the new vending kiosks have COVID-19 and flu tests, condoms, feminine hygiene products, fentanyl test strips, Narcan and more.

Haley Tunney with LTS says the machines let users place orders through a touch screen on the front, allowing free, 24/7 access in exchange for filling out a brief questionnaire. “There’s no sensitive information given,” said Tunney. “It’s mostly an anonymous survey that is done for each product.”

Faith Goldsborough was on hand for the opening of the kiosk in Chester. “I think it’s a pretty good idea because, a lot of stuff that we need for our own benefit and health, we have to pay for it, and some of us don’t have enough money,” she said.

Meanwhile, the new machines caught Stephanie Ray by surprise. “I had no idea that this is what it was — and it’s a good thing, because a lot of things are going on here in Chester. I’m thankful, I’m happy that they have it here,” Ray said.

County health officials hope to eventually add STD testing to the kiosks. Residents can register for the kiosks online or in person at any of the three machines.

The Philadelphia region's blood supply is dangerously low, and the American Red Cross is asking for help

September 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — There is a dire need for blood — right now. The American Red Cross says the supply all around the country, including the Philadelphia region, is dangerously low, so the nonprofit is once again making an appeal for people to roll up their sleeves.

Alana Mauger, regional communications manager for the American Red Cross, Southeastern Pennsylvania, says there was a significant shortage at the end of summer.

“The actual need was significantly higher than what we had expected,” Mauger said.

She says supplies were adequate through July, and then they immediately made efforts to collect donations. Natural disasters, summer vacation and travel, COVID-19 cases — all of these are contributing factors to the blood shortage.

“We're encouraging people to give now, to make sure that the levels continue to be available and improve after the summer shortage,” Mauger said.

“What we're seeing is that happened a little bit, but we're now, we're in September, and we're still seeing that critical need that we have.”

Only three out of 100 Americans donate blood. With the blood supply still at critical levels, every single donation is key to making sure all patients who rely on life-saving transfusions get the care they need.

“The worst-case scenario would be that the blood's not available when someone needs it. And what's really important is that, you know, we can't project when someone's going to need the blood.”

She says blood platelets are needed as well. They only have a shelf life of five days, so that supply has to be continually restocked. The American Red Cross is now offering an incentive for blood and platelet donors.

“If you donate between now and Sept. 30, you will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. Automatically, you're registered for this gift card, and within 30 days, you'll receive the card electronically.”

To find the nearest donation site, go to redcrossblood.org.

Program that provides mental health services to Philly students expands to 2 more schools September 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A program that provides mental health services to Philly students is expanding to two other schools.

Since 2021, counselors and clinicians from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia have offered mental health services to students at Girard College, a five-day boarding school. The school-based mental health pilot helped about 300 students through anxiety and depression, according to Girard President David Hardy.

“When you see children who are going through those issues, it affects all of the other issues in school,” he said. “The fact is, you can’t learn if you have those kinds of struggles.”

Now, the program — funded by the Independence Blue Cross Foundation — is expanding to Hardy Williams Elementary Mastery Charter and the district’s Add B. Anderson School. The program will then be available to about 1,000 Philly students.

Debora Carrera, the mayor’s chief education officer, knows from her experience as a principal that having services available in school makes a difference.

“While we were surrounded by mental health agencies, the students didn’t go,” she noted.

Independence Health Group CEO Greg Deavens told a student mental health summit Thursday that the program has seen results.

“We found that about two-thirds of the students say that the treatment they received helped them to do better or to feel better,” he added.

He said students are six times more likely to continue their treatment if it takes place in a school.

ARTS AND CULTURE

July

Philadelphia Zoo, a pioneer in animal conservation and innovation, celebrates 150th anniversary

July 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — They came by way of steamboat, horse and carriage, train, and foot. On July 1, 1874, about 3,000 people had the opportunity to see nearly 600 animals up close at America's first zoo, the Philadelphia Zoo.

It opened its gates exactly 150 years ago and has become known around the world for its animal care, conservation, and innovation. The zoo, which now houses more than 1,700 animals, recognized the milestone anniversary on Monday with a celebration of its past and present achievements. Visitors were greeted by a brass band, much like they were that first day of operation back in 1874 and a troop of François' langurs.

The Philadelphia Zoo was actually established in 1859, but the grand opening was delayed until 1874 due to the Civil War. Then in 1901, a first-of-its-kind animal health laboratory was built.

“We were trying to understand and learn more about animal physiology and health and really understood that there were diseases that could be transmitted between humans and animals, and there is a whole field of zoonotic diseases now,” said President and CEO Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman.

“The same thing with animal nutrition. We were the first zoo to create animal diets. They were called zoocakes, and there is a whole field of animal nutrition studies.”

Mogerman, who started her job last October, is a part of history, too. She is the first African American and the first woman to lead the zoo.

The Philadelphia Zoo has pioneered many other firsts. In 2011, it launched Zoo360, a trail system where animals move beside guests, above in the treetops, and over people's heads along pathways.

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In 2011, the Philadelphia Zoo launched Zoo360, a trail system where animals move beside guests, above in the treetops, and over people's heads along pathways. Photo credit Philadelphia Zoo

"The 360 trails have now been replicated in more than 70 zoos around the world," said Mogerman.

In the 1960s, Zoo Keys — a memorable visitor favorite — were introduced. Children used the keys to turn on talking story boxes and learn about the animals they see in front of them.

Hollywood royalty was no stranger to the zoo either. In 1979, Rocky proposed to Adrian in "Rocky II," right in front of the tiger enclosure. Decades prior, the Philadelphia Zoo took in a very famous resident. In 1931, the mascot of MGM, Leo the lion, retired to the zoo.

And even after all these years, there's still more to come.

Mogerman says they will be announcing a major exhibit renovation and expansion in the coming months that will "change our campus and strengthen our commitments to our conservation mission and guest experience."

Beach Blaze, BBQ championship & Brian McKnight in AC — a peek at some of this weekend's 'Shore Things'

July 10, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Oh, baby, the brisket's back! This weekend is the New Jersey BBQ State Championship and blues festival in North Wildwood, from Friday to Sunday.

Celebrate 102 years of Broadway's greatest moments with Neil Berg and veteran actors performing powerful vocals and stunning choreography at Surfside Park in Avalon Saturday night.

Singer-songwriter Brian McKnight takes the stage at Ocean Resort Casino Friday night, featuring chart-toppers “Back at One” and “Love Is.”

And the Peach at the Beach Music Festival is Saturday in Atlantic City, with several rock, blues, and jam bands at the Showboat Island Water Park.

Blaze on the Beach

Get ready for The United Civil Servants’ annual Blaze on the Beach at Bar Anticipation in Lake Como on Friday, July 12.

The event, which runs from noon to 5 p.m., benefits children in need.

It's \$75 at the door. There will be \$10 raffle tickets, a BBQ and, of course, an open bar.

"Nobody puts baby in a corner," said fictional character Johnny Castle except, maybe for “Dirty Dancing” movie night in Seaside Heights on Friday, July 12.

Grab your coziest outfit and get ready to watch an American classic with your toes in the sand and the ocean breeze in your hair.

The movie starts at dusk and is for adults only. Attendees will be seated in the vicinity of Beach Patrol North Headquarters.

And what’s a movie night without a beverage? Seaside Heights Business Improvement District will be on the beach selling beer and wine throughout the film.

NJ State BBQ Championship & Anglesea Blues Fest

Grab your bibs and get ready to grub on some mouth-watering meats marinated, seasoned and smoked “to the point of perfection.”

Barbecue teams from around the country will be at 2nd and Olde New Jersey Avenues and surrounding pubs in North Wildwood this weekend to show off their grillin' skills.

The competition kicks off Friday, July 12 at 4 p.m., and runs through Sunday.

There will be live cooking demonstrations, food and top regional and national blues acts on the free, main stage.

Get ready to sing your heart out with Brian McKnight at Oceans Casino Resort in Atlantic City.

The singer-songwriter, who's received 16 GRAMMY nominations, will be taking the stage on Friday, July 12 at Ovation Hall.

Doors open at 8 p.m., the concert starts at 9. For tickets and more information, [click here](#).

And if your vocal cords are still intact by Sunday, you might want to check out Karaoke Night at Asbury Lanes on 209 4th Avenue.

Hosted by Giuseppe, from 7-10:30 p.m. you can sing, bowl, dine and drink all for FREE!

The Peach at the Beach Festival

Music, music, and more music!!!

The Peach at the Beach music festival returns Saturday, July 13 at Island Water Park in Atlantic City.

Check out headliners like Joe Russo's Almost Dead, Dogs in a Pile, Trouble No More, Karina Rykman and Mykal Rose of Black Uhuru.

There will be performers, vendors, oh, and a waterpark for you to take a splash and cool off.

Tickets start at \$79.

Catch a celebration of some of the greatest moments in Broadway history on Saturday, July 13.

It's Neil Berg's 102 years of Broadway! — an “electrifying musical revue” where a cast of Broadway veterans will sing and dance in Surfside Park.

The event starts at 7 p.m. For more information, [click here](#).

Blobfest oozes through Phoenixville for its 25th anniversary celebration

July 12, 2024

PHOENIXVILLE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The sci-fi classic "The Blob" slimed its way into movie theaters in 1958 — and into one Chester County movie house. While the movie has a few years to go before its 70th anniversary, the festival honoring "The Blob" has reached a milestone of its own.

Since 1999, fans of sci-fi, horror, and camp have gathered annually in Phoenixville for Blobfest, a weekend-long festival that celebrates the genre and, specifically, "The Blob."

For the uninitiated, "The Blob" is about a small town under attack from a gelatinous alien blob that consumes anything and everything in its path. The townspeople are helpless as the being grows in size with everything it devours, until a courageous teenager figures out a way to fight it.

Many movie buffs know "The Blob" best as the first lead role for 28-year-old Steve McQueen — who would ultimately become one of the most popular stars in Hollywood with roles in "Bullitt" and "The Towering Inferno."

Screen shot from "The Blob" featuring Steve McQueen and Aneta Corseaut

Steve McQueen (right, with Aneta Corseaut) starred in 1958's "The Blob." It was his first lead role in a movie, and he was credited as "Steven McQueen." Photo credit Paramount Pictures

For Chester County, however, it's a point of pride. "'The Blob' was made by a production company that's right down the road from Phoenixville, in Chester Springs," said Drew Boardman, events director for the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.

"They were actually a Christian film production company and they wanted to get in on the B, sci-fi-horror side of things. So they optioned 'The Blob' [and] they cast then-unknown Steve McQueen."

In fact, the movie's most famous scene was shot at the Colonial Theatre, where the monstrous Blob attacks a crowd of moviegoers.

"They came to the Colonial because [they had the] idea that the blob would ooze out into a movie theater full of people and they would all run out," explained Boardman, "and they paid \$75 for the shoot. And they said, 'We know that this is a low rate, but it will make you infamous.' And to this day, almost 70 years later, we still celebrate that."

That scene of people running out of the theater inspired volunteers at the Colonial to create Blobfest, to honor not only the Chester County cult favorite but the theater itself, which reopened in 1999 after having closed eight years before.

"A group decided in the mid to late '90s to reopen the theater and as they were kind of getting back on their feet, someone said, 'Hey, why don't you show 'The Blob?'" Boardman recalled.

"They showed 'The Blob' and then people just automatically ran out of the theater when the movie was over. From there, year over year, a group of volunteers got together and started putting it together — and then it just became this official festival that now the staff puts together every year, still with an amazing group of volunteers."

Blobfest has since grown into a weekend-long event, with movie screenings, dance parties and an outdoor street fair. "We always have a different theme," said Boardman of the event's programming. In previous years, it has included classic sci-fi and horror movies such as "The Wolfman," "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" and "War of the Worlds" — to correspond with themes like "Blobs and Monsters" and "The Uninvited."

(Another favorite has been "Grease," owing to a scene where the Rydell High teens catch a drive-in showing of "The Blob.")

This year, however, is all about celebrating "The Blob" and Blobfest, and it begins with the centerpiece of the festival: a reenactment of that famous movie theater scene. "Friday night, we have a stage show and do the run-out," said Boardman.

"I thought we were watching the movie," said Adrienne Mathiesen of Millville, New Jersey, of her first run-out experience, "and then they're like, 'No, get ready, let's go!' and then we all ran out and watched the movie later. When we ran out, we were screaming like we were being chased by the blob and there were so many people. There had to be thousands of people who ran into in the crowd."

It isn't only the people running out of the theater who enjoy the run-out. "The whole town comes out to watch and cheer the crowd running down Bridge Street," recalled Blobfest regular Tom Barrett, of New York.

Right after the run-out is the Blob Ball, Boardman said, "which is a '50s-style sock hop. Then on Saturday, we show movies all day."

There will be multiple screenings of the original movie, with an additional run-out Saturday evening. Fans can also watch the 1988 remake, itself a cult favorite. In addition, organizers will show "The Blob" dubbed in Spanish for the first time — its Spanish-language title is "La Masa Devoradora."

Sunday will feature the little-loved 1972 sequel "Beware! The Blob," directed by "Dallas" star Larry Hagman... but with a twist. "That will be live-riffed by Matt McGinnis, who is a writer, director and producer for 'Mystery Science Theater 3000,'" Boardman said. Joining McGinnis will be the long-running comedy show's creator Joel Hodgson and star Emily Marsh. On "Mystery Science Theater 3000," its stars mercilessly mock bad movies in a snarky running commentary, and this screening will follow suit.

Boardman says this year's street fair — happening rain or shine — will be the biggest yet. "We have more vendors than ever. I think we're at about 105, and they're all going to be vintage sci-fi, horror, camp, family-friendly vendors," he said, while acknowledging the rain in the forecast. "Fortunately, it's looking like the hours of the outdoor festival are just going to miss the thunderstorms, which is great news."

For Phoenixville resident Alexander Neff, who has gone to Blobfest on and off since 2011, it's something to share with his 14-year-old son. "Missed a couple after [2011], but my son and I have been going consistently every year for probably six years," he said.

"When he first started to go, it was, 'All right Dad, I'll go with you,' but now I think it's kind of a touchstone moment for him each year. He is getting a bit more of the jokes and things he wouldn't have gotten at a younger age."

They've done the run-out, though Neff admits they haven't done it each year. ("Sometimes it's harder to get tickets than other years," he said.) The street fair is a highlight for them, not only with its vendors but with unique contests like a tinfoil hat-making competition and a sort of Easter egg hunt — but with blobs.

"They've been doing this for a couple of years. There's a ceramic studio in town, Studio 323, and you can go and make a little clay blob with a little face on it. They'll fire it and glaze it red, and they'll make little blobs and they hide them around town," he explained. "The kids go out and find them [and] you get to keep the ceramic blob."

Actor and musician Cedric Crouch of Philadelphia is also a Blobfest regular, having gone to the event almost every year of its existence. "I really like that it's a celebration of everything cool and campy, a throwback to the great '50s sci-fi that I grew up watching as a kid," he said.

In addition, Crouch often performs at the afterparty with his band Psycho '78. "This will be our 10th year playing the afterparty. The event always features a variety of bands playing tribute sets of their favorite artist's music, sort of like the music equivalent of cosplay," he laughed. This year, his band will perform the music of the Misfits.

Blobfest typically draws thousands of camp and kitsch devotees from our area and beyond, but for Neff, it means even more to residents of Phoenixville. "It's just a neat interaction with the community," he said. "It's been important to a lot of people, [the Phoenixville Area Economic Development Corporation] buying the Colonial Theatre. [Association for the Colonial Theatre co-founder] Mary Foote put in a lot of work into saving that building ... [It] really started a seed in the town of regrowth."

The theater has an especially personal meaning for Neff. "My wife and I got married there in 2007. It's pretty important," he cheerfully recalled.

Barrett has a similar attachment to the festival. "I had never heard of Blobfest until eight years ago. The girl I was dating suggested going, and we have gone every year since. We're married now."

Blobfest runs through Sunday evening, with a 3D screening of "Creature from the Black Lagoon" closing it out. "That's our grand finale because that's the movie that we've shown the most at Blobfest over the years," Boardman said. And while Blobfest 25 is all about celebrating the past, Boardman says he's looking forward to the future of Blobfest.

"Next year, we have some ideas up our sleeves, so we're gonna see about expanding it even further ... really playing with the theme and what we offer to all the people coming to experience it, how we can even push it beyond what we currently do in the three days we have," he said.

"I can hint that it'll definitely be campy," he teased. "It generally is campy, but next year will definitely be campier."

August

Kristal Sotomayor wins award at BlackStar Film Festival after 6 years documenting end of Philadelphia cooperation with ICE

August 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Kristal Sotomayor is an unabashed South Philly artist with a bright future ahead of them, or at least that's what audiences of the BlackStar Film Festival are saying now after Sotomayor won its Philadelphia Filmmaker Award following the Philly debut of their short documentary "Expanding Sanctuary."

"It was a big deal," Sotomayor told KYW. "I've been working on the film for over six years."

The film follows longtime South Philly immigrant rights organization Juntos in its fight to end Philadelphia's PARS agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. PARS, which stands for Preliminary Arraignment Reporting System, is a records database shared by the police, District Attorney's Office and the courts. Under the agreement, some of the records on the database were shared with ICE.

ICE would use those records to carry out immigration enforcement (mostly deportation) on individuals who had not been arrested, or accused or convicted of any crime.

"And they ended up winning," Sotomayor said of Juntos' fight to end the PARS agreement. Philadelphia did not renew its PARS agreement with ICE after it expired on Aug. 31, 2018.

By following that fight to its conclusion, “Expanding Sanctuary” also became a message about the power of community, especially the one Sotomayor found in South Philly.

“Making sure the community knew the incredible work they were doing and that we are here to fight for one another,” she said.

**This summer's free Theater in the X show is from, for and about Philadelphia
August 17, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Theatre in the X is presenting its annual free show in Malcolm X Memorial Park next weekend.

This summer’s play, “One Monkey Don’t Stop No Show,” runs Aug. 22-25. It’s a comedy about a middle-class African American family living in Philadelphia in the 1970s, whose lives are turned upside down when their niece, Beverley, comes up from the south to live with them.

“It brings up a lot of different conversations that are timely,” said Executive Director and Co-Founder LaNeshe Miller-White. “Getting people to talk about class versus north versus south versus income levels, and how we are treating each other based on those things, and what we’re assuming about each other based on those things.”

“It is a very nuanced conversation, and especially if you're talking about it where all the people you're talking about are Black.”

The play was written by Philadelphia’s Don Evans, who died a little over a decade ago. Miller-White said his work is not often performed here, so his two sons who still live in the city were very happy to hear this play would get a new life in their father’s hometown.

“They called us and were like, ‘We're so excited that you're doing our dad's work. ... He is a Philadelphia playwright, keeping that alive and doing it here is really important,’” Miller-White said.

Carlo Campbell, another co-founder and co-artistic director of Theatre in the X, is stepping onto the stage in this production. He said while it is a very Philly-based play, its messages expand to the larger Black community.

“It's got a cultural throughline that a lot of people of color — I say Black people, primarily, but people of color can identify with,” he said.

Director Maureen Henighan Booker thinks that anyone, regardless of race, can relate to this show, particularly the relationships within the family.

“If it is a true reflection of a human experience,” she said, “everybody in the building, everybody in the park will hear something, will feel something, will think something.”

Theatre in the X aims to break down barriers that often prevent people from seeing theater, including cost, transportation, and comfort level inside a theater. They put on various productions around the city, but their flagship summer show in Malcolm X Memorial Park is free, close to their target audience in West Philly, and outside in a familiar, relaxed space.

Campbell said he and the other co-founders started the company in 2013 because they wanted to see more opportunities for Black theater workers in shows that weren't focused on Black trauma. He said the group is a reflection of the people and the neighborhood they are built around.

“We are the community, the community is us. I just want to be a part of what I wish I could see. And hopefully, people are seeing what they wish they could see,” Campbell said.

Henighan Booker, who has worked with Theatre in the X previously as assistant director for “Dreamgirls” and “Zooman and the Sign,” says she appreciates that their performances show that Black stories are worthy of being told.

“It is our stories,” she said, “and believe it or not, our stories are enough.”

While the performance is free and BYOC (bring your own chair), you can donate or find more information on Theatre in the X's website.

Philadelphia Bookstore Crawl returns with discounts, giveaways and book signings

August 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Saturday marks the second annual Philadelphia Bookstore Crawl, where lit lovers around the city can pop into local bookshops for giveaways and special events.

It's a choose-your-own-adventure type of crawl, with no designated route for Philly's literati. More than three dozen stores are participating with deals, giveaways and book signings.

This will be the first crawl for sci-fi store Multiverse and its co-owner Sara Hughes, after setting up shop in Chestnut Hill last year.

"There's a really strong small business district here, and so there's really great support and collaboration," she said. "That's just exciting to kind of grow beyond just being a bookstore but actually being an important space in the community."

Christopher Cirillo, manager of Philly AIDS Thrift at Giovanni's Room, said the Philly Bookstore Crawl showcases one of the city's strengths.

"One of the cool things about Philadelphia is it's a very 'bookstore town,' and in all the places that I've lived I find that Philly has a really great independent bookstore scene that I don't see replicated in other places," he said.

"[The Book Crawl] encourages people to explore different neighborhoods in Philadelphia than the ones they might be most familiar with," added Hughes.

Cirillo said last year's event created a lot of buzz.

"Really super exciting to see people that we've never seen before coming in the store, excited about books, talking about the next store that they were gonna go to. Brought a lot of life into the store," he said.

And, he said, the event gives diverse shops the chance to find like-minded patrons.

“Everybody has their own niche audience that they’re looking for. And then the opportunity for new people to be invited into the spaces and to discover what Philly has to offer, as far as bookstores go, is great.”

For an interactive map and a list of participating shops, visit phillybookstorecrawl.com.

September

Opera Philadelphia cuts all tickets to \$11 in 'pick your price' model, hoping to widen audience

September 2, 2024

Opera Philadelphia is lowering all tickets to \$11 under new general director Anthony Roth Costanzo, establishing a “pick your price” model aimed at widening the company’s audience.

Costanzo announced Tuesday the company has raised \$7 million since June 1 when he replaced David Devan, who retired after 13 seasons. The money addressed debt and enabled the new model, in which people can pay more than the minimum if they want to.

“This is chapter one of a long-term turnaround story,” Costanzo said. “Creating a new place for opera in our current time requires risk. It doesn’t require doubling down on safe choices, and that’s going to mean that we have to enable failure.”

Costanzo, a 42-year-old countertenor with an active singing career on the world’s top stages, took over ahead of a 2024-25 season trimmed to nine performances, down from 30 in 2018-19, the last season before the coronavirus pandemic, and 16 in 2022-23. Tickets for this season originally were priced at \$30-\$300.

“Every dollar you spend over \$11 helps to not only support the opera, but support the people who want to come to the opera,” Costanzo said. “It will certainly represent a decrease in income from ticket sales. But it will represent an increase in contributed revenue and I believe also in the future in foundation revenue and hopefully corporate revenue.”

Opera Philadelphia sold 14,211 tickets last season at an average of \$85.77, resulting in 13% of the company’s revenue. In the 2022-23 season, 17,464 tickets were sold at an average of \$78.32, also bringing in 13% of revenue.

This season’s schedule at the Academy of Music, which has about 1,800 full-view seats, includes three performances of Missy Mazzoli’s “The Listeners” beginning with its U.S. premiere on Sept. 25, two performances Joseph Bologne’s “The Anonymous Lover” starting Jan. 31 and four

performances of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" opening April 25. The company scrapped its innovative season-opening festival as part of budget cutting.

Costanzo spoke with Henry Timms, the outgoing president of New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, which since 2022 has relied on a choose-what-you-pay model starting at \$5 for many events during its "Summer for the City" schedule.

Costanzo said the past model had been predicated on including popular titles such as Bizet's "Carmen," intended to spur ticket sales.

"We market to the people who can afford \$150 tickets. That changes the feel of the marketing. It changes the demographics of who we market to and where we market," Costanzo said. "Ticket price and selling tickets becomes a real focal point of how we create art form in our time. And I think that's a shame. I think it limits us and hinders innovation and progress."

Eagles home opener with Jeremiah Trotter, Jane's Addiction at Hard Rock, and other 'Shore Things' this weekend

September 5, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — It's shoulder season down the Shore, or "locals summer" — and there's still plenty of fun left.

Jane's Addiction is performing at the Hard Rock in Atlantic City on Saturday night. Philadelphia Eagles legend Jeremiah Trotter has a VIP meet-and-greet for fans at the Eagles home opener watch party at Draftkings Sportsbook at Resorts Casino. Saturday is the Wildwoods Food and Music Festival. And the Ocean City Pops host a special night with the Duprees at Music Pier on Saturday.

Wildwood Food and Music Festival

The Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce presents the Wildwood Food and Music Street Festival (formerly known as Wildwoods Seafood and Music Festival), featuring a full day of fantastic food, live music, shopping and more. This event is free to attend.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024)

Where: Byrne Plaza, along Pacific Avenue between Oak and Schellenger avenues, downtown Wildwood

The '80s meet the '90s on Saturday night, when Love and Rockets join Jane's Addiction on their North American tour. Love and Rockets, back again after about 15 years, created a fusion of underground rock and pop music that became an early catalyst for alternative rock. Fitting, then, that they should open for Jane's Addiction, the band that took alternative rock mainstream. Expect hits from critically acclaimed and generation-defining albums Nothing's Shocking and Ritual de lo Habitual, as well as a dip into their newest album, Imminent Redemption.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 8 p.m.

Where: Hard Rock Hotel, 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City

Jeremiah Trotter Meet & Greet

Watch the Eagles home opener against the Atlanta Falcons with the Axe Man himself, Eagles Hall of Famer Jeremiah Trotter. Exclusive meet-and-greet tickets (available for \$35) include a VIP seat to watch the game. Trotter played for Washington and Tampa Bay, but he's best known for his career with the Birds, where he was a significant defensive force until he retired in 2009.

When: Friday, Sept. 6, 7 – 8 p.m.

Where: Draftkings Sportsbook at Resorts, 1133 Boardwalk, Atlantic City

Ocean City Pops with the Duprees

It doesn't get more Jersey than the Duprees in Ocean City. The well-loved trio's music has echoed through performance halls for 60 years. This weekend, the unique sound of the Ocean City Pops joins the classic and timeless voices of Tommy Petillo, Jimmy Spinelli and Shawn Stevens for a special night.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Where: Music Pier, 825 Boardwalk, Ocean City, N.J.

Revolutionary War Encampment Weekend at Historic Cold Spring Village

Authentically dressed and armed, professional reenactors bring the American Revolutionary War to life at Historic Cold Spring Village. Visit the encampments of Continentals and Hessians, watch artillery demonstrations, hear a reading of the Declaration of Independence and learn about the flags of the Revolution. Kids can search the village for clues in the Patriot Spy Game.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: Historic Cold Spring Village, 733 Seashore Road, Cape May

African American Museum in Philadelphia debuts new exhibit from CCH Pounder of ‘Avatar,’ ‘NCIS: New Orleans’ fame **September 15, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — “Shared Vision” is the new exhibition that debuted this Saturday at the African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP), and features art from the personal collection of actress CCH Pounder.

Dejay Duckett, vice president of curatorial services at AAMP, spent two years working with Pounder on the collection that is now on display at the museum.

“A lot of pieces in her collection are figurative and portraits,” he said. “And it gives our audiences a chance to see themselves and see people they know and feel that that reflection and these pieces just, they kind of vibrate right off the walls.”

Pounder, who starred in James Cameron’s “Avatar” and is a regular cast member on “NCIS: New Orleans,” said the pieces allow visitors to expand on their idea of African, African American and African diaspora art.

She also participated in a community discussion on Saturday about the collection.

“It first starts by just looking at things in books, hearing art talks, hearing what people are saying about the work and why they do it,” she said. “Some of them, it’s simple as I want to have images of Black people. It’s just that basic and that’s important too. And then other times it’s an emotional degree that you start to see after a while.”

Duckett echoed Pounder’s hope of the art being able to change perspectives.

“There's a feeling and an energy that's in these pieces... it's just powerful. And so you can think about, you know, whether you're an artist or whether you're a lover of art, these pieces just expand your boundaries. Young, old, everyone,” he said. “That's what art does. It makes you think and look at the world differently.”

“Shared Vision” is open now until March 2025, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society announces theme of 2025 Philadelphia Flower Show September 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Get your tickets for “Gardens of Tomorrow” today. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society announced the futuristic motif as the theme of the 2025 Philadelphia Flower Show.

The event aims to explore how gardening can help “shape a better future.”

“‘Gardens of Tomorrow’ invites us to envision a future where our actions today nurture a healthier planet,” Seth Pearsoll, vice president and creative director of the Philadelphia Flower Show, said in a statement. “Through the simple act of gardening and planting trees, we plant seeds of hope for a greener future. The 2025 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show highlights the transformative power of plants and inspires us to create a beautiful, more resilient future together.”

PHS President Matt Rader added that the event “envision[s] a world where gardening is both a joyful hobby and a celebrated force for creating a healthier planet, society, and people.”

New this year is a thematic art series of digitally hybridized flowers, which uses historic photos and illustrations to hint at “what could sprout tomorrow with what we tend to today.”

Founded in 1829 by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Philadelphia Flower Show is the nation’s largest and the world’s longest-running horticultural event.

The 196th annual Philadelphia Flower Show will take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center from March 1 to 9, 2025.

Ticket information can be found at tickets.phsonline.org.

EDUCATION

July

Cheyney University is taken off probation by group that accredits area colleges

July 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The board that accredits the region's colleges has taken Cheyney University off of probation.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education on Monday posted its decision that the historically Black college was no longer on probation.

Cheyney's accreditation had been in jeopardy since November, when the Commission said the college wasn't able to show it was meeting standards for ethics, academics and financial monitoring, among other factors.

Cheyney president Aaron Walton questioned how and why the university was placed on probation, after two groups appointed by the Commission indicated Cheyney was on the right track.

"Two teams coming in and us being put on probation without any warning and discussion seemed somewhat inappropriate," Walton told KYW Newsradio Tuesday.

Pennsylvania state Sen. Vincent Hughes was also among those who objected to the historically Black college being put on probation.

"Many of us are on the record in significant ways, not happy about what went on with Cheyney University with Middle States, and we're very prepared to move forward," Hughes said. "We thank Middle States for seeing what we've been telling folks for a while now — that has been the positive direction of Cheyney University for a few years."

Walton said after several years of increases, Cheyney's enrollment fell 8% last year. "This probationary status came at the height of recruiting season and has lasted into the spring," he said. "So a lot of decisions, a lot of discussions have been made by families and we may not have been the beneficiaries of some of those positive discussions."

Walton says Cheyney ended the spring semester with an enrollment of 724.

“I was pleased with the Commission’s action and the actions that they took to remove us from our probationary status,” Walton said. “I think it signals a new day for Cheyney.”

Pa. Senate passes bill encouraging school districts to ban students’ phone use during day July 4, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania’s Senate on Wednesday approved a bill to encourage school districts to start a pilot program that effectively bans students’ use of cellphones during the school day in an effort to improve their mental health and academic performance.

The bill, which passed 45-5, would authorize grants to school districts to buy locking bags after the district creates a policy requiring students to leave their phones in such bags for the whole school day. It now goes to the state House for consideration.

The bill’s sponsor, Republican state Sen. Ryan Aument of Lancaster, said he hopes that limits on phone use will result in improvements in students’ mental health and academic performance.

“Kids spend so much time on social media and using their smartphones that it’s taking a toll on them mentally, emotionally and academically. Smartphone restrictions have proved successful in reversing these trends,” Aument said.

Under the bill, the policy must provide exemptions for students who have a documented medical condition that requires them to use a cellphone. Participating school districts must track changes over two school years in student mental health, bullying, violence and academic performance.

Grants would be awarded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and separate legislation would be required to set grant amounts and devote money to the purpose.

Most schools already have rules regulating student phone use. But a growing number of state officials have begun endorsing school cellphone bans, and such legislation is emerging in other states.

Last year, Florida became the first state to crack down, passing a law requiring public schools to ban student cellphone use during class time and block access to social media on district Wi-Fi networks. Some districts went further and banned phones for the entire school day.

California allows school districts to limit or ban the use of smartphones by students while at school, and the Los Angeles Unified School District board voted last month for the district to develop such a policy.

The Pennsylvania bill's passage in the state Senate comes two weeks after U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy called on Congress to require warning labels on social media platforms and their effects on young people.

Community demands oversight from Great Valley schools after students lewdly impersonated teachers on TikTok
July 16, 2024

MALVERN, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Teachers and parents packed a school board meeting in Malvern on Monday demanding more oversight and education in social media use after it came to light that middle school students impersonated nearly two dozen of their teachers on TikTok.

A New York Times report earlier this month revealed students at Great Valley Middle School had created fake accounts for at least 22 teachers — some featuring lewd content.

Patrice Motz, a Spanish teacher at Great Valley, said a colleague alerted her about the accounts in late February.

“I had no idea what was going on until I got home and realized I had to make a fake account to go on and see what they were,” she said, “and they were really horrific.”

The account purported to be Motz and suggested that she enjoyed inappropriately touching children.

“They had pulled a family picture from the internet, and the only one I had available ... was my children,” she said. Motz was one of the few teachers to go on the record with The New York Times, which exposed the months-long saga at the school.

“I hate this for our teachers,” said Great Valley community member Jeanette Harpold. “I feel like this has been downplayed. I know a lot of people feel like it’s been covered up.”

Teachers and parents demanded more policies and education around social media use for students, and they want to be a part of those changes.

Superintendent Daniel Goffredo said the district is reviewing such policies and working more social media literacy into the curriculum. There are also early discussions with lawmakers to fill some of the legal gaps of enforcement.

“As we move forward, we recognize both as a superintendent and as a board that it is critically important to look at ways to protect our staff and educate children and parents about the misuse of social media,” he said.

“Every one of us is a stakeholder in this,” added Nikki Salvatico, president of the Great Valley Education Association. “None of us are immune from this happening to us, so we have an opportunity here, and that’s why we’re here.”

Pilot program aims to teach Philly students indoor farming

July 31, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A new program in Philly schools will teach students about careers in hydroponic farming.

The Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) program is designed to expose students at every grade level to aspects of indoor farming — from growing plants to the plumbing, electrical and construction work needed to support them.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor and Industry Nancy Walker and Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding toured Philadelphia’s Fox Chase Farm on Tuesday to tout the \$250,000 state Schools-to-Work grant funding the program.

The program aims to expose 24 students at five Kensington schools to the skills necessary for indoor farming.

“[We are] looking at ways that we can innovate and engage our students to allow them to see careers in a much different format, all while growing,” said Fox Chase Farm principal and manager Dr. Mandy Manna.

The CEA program is offered to students at Gloria Casarez and Frances E. Willard Elementary schools, Russell Conwell Middle, and Jules E. Mastbaum High in Kensington. A fifth yet-to-be-determined school is also expected to participate.

The first phase allows students to take home their school-grown produce, Manna explained. “Imagine every child leaving once a week with a bag of microgreens or lettuce or a fruit that’s been grown.”

The second phase increases the volume to support local food charities, which will create even more career learning opportunities, said Mastbaum High School principal David Lon.

“In working with those food banks, we have marketing programs, we have culinary programs at Mastbaum. So there’s going to be a lot of cross-pollination that happens,” he said.

“Our third phase is being able to produce enough that we’re actually selling to make our program sustainable all through that entrepreneurship from our students,” Manna added.

Hydroponic equipment, she said, will be installed over the next few months, with the first plants — and career aspirations — growing by January.

August

School District of Philadelphia still filling teaching positions with start of new academic year just weeks away

August 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia is still hiring teachers, with three weeks to go before the start of classes. Looking to fill out its teaching corps, the district hosted a hiring event on Monday at school headquarters.

Prospective teachers came with resumes and optimism. About 95% of the district's teaching jobs are filled. That's on pace with this time last year. But that still leaves a few hundred positions open, especially for special education, science and math teachers.

Makalah Lawton, a Central High School graduate, has a degree in history and experience as a math coach. She was a teaching assistant in Washington, D.C., and now she is looking to return to Philly as a full-fledged teacher.

"I'm pretty open. I was a product of the School District of Philadelphia, so I'm actually looking to give back in the same way that I was given to," Lawton said. "But I really want to focus more on the elementary/middle school sector."

Eric Borowsky of Upper Dublin has 10 years of experience as an SAT tutor. He also showed up at Philadelphia school headquarters Monday in the hopes of landing a teaching job with the district.

"Math and English. I taught both doing what I was doing for the SATs, so I have a wide variety of disciplines," he said.

"I'm looking to do something new, and there seemed to be plenty of jobs available. And I think I have something to offer."

As of last week, the district had filled 77% of its bus attendant jobs, 88% of its school climate staff and 92% of its food service workers. A hiring fair for school support staff is scheduled for Wednesday in Mayfair.

NJ senator calls out 'flagrant waste on frivolous crap' at Salem City School District, demands deeper investigation

August 14, 2024

SALEM COUNTY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — A New Jersey state senator wants the attorney general to look deeper into the finances of the Salem City School District, after a recent audit uncovered some potentially wasteful spending there.

Sen. Declan O'Scanlan, a Republican member of the budget committee in Trenton, highlighted several budget items in the report from the state auditor, including a \$75,000 bill for unnecessary international travel and more than \$100,000 spent on college expenses for former students.

“This flagrant waste on frivolous crap should never happen,” O'Scanlan said.

He says Salem school officials should answer for these expenditures as well as several other problems, including apparent failures to meet state guidelines on procurement and the alleged awarding of contracts without proper bidding documentation.

“The bidding rules are pretty straightforward,” O'Scanlan said. “You know the threshold, you know when you have to bid. How are these entities simply ignoring these things? And are they doing it for nefarious purposes? Are they just lazy? Are they incompetent? We need to dig more and find out.”

O'Scanlan says audits like these are extremely important, and there is just not enough transparency with school budgets and municipal budgets all over the state. He wants the office of the state auditor to expand the scope of investigations to ensure taxpayers aren't being ripped off by corrupt or inept local governments.

“We need more oversight, overall, of local government across the board,” he said.

“We probably need to do some more shaming of these professionals, or what should be professionals, for falling down on the job.”

KYW Newsradio has contacted the Salem Schools superintendent for comment.

Philly School District to introduce new English language arts curriculum as part of \$70M overhaul

August 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When classes begin on Aug. 26, teachers in the School District of Philadelphia will use a new English language arts curriculum.

It's part of a \$70 million curriculum overhaul under Superintendent Tony Watlington. A new math curriculum was launched for the 2023-24 school year.

Watlington, in a back-to-school interview with KYW Newsradio, said one thing he learned last year was that even though 83% of teachers said they felt qualified to teach with the new materials, they wanted more training.

"The one Achilles heel is they didn't have enough time for professional development," Watlington said. As a result, he said, teacher training would be a major focus during this school year.

"(a) It's really important to hear the voices of teachers and (b) once we hear the voices of teachers, listen to it and do something about it," Watlington said.

Ideally, the superintendent continued, teachers would be given a year or two before introducing a new curriculum to students. "Unfortunately, the conditions for many of our students were such that we could not afford to wait," he said. Only 21% of third through eighth graders were proficient in math on the state PSSA exams in the 2022-23 school year.

The K-8 English language arts curriculum focuses on building skills, while the high school materials delve into literature.

Watlington said a benefit of standardizing the district's curriculum is that if students move to a different district school, they won't be unfamiliar with the material.

Parents bash NJ school district over proposal to eliminate courtesy busing so close to the start of school

Superintendent says contractor is not renewing its service and district is facing a bus driver shortage

August 22, 2024

DELANCO, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Angry parents gave school officials in Delanco, Burlington County an earful Wednesday night about a proposal to eliminate courtesy busing for some students.

Many parents were upset to learn through the school board's agenda that there was a resolution for a vote to eliminate courtesy busing, specifically for elementary school students who live less than 2 miles from the Delanco Township School District's Pearson Elementary.

"I'm angry. I'm upset. It's not safe," said Alicia Bain, a mother of a 6-year-old. "It takes 22 minutes to walk from my home to here. There is a close to a half a mile ... [without] sidewalks."

Bain and others directed questions at interim Superintendent Leonard Fitts.

"What would you do in our position?" Bain asked.

"I'd be very concerned, just as you are," Fitts replied.

About three weeks ago, Fitts said school officials discovered that the contractor used for busing students in their district — including high schoolers — would not renew their service. He said the district has been searching to hire a bus driver ever since, a problem many other districts have faced.

Parents said in the past, one bus took high schoolers to school first, then turned around and brought the younger kids to their school.

It's unclear exactly how many students this change would impact.

“If they cancel the buses, we’ll have to find another way,” said parent Yamilec Branch. “Somebody is going to be late — my kid is going to be late, I’m going to be late, my husband is going to be late. Something’s got to give.”

Others shared frustration over a lack of communication this close to the start of the new school year. After parents voiced their concerns, the school board decided to table the discussion for now.

The superintendent emphasized the district is actively trying to hire a bus driver.

“It’s not the money. It’s not a reason to make a change. It’s because we do not and we have not been able to get contract services to provide the service,” Fitts stressed. “We are trying. I need your help. If you know of any person who might be in possession of an endorsed bus driver’s license, have them get in touch with us.”

September

Lawmakers introduce measures to hold colleges like UArts accountable for sudden closures September 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — After the University of the Arts suddenly shuttered its doors earlier this year, Pennsylvania Democrats are working to prevent other colleges from doing the same.

“It is not normal for me at age 22 to blame myself for the mistakes of people twice my age,” said Alex McFadden, who graduated from the University of the Arts in the spring before its sudden June closure. “It is not normal for hundreds of people to be fired over Zoom via a scripted speech. It is not normal for students to have to start the process of reapplying to colleges and programs within days.”

Faculty and students were given just a week’s notice.

“The situation with the University of the Arts exposed a pretty wide gap in our state law,” said state Rep. Ben Waxman, which left students and staff floundering.

Waxman and other lawmakers worked on legislation in this year's state budget that he said will "ensure orderly closures, teach-out plans, and preservation of student and administrative records."

"There were no clear procedures for closure that were required," Waxman explained. "There were no preservation of records and plans, and no notification and accountability."

The state budget now sets a deadline of July 1, 2026, for the state Board of Education to create standard procedures for schools of higher learning in order to protect students and staff.

"Colleges and universities are announcing closures at a rate of about one every week," said state Sen. Nikil Saval, who voiced support for the measures. "This thrusts students into precarious positions with loans but without degrees."

The changes, while welcome, are too late for higher education employees like Madison Claus, a former UArts administrative assistant and union organizer.

"I stayed at UArts despite the low pay and despite being always overworked because I believed it was a special place where interdisciplinary art could flourish," she said. So when news spread of its impending closure, she was devastated.

"As a full-time staff member I was shocked, and as an alum I was heartbroken."

Philadelphia School Board president says closures are likely, with district expected to prepare for review of buildings

September 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Board of Education is preparing to take a hard look at how the school district's aging buildings are used. As a result, some schools could be closed or consolidated.

Should a resolution on Thursday's school board meeting agenda be approved, the superintendent would be directed to draw up a plan to make a comprehensive review of its school buildings.

The plan would consider evolving enrollment patterns, and it would include input from parents and the community. Reginald Streater, school board president, told reporters on Tuesday that the goal is to use the resources available to maximize student achievement.

"But I'm not going to gaslight the community. The board doesn't want to gaslight the community and the district doesn't want to gaslight the community," said Streater.

"This process could — or will likely — lead to some closures, but it won't be in a way where that is the only outcome. Because this isn't just about buildings. It's about students. And doing it in a way that is helpful for students."

The district in 2013 closed 24 schools during a budget crisis, but school board President Reginald Streater said this process will be different.

"This will not be like 2013, and that is not what the intent is. It's to engage the community and create a process where there's public-private intergovernmental conversations."

The district plans to hire a firm to help gather community input, and Streater says Mayor Cherelle Parker will be part of the process.

"This isn't the board alone, but where we are working in partnership and collaboration with our mayor."

Streater couldn't give a timeline for when the plan was expected to be presented to the board, and he couldn't say how long the review process would take.

School District of Philadelphia outlines plan to help students and teachers discuss Israel-Hamas war

September 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia is taking steps to ensure that students can discuss the Middle East conflict in class without feeling threatened or unsafe.

The district does not tolerate antisemitism, nor does it tolerate Islamophobia, Superintendent Tony Watlington told the school board Thursday night. He outlined a series of measures to foster classroom environments where students can safely share points of view about the war in Gaza.

Watlington said the district has enlisted a social justice nonprofit to provide staff training at schools.

“We’ve partnered with Facing History and Ourselves to provide professional development and coaching on ways to respect differences for 10 identified schools that seem to be a bit at the epicenter of some of the more pronounced conflict,” he said.

In recent months, the public portion of school board meetings has included allegations of teachers being antisemitic and Palestinian students saying they feel unsupported.

Watlington said Temple University will host student forums and Penn will hold monthly workshops with district and school leaders to discuss antisemitism and Islamophobia. The district will also meet regularly with community advocates.

Philadelphia students have new representation on school board

September 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Two new nonvoting student representatives have taken their seats on the Philadelphia Board of Education.

Charles Rinker, a sophomore at Franklin Learning Center, and Kenzy Ahmed, a junior at Northeast High School, were sworn in at Thursday night's School Board meeting. Jake Benny, a junior at Central High School, took the oath of office as an alternate.

The students participate in board deliberations and give the nine voting adults a student's point of view.

"I will make sure that I represent students' voices responsibly and effectively. And I will do everything in my power to make the progress that is needed to make students feel heard and seen," Rinker said after taking his oath.

"I am profoundly honored to have been elected for the position as one of the three student board representatives," said Ahmed. "I'm genuinely thankful for this role and I'm eager to be the voice for students who struggle to find a voice of their own."

"When we work together we can create instrumental change for the students of Philadelphia. Because they deserve it," Benny said.

"Our job in education is not just to educate our young people, but to help them to know how to lead," Superintendent Tony Watlington said, thanking the students for their service.

The students were chosen from 25 citywide applicants. The mayor's chief education officer, Debora Carrera, told the students that their voices were critical. "Your role is so important because you are representing your peers," she said. "You are bringing to this body what matters to young people. And we want to hear what matters."

The board reinstated student representatives after the city regained control of its schools in 2018.

ELECTIONS & POLITICS

July

Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity: When is an 'official act' official?

July 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Supreme Court on Monday released its ruling in Trump v. United States, stating that a former president has absolute immunity for official acts but not for unofficial acts, extending the delay in the Washington criminal case against Donald Trump on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss and all but ending prospects he could be tried before the November election.

“The Supreme Court for the first time held that future presidents do not need to worry about criminal liability for their official acts, not when they’re president, not after they’re president — not ever,” said Craig Green, a professor at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law.

So, which of Donald Trump's actions in special counsel Jack Smith's indictment are official and which are unofficial? A lower court now must decide.

What makes an 'official act' official?

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion, and every conservative justice, including the three appointed by Trump, sided with him in the historic 6-3 decision.

“He basically said that the president, in order to do his job, needs to have immunity from [prosecution of] what would be official acts,” said Loyola law professor and David W. Burcham Chair in Ethical Advocacy Laurie Levenson.

“Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power entitles a former president to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority,” Roberts wrote. “And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts.”

So, what is an “official act”?

“We're not quite sure,” said Levenson. “It's something that's either defined by his statutory duties or something that the president is called upon to do, like being commander in chief. But there is a presumption that whatever the president does is going to be one of these ‘official acts,’ and the burden is going to be on a prosecutor, like Jack Smith, to show that it's an unofficial or private act.”

Green said the majority refused to say anything about almost all of the allegations.

“The only thing they say for sure is communicating with the Department of Justice is 100% official,” says Green.

The justices, for instance, wiped out Smith’s use of allegations that Trump tried to use the investigative power of the Justice Department to undo the 2020 election results even though officials told him they had uncovered no evidence of pervasive fraud.

“Every other thing: talking to private individuals, talking to state officials, talking on Jan. 6 — all of those things have to be decided by the District Court,” says Green.

That includes Trump talking to state election officials after the election, telling Vice President Mike Pence to reject Electoral College votes on Jan. 6, 2020, and his social media posts and the speech he delivered to supporters in the run-up to the riot at the U.S. Capitol. The Court has left it open for U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, the lower court judge, to decide if these and other actions are official or unofficial acts.

'A king above the law'

Roberts insisted that the president “is not above the law.” But in a fiery dissent for the court's three liberals, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote, “In every use of official power, the President is now a king above the law.”

“She basically said, you know, this really means that we may see the end of the democracy as we know it,” said Levenson.

Particularly worrisome to Green and other critics of the decision is the presumption of immunity from prosecution.

“Presidents and former presidents can be immune from criminal prosecution for stealing things or killing people or defrauding people or accepting bribes or any of the other things that you think are criminal ... for their whole lives. That’s what the Supreme Court said today — if those actions happen inside some bubble of ‘official acts,’ and the boundaries of that bubble are not defined,” said Green.

“I think the Supreme Court probably most honestly would say, ‘Nobody is above the law,’ kind of as the result of today’s ruling. Even the president is not above the law — except when he’s doing his official duties, I think, is the way the Supreme Court ruled today. And that is a first-time, unprecedented ruling. That’s what it is. And I think that for people who are concerned about criminal acts by presidents, I think it’s not a happy result.”

Will Trump stand trial?

If Trump is reelected before the case goes to trial, he will have the authority to tell the Justice Department to drop it, Levenson said. If the trial does not take place before the election, and Trump is not re-elected, he presumably would stand trial soon thereafter.

Before the Supreme Court got involved, a trial judge and a three-judge appellate panel had ruled unanimously that Trump could be prosecuted for actions undertaken while in the White House and in the run-up to Jan. 6.

“For the purpose of this criminal case, former President Trump has become citizen Trump, with all of the defenses of any other criminal defendant,” the appeals court wrote in February. “But any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as president no longer protects him against this prosecution.”

Chutkan ruled against Trump’s immunity claim in December, saying the office of the president “does not confer a lifelong ‘get-out-of-jail-free’ pass.”

Trump’s trial had been scheduled to begin March 4, but the case has been on hold since December to allow Trump to pursue his appeal. Chutkan had indicated at that time she would likely give the two sides at least three months to get ready for trial once the case returns to her court.

That had left the door open to the case potentially going to trial before the election if the Supreme Court — like the lower courts — had ruled that Trump was not immune from prosecution.

But the Supreme Court's ruling that Chutkan must conduct further analysis is expected tie the case up for months with legal wrangling over whether the actions in the indictment were official or unofficial.

KYW Newsradio's Eric Walter contributed to this report.

Attorney files lawsuit to keep Robert F. Kennedy Jr. off New Jersey's presidential ballot this November
July 4, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — A New Jersey attorney has filed a lawsuit to keep Robert F. Kennedy Jr. off the ballot this presidential election, claiming he is violating the state's "sore loser law."

The sore loser law is designed to prevent someone from running in a general election after they lose a primary, attorney Scott Salmon said. But according to an update to the law in 1998, candidates in New Jersey just have to actively seek the nomination, not actually lose a primary.

"It's no longer the rule that you actually have to submit the paperwork and all that stuff to appear on the ballot to be disqualified under it," said Salmon.

Salmon, a Democrat, filed the lawsuit because Kennedy actively sought the Democratic nomination before switching to an independent, which he said clearly violates the sore loser law.

"He filed with the Federal Elections Commission as a Democrat. He started raising money and spending money," Salmon said. "There are countless examples of newspaper articles, radio spots, TV ads and all sorts of things where he talks about running as a Democrat."

Salmon said it's important to uphold the rule of law — and the suit isn't anti-democracy.

"Democracy doesn't mean that every single person who wants to run for office is able to do it," he explained. "There are certain minimum requirements."

Salmon filed a similar lawsuit in 2020 to keep Kanye West off the ballot.

Kennedy's campaign said he is mounting the strongest independent challenge to corporate-funded parties in more than 30 years, including legal battles in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The campaign said the candidate never filed with any state as a Democrat, so he remains eligible as an independent.

The New Jersey Division of Elections said no decision has been made on ballot eligibility for independent candidates. Officials did not comment further, as the case is pending and a court hearing is scheduled for later this month.

Salmon said the situation with Bob Menendez potentially running as an independent for the U.S. Senate isn't a clear violation of the sore loser law in his view, and it is not a case he's currently pursuing. Menendez is currently on trial for charges that he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in gold and cash in exchange for favors benefiting three New Jersey businessmen.

Pa. delegation at RNC in high spirits following Trump's survival of assassination attempt July 15, 2024

MILWAUKEE (KYW Newsradio) — The Republican National Convention in Milwaukee got off to a rousing start: Attendees at the Pennsylvania Delegation Breakfast on Monday learned that the classified documents case against Donald Trump had been dismissed.

Pennsylvania GOP chairman Lawrence Tabas announced it to the crowd, and it was greeted with a standing ovation.

Since Trump's survival of an assassination attempt at a Butler, Pennsylvania rally on Saturday, many Republican delegates have said the party is energized entering the RNC, and a judge's decision to dismiss this case only fuels their enthusiasm.

Pennsylvania Congressman Dan Meuser was at the Trump rally Saturday. While there was a tragic loss of life, he said the former president's response to the shooting galvanized his supporters.

"With all that going on, to stand up, blood on his face, and put his fist up and tell everybody, 'Keep fighting, it's gonna be OK.' That's what he did," he said.

“It just has energized us more coming forward to the convention, that this guy just got shot at an assassination attempt on his life and he is still fighting for America,” added western Pennsylvania delegate Mike McMullen. “And he’s giving a fist bump and a thumbs up — who does that?”

The delegates agree violence has no place in American politics, and it’s time to remove the personal attacks and focus on policy.

Pennsylvania RNC delegation chairman Jim Worthington said the battleground Keystone State is crucial to Trump’s campaign. All eyes will be on the Pennsylvania delegation this week.

“With that being said, it’s important for us to be at our best,” said Worthington. “We’re going to be in the very front of the arena. People are going to be clamoring to speak to us. They’re going to be watching for our reactions, they’re going to be watching for our enthusiasm.”

Pennsylvania Democrats line up to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris for the presidential nomination

July 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With President Joe Biden exiting the presidential race and endorsing his vice president in the runup to the Democratic nomination, state parties are starting to formally announce their support for Kamala Harris. Pennsylvania delegates to the Democratic National Convention indicated on Monday they will switch their votes to her from Biden.

Pennsylvania's delegation and state party chair, state Sen. Sharif Street, says the 185 delegates convened on Zoom and voted by acclamation to support Harris for the top of the Democratic ticket.

Of course, delegates won’t cast their votes for a nominee until the Democratic National Convention next month. Pennsylvania’s 19 electoral votes are up for grabs in November and are crucial once again. The winner of the Keystone State has won the last four presidential elections and 10 out of the last 12.

“We thought, because of Pennsylvania’s critical role in what’s happening nationally, we should be out front and show that we’re a united party, united behind the vice president and then we can get back to talking about the record and not President Biden’s health.”

Street says November’s election may be decided by what Pennsylvanians think.

“We are, many would argue, the most critical battleground state not only for determining the outcome of who will be president but also who will control the Senate,” Street said. “And we have a number of key battleground congressional races, so we have a great chance to flip the House as well.”

Street says Harris has the potential to increase participation among voters who turned away from Biden, including Black voters and young people.

“Young people were saying, 'Why do we have to choose between two 80-year-olds?'" he said.

If elected, Harris would become the first woman, the first Black woman, and the first person of South Asian descent to hold national office.

“I think Black folks will get energized to elect a Black woman president of the United States,” said Street.

Street says it puts the Party in a stronger position.

“It’s created a lot of energy. The party raised almost \$70 million [on Sunday] alone. We are looking really strong, and I think the energy and momentum is with Kamala Harris.”

The Pennsylvania Democratic Party has also endorsed Harris for president.

August

All eyes on Philly: Harris, Walz and Vance to campaign in the city on Tuesday

Updated on August 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — All eyes will be on Philadelphia on Tuesday.

U.S. Vice President and Democratic presidential contender Kamala Harris will make her first public appearance with her newly announced running mate — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz — on Tuesday in Philadelphia.

The location of the rally fueled speculation that she would choose Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro. Adding to the conjecture: Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker posted a video on Friday depicting several Philadelphia-area officials and Democrats promoting Harris, but also playing up Shapiro as her running mate. A person familiar with the mayor's thinking said she had no insider knowledge about Harris' intentions.

Harris and Walz are scheduled to rally at Temple University's Liacouras Center around 5:30 p.m. Tuesday as the first stop on their campaign blitz, but they won't be the only ones campaigning in Philly.

Ohio Sen. JD Vance, Republican Donald Trump's vice presidential running mate, will also be in South Philadelphia Tuesday at noon for his own campaign rally. It will take place at 2300 Arena.

Harris interviewed at least three running mate contenders on Sunday in Washington. They were Shapiro, Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, according to a person familiar with the process who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations. Three other men were in the mix: Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Harris' aggressive, seven-state battleground tour starts in Philadelphia and winds through Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada. Campaign officials say each stop will be loaded with local election officials, religious leaders, union members and more in an effort to show the diversity of her coalition.

Everything about Harris' campaign has been rapid-fire out of necessity. She's only been a candidate for a little over two weeks, since President Joe Biden bowed out of the race following a dismal debate performance and escalating calls within the Democratic Party for him to step aside.

Democratic delegates officially selected Harris as the party's presidential nominee Monday night, according to final vote results released by the Democratic National Committee.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

US Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey crosses the Delaware to campaign for Pennsylvania colleague, Sen. Bob Casey

August 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Sen. Bob Casey on Thursday courted Black voters in Philadelphia with the help of his New Jersey colleague, Sen. Cory Booker, at a church in Northwest Philadelphia.

Bishop J. Louis Felton emceed the two senators' visit to Prince of Peace Church in Strawberry Mansion. He had hosted President Joe Biden at his own church in Mt. Airy, last month.

Felton said people sometimes look askance at mixing church and politics, but he sees a connection.

"We come together today so the church can take a stand for justice, for integrity, for freedom and for a better future for us all," he said.

Only the venue was unusual for Casey. His message was his standard campaign appeal: "I've worked very hard to deliver for the people of this city, whether it's money for schools in Philadelphia, for roads and bridges and high-speed internet, for water systems"

Casey touted his record of defending voting rights, Social Security, health care and bringing home billions in federal dollars to the state, while attacking Republican David McCormick for his support of tax cuts for the highest earners.

“This is a battle, I think, for the ages, in this election,” said Casey.

The congregation were clearly already fans. It could be said Casey was preaching to the choir. But with a close race predicted between Casey and McCormick, Booker stressed how crucial voter turnout in Philadelphia will be in November. He urged the congregation to work on it.

“If we use our power over the next 80 days — that we come out and vote, that we organize, that we call our friends and neighbors and get them to the polls — we will have Kamala Harris in the highest office in the land and Bob Casey back in the United States Senate.”

The Democratic appeal to Black voters came as Donald Trump’s presidential campaign faced renewed criticism on race, after a campaign account published an immigration-related post on X with side-by-side photos — one, of a well-ordered, suburban-looking street, absent of people, labeled “Your neighborhood under Trump;” the other, showing the sidewalk crowded with Black- and brown-skinned people in front of a boarded-up urban storefront, labeled “Your neighborhood under Kamala.”

The Trump campaign denied criticism that the post was racist.

The McCormick campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Push to open more polling places in Philadelphia could take voting to the barbershop or beauty salon

August 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Right now, Philadelphia has lined up 689 polling places for its 1,700 polling divisions. City Commissioner Omar Sabir would like to get that above 700 ahead of Election Day on Nov. 5.

“Private polling locations are essential to the city’s electoral infrastructure providing vital access points for voters in every division,” he said.

Commissioners have raised the rental fee the city pays for hosting a polling place to \$150. That’s up from the previous rental fee of \$110 set in 2018. The fee is also per division, so locations where two or three divisions can fit on the property, it could double or triple the payment.

Sabir said the desired expansion of in-person locations is so voters will be less prone to make errors as can happen with mail-in ballots.

“People are making mistakes with the vote-by-mail ballots. It’s less likely for people to make mistakes if they’re voting on the machines,” he said.

Sabir also believes that having more places to vote will encourage in-person voting, especially if they’re nearby or in familiar places.

“Barbershops, beauty salons. They play a critical role in our communities so we’re really calling on the barbershops, but if you have a senior facility, apartment complex, any location,” he said.

Want to host a polling place on Election Day? Sabir said to contact the City Commissioner’s Office and they’ll send someone out to inspect for ADA compliance.

“By taking this historic step, we are ensuring that every voter in Philadelphia has equal access to a well-run, efficient and fair election process,” said Sabir. “This is a victory for democracy.”

Commonwealth Court rules Pa. can't reject mail-in ballots with missing or incorrect dates

A voter casts a ballot at a drop box standing outside Philadelphia City Hall.

August 30, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Commonwealth Court ruled 4-1 Friday that election officials in Pennsylvania cannot reject a mail-in ballot because of a faulty date on the return envelope.

State law says voters must sign and date mail-in ballot envelopes. But thousands of voters who forgot the date or wrote the wrong one were disenfranchised when their ballots were tossed as a result.

The Commonwealth Court says that violates the state constitution’s free and equal election clause. It ordered Philadelphia and Allegheny County — the named defendants in the suit — to stop enforcing the dating provision. But Ben Geffen of the Public Interest Law Center, who represented the voting rights advocates that brought the case, believes it is applicable through the state.

“Pennsylvania is the birthplace of modern democracy,” Geffen said. “We have a long tradition of free and equal elections. Today’s decision adds to that legacy.”

Though Omar Sabir, city commissioner of Philadelphia, technically lost the case, he is very pleased with the outcome.

“It’s great. I mean, this is a start but the legislature needs to do more to make voting accessible,” Sabir said.

Sabir says voters should still be very careful to read and follow mail-in ballot rules and get them in early so the election board can notify them if they’ve made any mistakes.

The number of mail-in ballots that might otherwise be disqualified for lacking accurate exterior envelope dates is comparatively small in a state where more than 6 million votes will be cast this fall, perhaps exceeding 10,000.

Evidence in litigation surrounding the requirement has indicated older voters have been more likely to have their ballots thrown out for lack of an accurate handwritten date. Far more Democrats than Republicans vote by mail in Pennsylvania.

'A wholesale abandonment'

In a lone dissent, Judge Patricia McCullough said the majority showed “a wholesale abandonment of common sense,” ignoring more than a century of legal precedent and rewriting the 2019 state law that dramatically expanded mail-in voting.

“I must wonder whether walking into a polling place, signing your name, licking an envelope, or going to the mailbox can now withstand the majority's newly minted standard,” McCullough wrote.

The office of Secretary of State Al Schmidt, appointed by Gov. Josh Shapiro, had no immediate comment about how the decision might alter its guidance to counties that run elections. In July, the Department of State told counties that return envelopes should be printed so they already include the full year, “2024,” leaving voters to add the accurate month and day.

“Multiple court cases have now confirmed that the dating of a mail-in ballot envelope, when election officials can already confirm it was sent and received within the legal voting window, provides no purpose to election administration,” the Department of State said in a release.

Tom King, a lawyer who represents the state and national Republican Party groups in the case, said he was disappointed in the decision and “absolutely will appeal.” They had argued the Pennsylvania Supreme Court had “already rejected similar arguments regarding the constitutionality of and the meaningless underlying the dating provisions” in prior cases regarding envelope dates, Ceisler wrote.

A statement released on behalf of Republican Party of Pennsylvania Chairman, Lawrence Tabas said this court order changes a “long-standing law and the rules for voting in Pennsylvania — with less than 70 days before this November’s election — and we will appeal.”

“Recently, both the PA State Supreme Court and a Federal appeals court were rightly deferential to Pennsylvania law and to the legislature’s authority,” the statement continued. “Both upheld the well-settled existing law, which requires Pennsylvania mail-in ballots to be dated in order to be counted. Decisions like the one that came today from the Commonwealth Court, that change the rules on the eve of an election, contribute to public perception that the judiciary is becoming more political and more willing to encroach on legislative authority.”

The plaintiffs include the Black Political Empowerment Project, POWER Interfaith, Make the Road Pennsylvania, OnePA Activists United, New PA Project Education Fund, Casa San José, Pittsburgh United, League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and Common Cause Pennsylvania.

They argued that county elections officials are able to tell whether ballots were cast in time because they are scanned and timestamped upon arrival.

The ACLU of Pennsylvania, which helped represent the plaintiffs, hailed the decision as a win for voters and democracy.

“No one should lose their vote over a simple human error that has no relevance to whether or not the ballot was received on time,” said Mike Lee, the group’s executive director, in an emailed statement.

The Committee of Seventy says every voter should feel confident casting their ballot by mail, knowing that minor mistakes will not keep them from making their voice heard.

“We have always maintained that the requirement to date the mail-in ballot envelope is unnecessary and we are glad to see today’s Commonwealth Court decision confirm that long-standing belief.”

September

Delaware County officials urge voters to be aware of election-related phishing scams September 4, 2024

DELAWARE COUNTY, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Delaware County residents are being targeted with election-related phishing emails and texts. A county election official has some advice for how to avoid the scams, and what to do if anyone should fall into a trap.

The deceptive messages often contain misleading information about voter registration status and mail ballots, and some even attempt to collect personal data through phishing tactics, according to Director of Elections Jim Allen.

“We’re hearing calls from people who have already applied to receive an absentee ballot. They’re getting a text message that says, ‘You haven’t applied yet,’ ‘There’s a problem,’ or something like that,” Allen said.

“Or people who have been registered for 10, 15, 20 or 30 years, who are getting an email that says: Hey you’re not registered.”

Allen says people should look out for certain wording in these messages.

“Any time you receive something that says you need to take urgent action — that should be a red flag,” he said. “You don’t want to click on anything you get as a text message, because it might trigger a phone call.”

He says these scams have one goal.

“It might take you to a website that’s trying to get your personal information — like your Social Security number, your date of birth. They’re trying to commit identity theft.”

Allen encourages anyone who believes they have been the target of such a scam to reach out to the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office. They will be able to report malicious activity or phishing attempts to that office.

Allen advises voters to trust only their official dot-gov websites, e.g., delcopa.gov/vote, for accurate information about voting.

“We urge voters to trust official websites,” he said. “Go to vote.pa.gov/status, and then you’ll be able to check on your voter registration status or your application for a mail ballot.”

Harris, Trump offer starkly different visions for the country in first debate

September 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Sparring on politics and personality, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump showcased their starkly different visions for the country on abortion, immigration and American democracy as they met for the first time Tuesday for perhaps their only debate before November’s presidential election.

The Democratic vice president moved repeatedly to get under the skin of the former Republican president, provoking him with reminders about the 2020 election loss that he still denies and derisive asides at his other false claims.

Harris not only tried to make the case that Trump is unfit for office but tried to use her answers in a way that seemed designed to provoke him into launching into one of the personal attacks that his advisers and supporters have tried to steer him away from. In one moment, Harris turned to Trump and said that as vice president, she had spoken to foreign leaders, “And they say you’re a disgrace.”

Trump again denied his loss to President Joe Biden four years ago, when his efforts to overturn the result inspired the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection.

“Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people,” Harris said, “So let’s be clear about that. And clearly he is having a very difficult time processing that.”

Trump in turn tried to link Harris to Biden, questioning why she hadn't acted on her proposed ideas while serving as vice president, and focused his attacks on Harris over her assignment by Biden to deal with the root causes of illegal migration.

He repeatedly dismissed her and Biden as weak, and cited the praise of Hungary's nationalist prime minister Viktor Orbán to show that he is a widely respected by leaders around the world, saying Orbán calls him the "most feared person."

The high-pressure matchup after a tumultuous campaign summer offered Americans their most detailed look at a campaign that's been dramatically changed. The vice president moved to far more effectively press the Democratic case against Trump than Biden did when he met Trump in June, linking the former president to GOP efforts to restrict abortion access and accusing him of undermining the nation's democracy.

The pair outlined sharply opposite visions of where the nation is and where they intend to take it if elected. Harris promised tax cuts aimed at the middle class and said she would push to restore a federally guaranteed right to abortion overturned by the Supreme Court two years ago. Trump said his proposed tariffs would help the U.S. stop being cheated by allies on trade and said he would work to swiftly end the Russia-Ukraine war, even if it meant Ukraine didn't achieve victory on the battlefield.

Local reactions

About a mile away from the debate, a watch party organized by the Committee of Seventy and other civic organizations packed City Tap House to tune in.

Most of the crowd seemed to be for Harris, but Trump fans still came out to support the former commander-in-chief.

Lauren Cristella with Committee of Seventy commented on "the buzz" currently in the city and state with the election around the corner.

"It's partially a result of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania [playing] such an important role in this election and the attention we're getting," she said.

As the two candidates were pressed on a number of hot-button issues, watch-partygoers paid extra attention, filled out debate BINGO cards and chatted about the different topics under discussion.

For Tiana from West Philly, she said she supports Harris, but wanted to hear from both candidates on certain topics like affordable housing and inflation.

“And also entrepreneurs,” she said. “Being an entrepreneur myself, a woman entrepreneur, I just want to understand what opportunities and policies are they generating?”

Molly Hasson was visiting Philadelphia from Seattle and came to the watch party to hear about certain topics important to her. At the top was the economy.

“I have kids in college and want to know that they have a secure future. You know, just general civil rights, like I think that’s a really important thing in this election, I want to see that move forward,” she said.

Terrill Haigler from North Philly predicted that just like in 2020, whoever wins Pennsylvania will win the election this year.

“To see so many Philadelphians politically engaged and involved is really inspiring to see what November will bring,” he said.

Pro-Palestinian protesters hit Market Street

In the lead-up to the debate at the National Constitution Center and while it was going on, a few hundred Pro-Palestinian protesters gathered at City Hall and marched down Market Street towards the Constitution Center demanding a ceasefire in Gaza and decrying the two-party system.

Protester Talia Giles was one of the hundreds with the Philly Palestine Coalition out to demonstrate against the two-party system.

“It’s a system that doesn’t allow for democracy,” she said.

With that in mind, she said both Harris and Trump don't appeal to them enough to vote for either.

"A lot of times we hear the arguments to have to choose the lesser of two evils," Giles said. "Why should I have to do that? Why should I have to choose what's lesser evil?"

The protests outside the Constitution Center remained largely peaceful, but a few arrests were later reported across social media.

Looking ahead

This was the only debate currently on the calendar between Harris and Trump, and could be the last before voters hit the polls in November.

Harris campaign chief spokesperson Brian Fallon suggested in a post just on X just after the debate ended that the campaign would be open to another clash in October.

When Trump was asked about another debate, he said he wouldn't commit.

"The reason you do a second debate is if you lose, and they lost," he told Fox News host Sean Hannity. "But I'll think about it."

Vice Presidential candidates Tim Walz and J.D. Vance will take the stage for their own debate in New York City on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Atlantic City mayor, wife indicted on child abuse charges for allegedly beating teenage daughter

September 18, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small and his wife, La'Quetta, have been indicted for allegedly beating their teenage daughter.

Marty and La'Quetta Small have been formally indicted on child endangerment charges. Marty Small is facing additional charges of aggravated assault and making terroristic threats.

This is the next step in the legal process after these allegations were initially raised in April. The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office said the couple physically and emotionally abused their then 15-year-old — now 16-year-old — daughter multiple times between December 2023 and January 2024.

The indictment alleges Marty Small knocked her unconscious with a broomstick and "earth-slammed" her down the stairs. La'Quetta Small — who is the superintendent of Atlantic City Public Schools — is accused of hitting her daughter with a belt and punching her in the face.

Last week, Atlantic City High School principal Constance Days-Chapman was indicted on official misconduct, child endangerment and other charges for allegedly failing to notify child welfare authorities that the teenager claimed she was being beaten at home by her parents.

The Smalls have repeatedly said this is a personal family issue that comes with the challenges of raising a teenager and that they are innocent of any wrongdoing.

Their attorney, Ed Jacobs, echoed them, saying the prosecutor's office is meddling in parental affairs and the Smalls are good parents and innocent of these charges. He said the claims outlined against them are incorrect and they will be exonerated.

Marty Small has remained in his position as mayor and said he has no plans to leave.

Philadelphia district attorney scores legal win against impeachment bid from state Republicans

September 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has dealt District Attorney Larry Krasner a victory, effectively putting a stop to a two-year-old effort by state Republicans to impeach him. The Court on Thursday ruled state lawmakers had improperly tried to stretch the impeachment process across two different legislative sessions.

In November of 2022, a resolution to impeach the Democratic district attorney passed along party lines, as the Pennsylvania House was controlled by Republicans at the time. In December, the Republican-controlled Senate accepted the articles of impeachment.

Republicans blamed a rising rate of gun violence on Krasner's office management, his approach to bail hearings, and his choices of crimes to prosecute. Krasner's stance was that those choices were precisely why he had been overwhelmingly elected to a second term with nearly 72% of votes cast.

Krasner called the impeachment the act of a "lame-duck majority" and filed suit in a lower court to overturn the impeachment resolution. The court issued a split ruling, rejecting Krasner's premise that the impeachment could not stretch across multiple legislative sessions, while at the same time ruling that the impeachment did not meet necessary legal standards.

The Republican-controlled Senate never took the House impeachment articles to a trial while it awaited the outcome of the court case, and Krasner never faced expulsion from office.

In considering an appeal from Republicans, the higher court did not address the issue of standards, leaving the lower court's ruling on the issue intact. But it did accept Krasner's argument on the question of legislative sessions, saying that articles of impeachment "became null and void" at the end of 2022, when the legislative session ended.

House Republicans issued a statement after the ruling, acknowledging that the impeachment trial will not move forward, but calling on the court to issue an answer as to whether impeachment was justified.

GUN CRIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

July

PSP unveils informational cards for people with autism to use during police encounters

July 1, 2024

MERION STATION, PA (KYW Newsradio) — An expert at St. Joseph's University applauds Pennsylvania's new ID cards designed to improve interactions between officers and people with autism but says more education is needed.

In an effort to make communication between police officers and people with autism safer, Pennsylvania State Police issued informational cards last week for people on the spectrum to carry. The cards, which can be downloaded from the PSP website, read "I have autism," and include statements like "Loud noises may bother me," and "Please be patient with me."

Katie Spilatore, a sophomore with autism at St. Joe's, said the cards don't cover every scenario.

"Not everybody has all of these. So my suggestion is that there would be a thing where each individual can circle the ones they have trouble with," Spilatore said.

"I may not respond to verbal commands — that's a good one. But escape is definitely an impulse for some people. Like with me, I would say in stressful situations, I would want to run away."

She says seeing someone running away may be a "big red flag" for police, so if they know it's just because they are scared, it may be helpful.

Spilatore said she was concerned when she first heard about the autism cards.

"Because in my experience people could baby talk you, like, talk down to them because they think your intelligence level is lower."

Dr. Joseph McCleery, the executive director of academic programs for the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support at St. Joe's, says while more police training is needed, the card may help guide officers as they interact with people on the spectrum.

“If I had a nonverbal or minimally verbal autistic son, I’d probably really like to have this card,” he said. “To teach them to hand this over to a police officer would probably make me feel a lot better about the situation.”

McCleery said the cards, while a good first step, aren’t for everyone.

“Not all autistic people want to disclose their diagnosis to police officers,” McCleery said. “Sometimes they don’t want to disclose because they might be with other people and they don’t want the other people to know they have autism. Sometimes they don’t want to disclose because they’re worried that people won’t know what to do.”

McCleery has been studying how virtual reality simulations can prepare people with autism for possible encounters with police. He says officers may be suspicious of a lack of eye contact or fidgeting, and the VR exercises are helping autistic people keep themselves still and safer.

“I’m not a police training expert. I’m an autism expert,” McCleery said. “So we’re focusing on what autistic people can do to make sure that they get through those interactions safely and effectively.”

“I’m not a police training expert. I’m an autism expert,” McCleery said. “So we’re focusing on what autistic people can do to make sure that they get through those interactions safely and effectively.”

Spilatore, who is enrolled in the university’s ASPIRE program for autism support, says the cards are a good first step.

“It could work for some people but for others, it’s just offensive,” Spilatore said. “Education needs to be paired with this.”

Philadelphia police identify two suspects wanted in connection with shooting of 7 people in June

July 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police say they have identified two suspects they are looking for in connection with a mass shooting last month in the city’s Strawberry Mansion neighborhood.

Police say 23-year-old Khalif Duren and 20-year-old Amirah Square are wanted for attempted murder, aggravated assault and related gun offenses for the June 19 shooting on North Bambrey Street near West Somerset Street.

Seven people, ranging in age from 16 to 46, were injured in the shooting. A 19-year-old was critically wounded.

Duren was on probation in a negotiated deal with prosecutors for carrying a gun in public.

Anyone with any information about where these two suspects are is urged to call police. To submit a tip via telephone, dial 215-686-TIPS; or text a tip to 215-686-TIPS. Use this electronic form to submit a tip anonymously. All tips will be confidential.

Report finds staffing levels for Philly public safety departments far below what's budgeted July 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Staffing levels in Philadelphia’s public safety departments remain far below what’s budgeted for them, according to a report from the city controller.

Controller Christie Brady says fire, police and prisons, taken together, are 19% below the number of employees budgeted but the prisons alone are 43% below budget.

“It’s critical and I don’t see how they can properly function,” Brady said.

There were nearly 2,000 correctional officers before the pandemic. Now, there are just over 1,000.

Last month, the Parker administration announced a contract extension for prisons employees, including a 4.5% raise and bonuses. It also lifted the residency requirement.

“I know that the city is trying to hire in these departments but it is critically short,” Brady added.

The number of police officers has dropped steadily from more than 6,000 pre-pandemic to under 5,000. The number of firefighters, though, has continued to grow.

There are about 100 more firefighters now than before the pandemic, but the budget for firefighters has grown by 500.

Chester Safe Streets Initiative gets creative this summer to do more with critically understaffed Police Department

July 23, 2024

CHESTER, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Police officials are getting creative in their attempts to get more officers out in the community this summer in the midst of a Police Department staffing shortage.

“We’re darn near 30 officers below what we’re budgeted for,” said Chester Mayor Stefan Roots. “And that’s a lot for a town like ours.”

Roots says, at times of the day when city officials expect to have the most patrol coverage, they actually have the least amount of coverage. So, in response, the Summer 2024 Safe Streets Initiative, launched on July 15, is designed to help the 65% staffed Chester Police Department respond to the increase in crime that typically happens this time of year.

The initiative will last for seven weeks this summer, in all — “but you know that’s the hot time here in the city,” said Roots.

“If a bad guy wants to catch his target, he’s more likely to find it when it’s 80 degrees than 80 degrees.”

In this way, the mayor says, the initiative is a crucial part of the city’s mission to combat violent crime and keep Chester residents safe. It frees up more police officers for patrol duties in two primary ways.

First, those officers’ work schedules are converted from three 8-hour shifts to two 12-hour shifts.

“And what this will do, in a nutshell, is give us more coverage throughout the day of numbers of police officers on the street,” Roots said.

He says that may look like a small increase, but it will go a long way.

Second, placing certain county employees, such as EMS and park police, in non-patrol desk duties also frees up uniformed Chester police officers for patrol duties.

“Delaware County Park Police and Delaware County Emergency Services stepped up, and their officers are doing office jobs that used to be done by uniformed Chester police officers,” said Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer.

The seven-week initiative is just a temporary measure to do more with less through the end of the summer. In the meantime, the Police Department will press on with recruitment efforts, with the ongoing goal of keeping more officers consistently on patrol, said Stollsteimer.

“We’re going to get rid of the residency requirement that you have to be a resident of the city to be hired as a police officer. We want to make sure the pay is scalable to other communities,” the D.A. added.

August

Better watch your speed on these 2 Philadelphia thoroughfares for the next month

August 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Speeders and red-light runners, beware. Police have taken note that, since the start of the pandemic, more drivers are ignoring the rules of the road, and they will be cracking down this month along two busy stretches in the southwest and northeast parts of the city.

Extra officers, with extra ticket books, will be out on Island Avenue, from Bartram Avenue to Woodland Avenue, and on Aramingo Avenue, from Somerset to the Frankford Creek.

"You're going to see a tremendous amount of uniformed vehicles out there on these thoroughfares," said Deputy Police Commissioner James Kelly. "Especially these two, now."

The Island and Aramingo enforcement blitz will run from Monday, Aug. 5, through Friday, Aug. 30.

Kelly says it's part of an ongoing effort to make the streets safer.

"I think people got into this groove that you can do whatever you want — and that's not the case. We're putting a lot of effort into it," he said.

Kelly says it follows similar efforts on North Broad Street, Bustleton Avenue and other arteries.

"I think we've got to give it a longer period of time to really make a good analysis of it. And some of it is just to change the culture of people who just want to drive any way they want, and this lawlessness."

Deputy Commissioner Mike Cram says, overall, the number of crashes is down slightly over last year.

"We've seen about 26,000 accidents, right? Slightly below the pace of last year at this time. On pace for a slight reduction at the end of the year," Cram said.

Kelly says police are also continuing to pay extra attention to Bustleton Avenue which became the route of choice for many after speed cameras were installed along Roosevelt Boulevard.

18-year-old pleads guilty to some charges in Northeast Philly bus stop shooting that injured 8 students

August 7, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — One of the men charged in the Northeast Philadelphia bus stop shooting that injured eight students earlier this year has pleaded guilty to some of the charges on Tuesday, as the rest of the defendants await their day in court.

Authorities said 18-year-old Jaamal Tucker was the getaway driver in the March 6 mass shooting at Cottman and Rising Sun avenues. He pleaded guilty to attempted murder, aggravated assault, conspiracy, simple assault and several counts of reckless endangerment.

The rest of the charges against him were tossed — but it was not a negotiated deal with prosecutors.

Tucker was one of the first suspects arrested in the case. The other defendants — Anhile Buggs, Jermahd Carter and Asir Boone — face similar charges, including attempted murder, aggravated assault, conspiracy and gun offenses.

A fifth suspect, who police said acted as a lookout during the shooting, was also arrested in March. The teenager is not being named due to his age.

Tucker is set to be sentenced in October.

\$150k dedicated to fight transient crime on South Jersey's River Line

August 26, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Officials in South Jersey are dedicating \$150,000 to a program they say will help keep their light rail system clear of transient crime, which they say is on the rise in a number of River Line towns.

Bordentown City Police Chief Shaun Lafferty, who is also president of the Burlington County Association of Police Chiefs, says local authorities are seeing an increase in criminal activity at or near NJ Transit River Line light rail stations.

“We’re concerned about the increasing number of incidents that were occurring in our River Line communities from the light rail, and impact of the ongoing cleanup of the Kensington section of Philadelphia, a well-known haven for many who are lost in addiction,” Lafferty said.

However, officials didn’t have specific details on the magnitude of the problem.

Burlington County Commissioner Allison Eckel says they are lending a hand to the small-town police forces along the River Line that are short on officers and resources.

“Earlier this month, the sheriff began deploying teams of his officers to River Line towns at designated hours to help patrol around River Line stations and nearby neighborhoods,” she said.

“The additional officers create a more visible police presence at and near the stations to help deter crime and act as a force multiplier for local police departments.”

In addition, Eckel said, at these designated times, sheriff officers are available to take criminal suspects from those small-town police departments, where they are processed following arrests, to the Burlington County Detention Center in Mt. Holly.

“Providing this prisoner transport saves local police time and resources and allows their officers to return to patrol and other investigations,” Eckel said.

Officials say this program, which stretches from Palmyra to Bordentown, goes a long way toward keeping officers on the streets and protecting communities.

61-year-old shot in Northeast Philly bank parking lot

August 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A woman was shot in a Wells Fargo bank parking lot Monday morning.

Police say it happened in Rhawnhurst on Bustleton Avenue around 9 a.m.

When officials arrived, they found the 61-year-old with a gunshot wound to her leg. She was transported to a nearby hospital and is expected to be OK.

Police did not recover a weapon and no arrests have been made.

Tips can be sent to Northeast Detectives at 215-686-3153 or the department's tip line at 215-686-8477.

September

Philadelphia police report 30% fewer homicides this summer than last

September 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Gun violence in Philadelphia has continued to trend downward since the all-time high recorded during the height of the pandemic. Although the summer months typically bring a spike, the city’s top cop said there have been far fewer shootings and homicides so far this year compared to last.

The number of homicide and shooting victims to date is currently below pre-pandemic levels. The city reached a record 562 homicides in 2021. In 2023, homicides fell to 410. So far this year, police have reported 183 homicides to date — the lowest it has been since 2016.

In June, July and August of this year, there was a nearly 30% reduction in homicides compared to last year. In August 2023, there were 34 homicides. Last month, there were 23.

Juveniles make up about 10% of shootings and homicides, and those incidents are slowing, too.

“Right now, we’re down almost 58% in murders for juveniles under the age of 18. Last year, we had 34 homicides. This year, we have 10,” said Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel.

One of the largest shootings of the summer happened in July. Nine people — almost all teens — were gunned down on July Fourth at an outdoor gathering. A 19-year-old was killed. Police are still investigating.

However, Bethel credits funding for community programs, more foot patrols in highly violent neighborhoods, a return to fully functional courts, and an increasing solve rate, which leads to less retaliation. He’s hopeful the decline in shootings and homicides will continue.

“We’ve changed our deployment model to be able to effectively prevent and intercept when we do see [violent] activity,” he said.

Sixteen-year-old charged with two murders, five shootings, including death of YBCDul September 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Authorities have charged a teenager in connection with five shootings, including two murders, in the past month.

Aiden Waters, 16, faces dozens of charges, including murder, attempted murder and aggravated assault, in connection to the shooting death of well-known Philly rapper YBCDul, also known as 25-year-old Abdul Vicks.

Vicks died on Aug. 23 after he was shot in the chest along 6th Street near Tabor Road in Olney.

Law enforcement sources told KYW that Waters was in a rival gang that targeted Vicks. Detectives were able to link a stolen car out of Cheltenham used in the shooting back to Waters.

When they arrested Waters, authorities also served a search warrant on his house and found two guns connected to other shootings in his basement, including one that killed 16-year-old Marquis Saunders and injured another 16-year-old back on Aug. 19.

Saunders was shot in the head and killed on Duncannon Street near Olney High School. His funeral happened on Sep. 6.

Assistant District Attorney Cydney Pope described one of the firearms that linked him to the crimes.

“One of them had a switch on it, which made it fully automatic, and that one had an obliterated serial number on it,” she said. “The gun that matches all these incidents was a stolen firearm.”

The gun was also connected to another earlier double shooting on Senter Street near Rising Sun Avenue that saw a 14-year-old shot in the leg, and a 43-year-old grazed by a bullet.

Detectives are also still investigating. They are looking into whether the double shootings and shooting death of Vicks could be connected to two shootings in March. One happened at a bus stop on Rising Sun Avenue and saw eight teens injured, and the other saw a 17-year-old killed on Ogontz Avenue.

Bill Fritze, supervisor of the District Attorney’s Gun Violence Task Force, said parents need to be involved to get guns out of their kids’ hands.

“Go get those guns off the street,” he said. “We have thousands of guns recovered and we are still seeing children being killed, it’s ridiculous. Go into those homes tonight, get those guns out of the house.”

Both Pope and Fritze said in many cases, these teens don’t even know each other, but create the problems and violence.

“I think a lot of this comes from juveniles’ needs to be famous. It’s almost like a social media influencer,” said Fritze.

Pope called it “clout chasing.”

“You are looking for notoriety, you are looking to make a name for yourself,” she said.

Before his arrest, authorities said Waters had never been in trouble with the law.

Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations across Pa. to get \$68M in funding

September 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations (VFRAs) in Pennsylvania are about to receive more than \$68 million in aid.

Auditor General Timothy DeFoor joined local officials Friday at the Warwick Township Fire Company in Jamison to announce the funds. He says it will help over 1,850 VFRAs — which are legally separate from the fire departments they support — in their day-to-day efforts.

The funds not only help pay for equipment and training, but provide insurance for volunteer firefighters and their families. The Southeast/Greater Philadelphia area will be getting about \$20 million.

The money comes from a 2% state tax on fire insurance premiums bought by Pennsylvania residents from out-of-state insurance companies.

“It is crucial that we support the men and women that choose to risk their own lives protecting our communities,” said Senator Frank Farry.

NJ governor, attorney general announce \$14.5M in new grants available for violence intervention and prevention work

September 24, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — New Jersey is opening up a competitive grant program for nonprofits in the state that are working toward reducing violence in their communities.

Gov. Phil Murphy and Attorney General Matt Platkin on Tuesday announced nearly \$14.5 million is available for community-based violence intervention (CBVI) programs throughout the state.

Both say CBVI programs are proven to succeed when they have access to resources for targeted violence intervention at the neighborhood level through mentoring, counseling and trauma support.

Murphy says there's no place for violence and that's why his administration has gone to great lengths to break cycles and ensure residents feel safe.

The state's CBVI programs use a range of strategies, including neighborhood outreach led by credible messengers, mentorship, high-risk intervention and de-escalation services, safe passage for school children in high-crime areas, and case management, counseling, and trauma support.

Platkin says more than 1,000 people have already benefited from these services and this investment will deepen that work.

The maximum grant award for "tertiary service" programs, which provide the most immediate response to violence, is capped at \$750,000. Organizations that provide primary or secondary services may apply for up to \$500,000.

Community groups have until Oct. 21 to apply for funding which will begin in 2025.

The initiative is paid for with funding from the federal American Rescue Plan and the state's Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Fund, which reinvests in communities most affected by cannabis criminalization, according to the Attorney General's Office.

More information about this is posted on the New Jersey Attorney General website.

ECONOMY

July

Aqua PA customers could soon see a significant increase in their water bill July 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Water utility Aqua is asking to increase rates for Pennsylvania customers starting this month, but a state review is expected to delay any change until next year.

Residential Aqua customers were informed they could pay about \$20 per month if the increase is approved by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission. Commercial customers could see their bills go up by more than \$100 per month.

Aqua says it wants to collect a total of \$126.7 million more per year to recover nearly \$1 billion the utility invested in wells, treatment plants and pipelines from 2023 to 2025.

The request was submitted in May, with Aqua asking the increase to go into effect on July 22, 2024, but Aqua tells KYW Newsradio the Utility Commission's review process is expected to delay any change until February of 2025.

Aqua says no bills will be affected in the meantime.

The utility tells KYW it “seeks grants and low interest loans to minimize the financial impact on customers” and said anyone in need of financial assistance should contact them to arrange a payment plan.

Philadelphia tapped as a new home port for Norwegian Cruise Line starting in 2026 July 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia has been chosen as a new home port for a cruise line once again, starting in 2026.

Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Jewel plans to launch 24 cruises to Bermuda and Canada from Philadelphia beginning in April 2026. It's the first time since 2011 that major cruise ships will sail directly out of Philadelphia.

"It's a huge deal for us," said Sean Mahoney, senior director of marketing at the Port of Philadelphia.

The Norwegian Jewel will dock on the eastern end of the Navy Yard, near Pier 122. Mahoney said the port has already started to dredge some of the river and build structures to process passengers on and off the ships.

"We want the pier to be an all-weather pier so that people are protected should any thunderstorms come up," he added.

The port is also developing parking for 2,300 cars.

"It's kind of a mantra in the cruise world: car to bar in 15 minutes. So we want that to happen here in Philadelphia," said Mahoney.

By 2028, officials expect the revived cruise industry could create more than 2,000 jobs and generate more than \$40 million in local and state tax revenue.

In a statement, Gov. Josh Shapiro said Norwegian's new home port gives passengers from across the region another reason to visit Philadelphia's waterfront.

SEPTA Board considers \$725M contract to buy new fleet of cars for Market-Frankford Line

July 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The SEPTA Board is scheduled to vote Thursday on a \$725 million contract to buy all new cars for the Market-Frankford Line.

"This is really going to be a monumental shift in transit service for the region," said SEPTA Chief Operating Officer Scott Sauer. "It's a generational purchase."

Under the contract with Pittsburgh-based Hitachi Rail STS USA, SEPTA would buy 200 cars with options to buy more. The effort would replace the entire 1990s-era fleet on SEPTA's most-used line.

"This equipment has to last 30 to 40 years," he noted.

Sauer said the seating arrangements would look different. The new cars would have longitudinal seating — seats along the side of the car that face inward. Riders won't have to open a door to move between cars either.

"This train is going to be designed with open gangways that will facilitate movement between cars," he said. "It'll create better sight lines for law enforcement or SEPTA staff. They'll be able to see car to car a little easier.

"There will be dedicated space for customers with mobility needs, disabilities, people with strollers or bicycles — there will be designated areas for that. So these are the pretty obvious upgrades you're going to see in a modern fleet replacing our Market-Frankford fleet."

SEPTA is using a \$317 million Federal Transit Administration grant to buy the new cars. The first pilot car is expected to arrive in the fall of 2028, with SEPTA taking delivery of the first production cars in the spring of 2029. All 200 new cars are expected to join the fleet by the spring of 2031.

Two years from now, Sauer said, SEPTA plans to begin the process of replacing the nearly 40-year-old cars on the Broad Street subway. "We could be seeing the Broad Street cars aged out and be replaced within the next decade," he added.

Gov. Shapiro joins Treasury head Yellen to announce IRS Direct File will launch in Pennsylvania

July 30, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Pennsylvania has joined the growing list of states where taxpayers will be able to get free help filing their returns with the IRS through a federal program called Direct File.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen came to Philadelphia personally on Tuesday to make the announcement and was joined by Gov. Josh Shapiro, stoking more speculation about his prospects as a vice presidential candidate.

The Direct File program allows taxpayers earning under \$200,000 a year (\$250,000 for married couples) to file directly with the IRS, without the need for a private, for-profit tax prep services.

"It saves taxpayers money up front," Yellen said. "They do not have to pay to prepare or file their returns and it saves money on the back end by helping them get their refunds and tax credits they deserve."

Her announcement comes a week after Treasury officials announced New Jersey would also join the program, which was piloted in 12 states last year. According to the IRS, more than 140,000 people used the program during the pilot phase, with many of them reporting filing times of about 30 minutes.

“It makes the whole process easier and more efficient,” said Yellen, who added that pilot users saved \$5.6 million in fees and collected \$90 million in refunds.

There are restrictions on who can use the program. In addition to income limits, users must have a simple W-2 or 1099 form for Social Security or unemployment income. People who earn money from tips, gig work, property rental and online payment apps are ineligible for the program.

Gov. Shapiro heaped praise on the Biden-Harris administration for creating the program, calling it a “game-changer,” and for other investments in the commonwealth, highlighting the replacement of lead water service lines and wiring that will connect 276,000 Pennsylvania homes without Wi-Fi to the internet.

“The investments in these infrastructure projects are having a positive impact on people’s lives every single day,” said Shapiro.

Shapiro emerged as a contender to be Vice President Kamala Harris’ running mate shortly after she became the presumptive nominee but he has consistently declined to discuss the matter. However, he’s already become an important campaign surrogate in this crucial swing state.

At the Direct File announcement, the governor said the program shows that the Biden-Harris administration shared his own priorities of a more efficient, responsive government. “Anyone who’s interacted with government knows it can be a frustrating process,” he said. “[Direct File] is going to allow people ease of access to their government.”

August

City of Chester launches multimillion-dollar initiative to beautify facades in business corridor

August 2, 2024

CHESTER, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Several businesses in Chester are getting thousands of dollars from a city initiative to help fix up their storefronts and boost the economy of the downtown area.

Chester's Facade Enhancement Initiative (FEI) aims to revitalize the city's central business district by enhancing the aesthetic of its commercial buildings.

Businesses along the 400 and 500 blocks of Avenue of the States had the opportunity to apply for the program. Each will receive state grants of up to \$50,000 to transform their commercial properties' visual appeal and make the business corridor more inviting to locals and visitors.

"It's a \$2 million program," said Chester Mayor Stefan Roots. "The money will go into architect, 3D renderings of what it will look like, and the contractor that will be doing the work."

Priority was given to minority- and women-owned businesses, reinforcing the city's commitment to equitable development. Applications closed last month and are currently being reviewed.

Many once-abandoned properties have already been rehabbed into art galleries, restaurants and clothing stores that Roots said are beautiful on the inside.

"The young artist community has taken the opportunity to reacquire a lot of the spaces that are right outside the front door of City Hall primarily into artists spaces," he said. "You open your doors and it will blow your mind what these men and women have done."

However, he said their exteriors leave a lot to be desired. That's where FEI comes in. Starting next year, storefronts will undergo reconstruction, including paint, lighting and signage upgrades, among other decorative elements.

"By investing in the aesthetic side of our community, we are not only elevating the visual landscape of our city but also cultivating a sense of community pride and attracting new businesses and visitors to Chester," the mayor said in a statement.

The project will also help stores replace windows, powerwash exteriors and remove security gates.

The city aims to complete the program by the end of 2026.

"The desire has always been to bring back downtown," Roots added. The initiative will "make the outsides look nice and have a consistent look and feel that's modern, that's attractive."

**More than a dozen US mayors convene in Philadelphia to promote Black business growth
August 15, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — More than a dozen mayors from around the country are meeting in Philadelphia Thursday for the African American Chamber of Commerce's fourth annual National Convening of Black Mayors.

AACC President Regina Hairston said the event began four years ago because Black-owned businesses in the Philadelphia region were lagging compared to other U.S. cities.

"We brought mayors from across the country to talk about initiatives in their cities that are growing and scaling Black businesses," she said.

The mayors will be discussing several topics, including advocacy, innovation and support systems, at the Wells Fargo Center, where a business expo will showcase Black-owned businesses.

Mayor Derrick Wood, of Dumfries, Virginia, admires the way Atlanta used its airport to become the city with the highest percentage of Black-owned businesses.

"Forty percent of the contracts in that airport go to Black [businesses]," he said. "We as mayors have to figure out: What is our Atlanta airport, and how do we create that same type of Black wealth in our communities?"

Hairston hopes to increase the 2.5% of Philadelphia businesses with Black owners.

"The point of this event is making sure that our mayors, our ecosystems, our Black businesses are coming together as one so that we are increasing generational wealth for Black businesses and getting folks out of poverty here in Philadelphia," she added.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, of Jackson, Mississippi, said he expects to learn as much as he contributes.

"I think it's our collective genius that ultimately puts us in a position not only for our cities to thrive but to exchange best practices so our communities at large can prosper and be in a better position than we find ourselves currently," he said.

Ironically, though Philadelphia has its first Black mayor in eight years, Cherelle Parker will not be attending. Her office said she was traveling.

76 Place impact report shows potential economic boom with grave consequences for community

August 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Reports on the impact of the Sixers' proposed new arena are out. They detail a major new revenue source for the city but at the expense of one of its most storied communities.

Four reports, completed by a third party but funded by the developers of 76 Place, were released on Monday.

The impact of arena construction on Market East was inconclusive. However, it found a potential spending boom of \$1.9 billion over the next 30 years along with \$390 million in new tax revenue and more than 700 new jobs.

As for Chinatown, it found grave consequences for the community — car congestion, gentrification, and the loss of cultural identity as small, ethnic-owned businesses move away.

The report also showed that one-fifth of all small businesses in Chinatown stood to benefit from the arena's presence, but half of them would be negatively impacted.

The traffic report said a lot more planning was needed to support public transit to 76 Place, as even a marginal increase in people driving to events would gridlock the streets surrounding the arena.

The design report found major concerns because there was no public gathering place outside the arena for people ahead of events listed in any of the plans.

"Our community is, like, literally on the edge, so if this arena comes in, that tips us over," said Vivian Chang, with Asian Americans United, one of the leaders of the Save Chinatown Coalition.

She was among a group of arena opponents who met with Mayor Cherelle Parker ahead of the release.

She said they were not expecting the reports to drop and questioned their intention given how they were funded.

"It's just a little concerning, about who is this for? Is this concern for Chinatown and the rest of Philadelphia," Chang said, "or is it really about what the developers are pushing and wanting?"

The Sixers told KYW they would not comment on the reports until they review them, but a spokesperson said "it is clear already that they support what we've said since we first announced

76 Place: The arena is an appropriate use for Center City and will generate significant new jobs and tax revenue because Philadelphia can support two arenas. Our parking and traffic assumptions are achievable and these findings are more evidence that 76 Place can be developed in a way that protects our neighbors and maximizes benefits to Philadelphia.”

Parker said the reports were released so the public could “understand the implications of such a multi-faceted proposed project for Philadelphia.”

Former industrial site in Camden gets \$1M federal grant for clean up to build homes August 29, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — A former industrial site in Camden will soon be developed for 15 single-family homes thanks to a \$1 million federal grant for cleanup efforts.

The half-acre lot at Front and Elm in North Camden used to be home to a paper factory. Mayor Vic Carstarphen says families will put down their roots and continue the transformation of this neighborhood in the shadow of the Ben Franklin Bridge.

“Changing blightness to brightness, this is what this is,” he said. “Blightness to brightness for the community. Spaces that were environmentally messed up, and changing it for community.”

Money for site remediation is coming from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Administrator and Camden native Olivia Glenn says the federal government is dedicated to improving urban areas like Camden.

“I see today as a fulfillment of the work that the grassroots has done,” she said. “EPA just simply has the pleasure of giving the fiscal support to the vision and the resilience that has long been here.”

Camden City Council President Angel Fuentes says he’s excited about the future because of investments like this.

“Camden was once an economic powerhouse, and it seems like, slowly but surely, we’re getting there,” he said.

So far there’s no timeline on when the homes will be finished.

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September

FTC data analyst warns consumers about sophisticated imposter scams and how to avoid them

September 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Federal Trade Commission is warning people about imposter scams. A data analyst at the FTC has some advice about what to watch out for to avoid them.

There’s been a dramatic jump in the number of impersonation scams — calls from people pretending to be from companies like Amazon and Microsoft, creating panic and fear among consumers. Last year, victims reported losing \$2.7 billion.

“A top theme that we see is a message that looks like a security alert from a bank or Amazon about suspicious activity or an unauthorized charge,” said Emma Fletcher, a senior data researcher.

Fletcher analyzes fraud and scams and says they are becoming more sophisticated. And they target every demographic — not just older citizens, she said.

“A really common theme is that they will make you think there is something wrong with your account.”

She says many times they spoof the phone numbers and text messages of legitimate companies, targeting your money and sometimes personal information.

“They create a fictitious threat and then they position themselves as the people that can make it all go away, but you need to do exactly what we tell you to do to make it go away,” says Fletcher.

“People who call the number in the text or email, or engage — they ultimately end up losing a lot of money while believing they are protecting their money.”

She says they are also using cryptocurrency to get you to move all your money to a bitcoin ATM or something similar to “protect it.”

“There's a lot of kind of tag-teaming going on,” she said. “Say it starts out as Microsoft, and then the supposed Microsoft person tells you, ‘This is much more serious than we thought. We are going to need to send you over to your bank.’ “So then they are claiming to transfer you to your bank.

“And then, from there, your supposed bank may be transferring you to the FTC. And before you know it, you are rushing out to move money, thinking that you are fixing this really major problem that is affecting your identity or your financial future, when in fact this is their ploy to get you to send them money.”

Fletcher says, just take a breath. If you get such a call, make sure to verify the number. Hang up and call the company’s legitimate phone to ensure everything is all right.

“No matter how urgent it seems — ‘It’s your bank,’ ‘It’s your account’ — just find the number for your entity, a number you know is real, and call them.”

Fletcher urges anyone who may have been scammed to contact the FTC, by phone or online at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud), so they can track it and pass it to law enforcement.

“Even the people who this happens to thought it would never happen to them,” she said.

“There’s a threat, there’s a scary thing, but we are going to be the people who help you resolve it.”

This one-time grant helps single parents in Philly afford activities for their kids **September 7, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Low-income, single parents in Philadelphia can apply for a one-time grant to help fund an activity they otherwise couldn’t afford for their children.

Whether a child dreams of learning to swim, mastering martial arts, playing an instrument or boosting their academic skills, this \$1,000 grant, made possible through The Brian Dawkins Impact Foundation in partnership with Caring People Alliance, can help it become a reality.

Brandon Gilmore, vice president of the Boys and Girls Club for Caring People Alliance, says money is often a barrier to opportunity and exposure for kids, especially when there is only one stream of income in a home.

“It increases the opportunity for the household, and it just helps the child feel that they're not just stuck where they're at, there's an opportunity to see something outside of their community,” he said. “I'm not saying their community is a bad place, but there's more to see and do in this world.”

The grant, he says, provides hope.

“Kids who have dreams, they now don't have a barrier, they don't have anyone saying that, ‘Oh, we can't do this because we don't have the money.’”

Applications for the grant must be completed by Sept. 30 at caringpeoplealliance.org.

This year, single parents can also apply for a grant for their own wellness or career advancement.

Bankrate study shows average interest rates for retail cards have hit record highs September 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The holidays are around the corner, and that means retailers will be offering credit card promotions. However, economists say that annual percentage rates have hit an all-time high.

Retail credit cards traditionally tend to carry a higher interest rate than companies that partner with major carriers such as VISA. But a recent Bankrate study finds interest rates for a retail card averages near 30.5 percent.

Those cards are often less selective when approving applicants and some even offer rewards, but Senior Industry Analyst with Bankrate Ted Rossman says it's only a reward if you pay off your statements in full.

“You definitely don't want to fall into the trap of paying interest, or sometimes you're offered those at the point of sale, and it's kind of pressured and it's like do you want to save 10 percent off of today's purchase, not if you're paying 30 percent,” he said.

Rossman says retail card signups have seen a significant decline in recent years — and high interest rates coupled with the buy-now-pay-later approach are most likely contributing to that.

But companies like Affirm, Afterpay, and Klarna have shaken up the landscape of retail shopping.

“Everybody sees that pitch about 'do you want to split today's purchase into installments, maybe it's four interest-free payments over 6 weeks,’” Rossman said. “That has taken over, especially online for a lot of store cards.”

Rossman says it is going to take a while for credit card rates to come down meaningfully once the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates. But he says he expects retail card APRs to remain high.

Philadelphia gets \$12 million USDA grant to grow its urban tree canopy **September 19, 2024**

WEST PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Government officials, community leaders and members of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society gathered in Malcolm X Park on Thursday to celebrate a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support planting more trees in Philadelphia.

The \$12 million grant, made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act, will go towards the Philly Tree Plan, the city's 10-year plan to equitably grow the city's tree canopy.

Meryl Harrel, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment for the USDA, spoke about the importance of Philly's tree strategy.

“It is such an inspirational plan and vision,” she said. “To be able to help support activating, and realizing and implementing that vision is why we are so grateful to have had this opportunity for resources from the inflation reduction act to invest in urban and community forestry.”

Currently, the average city canopy coverage in Philadelphia is 20%, but some neighborhoods fall as low as 2.5%.

Michael Pearson, president and CEO of Public Health Management Corporation, said the longevity of the city depends on a “healthy and well-cared-for urban forest.”

“That protects us from heat, improves mental and physical health, and serves as a weapon against climate change,” he said.

Correction: A previous version of this story incorrectly attributed Harrel. The current article reflects that change.

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I'm Listening Audacy National Public Affairs
3rd QRT 2024
July 1, 2024- September 30, 2024

Talk Away the Dark: Mental Health and Suicide Prevention during Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Aired on KYW Newsradio at 5:30am on July 7, 2024

In partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Audacy presents a new episode in our I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark limited series featuring host Dr. Maria Boynton, along with her guests, Vic Armstrong and Sarah Dixon-Hackey.

Dr. Boynton is a recipient of the Obama and Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards which honor those in our nation who exhibit outstanding character, work ethic, and dedication to their communities. Dr. Boynton is also a member of the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and is named among Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League.

In this episode, Dr. Boynton is joined by AFSP Expert Vic Armstrong, and Sarah Dixon-Hackey, M.B.A. who currently serves as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison for Clay County Public Health working to identify and bridge health gaps for under-served populations. She is an approved Trainer for the AFSP's "More Than Sad" suicide prevention training for parents and educators and is a certified Mental Health First Aid Trainer, a nationally recognized program by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

Maxed Out: Surviving and Thriving in Turbulent Times

Aired on KYW Newsradio on Thursday, September 5th, 2024 at 7pm

How are you getting by in this economy? The latest Audacy Conversation explores skyrocketing housing and rent costs, increasing daycare and construction and interest rates and more.

I'm Listening

Aired on KYW Newsradio on September 25, 2024 from 7pm - 9pm

I'm Listening is a special program that airs every September on Audacy stations. Every hour in the United States, we lose five people to suicide. During this hour-long special produced by KYW Newsradio and Bridging Philly, we shine the spotlight on the importance of suicide prevention and mental health and wellness.

Eating disorders are serious mental illnesses that can have grim outcomes. Without treatment, up to 20% of people with serious eating disorders die. For those who suffer, it's frightening and eating is complicated. What are the root causes of eating disorders and what treatments are available? Carol McKenzie spoke with Joanie Pagano of Wayne, a mother of three who battled an eating disorder for 34 years. She's now recovered and shares her story.

For teens, coming of age is stressful, and it includes questions about sexual orientation, gender identity and the journey to self-awareness. 4.5% of the US population identifies as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Of those, 39% reported having a mental health issue within the past year. Shara Dae Howard talks with Jasper Liem, the Executive Director of the Attic Youth Center. and Bryant Christie, their Director of Clinical Services.

Social media is part of our lives, but what are our algorithms actually doing to us? Conner Barkon talks with Sherri Hope Culver, Director of the Center for Media and Information Literacy at Temple University, and Rachel Daltry, Director of the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services at West Chester University.

Parents wear many hats, oftentimes juggling work and home life responsibilities while raising children. This year, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, who's been laser focused on mental health, issued an advisory warning about an increase in parental stress, saying it's become a public health problem. According to an American Psychological Association survey, 41% of parents reported they can't function most days because of stress, and 48% said they're completely overwhelmed by it. As the saying goes, you can't pour from an empty cup. So what can parents do to alleviate stress? Denise Nakano talks with Dr. Nicole Johnson, Department Chair of Counseling and Behavioral Health at Thomas Jefferson University.

In 2023 US, Surgeon General Vivek Murphy declared loneliness an epidemic and a national health emergency. Last year, half of US adults suffered from loneliness, and it hasn't gotten much better. It can have adverse effects not only on our physical health but our mental health. So where are we today with regards to this problem, and what can we do to dig ourselves out? Racquel Williams spoke with Dr Matthew Hereford, President and CEO of UPMC's Community Care Behavioral Health, for some answers.

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Bridging Philly
Q3 July - September 2024

Best of Bridging Philly: Finding the right therapist | The Awbury Arboretum
Jul 6, 2024

Navigating the mental health care system is a challenge for the most experienced of patients, but what about people looking to see a therapist for the first time? Where do you start? Do you go to someone who matches your demographic? Is telehealth a good option? Host Racquel Williams asks these questions and more with our panel of therapists.

Then on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard spends some time in nature and introduces us to the poets and musicians who are inspired by the historic Germantown Awbury Arboretum.

Best of Bridging Philly: Focus on Fathers | New: Wissahickon's Doomsday Cave
Jul 13, 2024

The Focus on Fathers parenting education program shows new fathers how to have positive relationships with their kids. The “fathers to the fathers” try to fill in the gaps for men raised without a strong father figure in their lives, through child development education, job readiness, and mental health awareness, with remote and in-person classes.

Then, on Shara in the City, we explore a cave that's said to be built by America's first cult of mystics to predict the apocalypse, right in Wissahickon Park - the Cave of Kelpius.

Friends Select School's Anti-racist Mission | Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey
Jul 20, 2024

While many schools have faced fights over book bans and how they teach about racism, Friends Select School in Philadelphia is taking an actively anti-racist approach to education. As a Quaker school, they follow the same philosophies that the Quakers who fought in the abolitionist movement did, and they're able to incorporate social justice into their curriculum, staff training, and how they interact with the greater Philadelphia community. Racquel Williams speaks with educators and staff from Friends Select to find out how they put their mission into action.

And on Shara in the City, as we get ready to kick off the 2024 Olympics, Shara Dae Howard remembers when Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey came through Philadelphia to inspire over 200 elementary students at Drexel University's Vidas Field Day and give away copies of her children's book, “Running for the Gold: Connecting Kids to Dreams.”

Dr. Ala Stanford On Unifying Philadelphia against COVID | The last living member of The Blue Notes

Jul 27, 2024

When COVID-19 hit, Dr. Ala Stanford stepped up to help Philadelphians get access to information, testing, care, and later, vaccines. She founded the Black Doctors Consortium, and after her work gained national media attention, President Biden appointed her Regional Director of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Now, Dr. Stanford has written a book, “Take Care of Them Like My Own”, coming out August 6 with a launch event at the Kimmel Center. It’s about her personal journey, her work, and the importance of equity and representation in medicine. She talks about all of that with our host, Racquel Williams.

And on Shara in the City, Lloyd Parks is the last living member of the famous Philly R&B group Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes - and he can still hit those high notes in songs like “I Miss You” and “If You Don’t Know Me by Now”. Shara Dae Howard takes a journey through time to hear Lloyd’s story.

PA Human Relations Commission | ABA Center for Kids with Autism

Aug 3, 2024

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission is on tour! Their “Beloved Community” tour is stopping in towns across the state to host open discussions about civil rights issues in each community. Racquel Williams speaks with Executive Director Chad Dion Lassiter to understand the purpose of this tour, the important work PHRC does, and how to reach out if you’re having an issue with any kind of prejudice or discrimination.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard visits the ABA Centers of Pennsylvania in Wayne, a play and therapy center for children with autism, complete with everything from a climbing wall to a bubble machine.

Food Insecurity On The Rise | Pizza with a purpose

Aug 10, 2024

We’ve seen a surge of people facing food insecurity since pandemic relief ended, and the numbers have not gone back down. It’s a particular issue in Philadelphia, where about 22% of people live in poverty - twice the national average. Share Food Program is the city’s leading hunger relief organization. Their executive director, George Matysik, and deputy chief program officer, Cat Bartoli, join host Racquel Williams to discuss the programs they offer - from pantries to delivery, school lunches to senior programs - and how widespread the issue of food insecurity is.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard visits Down North Pizza, where they hire formerly incarcerated people as employees. She joins the staff for a day to make a pizza and learn why their mission is so important.

Rebuilding The City While Learning a Trade | Broad Street Love’s “radical hospitality” Aug 17, 2024

At 55 years old, Marie-Monique Marthol made a life-changing decision to change careers. She learned carpentry through Rebuild’s Workforce Development Program, where participants learn trade skills while revitalizing Philadelphia’s neighborhoods. Marie-Monique joins host Racquel Williams to talk about her experience. We also hear from Rebuild’s Director of Workforce Development, Tiffany Smith, about how Rebuild is bringing more women and people of color into the trades.

Then, on Shara in the City, we visit Broad Street Love, where they provide stabilizing services to those experiencing deep poverty. Shara steps into the shoes of a volunteer, serving restaurant-style meals to folks who have found an affirming and supportive community in this space.

Exposing Youth To Career Paths | Philly’s takes on Olympic breaking Aug 24, 2024

Youth and young adults in Philadelphia can learn about career options and job skills while getting paid through C2L-PHL’s youth work programs, run by JEVS Human Services. Summer and school year job opportunities range from the medical field to government, even working with horses and people with disabilities at Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Academy. Racquel Williams talks with representatives from JEVS, Pegasus, and LNEESC - a nonprofit that works with JEVS to place students in meaningful work experiences - as well as a student who worked at Pegasus this summer.

Then, on Shara in the City, break dancing made its first appearance in the Olympics this year - and with questions over how the culture was represented on an international stage, it might not be back. Shara Dae Howard talks with some Philly OG breakers to get their takes and learn a few moves.

College Parents: It’s Your Time, Too | Life on tour with the Village People Aug 31, 2024

The transition to college can be tough for both students and parents. Whether it’s your first time moving a kid into a dorm or you find yourself with an empty nest after all your kids are out of the house, life is suddenly different. Racquel Williams hosts a panel of moms and advisors to

learn how to parent differently at this stage of life, avoid being a helicopter parent, and embrace your “second act”. She's joined by Jodi Silverman, founder of Moms Who Dare, Beth Allen, a participant in Moms Who Dare and founder of DIY HIP Chicks, and Dr. Deanne DeCrescenzo, Associate Dean of Students in the Division of Student Affairs at Temple University.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard meets a disco legend: Russell Dabney, the drummer for the Village People. Sitting on a Philly stoop, they talk about his career, life on tour, and the unbeatable feeling of watching a crowd do the “YMCA” as he plays.

How Tracking Devices Are Used In Domestic Violence | A place of healing at Still Rise Farms

Sep 7, 2024

Domestic abusers want to have control over their victims, and often, that involves knowing where they are at all times. Tracking devices have made that easier, and devices that look like a phone charger or a child’s toy are readily available. Amanda L. Murray, Center for Hope & Safety's Domestic Violence Liaison to New Jersey’s Division of Child Protection and Permanency, joins host Racquel Williams to discuss what to do if you think you or someone you love is being tracked.

Then, on Shara in the City, we visit Still Rise Farms, a retreat center started by a breast cancer surgeon to encourage healing and holistic well-being. Shara Dae Howard spends the day there fishing and learning with Camp Jill Scott.

Advocating For Pennsylvania Schools | Formerly incarcerated artists at The F.I.R.M.

Sep 14, 2024

Only 1 in 3 fourth graders in Pennsylvania is reading proficiently - a statistic that Teach Plus hopes to change. The organization works to improve student outcomes by empowering teachers to advocate for policy change, as well as helping to recruit a diverse teacher workforce. Laura Boyce, Teach Plus Pennsylvania’s Executive Director, joins host Racquel Williams to talk about the teacher shortage, teacher retention, the latest school budget, and more. Teachers interested in joining a Teach Plus BIPOC affinity group can sign up [here](#) or attend their mixer on September 27.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard visits The Formerly Incarcerated Renaissance Museum, or The F.I.R.M., to find out how this new museum is illuminating the stories of formerly incarcerated people in Philadelphia.

Growing Green Community Spaces | Fireman's Hall Museum

Sep 21, 2024

PECO does more than just keep your lights on - they're marking 20 years of their Green Region Open Space Program, which has provided over \$2.5 million in grants to preserve, protect, and expand green spaces throughout southeastern Pennsylvania. Spaces like gardens and parks are vital for our physical and mental health, but they can be hard to find in the city, especially in disinvested neighborhoods. We hear how PECO has partnered with Natural Lands and Neighborhood Gardens Trust to make nature more accessible to everyone.

Then, on Shara in the City, we visit Fireman's Hall Museum in Old City. The renovated 1898 firehouse is a treasure trove of Philadelphia fire history and home to the first exhibit commemorating the firefighters who died on 9/11.

Election Security With The Committee of Seventy | Habitat for Humanity's all-women build day

Sep 28, 2024

The Committee of Seventy provides essential voter information, not just on how to vote, but on what happens to your ballot after it's submitted. How can you be sure your ballot is counted? Who is at polling places assuring security and safety? Host Raquel Williams speaks with C70's CEO, Lauren Cristella, about their work for a fair and transparent election, and what you should know when you head to the polls or vote by mail.

Then, on Shara in the City, we pick up our tools and get to work with Habitat for Humanity. Shara Dae Howard joins their "building blitz" effort to build affordable housing, kicking off with an all-women build day.

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**KYW-AM/WIP-HD2 PHILADELPHIA, WPHI-FM JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT**

July 1, 2024 – Sept 30, 2024

Station KYW (AM) provides an all-news radio service to Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area at 1060kHz AM, with simulcasts on the FM dial on WPHI-FM at 103.9 MHz and WIP-FM-HD2 at 94.1 MHz HD2. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.

This report was prepared and placed in the station's public inspection file on **September 27th, 2024**. The report was prepared and reviewed by Newsroom Operations Manager, Dennis Edward.

Bridging Philly is KYW Newsradio's half-hour public affairs show that airs Saturdays at 9:30p and Sundays at 8:30a

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CHILDREN AND HUMAN SERVICES

July

Atlantic City utilizing every government agency to break up homeless encampments under boardwalk

July 1, 2024

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Homeless encampments have long been a problem with elusive solutions for officials in Atlantic City. But for the first time in recent history, every government agency in the city, as well as casino groups and other community organizations, are working together to tackle the issue.

The initiative first offers services to people in need, then begins to break up encampments in places they shouldn't be, like under the boardwalk. Over the years, there have been several encampment fires on the boardwalk, like Garden Pier, creating safety hazards.

Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Evans said people would live under Garden Pier for weeks to months on end. But now, this coordinated approach is already proving successful.

“It’s critical for the right hand to know what the left hand is doing, for every department that has a role plays their part and passes the ball to the next person,” he said.

Department of Health and Human Services Director Jarrod Barnes said his office is often the first contact. They can only offer help, and police are only called if laws are being broken. They try to build trust to get people the help they need.

“We ask every single day, ‘Do you need assistance?’” he said. “If they say, ‘No, thank you,’ we say, ‘Hey look, we’re here. You can come find us at City Hall.’ We’ll come back to that same spot because more than likely, they’re in the same spot every single day. We’ll keep going back to them.

“And eventually, a lot of times they break down and say, ‘Hey look, I do need assistance,’ and we start the process for them.”

Mayor Marty Small said there are dozens of people living on the streets in Atlantic City, many from out of town, and part of this process is also focused on sending people back to where they came from.

Small added that this citywide government approach is a big reason why the city is safer than it has been in recent years, and he said they will keep pushing to make it even better.

**'The future is in this room': Parker introduces 16-member Youth Commission at City Hall
July 8, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — While introducing her 16-member Youth Commission Monday evening at City Hall, Mayor Cherelle Parker noted there are 345,000 children under age 18 in Philadelphia — nearly 22% of the total population.

“Yet their voices go unheard and they lack representation in government,” she said.

She says the Youth Commission, fully appointed for the first time in eight years, would correct that.

Parker said the city cannot solve some of its thorniest problems — notably, gun violence, which has increasingly involved child victims and shooters — without youth participation, adding this will give youth a chance to bring their issues, thoughts and concerns to the table.

The new commissioners, including Marquis Bailey, were eager to try.

“We are commissioned to be beacons of light among our peers, commissioned to lead with a heightened level of compassion and integrity, commissioned to lead to spread the spirit of love and unity throughout our city, and commissioned to put our boots on the ground and let the city know we are the next generation and we have what it takes to move forward,” Bailey said.

Cindy Johnson is ready to take on the mental health crisis among the city’s youth.

“Our objective is to work with city officials to make policy recommendations and develop programming with youth mental health in mind while creating a safe space for all youth voices to be heard,” Johnson said.

And James King has big ambitions for the Public Safety Subcommittee.

“Our aim is to break the cycle of violence and teach young people how to resolve conflicts,” he said.

Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel said he was impressed.

“The future is in this room. There’s no question about that.”

City Council’s Kensington Caucus convenes hearing on access to drug rehab amid conflicting information

July 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Council’s Kensington Caucus is exploring ways to make drug rehab treatment more accessible as part of its effort to clean up the drug-ravaged neighborhood.

In that vein, Councilmember Quetcy Lozada convened a hearing at Rock Ministries in Kensington on Thursday out of frustration with conflicting information about the availability of treatment for addiction. Health officials and providers say there are beds available for those seeking treatment, but people seeking treatment complain they can’t get access to them.

Jefferson Dr. Phil Durney said a large part of the problem is the mismatch between the level of care in the available beds and the complex medical needs of many of those seeking treatment.

“When patients are coming in with really severe infections, life-threatening infections or severe debility — they can’t walk, they can’t move — that’s when this mismatch occurs,” said Durney.

He and colleague Dr. Chris Martin, testified that this is often the case in Philadelphia with the drug xylazine, which causes massive wounds and infections and is found in almost every street drug.

City health officials said there are currently 120 rehab beds available, but most are for those who need minimal medical care. Only three were available for high-need patients.

Behavioral Health Commissioner Marquita Williams said her department has greatly expanded the number of beds and is working to reduce barriers, but clearly more is needed.

Megan Reed, who also works at Jefferson and specializes in harm reduction, said there are other obstacles like location, language barriers and hours of waiting at intake centers for officials to consider.

“This would be arduous for anyone but for someone going through withdrawal it’s intolerable,” she said. “We should roll out the red carpet when someone is ready to get treatment, not put up obstacles for them to get in it.”

Recommendations made at the meeting included creating a dashboard to make it easy to find available beds and to have housing waiting for patients getting discharge to prevent relapses.

New Jersey launches online hub for disability information, resources

July 26, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — It can be challenging for people with disabilities and their loved ones to find the information and resources they need online. Now, New Jersey has launched an online hub, serving as a one-stop shop for those resources.

The new Disability Information Hub features services and information on opportunities in education, recreation, employment, and more. New Jersey Department of Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman says it was built with input from the communities that will be using it.

“Many services for individuals with disabilities are offered by the state and our community partners and many organizations,” said Adelman.

“This disability hub brings together those resources in one place for New Jersey residents with disabilities and their caregivers, family members and advocates.”

That includes links to about 200 programs and services from the Departments of Human Services, Health, Education, Labor and Workforce Development, Community Affairs, Military

and Veterans Affairs, the Attorney General's Office, the Board of Public Utilities, and the Office of Emergency Management.

"Together, we are breaking down barriers and empowering all New Jerseyans to thrive in their communities," Gov. Phil Murphy said. "I commend the whole-of-government effort to uplift the State's disability community."

Adelman says an audio version of the website is also available for users with impaired vision.

August

Delaware County Health Department offering cold storage equipment to eligible food pantries

August 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Keeping cool has been a challenge this summer, as high temps have continuously exacerbated the region. Pair that with ongoing food insecurity, and vulnerable communities are being stretched thin.

To combat the issue, the Delaware County Health Department is awarding cold storage equipment to eligible food pantry nonprofits, making fresh, healthy food more accessible to residents in vulnerable neighborhoods.

"If a food pantry is able to have adequate cold storage, they're really able to expand the offerings that they have beyond just dry goods," said Lora Werner, Delaware County deputy director of health. "They can have really fresh produce and keep it properly cold. And of course, at the health department, we always want to help people keep their food properly cold because that helps prevent the spread of disease."

The initiative is funded by a Health Resources and Services Administration grant.

Applications are currently being accepted. Applicants must meet certain criteria, such as showing proof of nonprofit status and a safe storage area, and being based in a designated food desert.

Montgomery County installing free feminine hygiene product dispensers at all county-owned facilities

August 13, 2024

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Montgomery County is tackling period poverty by stocking public restrooms with free tampons and pads.

“If one resident cannot avail themselves to basic period products, that's not good for me. And so I wanted to ensure that we expanded this policy,” said Jamila Winder, chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Winder says the idea stemmed from conversations with members of the state delegation, and Women's Commission, about how the county's policy worked and was enforced.

“And what we found was there was a real opportunity to expand our part in reducing period poverty,” she said.

Period poverty is the inability to afford to buy menstrual products. A 2021 study of U.S. teenagers found that 23% struggled to afford period products. Some young women have reported using newspaper or used napkins to manage their menstrual cycles.

People may think of Montgomery County as an affluent place to live, says Winder, but she has friends and neighbors who must choose between buying pads or tampons and buying groceries.

“It really is sobering, and it's just such a simple thing,” she said. “And it's a simple thing that we can do as Montgomery County to expand this program and have consistency.”

Previously, the county had stocked some of their facilities with the products and made them available for 25 cents apiece. Now all 269 county-owned bathrooms — including those in parks, courthouses and historic sites, as well as public health centers in Norristown, Pottstown and Willow Grove — will have dispensers.

Winder says it removes a barrier for women who are struggling to find or pay for these necessities: “If they're doing business in the county, or if they're at one of our parks with their children, [they know] that they can access those products free of charge, and we don't ask any questions.”

Similar work is in progress at the state level, too. The Pennsylvania House has passed bills that would make the products eligible under SNAP and WIC and have them available for free in schools. Both bills are with the Senate. The most recent state budget puts \$3 million toward menstrual products for schools.

Philadelphia to open first urgent care center for mental health needs

August 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philly's first urgent care for mental health needs is set to open at the beginning of next month, and city officials hope the new clinic can help offset the demand for behavioral health care.

The Merakey Mental Health Walk-In Clinic, which officially opens on Sept. 3, is the product of a partnership with behavioral health provider Merakey and the city's Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS). It's housed in a white brick building at 3125 North Broad St., just before Allegheny Avenue.

Merakey says the clinic is for adults 18 and older who need same-day mental health care that is not an emergency. Quick counseling sessions, psychiatric evaluations and referrals are among the services people can expect to get at this clinic. Visitors in emergency situations, including suicidal or homicidal thoughts, self-harm or substance use withdrawal, are urged to call 988 or immediately go to a crisis response center.

One of the main goals for Merakey is to help cut down on avoidable visits to emergency rooms and crisis response centers. The clinic will be staffed by Merakey personnel, including therapists ready for walk-in sessions and a psychiatrist on site who can prescribe medication.

According to Merakey, the facility's exam rooms and waiting areas are designed to look like living rooms, providing a calm environment for patients. Visitors are also offered snacks and beverages while waiting to see a professional.

Some of the issues the clinic is intended to address include depression, anxiety, stress, grief, mood disturbances, substance use assessments, and referrals to follow-up resources.

According to DBHIDS, the city has been working on solutions within the behavioral health system since 2019, where it began planning an expansion of its crisis services. Interim Commissioner Dr. Marquita C. Williams says department officials are excited to see many of their plans over the last five years come to life.

New CDC report touts benefits of routine childhood vaccinations, finds many once-common diseases are now forgotten as a result

August 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As kids get their required shots for the start of the school year, a new report shows some of the deadliest vaccine-preventable diseases are unknown by many adults, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report shows adults ages 18 to 49 are less likely to know about diseases once common in kids, including measles, mumps, pertussis, and diphtheria, because of the efficacy of childhood vaccinations.

“We have an effort called ‘Let's Keep It That Way,’ which is really aimed at educating people about vaccinations so that they understand the importance of vaccination,” said Dr. Georgina Peacock, director of the CDC’s immunization services division.

The agency is celebrating 30 years of its Vaccines for Children Program, which covers the cost of vaccines for parents or guardians who may not be able to afford them. The program is open to anyone 18 years old or younger who is eligible for Medicaid, uninsured or underinsured. Indigenous children are also eligible.

“It provides vaccines for about 50% of children in the United States, and it's a very important program to make sure that children can stay up to date on their vaccinations.”

Last year, the CDC distributed 74 million pediatric vaccines through the program to participating providers. According to the CDC, almost 90% of eligible children born between 2011 and 2020 have received the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine. Peacock says vaccination rates need to stay high to prevent resurgences of serious diseases.

“For example, we are seeing measles cases in different parts of the United States. In most cases, that's because a child or an adult is unvaccinated against measles,” she said. “Therefore, keeping those vaccine coverage rates high is very important.”

Vaccine safety is a concern for some people. In rare cases, there are exceptions from getting a particular vaccine, but Peacock says they are generally safe.

“Millions of children receive, safely, vaccines each year. Some of the common side effects that children have with vaccines are mild, such as a sore arm from the vaccination, or fever or a mild rash,” she explained. “There are serious reactions, but those are extremely rare.”

The CDC report says routine vaccinations prevented approximately 508 million cases of illness, 32 million hospitalizations, and 1,129,000 deaths among people born between 1994 and 2023.

Burlington County awards grants to 6 food assistance programs

August 23, 2024

MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Burlington County is providing grants to six organizations that help feed people who are food insecure.

The first check was delivered Thursday to Virtua Hospital in Mount Holly, which has been running a small food pantry on the first floor for a few years. Burlington County Commissioner Director Felicia Hobson delivered the \$75,000 check to help support the hospital's cause.

On the shelves, you'll find rice, beans, cereals and other non-perishables. Virtua Vice President Stephanie Fendrick said locally sourced fruits and vegetables are also available for free.

“A lot of people are on medications and it's so important to have the food to help absorb those medications,” she said. “It just contributes to one's overall health. It's one of our basic needs as humans.

“Our goal is to touch as many people who need help, who identify themselves as struggling with being able to afford food,” Fendrick continued, “being able to come here, easily access the food, and then help get them connected to other resources in the community.”

Other grant recipients include the Food Bank of South Jersey, the Burlington Township Food Pantry, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Oaks Integrated Care, and the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Food Pantry.

"We also want organizations to know that there's still funds available and they should continue to apply," Hobson said.

September

Harriett's Bookshop aims to send 10 Philly youths to study abroad in Paris this fall September 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When Jeannine A. Cook founded Harriett's Bookshop in 2020, her mission was to celebrate women authors, artists, and activists in honor of historic heroine Harriet Tubman.

Since then, she's opened two new bookshops: Ida's in New Jersey and Josephine's in Paris. And now, she's turning another page.

Come November, she aims to send 10 youths from North Philadelphia to Paris for the chance to study abroad.

Why? Because she says these are the kids that would otherwise rarely be offered such a life-changing opportunity.

She says they worked diligently with the school district to "create the first-ever credit-bearing course for young people in an accelerated high school."

Cook says Tubman is the inspiration behind the trip.

"If you're in the spirit of Harriet Tubman, you know the Underground Railroad is this sacred passage between places with people you may not know are in the railroad with you, but are there to help you move from place to place," she said.

“This is a victory story. Again, I attribute that to Harriet, to Ida [B. Wells], and to Josephine [Baker].”

The bookstore said it is seeking more donations before it can send students to its study abroad program.

Delaware County debuts new automated health care supply kiosks

September 18, 2024

CHESTER, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The future of public health is now in Delaware County, according to officials who have a new way of distributing healthcare supplies to residents.

The Delaware County Health Department has partnered with healthcare technology firm LTS to bring its “TestAndGo” kiosks to the county. The machines, made possible through a \$200,000 state grant, are located outside of the Keystone First building in Chester, the Government Center in Media and the Yeadon Wellness Center.

“Any Delaware County resident can come up to one of our three machines and get free public health supplies,” said Lora Werner, the health department’s interim director. She says the new vending kiosks have COVID-19 and flu tests, condoms, feminine hygiene products, fentanyl test strips, Narcan and more.

Haley Tunney with LTS says the machines let users place orders through a touch screen on the front, allowing free, 24/7 access in exchange for filling out a brief questionnaire. “There’s no sensitive information given,” said Tunney. “It’s mostly an anonymous survey that is done for each product.”

Faith Goldsborough was on hand for the opening of the kiosk in Chester. “I think it’s a pretty good idea because, a lot of stuff that we need for our own benefit and health, we have to pay for it, and some of us don’t have enough money,” she said.

Meanwhile, the new machines caught Stephanie Ray by surprise. “I had no idea that this is what it was — and it’s a good thing, because a lot of things are going on here in Chester. I’m thankful, I’m happy that they have it here,” Ray said.

County health officials hope to eventually add STD testing to the kiosks. Residents can register for the kiosks online or in person at any of the three machines.

The Philadelphia region's blood supply is dangerously low, and the American Red Cross is asking for help

September 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — There is a dire need for blood — right now. The American Red Cross says the supply all around the country, including the Philadelphia region, is dangerously low, so the nonprofit is once again making an appeal for people to roll up their sleeves.

Alana Mauger, regional communications manager for the American Red Cross, Southeastern Pennsylvania, says there was a significant shortage at the end of summer.

“The actual need was significantly higher than what we had expected,” Mauger said.

She says supplies were adequate through July, and then they immediately made efforts to collect donations. Natural disasters, summer vacation and travel, COVID-19 cases — all of these are contributing factors to the blood shortage.

“We're encouraging people to give now, to make sure that the levels continue to be available and improve after the summer shortage,” Mauger said.

“What we're seeing is that happened a little bit, but we're now, we're in September, and we're still seeing that critical need that we have.”

Only three out of 100 Americans donate blood. With the blood supply still at critical levels, every single donation is key to making sure all patients who rely on life-saving transfusions get the care they need.

“The worst-case scenario would be that the blood's not available when someone needs it. And what's really important is that, you know, we can't project when someone's going to need the blood.”

She says blood platelets are needed as well. They only have a shelf life of five days, so that supply has to be continually restocked. The American Red Cross is now offering an incentive for blood and platelet donors.

“If you donate between now and Sept. 30, you will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. Automatically, you're registered for this gift card, and within 30 days, you'll receive the card electronically.”

To find the nearest donation site, go to redcrossblood.org.

Program that provides mental health services to Philly students expands to 2 more schools September 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A program that provides mental health services to Philly students is expanding to two other schools.

Since 2021, counselors and clinicians from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia have offered mental health services to students at Girard College, a five-day boarding school. The school-based mental health pilot helped about 300 students through anxiety and depression, according to Girard President David Hardy.

“When you see children who are going through those issues, it affects all of the other issues in school,” he said. “The fact is, you can’t learn if you have those kinds of struggles.”

Now, the program — funded by the Independence Blue Cross Foundation — is expanding to Hardy Williams Elementary Mastery Charter and the district’s Add B. Anderson School. The program will then be available to about 1,000 Philly students.

Debora Carrera, the mayor’s chief education officer, knows from her experience as a principal that having services available in school makes a difference.

“While we were surrounded by mental health agencies, the students didn’t go,” she noted.

Independence Health Group CEO Greg Deavens told a student mental health summit Thursday that the program has seen results.

“We found that about two-thirds of the students say that the treatment they received helped them to do better or to feel better,” he added.

He said students are six times more likely to continue their treatment if it takes place in a school.

ARTS AND CULTURE

July

Philadelphia Zoo, a pioneer in animal conservation and innovation, celebrates 150th anniversary

July 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — They came by way of steamboat, horse and carriage, train, and foot. On July 1, 1874, about 3,000 people had the opportunity to see nearly 600 animals up close at America's first zoo, the Philadelphia Zoo.

It opened its gates exactly 150 years ago and has become known around the world for its animal care, conservation, and innovation. The zoo, which now houses more than 1,700 animals, recognized the milestone anniversary on Monday with a celebration of its past and present achievements. Visitors were greeted by a brass band, much like they were that first day of operation back in 1874 and a troop of François' langurs.

The Philadelphia Zoo was actually established in 1859, but the grand opening was delayed until 1874 due to the Civil War. Then in 1901, a first-of-its-kind animal health laboratory was built.

“We were trying to understand and learn more about animal physiology and health and really understood that there were diseases that could be transmitted between humans and animals, and there is a whole field of zoonotic diseases now,” said President and CEO Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman.

“The same thing with animal nutrition. We were the first zoo to create animal diets. They were called zoocakes, and there is a whole field of animal nutrition studies.”

Mogerman, who started her job last October, is a part of history, too. She is the first African American and the first woman to lead the zoo.

The Philadelphia Zoo has pioneered many other firsts. In 2011, it launched Zoo360, a trail system where animals move beside guests, above in the treetops, and over people's heads along pathways.

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In 2011, the Philadelphia Zoo launched Zoo360, a trail system where animals move beside guests, above in the treetops, and over people's heads along pathways. Photo credit Philadelphia Zoo

"The 360 trails have now been replicated in more than 70 zoos around the world," said Mogerman.

In the 1960s, Zoo Keys — a memorable visitor favorite — were introduced. Children used the keys to turn on talking story boxes and learn about the animals they see in front of them.

Hollywood royalty was no stranger to the zoo either. In 1979, Rocky proposed to Adrian in "Rocky II," right in front of the tiger enclosure. Decades prior, the Philadelphia Zoo took in a very famous resident. In 1931, the mascot of MGM, Leo the lion, retired to the zoo.

And even after all these years, there's still more to come.

Mogerman says they will be announcing a major exhibit renovation and expansion in the coming months that will "change our campus and strengthen our commitments to our conservation mission and guest experience."

Beach Blaze, BBQ championship & Brian McKnight in AC — a peek at some of this weekend's 'Shore Things'

July 10, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Oh, baby, the brisket's back! This weekend is the New Jersey BBQ State Championship and blues festival in North Wildwood, from Friday to Sunday.

Celebrate 102 years of Broadway's greatest moments with Neil Berg and veteran actors performing powerful vocals and stunning choreography at Surfside Park in Avalon Saturday night.

Singer-songwriter Brian McKnight takes the stage at Ocean Resort Casino Friday night, featuring chart-toppers “Back at One” and “Love Is.”

And the Peach at the Beach Music Festival is Saturday in Atlantic City, with several rock, blues, and jam bands at the Showboat Island Water Park.

Blaze on the Beach

Get ready for The United Civil Servants’ annual Blaze on the Beach at Bar Anticipation in Lake Como on Friday, July 12.

The event, which runs from noon to 5 p.m., benefits children in need.

It's \$75 at the door. There will be \$10 raffle tickets, a BBQ and, of course, an open bar.

"Nobody puts baby in a corner," said fictional character Johnny Castle except, maybe for “Dirty Dancing” movie night in Seaside Heights on Friday, July 12.

Grab your coziest outfit and get ready to watch an American classic with your toes in the sand and the ocean breeze in your hair.

The movie starts at dusk and is for adults only. Attendees will be seated in the vicinity of Beach Patrol North Headquarters.

And what’s a movie night without a beverage? Seaside Heights Business Improvement District will be on the beach selling beer and wine throughout the film.

NJ State BBQ Championship & Anglesea Blues Fest

Grab your bibs and get ready to grub on some mouth-watering meats marinated, seasoned and smoked “to the point of perfection.”

Barbecue teams from around the country will be at 2nd and Olde New Jersey Avenues and surrounding pubs in North Wildwood this weekend to show off their grillin' skills.

The competition kicks off Friday, July 12 at 4 p.m., and runs through Sunday.

There will be live cooking demonstrations, food and top regional and national blues acts on the free, main stage.

Get ready to sing your heart out with Brian McKnight at Oceans Casino Resort in Atlantic City.

The singer-songwriter, who's received 16 GRAMMY nominations, will be taking the stage on Friday, July 12 at Ovation Hall.

Doors open at 8 p.m., the concert starts at 9. For tickets and more information, [click here](#).

And if your vocal cords are still intact by Sunday, you might want to check out Karaoke Night at Asbury Lanes on 209 4th Avenue.

Hosted by Giuseppe, from 7-10:30 p.m. you can sing, bowl, dine and drink all for FREE!

The Peach at the Beach Festival

Music, music, and more music!!!

The Peach at the Beach music festival returns Saturday, July 13 at Island Water Park in Atlantic City.

Check out headliners like Joe Russo's Almost Dead, Dogs in a Pile, Trouble No More, Karina Rykman and Mykal Rose of Black Uhuru.

There will be performers, vendors, oh, and a waterpark for you to take a splash and cool off.

Tickets start at \$79.

Catch a celebration of some of the greatest moments in Broadway history on Saturday, July 13.

It's Neil Berg's 102 years of Broadway! — an “electrifying musical revue” where a cast of Broadway veterans will sing and dance in Surfside Park.

The event starts at 7 p.m. For more information, [click here](#).

Blobfest oozes through Phoenixville for its 25th anniversary celebration

July 12, 2024

PHOENIXVILLE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The sci-fi classic "The Blob" slimed its way into movie theaters in 1958 — and into one Chester County movie house. While the movie has a few years to go before its 70th anniversary, the festival honoring "The Blob" has reached a milestone of its own.

Since 1999, fans of sci-fi, horror, and camp have gathered annually in Phoenixville for Blobfest, a weekend-long festival that celebrates the genre and, specifically, "The Blob."

For the uninitiated, "The Blob" is about a small town under attack from a gelatinous alien blob that consumes anything and everything in its path. The townspeople are helpless as the being grows in size with everything it devours, until a courageous teenager figures out a way to fight it.

Many movie buffs know "The Blob" best as the first lead role for 28-year-old Steve McQueen — who would ultimately become one of the most popular stars in Hollywood with roles in "Bullitt" and "The Towering Inferno."

Screen shot from "The Blob" featuring Steve McQueen and Aneta Corseaut

Steve McQueen (right, with Aneta Corseaut) starred in 1958's "The Blob." It was his first lead role in a movie, and he was credited as "Steven McQueen." Photo credit Paramount Pictures

For Chester County, however, it's a point of pride. "'The Blob' was made by a production company that's right down the road from Phoenixville, in Chester Springs," said Drew Boardman, events director for the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.

"They were actually a Christian film production company and they wanted to get in on the B, sci-fi-horror side of things. So they optioned 'The Blob' [and] they cast then-unknown Steve McQueen."

In fact, the movie's most famous scene was shot at the Colonial Theatre, where the monstrous Blob attacks a crowd of moviegoers.

"They came to the Colonial because [they had the] idea that the blob would ooze out into a movie theater full of people and they would all run out," explained Boardman, "and they paid \$75 for the shoot. And they said, 'We know that this is a low rate, but it will make you infamous.' And to this day, almost 70 years later, we still celebrate that."

That scene of people running out of the theater inspired volunteers at the Colonial to create Blobfest, to honor not only the Chester County cult favorite but the theater itself, which reopened in 1999 after having closed eight years before.

"A group decided in the mid to late '90s to reopen the theater and as they were kind of getting back on their feet, someone said, 'Hey, why don't you show 'The Blob?'" Boardman recalled.

"They showed 'The Blob' and then people just automatically ran out of the theater when the movie was over. From there, year over year, a group of volunteers got together and started putting it together — and then it just became this official festival that now the staff puts together every year, still with an amazing group of volunteers."

Blobfest has since grown into a weekend-long event, with movie screenings, dance parties and an outdoor street fair. "We always have a different theme," said Boardman of the event's programming. In previous years, it has included classic sci-fi and horror movies such as "The Wolfman," "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" and "War of the Worlds" — to correspond with themes like "Blobs and Monsters" and "The Uninvited."

(Another favorite has been "Grease," owing to a scene where the Rydell High teens catch a drive-in showing of "The Blob.")

This year, however, is all about celebrating "The Blob" and Blobfest, and it begins with the centerpiece of the festival: a reenactment of that famous movie theater scene. "Friday night, we have a stage show and do the run-out," said Boardman.

"I thought we were watching the movie," said Adrienne Mathiesen of Millville, New Jersey, of her first run-out experience, "and then they're like, 'No, get ready, let's go!' and then we all ran out and watched the movie later. When we ran out, we were screaming like we were being chased by the blob and there were so many people. There had to be thousands of people who ran into in the crowd."

It isn't only the people running out of the theater who enjoy the run-out. "The whole town comes out to watch and cheer the crowd running down Bridge Street," recalled Blobfest regular Tom Barrett, of New York.

Right after the run-out is the Blob Ball, Boardman said, "which is a '50s-style sock hop. Then on Saturday, we show movies all day."

There will be multiple screenings of the original movie, with an additional run-out Saturday evening. Fans can also watch the 1988 remake, itself a cult favorite. In addition, organizers will show "The Blob" dubbed in Spanish for the first time — its Spanish-language title is "La Masa Devoradora."

Sunday will feature the little-loved 1972 sequel "Beware! The Blob," directed by "Dallas" star Larry Hagman... but with a twist. "That will be live-riffed by Matt McGinnis, who is a writer, director and producer for 'Mystery Science Theater 3000,'" Boardman said. Joining McGinnis will be the long-running comedy show's creator Joel Hodgson and star Emily Marsh. On "Mystery Science Theater 3000," its stars mercilessly mock bad movies in a snarky running commentary, and this screening will follow suit.

Boardman says this year's street fair — happening rain or shine — will be the biggest yet. "We have more vendors than ever. I think we're at about 105, and they're all going to be vintage sci-fi, horror, camp, family-friendly vendors," he said, while acknowledging the rain in the forecast. "Fortunately, it's looking like the hours of the outdoor festival are just going to miss the thunderstorms, which is great news."

For Phoenixville resident Alexander Neff, who has gone to Blobfest on and off since 2011, it's something to share with his 14-year-old son. "Missed a couple after [2011], but my son and I have been going consistently every year for probably six years," he said.

"When he first started to go, it was, 'All right Dad, I'll go with you,' but now I think it's kind of a touchstone moment for him each year. He is getting a bit more of the jokes and things he wouldn't have gotten at a younger age."

They've done the run-out, though Neff admits they haven't done it each year. ("Sometimes it's harder to get tickets than other years," he said.) The street fair is a highlight for them, not only with its vendors but with unique contests like a tinfoil hat-making competition and a sort of Easter egg hunt — but with blobs.

"They've been doing this for a couple of years. There's a ceramic studio in town, Studio 323, and you can go and make a little clay blob with a little face on it. They'll fire it and glaze it red, and they'll make little blobs and they hide them around town," he explained. "The kids go out and find them [and] you get to keep the ceramic blob."

Actor and musician Cedric Crouch of Philadelphia is also a Blobfest regular, having gone to the event almost every year of its existence. "I really like that it's a celebration of everything cool and campy, a throwback to the great '50s sci-fi that I grew up watching as a kid," he said.

In addition, Crouch often performs at the afterparty with his band Psycho '78. "This will be our 10th year playing the afterparty. The event always features a variety of bands playing tribute sets of their favorite artist's music, sort of like the music equivalent of cosplay," he laughed. This year, his band will perform the music of the Misfits.

Blobfest typically draws thousands of camp and kitsch devotees from our area and beyond, but for Neff, it means even more to residents of Phoenixville. "It's just a neat interaction with the community," he said. "It's been important to a lot of people, [the Phoenixville Area Economic Development Corporation] buying the Colonial Theatre. [Association for the Colonial Theatre co-founder] Mary Foote put in a lot of work into saving that building ... [It] really started a seed in the town of regrowth."

The theater has an especially personal meaning for Neff. "My wife and I got married there in 2007. It's pretty important," he cheerfully recalled.

Barrett has a similar attachment to the festival. "I had never heard of Blobfest until eight years ago. The girl I was dating suggested going, and we have gone every year since. We're married now."

Blobfest runs through Sunday evening, with a 3D screening of "Creature from the Black Lagoon" closing it out. "That's our grand finale because that's the movie that we've shown the most at Blobfest over the years," Boardman said. And while Blobfest 25 is all about celebrating the past, Boardman says he's looking forward to the future of Blobfest.

"Next year, we have some ideas up our sleeves, so we're gonna see about expanding it even further ... really playing with the theme and what we offer to all the people coming to experience it, how we can even push it beyond what we currently do in the three days we have," he said.

"I can hint that it'll definitely be campy," he teased. "It generally is campy, but next year will definitely be campier."

August

Kristal Sotomayor wins award at BlackStar Film Festival after 6 years documenting end of Philadelphia cooperation with ICE

August 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Kristal Sotomayor is an unabashed South Philly artist with a bright future ahead of them, or at least that's what audiences of the BlackStar Film Festival are saying now after Sotomayor won its Philadelphia Filmmaker Award following the Philly debut of their short documentary "Expanding Sanctuary."

"It was a big deal," Sotomayor told KYW. "I've been working on the film for over six years."

The film follows longtime South Philly immigrant rights organization Juntos in its fight to end Philadelphia's PARS agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. PARS, which stands for Preliminary Arraignment Reporting System, is a records database shared by the police, District Attorney's Office and the courts. Under the agreement, some of the records on the database were shared with ICE.

ICE would use those records to carry out immigration enforcement (mostly deportation) on individuals who had not been arrested, or accused or convicted of any crime.

"And they ended up winning," Sotomayor said of Juntos' fight to end the PARS agreement. Philadelphia did not renew its PARS agreement with ICE after it expired on Aug. 31, 2018.

By following that fight to its conclusion, “Expanding Sanctuary” also became a message about the power of community, especially the one Sotomayor found in South Philly.

“Making sure the community knew the incredible work they were doing and that we are here to fight for one another,” she said.

**This summer's free Theater in the X show is from, for and about Philadelphia
August 17, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Theatre in the X is presenting its annual free show in Malcolm X Memorial Park next weekend.

This summer’s play, “One Monkey Don’t Stop No Show,” runs Aug. 22-25. It’s a comedy about a middle-class African American family living in Philadelphia in the 1970s, whose lives are turned upside down when their niece, Beverley, comes up from the south to live with them.

“It brings up a lot of different conversations that are timely,” said Executive Director and Co-Founder LaNeshe Miller-White. “Getting people to talk about class versus north versus south versus income levels, and how we are treating each other based on those things, and what we’re assuming about each other based on those things.”

“It is a very nuanced conversation, and especially if you're talking about it where all the people you're talking about are Black.”

The play was written by Philadelphia’s Don Evans, who died a little over a decade ago. Miller-White said his work is not often performed here, so his two sons who still live in the city were very happy to hear this play would get a new life in their father’s hometown.

“They called us and were like, ‘We're so excited that you're doing our dad's work. ... He is a Philadelphia playwright, keeping that alive and doing it here is really important,’” Miller-White said.

Carlo Campbell, another co-founder and co-artistic director of Theatre in the X, is stepping onto the stage in this production. He said while it is a very Philly-based play, its messages expand to the larger Black community.

“It's got a cultural throughline that a lot of people of color — I say Black people, primarily, but people of color can identify with,” he said.

Director Maureen Henighan Booker thinks that anyone, regardless of race, can relate to this show, particularly the relationships within the family.

“If it is a true reflection of a human experience,” she said, “everybody in the building, everybody in the park will hear something, will feel something, will think something.”

Theatre in the X aims to break down barriers that often prevent people from seeing theater, including cost, transportation, and comfort level inside a theater. They put on various productions around the city, but their flagship summer show in Malcolm X Memorial Park is free, close to their target audience in West Philly, and outside in a familiar, relaxed space.

Campbell said he and the other co-founders started the company in 2013 because they wanted to see more opportunities for Black theater workers in shows that weren't focused on Black trauma. He said the group is a reflection of the people and the neighborhood they are built around.

“We are the community, the community is us. I just want to be a part of what I wish I could see. And hopefully, people are seeing what they wish they could see,” Campbell said.

Henighan Booker, who has worked with Theatre in the X previously as assistant director for “Dreamgirls” and “Zooman and the Sign,” says she appreciates that their performances show that Black stories are worthy of being told.

“It is our stories,” she said, “and believe it or not, our stories are enough.”

While the performance is free and BYOC (bring your own chair), you can donate or find more information on Theatre in the X's website.

Philadelphia Bookstore Crawl returns with discounts, giveaways and book signings

August 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Saturday marks the second annual Philadelphia Bookstore Crawl, where lit lovers around the city can pop into local bookshops for giveaways and special events.

It's a choose-your-own-adventure type of crawl, with no designated route for Philly's literati. More than three dozen stores are participating with deals, giveaways and book signings.

This will be the first crawl for sci-fi store Multiverse and its co-owner Sara Hughes, after setting up shop in Chestnut Hill last year.

"There's a really strong small business district here, and so there's really great support and collaboration," she said. "That's just exciting to kind of grow beyond just being a bookstore but actually being an important space in the community."

Christopher Cirillo, manager of Philly AIDS Thrift at Giovanni's Room, said the Philly Bookstore Crawl showcases one of the city's strengths.

"One of the cool things about Philadelphia is it's a very 'bookstore town,' and in all the places that I've lived I find that Philly has a really great independent bookstore scene that I don't see replicated in other places," he said.

"[The Book Crawl] encourages people to explore different neighborhoods in Philadelphia than the ones they might be most familiar with," added Hughes.

Cirillo said last year's event created a lot of buzz.

"Really super exciting to see people that we've never seen before coming in the store, excited about books, talking about the next store that they were gonna go to. Brought a lot of life into the store," he said.

And, he said, the event gives diverse shops the chance to find like-minded patrons.

“Everybody has their own niche audience that they’re looking for. And then the opportunity for new people to be invited into the spaces and to discover what Philly has to offer, as far as bookstores go, is great.”

For an interactive map and a list of participating shops, visit phillybookstorecrawl.com.

September

Opera Philadelphia cuts all tickets to \$11 in 'pick your price' model, hoping to widen audience

September 2, 2024

Opera Philadelphia is lowering all tickets to \$11 under new general director Anthony Roth Costanzo, establishing a “pick your price” model aimed at widening the company’s audience.

Costanzo announced Tuesday the company has raised \$7 million since June 1 when he replaced David Devan, who retired after 13 seasons. The money addressed debt and enabled the new model, in which people can pay more than the minimum if they want to.

“This is chapter one of a long-term turnaround story,” Costanzo said. “Creating a new place for opera in our current time requires risk. It doesn’t require doubling down on safe choices, and that’s going to mean that we have to enable failure.”

Costanzo, a 42-year-old countertenor with an active singing career on the world’s top stages, took over ahead of a 2024-25 season trimmed to nine performances, down from 30 in 2018-19, the last season before the coronavirus pandemic, and 16 in 2022-23. Tickets for this season originally were priced at \$30-\$300.

“Every dollar you spend over \$11 helps to not only support the opera, but support the people who want to come to the opera,” Costanzo said. “It will certainly represent a decrease in income from ticket sales. But it will represent an increase in contributed revenue and I believe also in the future in foundation revenue and hopefully corporate revenue.”

Opera Philadelphia sold 14,211 tickets last season at an average of \$85.77, resulting in 13% of the company’s revenue. In the 2022-23 season, 17,464 tickets were sold at an average of \$78.32, also bringing in 13% of revenue.

This season’s schedule at the Academy of Music, which has about 1,800 full-view seats, includes three performances of Missy Mazzoli’s “The Listeners” beginning with its U.S. premiere on Sept. 25, two performances Joseph Bologne’s “The Anonymous Lover” starting Jan. 31 and four

performances of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" opening April 25. The company scrapped its innovative season-opening festival as part of budget cutting.

Costanzo spoke with Henry Timms, the outgoing president of New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, which since 2022 has relied on a choose-what-you-pay model starting at \$5 for many events during its "Summer for the City" schedule.

Costanzo said the past model had been predicated on including popular titles such as Bizet's "Carmen," intended to spur ticket sales.

"We market to the people who can afford \$150 tickets. That changes the feel of the marketing. It changes the demographics of who we market to and where we market," Costanzo said. "Ticket price and selling tickets becomes a real focal point of how we create art form in our time. And I think that's a shame. I think it limits us and hinders innovation and progress."

Eagles home opener with Jeremiah Trotter, Jane's Addiction at Hard Rock, and other 'Shore Things' this weekend

September 5, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — It's shoulder season down the Shore, or "locals summer" — and there's still plenty of fun left.

Jane's Addiction is performing at the Hard Rock in Atlantic City on Saturday night. Philadelphia Eagles legend Jeremiah Trotter has a VIP meet-and-greet for fans at the Eagles home opener watch party at Draftkings Sportsbook at Resorts Casino. Saturday is the Wildwoods Food and Music Festival. And the Ocean City Pops host a special night with the Duprees at Music Pier on Saturday.

Wildwood Food and Music Festival

The Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce presents the Wildwood Food and Music Street Festival (formerly known as Wildwoods Seafood and Music Festival), featuring a full day of fantastic food, live music, shopping and more. This event is free to attend.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024)

Where: Byrne Plaza, along Pacific Avenue between Oak and Schellenger avenues, downtown Wildwood

The '80s meet the '90s on Saturday night, when Love and Rockets join Jane's Addiction on their North American tour. Love and Rockets, back again after about 15 years, created a fusion of underground rock and pop music that became an early catalyst for alternative rock. Fitting, then, that they should open for Jane's Addiction, the band that took alternative rock mainstream. Expect hits from critically acclaimed and generation-defining albums Nothing's Shocking and Ritual de lo Habitual, as well as a dip into their newest album, Imminent Redemption.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 8 p.m.

Where: Hard Rock Hotel, 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City

Jeremiah Trotter Meet & Greet

Watch the Eagles home opener against the Atlanta Falcons with the Axe Man himself, Eagles Hall of Famer Jeremiah Trotter. Exclusive meet-and-greet tickets (available for \$35) include a VIP seat to watch the game. Trotter played for Washington and Tampa Bay, but he's best known for his career with the Birds, where he was a significant defensive force until he retired in 2009.

When: Friday, Sept. 6, 7 – 8 p.m.

Where: Draftkings Sportsbook at Resorts, 1133 Boardwalk, Atlantic City

Ocean City Pops with the Duprees

It doesn't get more Jersey than the Duprees in Ocean City. The well-loved trio's music has echoed through performance halls for 60 years. This weekend, the unique sound of the Ocean City Pops joins the classic and timeless voices of Tommy Petillo, Jimmy Spinelli and Shawn Stevens for a special night.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Where: Music Pier, 825 Boardwalk, Ocean City, N.J.

Revolutionary War Encampment Weekend at Historic Cold Spring Village

Authentically dressed and armed, professional reenactors bring the American Revolutionary War to life at Historic Cold Spring Village. Visit the encampments of Continentals and Hessians, watch artillery demonstrations, hear a reading of the Declaration of Independence and learn about the flags of the Revolution. Kids can search the village for clues in the Patriot Spy Game.

When: Saturday, Sept. 7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: Historic Cold Spring Village, 733 Seashore Road, Cape May

African American Museum in Philadelphia debuts new exhibit from CCH Pounder of ‘Avatar,’ ‘NCIS: New Orleans’ fame **September 15, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — “Shared Vision” is the new exhibition that debuted this Saturday at the African American Museum in Philadelphia (AAMP), and features art from the personal collection of actress CCH Pounder.

Dejay Duckett, vice president of curatorial services at AAMP, spent two years working with Pounder on the collection that is now on display at the museum.

“A lot of pieces in her collection are figurative and portraits,” he said. “And it gives our audiences a chance to see themselves and see people they know and feel that that reflection and these pieces just, they kind of vibrate right off the walls.”

Pounder, who starred in James Cameron’s “Avatar” and is a regular cast member on “NCIS: New Orleans,” said the pieces allow visitors to expand on their idea of African, African American and African diaspora art.

She also participated in a community discussion on Saturday about the collection.

“It first starts by just looking at things in books, hearing art talks, hearing what people are saying about the work and why they do it,” she said. “Some of them, it’s simple as I want to have images of Black people. It’s just that basic and that’s important too. And then other times it’s an emotional degree that you start to see after a while.”

Duckett echoed Pounder’s hope of the art being able to change perspectives.

“There's a feeling and an energy that's in these pieces... it's just powerful. And so you can think about, you know, whether you're an artist or whether you're a lover of art, these pieces just expand your boundaries. Young, old, everyone,” he said. “That's what art does. It makes you think and look at the world differently.”

“Shared Vision” is open now until March 2025, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society announces theme of 2025 Philadelphia Flower Show September 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Get your tickets for “Gardens of Tomorrow” today. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society announced the futuristic motif as the theme of the 2025 Philadelphia Flower Show.

The event aims to explore how gardening can help “shape a better future.”

“‘Gardens of Tomorrow’ invites us to envision a future where our actions today nurture a healthier planet,” Seth Pearsoll, vice president and creative director of the Philadelphia Flower Show, said in a statement. “Through the simple act of gardening and planting trees, we plant seeds of hope for a greener future. The 2025 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show highlights the transformative power of plants and inspires us to create a beautiful, more resilient future together.”

PHS President Matt Rader added that the event “envision[s] a world where gardening is both a joyful hobby and a celebrated force for creating a healthier planet, society, and people.”

New this year is a thematic art series of digitally hybridized flowers, which uses historic photos and illustrations to hint at “what could sprout tomorrow with what we tend to today.”

Founded in 1829 by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Philadelphia Flower Show is the nation’s largest and the world’s longest-running horticultural event.

The 196th annual Philadelphia Flower Show will take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center from March 1 to 9, 2025.

Ticket information can be found at tickets.phsonline.org.

EDUCATION

July

Cheyney University is taken off probation by group that accredits area colleges

July 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The board that accredits the region's colleges has taken Cheyney University off of probation.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education on Monday posted its decision that the historically Black college was no longer on probation.

Cheyney's accreditation had been in jeopardy since November, when the Commission said the college wasn't able to show it was meeting standards for ethics, academics and financial monitoring, among other factors.

Cheyney president Aaron Walton questioned how and why the university was placed on probation, after two groups appointed by the Commission indicated Cheyney was on the right track.

"Two teams coming in and us being put on probation without any warning and discussion seemed somewhat inappropriate," Walton told KYW Newsradio Tuesday.

Pennsylvania state Sen. Vincent Hughes was also among those who objected to the historically Black college being put on probation.

"Many of us are on the record in significant ways, not happy about what went on with Cheyney University with Middle States, and we're very prepared to move forward," Hughes said. "We thank Middle States for seeing what we've been telling folks for a while now — that has been the positive direction of Cheyney University for a few years."

Walton said after several years of increases, Cheyney's enrollment fell 8% last year. "This probationary status came at the height of recruiting season and has lasted into the spring," he said. "So a lot of decisions, a lot of discussions have been made by families and we may not have been the beneficiaries of some of those positive discussions."

Walton says Cheyney ended the spring semester with an enrollment of 724.

“I was pleased with the Commission’s action and the actions that they took to remove us from our probationary status,” Walton said. “I think it signals a new day for Cheyney.”

Pa. Senate passes bill encouraging school districts to ban students’ phone use during day July 4, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania’s Senate on Wednesday approved a bill to encourage school districts to start a pilot program that effectively bans students’ use of cellphones during the school day in an effort to improve their mental health and academic performance.

The bill, which passed 45-5, would authorize grants to school districts to buy locking bags after the district creates a policy requiring students to leave their phones in such bags for the whole school day. It now goes to the state House for consideration.

The bill’s sponsor, Republican state Sen. Ryan Aument of Lancaster, said he hopes that limits on phone use will result in improvements in students’ mental health and academic performance.

“Kids spend so much time on social media and using their smartphones that it’s taking a toll on them mentally, emotionally and academically. Smartphone restrictions have proved successful in reversing these trends,” Aument said.

Under the bill, the policy must provide exemptions for students who have a documented medical condition that requires them to use a cellphone. Participating school districts must track changes over two school years in student mental health, bullying, violence and academic performance.

Grants would be awarded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and separate legislation would be required to set grant amounts and devote money to the purpose.

Most schools already have rules regulating student phone use. But a growing number of state officials have begun endorsing school cellphone bans, and such legislation is emerging in other states.

Last year, Florida became the first state to crack down, passing a law requiring public schools to ban student cellphone use during class time and block access to social media on district Wi-Fi networks. Some districts went further and banned phones for the entire school day.

California allows school districts to limit or ban the use of smartphones by students while at school, and the Los Angeles Unified School District board voted last month for the district to develop such a policy.

The Pennsylvania bill's passage in the state Senate comes two weeks after U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy called on Congress to require warning labels on social media platforms and their effects on young people.

Community demands oversight from Great Valley schools after students lewdly impersonated teachers on TikTok

July 16, 2024

MALVERN, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Teachers and parents packed a school board meeting in Malvern on Monday demanding more oversight and education in social media use after it came to light that middle school students impersonated nearly two dozen of their teachers on TikTok.

A New York Times report earlier this month revealed students at Great Valley Middle School had created fake accounts for at least 22 teachers — some featuring lewd content.

Patrice Motz, a Spanish teacher at Great Valley, said a colleague alerted her about the accounts in late February.

“I had no idea what was going on until I got home and realized I had to make a fake account to go on and see what they were,” she said, “and they were really horrific.”

The account purported to be Motz and suggested that she enjoyed inappropriately touching children.

“They had pulled a family picture from the internet, and the only one I had available ... was my children,” she said. Motz was one of the few teachers to go on the record with The New York Times, which exposed the months-long saga at the school.

“I hate this for our teachers,” said Great Valley community member Jeanette Harpold. “I feel like this has been downplayed. I know a lot of people feel like it’s been covered up.”

Teachers and parents demanded more policies and education around social media use for students, and they want to be a part of those changes.

Superintendent Daniel Goffredo said the district is reviewing such policies and working more social media literacy into the curriculum. There are also early discussions with lawmakers to fill some of the legal gaps of enforcement.

“As we move forward, we recognize both as a superintendent and as a board that it is critically important to look at ways to protect our staff and educate children and parents about the misuse of social media,” he said.

“Every one of us is a stakeholder in this,” added Nikki Salvatico, president of the Great Valley Education Association. “None of us are immune from this happening to us, so we have an opportunity here, and that’s why we’re here.”

Pilot program aims to teach Philly students indoor farming

July 31, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A new program in Philly schools will teach students about careers in hydroponic farming.

The Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) program is designed to expose students at every grade level to aspects of indoor farming — from growing plants to the plumbing, electrical and construction work needed to support them.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor and Industry Nancy Walker and Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding toured Philadelphia’s Fox Chase Farm on Tuesday to tout the \$250,000 state Schools-to-Work grant funding the program.

The program aims to expose 24 students at five Kensington schools to the skills necessary for indoor farming.

“[We are] looking at ways that we can innovate and engage our students to allow them to see careers in a much different format, all while growing,” said Fox Chase Farm principal and manager Dr. Mandy Manna.

The CEA program is offered to students at Gloria Casarez and Frances E. Willard Elementary schools, Russell Conwell Middle, and Jules E. Mastbaum High in Kensington. A fifth yet-to-be-determined school is also expected to participate.

The first phase allows students to take home their school-grown produce, Manna explained. “Imagine every child leaving once a week with a bag of microgreens or lettuce or a fruit that’s been grown.”

The second phase increases the volume to support local food charities, which will create even more career learning opportunities, said Mastbaum High School principal David Lon.

“In working with those food banks, we have marketing programs, we have culinary programs at Mastbaum. So there’s going to be a lot of cross-pollination that happens,” he said.

“Our third phase is being able to produce enough that we’re actually selling to make our program sustainable all through that entrepreneurship from our students,” Manna added.

Hydroponic equipment, she said, will be installed over the next few months, with the first plants — and career aspirations — growing by January.

August

School District of Philadelphia still filling teaching positions with start of new academic year just weeks away

August 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia is still hiring teachers, with three weeks to go before the start of classes. Looking to fill out its teaching corps, the district hosted a hiring event on Monday at school headquarters.

Prospective teachers came with resumes and optimism. About 95% of the district's teaching jobs are filled. That's on pace with this time last year. But that still leaves a few hundred positions open, especially for special education, science and math teachers.

Makalah Lawton, a Central High School graduate, has a degree in history and experience as a math coach. She was a teaching assistant in Washington, D.C., and now she is looking to return to Philly as a full-fledged teacher.

"I'm pretty open. I was a product of the School District of Philadelphia, so I'm actually looking to give back in the same way that I was given to," Lawton said. "But I really want to focus more on the elementary/middle school sector."

Eric Borowsky of Upper Dublin has 10 years of experience as an SAT tutor. He also showed up at Philadelphia school headquarters Monday in the hopes of landing a teaching job with the district.

"Math and English. I taught both doing what I was doing for the SATs, so I have a wide variety of disciplines," he said.

"I'm looking to do something new, and there seemed to be plenty of jobs available. And I think I have something to offer."

As of last week, the district had filled 77% of its bus attendant jobs, 88% of its school climate staff and 92% of its food service workers. A hiring fair for school support staff is scheduled for Wednesday in Mayfair.

NJ senator calls out 'flagrant waste on frivolous crap' at Salem City School District, demands deeper investigation

August 14, 2024

SALEM COUNTY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — A New Jersey state senator wants the attorney general to look deeper into the finances of the Salem City School District, after a recent audit uncovered some potentially wasteful spending there.

Sen. Declan O'Scanlan, a Republican member of the budget committee in Trenton, highlighted several budget items in the report from the state auditor, including a \$75,000 bill for unnecessary international travel and more than \$100,000 spent on college expenses for former students.

“This flagrant waste on frivolous crap should never happen,” O'Scanlan said.

He says Salem school officials should answer for these expenditures as well as several other problems, including apparent failures to meet state guidelines on procurement and the alleged awarding of contracts without proper bidding documentation.

“The bidding rules are pretty straightforward,” O'Scanlon said. “You know the threshold, you know when you have to bid. How are these entities simply ignoring these things? And are they doing it for nefarious purposes? Are they just lazy? Are they incompetent? We need to dig more and find out.”

O'Scanlan says audits like these are extremely important, and there is just not enough transparency with school budgets and municipal budgets all over the state. He wants the office of the state auditor to expand the scope of investigations to ensure taxpayers aren't being ripped off by corrupt or inept local governments.

“We need more oversight, overall, of local government across the board,” he said.

“We probably need to do some more shaming of these professionals, or what should be professionals, for falling down on the job.”

KYW Newsradio has contacted the Salem Schools superintendent for comment.

Philly School District to introduce new English language arts curriculum as part of \$70M overhaul

August 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When classes begin on Aug. 26, teachers in the School District of Philadelphia will use a new English language arts curriculum.

It's part of a \$70 million curriculum overhaul under Superintendent Tony Watlington. A new math curriculum was launched for the 2023-24 school year.

Watlington, in a back-to-school interview with KYW Newsradio, said one thing he learned last year was that even though 83% of teachers said they felt qualified to teach with the new materials, they wanted more training.

"The one Achilles heel is they didn't have enough time for professional development," Watlington said. As a result, he said, teacher training would be a major focus during this school year.

"(a) It's really important to hear the voices of teachers and (b) once we hear the voices of teachers, listen to it and do something about it," Watlington said.

Ideally, the superintendent continued, teachers would be given a year or two before introducing a new curriculum to students. "Unfortunately, the conditions for many of our students were such that we could not afford to wait," he said. Only 21% of third through eighth graders were proficient in math on the state PSSA exams in the 2022-23 school year.

The K-8 English language arts curriculum focuses on building skills, while the high school materials delve into literature.

Watlington said a benefit of standardizing the district's curriculum is that if students move to a different district school, they won't be unfamiliar with the material.

Parents bash NJ school district over proposal to eliminate courtesy busing so close to the start of school

Superintendent says contractor is not renewing its service and district is facing a bus driver shortage

August 22, 2024

DELANCO, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Angry parents gave school officials in Delanco, Burlington County an earful Wednesday night about a proposal to eliminate courtesy busing for some students.

Many parents were upset to learn through the school board's agenda that there was a resolution for a vote to eliminate courtesy busing, specifically for elementary school students who live less than 2 miles from the Delanco Township School District's Pearson Elementary.

"I'm angry. I'm upset. It's not safe," said Alicia Bain, a mother of a 6-year-old. "It takes 22 minutes to walk from my home to here. There is a close to a half a mile ... [without] sidewalks."

Bain and others directed questions at interim Superintendent Leonard Fitts.

"What would you do in our position?" Bain asked.

"I'd be very concerned, just as you are," Fitts replied.

About three weeks ago, Fitts said school officials discovered that the contractor used for busing students in their district — including high schoolers — would not renew their service. He said the district has been searching to hire a bus driver ever since, a problem many other districts have faced.

Parents said in the past, one bus took high schoolers to school first, then turned around and brought the younger kids to their school.

It's unclear exactly how many students this change would impact.

“If they cancel the buses, we’ll have to find another way,” said parent Yamilec Branch. “Somebody is going to be late — my kid is going to be late, I’m going to be late, my husband is going to be late. Something’s got to give.”

Others shared frustration over a lack of communication this close to the start of the new school year. After parents voiced their concerns, the school board decided to table the discussion for now.

The superintendent emphasized the district is actively trying to hire a bus driver.

“It’s not the money. It’s not a reason to make a change. It’s because we do not and we have not been able to get contract services to provide the service,” Fitts stressed. “We are trying. I need your help. If you know of any person who might be in possession of an endorsed bus driver’s license, have them get in touch with us.”

September

Lawmakers introduce measures to hold colleges like UArts accountable for sudden closures September 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — After the University of the Arts suddenly shuttered its doors earlier this year, Pennsylvania Democrats are working to prevent other colleges from doing the same.

“It is not normal for me at age 22 to blame myself for the mistakes of people twice my age,” said Alex McFadden, who graduated from the University of the Arts in the spring before its sudden June closure. “It is not normal for hundreds of people to be fired over Zoom via a scripted speech. It is not normal for students to have to start the process of reapplying to colleges and programs within days.”

Faculty and students were given just a week’s notice.

“The situation with the University of the Arts exposed a pretty wide gap in our state law,” said state Rep. Ben Waxman, which left students and staff floundering.

Waxman and other lawmakers worked on legislation in this year's state budget that he said will "ensure orderly closures, teach-out plans, and preservation of student and administrative records."

"There were no clear procedures for closure that were required," Waxman explained. "There were no preservation of records and plans, and no notification and accountability."

The state budget now sets a deadline of July 1, 2026, for the state Board of Education to create standard procedures for schools of higher learning in order to protect students and staff.

"Colleges and universities are announcing closures at a rate of about one every week," said state Sen. Nikil Saval, who voiced support for the measures. "This thrusts students into precarious positions with loans but without degrees."

The changes, while welcome, are too late for higher education employees like Madison Claus, a former UArts administrative assistant and union organizer.

"I stayed at UArts despite the low pay and despite being always overworked because I believed it was a special place where interdisciplinary art could flourish," she said. So when news spread of its impending closure, she was devastated.

"As a full-time staff member I was shocked, and as an alum I was heartbroken."

Philadelphia School Board president says closures are likely, with district expected to prepare for review of buildings

September 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Board of Education is preparing to take a hard look at how the school district's aging buildings are used. As a result, some schools could be closed or consolidated.

Should a resolution on Thursday's school board meeting agenda be approved, the superintendent would be directed to draw up a plan to make a comprehensive review of its school buildings.

The plan would consider evolving enrollment patterns, and it would include input from parents and the community. Reginald Streater, school board president, told reporters on Tuesday that the goal is to use the resources available to maximize student achievement.

"But I'm not going to gaslight the community. The board doesn't want to gaslight the community and the district doesn't want to gaslight the community," said Streater.

"This process could — or will likely — lead to some closures, but it won't be in a way where that is the only outcome. Because this isn't just about buildings. It's about students. And doing it in a way that is helpful for students."

The district in 2013 closed 24 schools during a budget crisis, but school board President Reginald Streater said this process will be different.

"This will not be like 2013, and that is not what the intent is. It's to engage the community and create a process where there's public-private intergovernmental conversations."

The district plans to hire a firm to help gather community input, and Streater says Mayor Cherelle Parker will be part of the process.

"This isn't the board alone, but where we are working in partnership and collaboration with our mayor."

Streater couldn't give a timeline for when the plan was expected to be presented to the board, and he couldn't say how long the review process would take.

School District of Philadelphia outlines plan to help students and teachers discuss Israel-Hamas war

September 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia is taking steps to ensure that students can discuss the Middle East conflict in class without feeling threatened or unsafe.

The district does not tolerate antisemitism, nor does it tolerate Islamophobia, Superintendent Tony Watlington told the school board Thursday night. He outlined a series of measures to foster classroom environments where students can safely share points of view about the war in Gaza.

Watlington said the district has enlisted a social justice nonprofit to provide staff training at schools.

“We’ve partnered with Facing History and Ourselves to provide professional development and coaching on ways to respect differences for 10 identified schools that seem to be a bit at the epicenter of some of the more pronounced conflict,” he said.

In recent months, the public portion of school board meetings has included allegations of teachers being antisemitic and Palestinian students saying they feel unsupported.

Watlington said Temple University will host student forums and Penn will hold monthly workshops with district and school leaders to discuss antisemitism and Islamophobia. The district will also meet regularly with community advocates.

Philadelphia students have new representation on school board

September 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Two new nonvoting student representatives have taken their seats on the Philadelphia Board of Education.

Charles Rinker, a sophomore at Franklin Learning Center, and Kenzy Ahmed, a junior at Northeast High School, were sworn in at Thursday night's School Board meeting. Jake Benny, a junior at Central High School, took the oath of office as an alternate.

The students participate in board deliberations and give the nine voting adults a student's point of view.

"I will make sure that I represent students' voices responsibly and effectively. And I will do everything in my power to make the progress that is needed to make students feel heard and seen," Rinker said after taking his oath.

"I am profoundly honored to have been elected for the position as one of the three student board representatives," said Ahmed. "I'm genuinely thankful for this role and I'm eager to be the voice for students who struggle to find a voice of their own."

"When we work together we can create instrumental change for the students of Philadelphia. Because they deserve it," Benny said.

"Our job in education is not just to educate our young people, but to help them to know how to lead," Superintendent Tony Watlington said, thanking the students for their service.

The students were chosen from 25 citywide applicants. The mayor's chief education officer, Debora Carrera, told the students that their voices were critical. "Your role is so important because you are representing your peers," she said. "You are bringing to this body what matters to young people. And we want to hear what matters."

The board reinstated student representatives after the city regained control of its schools in 2018.

ELECTIONS & POLITICS

July

Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity: When is an 'official act' official?

July 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Supreme Court on Monday released its ruling in Trump v. United States, stating that a former president has absolute immunity for official acts but not for unofficial acts, extending the delay in the Washington criminal case against Donald Trump on charges he plotted to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss and all but ending prospects he could be tried before the November election.

“The Supreme Court for the first time held that future presidents do not need to worry about criminal liability for their official acts, not when they’re president, not after they’re president — not ever,” said Craig Green, a professor at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law.

So, which of Donald Trump's actions in special counsel Jack Smith's indictment are official and which are unofficial? A lower court now must decide.

What makes an 'official act' official?

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion, and every conservative justice, including the three appointed by Trump, sided with him in the historic 6-3 decision.

“He basically said that the president, in order to do his job, needs to have immunity from [prosecution of] what would be official acts,” said Loyola law professor and David W. Burcham Chair in Ethical Advocacy Laurie Levenson.

“Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power entitles a former president to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority,” Roberts wrote. “And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts.”

So, what is an “official act”?

“We're not quite sure,” said Levenson. “It's something that's either defined by his statutory duties or something that the president is called upon to do, like being commander in chief. But there is a presumption that whatever the president does is going to be one of these ‘official acts,’ and the burden is going to be on a prosecutor, like Jack Smith, to show that it's an unofficial or private act.”

Green said the majority refused to say anything about almost all of the allegations.

“The only thing they say for sure is communicating with the Department of Justice is 100% official,” says Green.

The justices, for instance, wiped out Smith’s use of allegations that Trump tried to use the investigative power of the Justice Department to undo the 2020 election results even though officials told him they had uncovered no evidence of pervasive fraud.

“Every other thing: talking to private individuals, talking to state officials, talking on Jan. 6 — all of those things have to be decided by the District Court,” says Green.

That includes Trump talking to state election officials after the election, telling Vice President Mike Pence to reject Electoral College votes on Jan. 6, 2020, and his social media posts and the speech he delivered to supporters in the run-up to the riot at the U.S. Capitol. The Court has left it open for U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, the lower court judge, to decide if these and other actions are official or unofficial acts.

'A king above the law'

Roberts insisted that the president “is not above the law.” But in a fiery dissent for the court's three liberals, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote, “In every use of official power, the President is now a king above the law.”

“She basically said, you know, this really means that we may see the end of the democracy as we know it,” said Levenson.

Particularly worrisome to Green and other critics of the decision is the presumption of immunity from prosecution.

“Presidents and former presidents can be immune from criminal prosecution for stealing things or killing people or defrauding people or accepting bribes or any of the other things that you think are criminal ... for their whole lives. That’s what the Supreme Court said today — if those actions happen inside some bubble of ‘official acts,’ and the boundaries of that bubble are not defined,” said Green.

“I think the Supreme Court probably most honestly would say, ‘Nobody is above the law,’ kind of as the result of today’s ruling. Even the president is not above the law — except when he’s doing his official duties, I think, is the way the Supreme Court ruled today. And that is a first-time, unprecedented ruling. That’s what it is. And I think that for people who are concerned about criminal acts by presidents, I think it’s not a happy result.”

Will Trump stand trial?

If Trump is reelected before the case goes to trial, he will have the authority to tell the Justice Department to drop it, Levenson said. If the trial does not take place before the election, and Trump is not re-elected, he presumably would stand trial soon thereafter.

Before the Supreme Court got involved, a trial judge and a three-judge appellate panel had ruled unanimously that Trump could be prosecuted for actions undertaken while in the White House and in the run-up to Jan. 6.

“For the purpose of this criminal case, former President Trump has become citizen Trump, with all of the defenses of any other criminal defendant,” the appeals court wrote in February. “But any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as president no longer protects him against this prosecution.”

Chutkan ruled against Trump’s immunity claim in December, saying the office of the president “does not confer a lifelong ‘get-out-of-jail-free’ pass.”

Trump’s trial had been scheduled to begin March 4, but the case has been on hold since December to allow Trump to pursue his appeal. Chutkan had indicated at that time she would likely give the two sides at least three months to get ready for trial once the case returns to her court.

That had left the door open to the case potentially going to trial before the election if the Supreme Court — like the lower courts — had ruled that Trump was not immune from prosecution.

But the Supreme Court's ruling that Chutkan must conduct further analysis is expected tie the case up for months with legal wrangling over whether the actions in the indictment were official or unofficial.

KYW Newsradio's Eric Walter contributed to this report.

Attorney files lawsuit to keep Robert F. Kennedy Jr. off New Jersey's presidential ballot this November

July 4, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — A New Jersey attorney has filed a lawsuit to keep Robert F. Kennedy Jr. off the ballot this presidential election, claiming he is violating the state's "sore loser law."

The sore loser law is designed to prevent someone from running in a general election after they lose a primary, attorney Scott Salmon said. But according to an update to the law in 1998, candidates in New Jersey just have to actively seek the nomination, not actually lose a primary.

"It's no longer the rule that you actually have to submit the paperwork and all that stuff to appear on the ballot to be disqualified under it," said Salmon.

Salmon, a Democrat, filed the lawsuit because Kennedy actively sought the Democratic nomination before switching to an independent, which he said clearly violates the sore loser law.

"He filed with the Federal Elections Commission as a Democrat. He started raising money and spending money," Salmon said. "There are countless examples of newspaper articles, radio spots, TV ads and all sorts of things where he talks about running as a Democrat."

Salmon said it's important to uphold the rule of law — and the suit isn't anti-democracy.

"Democracy doesn't mean that every single person who wants to run for office is able to do it," he explained. "There are certain minimum requirements."

Salmon filed a similar lawsuit in 2020 to keep Kanye West off the ballot.

Kennedy's campaign said he is mounting the strongest independent challenge to corporate-funded parties in more than 30 years, including legal battles in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The campaign said the candidate never filed with any state as a Democrat, so he remains eligible as an independent.

The New Jersey Division of Elections said no decision has been made on ballot eligibility for independent candidates. Officials did not comment further, as the case is pending and a court hearing is scheduled for later this month.

Salmon said the situation with Bob Menendez potentially running as an independent for the U.S. Senate isn't a clear violation of the sore loser law in his view, and it is not a case he's currently pursuing. Menendez is currently on trial for charges that he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in gold and cash in exchange for favors benefiting three New Jersey businessmen.

Pa. delegation at RNC in high spirits following Trump's survival of assassination attempt July 15, 2024

MILWAUKEE (KYW Newsradio) — The Republican National Convention in Milwaukee got off to a rousing start: Attendees at the Pennsylvania Delegation Breakfast on Monday learned that the classified documents case against Donald Trump had been dismissed.

Pennsylvania GOP chairman Lawrence Tabas announced it to the crowd, and it was greeted with a standing ovation.

Since Trump's survival of an assassination attempt at a Butler, Pennsylvania rally on Saturday, many Republican delegates have said the party is energized entering the RNC, and a judge's decision to dismiss this case only fuels their enthusiasm.

Pennsylvania Congressman Dan Meuser was at the Trump rally Saturday. While there was a tragic loss of life, he said the former president's response to the shooting galvanized his supporters.

"With all that going on, to stand up, blood on his face, and put his fist up and tell everybody, 'Keep fighting, it's gonna be OK.' That's what he did," he said.

“It just has energized us more coming forward to the convention, that this guy just got shot at an assassination attempt on his life and he is still fighting for America,” added western Pennsylvania delegate Mike McMullen. “And he’s giving a fist bump and a thumbs up — who does that?”

The delegates agree violence has no place in American politics, and it’s time to remove the personal attacks and focus on policy.

Pennsylvania RNC delegation chairman Jim Worthington said the battleground Keystone State is crucial to Trump’s campaign. All eyes will be on the Pennsylvania delegation this week.

“With that being said, it’s important for us to be at our best,” said Worthington. “We’re going to be in the very front of the arena. People are going to be clamoring to speak to us. They’re going to be watching for our reactions, they’re going to be watching for our enthusiasm.”

Pennsylvania Democrats line up to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris for the presidential nomination

July 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With President Joe Biden exiting the presidential race and endorsing his vice president in the runup to the Democratic nomination, state parties are starting to formally announce their support for Kamala Harris. Pennsylvania delegates to the Democratic National Convention indicated on Monday they will switch their votes to her from Biden.

Pennsylvania's delegation and state party chair, state Sen. Sharif Street, says the 185 delegates convened on Zoom and voted by acclamation to support Harris for the top of the Democratic ticket.

Of course, delegates won’t cast their votes for a nominee until the Democratic National Convention next month. Pennsylvania’s 19 electoral votes are up for grabs in November and are crucial once again. The winner of the Keystone State has won the last four presidential elections and 10 out of the last 12.

“We thought, because of Pennsylvania’s critical role in what’s happening nationally, we should be out front and show that we’re a united party, united behind the vice president and then we can get back to talking about the record and not President Biden’s health.”

Street says November’s election may be decided by what Pennsylvanians think.

“We are, many would argue, the most critical battleground state not only for determining the outcome of who will be president but also who will control the Senate,” Street said. “And we have a number of key battleground congressional races, so we have a great chance to flip the House as well.”

Street says Harris has the potential to increase participation among voters who turned away from Biden, including Black voters and young people.

“Young people were saying, 'Why do we have to choose between two 80-year-olds?'" he said.

If elected, Harris would become the first woman, the first Black woman, and the first person of South Asian descent to hold national office.

“I think Black folks will get energized to elect a Black woman president of the United States,” said Street.

Street says it puts the Party in a stronger position.

“It’s created a lot of energy. The party raised almost \$70 million [on Sunday] alone. We are looking really strong, and I think the energy and momentum is with Kamala Harris.”

The Pennsylvania Democratic Party has also endorsed Harris for president.

August

All eyes on Philly: Harris, Walz and Vance to campaign in the city on Tuesday

Updated on August 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — All eyes will be on Philadelphia on Tuesday.

U.S. Vice President and Democratic presidential contender Kamala Harris will make her first public appearance with her newly announced running mate — Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz — on Tuesday in Philadelphia.

The location of the rally fueled speculation that she would choose Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro. Adding to the conjecture: Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker posted a video on Friday depicting several Philadelphia-area officials and Democrats promoting Harris, but also playing up Shapiro as her running mate. A person familiar with the mayor's thinking said she had no insider knowledge about Harris' intentions.

Harris and Walz are scheduled to rally at Temple University's Liacouras Center around 5:30 p.m. Tuesday as the first stop on their campaign blitz, but they won't be the only ones campaigning in Philly.

Ohio Sen. JD Vance, Republican Donald Trump's vice presidential running mate, will also be in South Philadelphia Tuesday at noon for his own campaign rally. It will take place at 2300 Arena.

Harris interviewed at least three running mate contenders on Sunday in Washington. They were Shapiro, Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, according to a person familiar with the process who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations. Three other men were in the mix: Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Harris' aggressive, seven-state battleground tour starts in Philadelphia and winds through Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada. Campaign officials say each stop will be loaded with local election officials, religious leaders, union members and more in an effort to show the diversity of her coalition.

Everything about Harris' campaign has been rapid-fire out of necessity. She's only been a candidate for a little over two weeks, since President Joe Biden bowed out of the race following a dismal debate performance and escalating calls within the Democratic Party for him to step aside.

Democratic delegates officially selected Harris as the party's presidential nominee Monday night, according to final vote results released by the Democratic National Committee.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

US Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey crosses the Delaware to campaign for Pennsylvania colleague, Sen. Bob Casey

August 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Sen. Bob Casey on Thursday courted Black voters in Philadelphia with the help of his New Jersey colleague, Sen. Cory Booker, at a church in Northwest Philadelphia.

Bishop J. Louis Felton emceed the two senators' visit to Prince of Peace Church in Strawberry Mansion. He had hosted President Joe Biden at his own church in Mt. Airy, last month.

Felton said people sometimes look askance at mixing church and politics, but he sees a connection.

"We come together today so the church can take a stand for justice, for integrity, for freedom and for a better future for us all," he said.

Only the venue was unusual for Casey. His message was his standard campaign appeal: "I've worked very hard to deliver for the people of this city, whether it's money for schools in Philadelphia, for roads and bridges and high-speed internet, for water systems"

Casey touted his record of defending voting rights, Social Security, health care and bringing home billions in federal dollars to the state, while attacking Republican David McCormick for his support of tax cuts for the highest earners.

“This is a battle, I think, for the ages, in this election,” said Casey.

The congregation were clearly already fans. It could be said Casey was preaching to the choir. But with a close race predicted between Casey and McCormick, Booker stressed how crucial voter turnout in Philadelphia will be in November. He urged the congregation to work on it.

“If we use our power over the next 80 days — that we come out and vote, that we organize, that we call our friends and neighbors and get them to the polls — we will have Kamala Harris in the highest office in the land and Bob Casey back in the United States Senate.”

The Democratic appeal to Black voters came as Donald Trump’s presidential campaign faced renewed criticism on race, after a campaign account published an immigration-related post on X with side-by-side photos — one, of a well-ordered, suburban-looking street, absent of people, labeled “Your neighborhood under Trump;” the other, showing the sidewalk crowded with Black- and brown-skinned people in front of a boarded-up urban storefront, labeled “Your neighborhood under Kamala.”

The Trump campaign denied criticism that the post was racist.

The McCormick campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Push to open more polling places in Philadelphia could take voting to the barbershop or beauty salon

August 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Right now, Philadelphia has lined up 689 polling places for its 1,700 polling divisions. City Commissioner Omar Sabir would like to get that above 700 ahead of Election Day on Nov. 5.

“Private polling locations are essential to the city’s electoral infrastructure providing vital access points for voters in every division,” he said.

Commissioners have raised the rental fee the city pays for hosting a polling place to \$150. That’s up from the previous rental fee of \$110 set in 2018. The fee is also per division, so locations where two or three divisions can fit on the property, it could double or triple the payment.

Sabir said the desired expansion of in-person locations is so voters will be less prone to make errors as can happen with mail-in ballots.

“People are making mistakes with the vote-by-mail ballots. It’s less likely for people to make mistakes if they’re voting on the machines,” he said.

Sabir also believes that having more places to vote will encourage in-person voting, especially if they’re nearby or in familiar places.

“Barbershops, beauty salons. They play a critical role in our communities so we’re really calling on the barbershops, but if you have a senior facility, apartment complex, any location,” he said.

Want to host a polling place on Election Day? Sabir said to contact the City Commissioner’s Office and they’ll send someone out to inspect for ADA compliance.

“By taking this historic step, we are ensuring that every voter in Philadelphia has equal access to a well-run, efficient and fair election process,” said Sabir. “This is a victory for democracy.”

Commonwealth Court rules Pa. can't reject mail-in ballots with missing or incorrect dates

A voter casts a ballot at a drop box standing outside Philadelphia City Hall.

August 30, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Commonwealth Court ruled 4-1 Friday that election officials in Pennsylvania cannot reject a mail-in ballot because of a faulty date on the return envelope.

State law says voters must sign and date mail-in ballot envelopes. But thousands of voters who forgot the date or wrote the wrong one were disenfranchised when their ballots were tossed as a result.

The Commonwealth Court says that violates the state constitution’s free and equal election clause. It ordered Philadelphia and Allegheny County — the named defendants in the suit — to stop enforcing the dating provision. But Ben Geffen of the Public Interest Law Center, who represented the voting rights advocates that brought the case, believes it is applicable through the state.

“Pennsylvania is the birthplace of modern democracy,” Geffen said. “We have a long tradition of free and equal elections. Today’s decision adds to that legacy.”

Though Omar Sabir, city commissioner of Philadelphia, technically lost the case, he is very pleased with the outcome.

“It’s great. I mean, this is a start but the legislature needs to do more to make voting accessible,” Sabir said.

Sabir says voters should still be very careful to read and follow mail-in ballot rules and get them in early so the election board can notify them if they’ve made any mistakes.

The number of mail-in ballots that might otherwise be disqualified for lacking accurate exterior envelope dates is comparatively small in a state where more than 6 million votes will be cast this fall, perhaps exceeding 10,000.

Evidence in litigation surrounding the requirement has indicated older voters have been more likely to have their ballots thrown out for lack of an accurate handwritten date. Far more Democrats than Republicans vote by mail in Pennsylvania.

'A wholesale abandonment'

In a lone dissent, Judge Patricia McCullough said the majority showed “a wholesale abandonment of common sense,” ignoring more than a century of legal precedent and rewriting the 2019 state law that dramatically expanded mail-in voting.

“I must wonder whether walking into a polling place, signing your name, licking an envelope, or going to the mailbox can now withstand the majority's newly minted standard,” McCullough wrote.

The office of Secretary of State Al Schmidt, appointed by Gov. Josh Shapiro, had no immediate comment about how the decision might alter its guidance to counties that run elections. In July, the Department of State told counties that return envelopes should be printed so they already include the full year, “2024,” leaving voters to add the accurate month and day.

“Multiple court cases have now confirmed that the dating of a mail-in ballot envelope, when election officials can already confirm it was sent and received within the legal voting window, provides no purpose to election administration,” the Department of State said in a release.

Tom King, a lawyer who represents the state and national Republican Party groups in the case, said he was disappointed in the decision and “absolutely will appeal.” They had argued the Pennsylvania Supreme Court had “already rejected similar arguments regarding the constitutionality of and the meaningless underlying the dating provisions” in prior cases regarding envelope dates, Ceisler wrote.

A statement released on behalf of Republican Party of Pennsylvania Chairman, Lawrence Tabas said this court order changes a “long-standing law and the rules for voting in Pennsylvania — with less than 70 days before this November’s election — and we will appeal.”

“Recently, both the PA State Supreme Court and a Federal appeals court were rightly deferential to Pennsylvania law and to the legislature’s authority,” the statement continued. “Both upheld the well-settled existing law, which requires Pennsylvania mail-in ballots to be dated in order to be counted. Decisions like the one that came today from the Commonwealth Court, that change the rules on the eve of an election, contribute to public perception that the judiciary is becoming more political and more willing to encroach on legislative authority.”

The plaintiffs include the Black Political Empowerment Project, POWER Interfaith, Make the Road Pennsylvania, OnePA Activists United, New PA Project Education Fund, Casa San José, Pittsburgh United, League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and Common Cause Pennsylvania.

They argued that county elections officials are able to tell whether ballots were cast in time because they are scanned and timestamped upon arrival.

The ACLU of Pennsylvania, which helped represent the plaintiffs, hailed the decision as a win for voters and democracy.

“No one should lose their vote over a simple human error that has no relevance to whether or not the ballot was received on time,” said Mike Lee, the group’s executive director, in an emailed statement.

The Committee of Seventy says every voter should feel confident casting their ballot by mail, knowing that minor mistakes will not keep them from making their voice heard.

“We have always maintained that the requirement to date the mail-in ballot envelope is unnecessary and we are glad to see today’s Commonwealth Court decision confirm that long-standing belief.”

September

Delaware County officials urge voters to be aware of election-related phishing scams September 4, 2024

DELAWARE COUNTY, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Delaware County residents are being targeted with election-related phishing emails and texts. A county election official has some advice for how to avoid the scams, and what to do if anyone should fall into a trap.

The deceptive messages often contain misleading information about voter registration status and mail ballots, and some even attempt to collect personal data through phishing tactics, according to Director of Elections Jim Allen.

“We’re hearing calls from people who have already applied to receive an absentee ballot. They’re getting a text message that says, ‘You haven’t applied yet,’ ‘There’s a problem,’ or something like that,” Allen said.

“Or people who have been registered for 10, 15, 20 or 30 years, who are getting an email that says: Hey you’re not registered.”

Allen says people should look out for certain wording in these messages.

“Any time you receive something that says you need to take urgent action — that should be a red flag,” he said. “You don’t want to click on anything you get as a text message, because it might trigger a phone call.”

He says these scams have one goal.

“It might take you to a website that’s trying to get your personal information — like your Social Security number, your date of birth. They’re trying to commit identity theft.”

Allen encourages anyone who believes they have been the target of such a scam to reach out to the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office. They will be able to report malicious activity or phishing attempts to that office.

Allen advises voters to trust only their official dot-gov websites, e.g., delcopa.gov/vote, for accurate information about voting.

“We urge voters to trust official websites,” he said. “Go to vote.pa.gov/status, and then you’ll be able to check on your voter registration status or your application for a mail ballot.”

Harris, Trump offer starkly different visions for the country in first debate

September 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Sparring on politics and personality, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump showcased their starkly different visions for the country on abortion, immigration and American democracy as they met for the first time Tuesday for perhaps their only debate before November’s presidential election.

The Democratic vice president moved repeatedly to get under the skin of the former Republican president, provoking him with reminders about the 2020 election loss that he still denies and derisive asides at his other false claims.

Harris not only tried to make the case that Trump is unfit for office but tried to use her answers in a way that seemed designed to provoke him into launching into one of the personal attacks that his advisers and supporters have tried to steer him away from. In one moment, Harris turned to Trump and said that as vice president, she had spoken to foreign leaders, “And they say you’re a disgrace.”

Trump again denied his loss to President Joe Biden four years ago, when his efforts to overturn the result inspired the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection.

“Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people,” Harris said, “So let’s be clear about that. And clearly he is having a very difficult time processing that.”

Trump in turn tried to link Harris to Biden, questioning why she hadn't acted on her proposed ideas while serving as vice president, and focused his attacks on Harris over her assignment by Biden to deal with the root causes of illegal migration.

He repeatedly dismissed her and Biden as weak, and cited the praise of Hungary's nationalist prime minister Viktor Orbán to show that he is a widely respected by leaders around the world, saying Orbán calls him the "most feared person."

The high-pressure matchup after a tumultuous campaign summer offered Americans their most detailed look at a campaign that's been dramatically changed. The vice president moved to far more effectively press the Democratic case against Trump than Biden did when he met Trump in June, linking the former president to GOP efforts to restrict abortion access and accusing him of undermining the nation's democracy.

The pair outlined sharply opposite visions of where the nation is and where they intend to take it if elected. Harris promised tax cuts aimed at the middle class and said she would push to restore a federally guaranteed right to abortion overturned by the Supreme Court two years ago. Trump said his proposed tariffs would help the U.S. stop being cheated by allies on trade and said he would work to swiftly end the Russia-Ukraine war, even if it meant Ukraine didn't achieve victory on the battlefield.

Local reactions

About a mile away from the debate, a watch party organized by the Committee of Seventy and other civic organizations packed City Tap House to tune in.

Most of the crowd seemed to be for Harris, but Trump fans still came out to support the former commander-in-chief.

Lauren Cristella with Committee of Seventy commented on "the buzz" currently in the city and state with the election around the corner.

"It's partially a result of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania [playing] such an important role in this election and the attention we're getting," she said.

As the two candidates were pressed on a number of hot-button issues, watch-partygoers paid extra attention, filled out debate BINGO cards and chatted about the different topics under discussion.

For Tiana from West Philly, she said she supports Harris, but wanted to hear from both candidates on certain topics like affordable housing and inflation.

“And also entrepreneurs,” she said. “Being an entrepreneur myself, a woman entrepreneur, I just want to understand what opportunities and policies are they generating?”

Molly Hasson was visiting Philadelphia from Seattle and came to the watch party to hear about certain topics important to her. At the top was the economy.

“I have kids in college and want to know that they have a secure future. You know, just general civil rights, like I think that’s a really important thing in this election, I want to see that move forward,” she said.

Terrill Haigler from North Philly predicted that just like in 2020, whoever wins Pennsylvania will win the election this year.

“To see so many Philadelphians politically engaged and involved is really inspiring to see what November will bring,” he said.

Pro-Palestinian protesters hit Market Street

In the lead-up to the debate at the National Constitution Center and while it was going on, a few hundred Pro-Palestinian protesters gathered at City Hall and marched down Market Street towards the Constitution Center demanding a ceasefire in Gaza and decrying the two-party system.

Protester Talia Giles was one of the hundreds with the Philly Palestine Coalition out to demonstrate against the two-party system.

“It’s a system that doesn’t allow for democracy,” she said.

With that in mind, she said both Harris and Trump don't appeal to them enough to vote for either.

"A lot of times we hear the arguments to have to choose the lesser of two evils," Giles said. "Why should I have to do that? Why should I have to choose what's lesser evil?"

The protests outside the Constitution Center remained largely peaceful, but a few arrests were later reported across social media.

Looking ahead

This was the only debate currently on the calendar between Harris and Trump, and could be the last before voters hit the polls in November.

Harris campaign chief spokesperson Brian Fallon suggested in a post just on X just after the debate ended that the campaign would be open to another clash in October.

When Trump was asked about another debate, he said he wouldn't commit.

"The reason you do a second debate is if you lose, and they lost," he told Fox News host Sean Hannity. "But I'll think about it."

Vice Presidential candidates Tim Walz and J.D. Vance will take the stage for their own debate in New York City on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Atlantic City mayor, wife indicted on child abuse charges for allegedly beating teenage daughter

September 18, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small and his wife, La'Quetta, have been indicted for allegedly beating their teenage daughter.

Marty and La'Quetta Small have been formally indicted on child endangerment charges. Marty Small is facing additional charges of aggravated assault and making terroristic threats.

This is the next step in the legal process after these allegations were initially raised in April. The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office said the couple physically and emotionally abused their then 15-year-old — now 16-year-old — daughter multiple times between December 2023 and January 2024.

The indictment alleges Marty Small knocked her unconscious with a broomstick and "earth-slammed" her down the stairs. La'Quetta Small — who is the superintendent of Atlantic City Public Schools — is accused of hitting her daughter with a belt and punching her in the face.

Last week, Atlantic City High School principal Constance Days-Chapman was indicted on official misconduct, child endangerment and other charges for allegedly failing to notify child welfare authorities that the teenager claimed she was being beaten at home by her parents.

The Smalls have repeatedly said this is a personal family issue that comes with the challenges of raising a teenager and that they are innocent of any wrongdoing.

Their attorney, Ed Jacobs, echoed them, saying the prosecutor's office is meddling in parental affairs and the Smalls are good parents and innocent of these charges. He said the claims outlined against them are incorrect and they will be exonerated.

Marty Small has remained in his position as mayor and said he has no plans to leave.

Philadelphia district attorney scores legal win against impeachment bid from state Republicans

September 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has dealt District Attorney Larry Krasner a victory, effectively putting a stop to a two-year-old effort by state Republicans to impeach him. The Court on Thursday ruled state lawmakers had improperly tried to stretch the impeachment process across two different legislative sessions.

In November of 2022, a resolution to impeach the Democratic district attorney passed along party lines, as the Pennsylvania House was controlled by Republicans at the time. In December, the Republican-controlled Senate accepted the articles of impeachment.

Republicans blamed a rising rate of gun violence on Krasner's office management, his approach to bail hearings, and his choices of crimes to prosecute. Krasner's stance was that those choices were precisely why he had been overwhelmingly elected to a second term with nearly 72% of votes cast.

Krasner called the impeachment the act of a "lame-duck majority" and filed suit in a lower court to overturn the impeachment resolution. The court issued a split ruling, rejecting Krasner's premise that the impeachment could not stretch across multiple legislative sessions, while at the same time ruling that the impeachment did not meet necessary legal standards.

The Republican-controlled Senate never took the House impeachment articles to a trial while it awaited the outcome of the court case, and Krasner never faced expulsion from office.

In considering an appeal from Republicans, the higher court did not address the issue of standards, leaving the lower court's ruling on the issue intact. But it did accept Krasner's argument on the question of legislative sessions, saying that articles of impeachment "became null and void" at the end of 2022, when the legislative session ended.

House Republicans issued a statement after the ruling, acknowledging that the impeachment trial will not move forward, but calling on the court to issue an answer as to whether impeachment was justified.

GUN CRIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

July

PSP unveils informational cards for people with autism to use during police encounters

July 1, 2024

MERION STATION, PA (KYW Newsradio) — An expert at St. Joseph's University applauds Pennsylvania's new ID cards designed to improve interactions between officers and people with autism but says more education is needed.

In an effort to make communication between police officers and people with autism safer, Pennsylvania State Police issued informational cards last week for people on the spectrum to carry. The cards, which can be downloaded from the PSP website, read "I have autism," and include statements like "Loud noises may bother me," and "Please be patient with me."

Katie Spilatore, a sophomore with autism at St. Joe's, said the cards don't cover every scenario.

"Not everybody has all of these. So my suggestion is that there would be a thing where each individual can circle the ones they have trouble with," Spilatore said.

"I may not respond to verbal commands — that's a good one. But escape is definitely an impulse for some people. Like with me, I would say in stressful situations, I would want to run away."

She says seeing someone running away may be a "big red flag" for police, so if they know it's just because they are scared, it may be helpful.

Spilatore said she was concerned when she first heard about the autism cards.

"Because in my experience people could baby talk you, like, talk down to them because they think your intelligence level is lower."

Dr. Joseph McCleery, the executive director of academic programs for the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support at St. Joe's, says while more police training is needed, the card may help guide officers as they interact with people on the spectrum.

“If I had a nonverbal or minimally verbal autistic son, I’d probably really like to have this card,” he said. “To teach them to hand this over to a police officer would probably make me feel a lot better about the situation.”

McCleery said the cards, while a good first step, aren’t for everyone.

“Not all autistic people want to disclose their diagnosis to police officers,” McCleery said. “Sometimes they don’t want to disclose because they might be with other people and they don’t want the other people to know they have autism. Sometimes they don’t want to disclose because they’re worried that people won’t know what to do.”

McCleery has been studying how virtual reality simulations can prepare people with autism for possible encounters with police. He says officers may be suspicious of a lack of eye contact or fidgeting, and the VR exercises are helping autistic people keep themselves still and safer.

“I’m not a police training expert. I’m an autism expert,” McCleery said. “So we’re focusing on what autistic people can do to make sure that they get through those interactions safely and effectively.”

“I’m not a police training expert. I’m an autism expert,” McCleery said. “So we’re focusing on what autistic people can do to make sure that they get through those interactions safely and effectively.”

Spilatore, who is enrolled in the university’s ASPIRE program for autism support, says the cards are a good first step.

“It could work for some people but for others, it’s just offensive,” Spilatore said. “Education needs to be paired with this.”

Philadelphia police identify two suspects wanted in connection with shooting of 7 people in June

July 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police say they have identified two suspects they are looking for in connection with a mass shooting last month in the city’s Strawberry Mansion neighborhood.

Police say 23-year-old Khalif Duren and 20-year-old Amirah Square are wanted for attempted murder, aggravated assault and related gun offenses for the June 19 shooting on North Bambrey Street near West Somerset Street.

Seven people, ranging in age from 16 to 46, were injured in the shooting. A 19-year-old was critically wounded.

Duren was on probation in a negotiated deal with prosecutors for carrying a gun in public.

Anyone with any information about where these two suspects are is urged to call police. To submit a tip via telephone, dial 215-686-TIPS; or text a tip to 215-686-TIPS. Use this electronic form to submit a tip anonymously. All tips will be confidential.

Report finds staffing levels for Philly public safety departments far below what's budgeted July 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Staffing levels in Philadelphia’s public safety departments remain far below what’s budgeted for them, according to a report from the city controller.

Controller Christie Brady says fire, police and prisons, taken together, are 19% below the number of employees budgeted but the prisons alone are 43% below budget.

“It’s critical and I don’t see how they can properly function,” Brady said.

There were nearly 2,000 correctional officers before the pandemic. Now, there are just over 1,000.

Last month, the Parker administration announced a contract extension for prisons employees, including a 4.5% raise and bonuses. It also lifted the residency requirement.

“I know that the city is trying to hire in these departments but it is critically short,” Brady added.

The number of police officers has dropped steadily from more than 6,000 pre-pandemic to under 5,000. The number of firefighters, though, has continued to grow.

There are about 100 more firefighters now than before the pandemic, but the budget for firefighters has grown by 500.

Chester Safe Streets Initiative gets creative this summer to do more with critically understaffed Police Department

July 23, 2024

CHESTER, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Police officials are getting creative in their attempts to get more officers out in the community this summer in the midst of a Police Department staffing shortage.

“We’re darn near 30 officers below what we’re budgeted for,” said Chester Mayor Stefan Roots. “And that’s a lot for a town like ours.”

Roots says, at times of the day when city officials expect to have the most patrol coverage, they actually have the least amount of coverage. So, in response, the Summer 2024 Safe Streets Initiative, launched on July 15, is designed to help the 65% staffed Chester Police Department respond to the increase in crime that typically happens this time of year.

The initiative will last for seven weeks this summer, in all — “but you know that’s the hot time here in the city,” said Roots.

“If a bad guy wants to catch his target, he’s more likely to find it when it’s 80 degrees than 8 degrees.”

In this way, the mayor says, the initiative is a crucial part of the city’s mission to combat violent crime and keep Chester residents safe. It frees up more police officers for patrol duties in two primary ways.

First, those officers’ work schedules are converted from three 8-hour shifts to two 12-hour shifts.

“And what this will do, in a nutshell, is give us more coverage throughout the day of numbers of police officers on the street,” Roots said.

He says that may look like a small increase, but it will go a long way.

Second, placing certain county employees, such as EMS and park police, in non-patrol desk duties also frees up uniformed Chester police officers for patrol duties.

“Delaware County Park Police and Delaware County Emergency Services stepped up, and their officers are doing office jobs that used to be done by uniformed Chester police officers,” said Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer.

The seven-week initiative is just a temporary measure to do more with less through the end of the summer. In the meantime, the Police Department will press on with recruitment efforts, with the ongoing goal of keeping more officers consistently on patrol, said Stollsteimer.

“We’re going to get rid of the residency requirement that you have to be a resident of the city to be hired as a police officer. We want to make sure the pay is scalable to other communities,” the D.A. added.

August

Better watch your speed on these 2 Philadelphia thoroughfares for the next month

August 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Speeders and red-light runners, beware. Police have taken note that, since the start of the pandemic, more drivers are ignoring the rules of the road, and they will be cracking down this month along two busy stretches in the southwest and northeast parts of the city.

Extra officers, with extra ticket books, will be out on Island Avenue, from Bartram Avenue to Woodland Avenue, and on Aramingo Avenue, from Somerset to the Frankford Creek.

"You're going to see a tremendous amount of uniformed vehicles out there on these thoroughfares," said Deputy Police Commissioner James Kelly. "Especially these two, now."

The Island and Aramingo enforcement blitz will run from Monday, Aug. 5, through Friday, Aug. 30.

Kelly says it's part of an ongoing effort to make the streets safer.

"I think people got into this groove that you can do whatever you want — and that's not the case. We're putting a lot of effort into it," he said.

Kelly says it follows similar efforts on North Broad Street, Bustleton Avenue and other arteries.

"I think we've got to give it a longer period of time to really make a good analysis of it. And some of it is just to change the culture of people who just want to drive any way they want, and this lawlessness."

Deputy Commissioner Mike Cram says, overall, the number of crashes is down slightly over last year.

"We've seen about 26,000 accidents, right? Slightly below the pace of last year at this time. On pace for a slight reduction at the end of the year," Cram said.

Kelly says police are also continuing to pay extra attention to Bustleton Avenue which became the route of choice for many after speed cameras were installed along Roosevelt Boulevard.

18-year-old pleads guilty to some charges in Northeast Philly bus stop shooting that injured 8 students

August 7, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — One of the men charged in the Northeast Philadelphia bus stop shooting that injured eight students earlier this year has pleaded guilty to some of the charges on Tuesday, as the rest of the defendants await their day in court.

Authorities said 18-year-old Jaamal Tucker was the getaway driver in the March 6 mass shooting at Cottman and Rising Sun avenues. He pleaded guilty to attempted murder, aggravated assault, conspiracy, simple assault and several counts of reckless endangerment.

The rest of the charges against him were tossed — but it was not a negotiated deal with prosecutors.

Tucker was one of the first suspects arrested in the case. The other defendants — Anhile Buggs, Jermahd Carter and Asir Boone — face similar charges, including attempted murder, aggravated assault, conspiracy and gun offenses.

A fifth suspect, who police said acted as a lookout during the shooting, was also arrested in March. The teenager is not being named due to his age.

Tucker is set to be sentenced in October.

\$150k dedicated to fight transient crime on South Jersey's River Line

August 26, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Officials in South Jersey are dedicating \$150,000 to a program they say will help keep their light rail system clear of transient crime, which they say is on the rise in a number of River Line towns.

Bordentown City Police Chief Shaun Lafferty, who is also president of the Burlington County Association of Police Chiefs, says local authorities are seeing an increase in criminal activity at or near NJ Transit River Line light rail stations.

“We’re concerned about the increasing number of incidents that were occurring in our River Line communities from the light rail, and impact of the ongoing cleanup of the Kensington section of Philadelphia, a well-known haven for many who are lost in addiction,” Lafferty said.

However, officials didn’t have specific details on the magnitude of the problem.

Burlington County Commissioner Allison Eckel says they are lending a hand to the small-town police forces along the River Line that are short on officers and resources.

“Earlier this month, the sheriff began deploying teams of his officers to River Line towns at designated hours to help patrol around River Line stations and nearby neighborhoods,” she said.

“The additional officers create a more visible police presence at and near the stations to help deter crime and act as a force multiplier for local police departments.”

In addition, Eckel said, at these designated times, sheriff officers are available to take criminal suspects from those small-town police departments, where they are processed following arrests, to the Burlington County Detention Center in Mt. Holly.

“Providing this prisoner transport saves local police time and resources and allows their officers to return to patrol and other investigations,” Eckel said.

Officials say this program, which stretches from Palmyra to Bordentown, goes a long way toward keeping officers on the streets and protecting communities.

61-year-old shot in Northeast Philly bank parking lot

August 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A woman was shot in a Wells Fargo bank parking lot Monday morning.

Police say it happened in Rhawnhurst on Bustleton Avenue around 9 a.m.

When officials arrived, they found the 61-year-old with a gunshot wound to her leg. She was transported to a nearby hospital and is expected to be OK.

Police did not recover a weapon and no arrests have been made.

Tips can be sent to Northeast Detectives at 215-686-3153 or the department's tip line at 215-686-8477.

September

Philadelphia police report 30% fewer homicides this summer than last

September 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Gun violence in Philadelphia has continued to trend downward since the all-time high recorded during the height of the pandemic. Although the summer months typically bring a spike, the city’s top cop said there have been far fewer shootings and homicides so far this year compared to last.

The number of homicide and shooting victims to date is currently below pre-pandemic levels. The city reached a record 562 homicides in 2021. In 2023, homicides fell to 410. So far this year, police have reported 183 homicides to date — the lowest it has been since 2016.

In June, July and August of this year, there was a nearly 30% reduction in homicides compared to last year. In August 2023, there were 34 homicides. Last month, there were 23.

Juveniles make up about 10% of shootings and homicides, and those incidents are slowing, too.

“Right now, we’re down almost 58% in murders for juveniles under the age of 18. Last year, we had 34 homicides. This year, we have 10,” said Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel.

One of the largest shootings of the summer happened in July. Nine people — almost all teens — were gunned down on July Fourth at an outdoor gathering. A 19-year-old was killed. Police are still investigating.

However, Bethel credits funding for community programs, more foot patrols in highly violent neighborhoods, a return to fully functional courts, and an increasing solve rate, which leads to less retaliation. He’s hopeful the decline in shootings and homicides will continue.

“We’ve changed our deployment model to be able to effectively prevent and intercept when we do see [violent] activity,” he said.

Sixteen-year-old charged with two murders, five shootings, including death of YBCDul September 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Authorities have charged a teenager in connection with five shootings, including two murders, in the past month.

Aiden Waters, 16, faces dozens of charges, including murder, attempted murder and aggravated assault, in connection to the shooting death of well-known Philly rapper YBCDul, also known as 25-year-old Abdul Vicks.

Vicks died on Aug. 23 after he was shot in the chest along 6th Street near Tabor Road in Olney.

Law enforcement sources told KYW that Waters was in a rival gang that targeted Vicks. Detectives were able to link a stolen car out of Cheltenham used in the shooting back to Waters.

When they arrested Waters, authorities also served a search warrant on his house and found two guns connected to other shootings in his basement, including one that killed 16-year-old Marquis Saunders and injured another 16-year-old back on Aug. 19.

Saunders was shot in the head and killed on Duncannon Street near Olney High School. His funeral happened on Sep. 6.

Assistant District Attorney Cydney Pope described one of the firearms that linked him to the crimes.

“One of them had a switch on it, which made it fully automatic, and that one had an obliterated serial number on it,” she said. “The gun that matches all these incidents was a stolen firearm.”

The gun was also connected to another earlier double shooting on Senter Street near Rising Sun Avenue that saw a 14-year-old shot in the leg, and a 43-year-old grazed by a bullet.

Detectives are also still investigating. They are looking into whether the double shootings and shooting death of Vicks could be connected to two shootings in March. One happened at a bus stop on Rising Sun Avenue and saw eight teens injured, and the other saw a 17-year-old killed on Ogontz Avenue.

Bill Fritze, supervisor of the District Attorney’s Gun Violence Task Force, said parents need to be involved to get guns out of their kids’ hands.

“Go get those guns off the street,” he said. “We have thousands of guns recovered and we are still seeing children being killed, it’s ridiculous. Go into those homes tonight, get those guns out of the house.”

Both Pope and Fritze said in many cases, these teens don’t even know each other, but create the problems and violence.

“I think a lot of this comes from juveniles’ needs to be famous. It’s almost like a social media influencer,” said Fritze.

Pope called it “clout chasing.”

“You are looking for notoriety, you are looking to make a name for yourself,” she said.

Before his arrest, authorities said Waters had never been in trouble with the law.

Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations across Pa. to get \$68M in funding
September 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations (VFRAs) in Pennsylvania are about to receive more than \$68 million in aid.

Auditor General Timothy DeFoor joined local officials Friday at the Warwick Township Fire Company in Jamison to announce the funds. He says it will help over 1,850 VFRAs — which are legally separate from the fire departments they support — in their day-to-day efforts.

The funds not only help pay for equipment and training, but provide insurance for volunteer firefighters and their families. The Southeast/Greater Philadelphia area will be getting about \$20 million.

The money comes from a 2% state tax on fire insurance premiums bought by Pennsylvania residents from out-of-state insurance companies.

“It is crucial that we support the men and women that choose to risk their own lives protecting our communities,” said Senator Frank Farry.

NJ governor, attorney general announce \$14.5M in new grants available for violence intervention and prevention work
September 24, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — New Jersey is opening up a competitive grant program for nonprofits in the state that are working toward reducing violence in their communities.

Gov. Phil Murphy and Attorney General Matt Platkin on Tuesday announced nearly \$14.5 million is available for community-based violence intervention (CBVI) programs throughout the state.

Both say CBVI programs are proven to succeed when they have access to resources for targeted violence intervention at the neighborhood level through mentoring, counseling and trauma support.

Murphy says there's no place for violence and that's why his administration has gone to great lengths to break cycles and ensure residents feel safe.

The state's CBVI programs use a range of strategies, including neighborhood outreach led by credible messengers, mentorship, high-risk intervention and de-escalation services, safe passage for school children in high-crime areas, and case management, counseling, and trauma support.

Platkin says more than 1,000 people have already benefited from these services and this investment will deepen that work.

The maximum grant award for "tertiary service" programs, which provide the most immediate response to violence, is capped at \$750,000. Organizations that provide primary or secondary services may apply for up to \$500,000.

Community groups have until Oct. 21 to apply for funding which will begin in 2025.

The initiative is paid for with funding from the federal American Rescue Plan and the state's Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Fund, which reinvests in communities most affected by cannabis criminalization, according to the Attorney General's Office.

More information about this is posted on the New Jersey Attorney General website.

ECONOMY

July

Aqua PA customers could soon see a significant increase in their water bill July 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Water utility Aqua is asking to increase rates for Pennsylvania customers starting this month, but a state review is expected to delay any change until next year.

Residential Aqua customers were informed they could pay about \$20 per month if the increase is approved by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission. Commercial customers could see their bills go up by more than \$100 per month.

Aqua says it wants to collect a total of \$126.7 million more per year to recover nearly \$1 billion the utility invested in wells, treatment plants and pipelines from 2023 to 2025.

The request was submitted in May, with Aqua asking the increase to go into effect on July 22, 2024, but Aqua tells KYW Newsradio the Utility Commission's review process is expected to delay any change until February of 2025.

Aqua says no bills will be affected in the meantime.

The utility tells KYW it “seeks grants and low interest loans to minimize the financial impact on customers” and said anyone in need of financial assistance should contact them to arrange a payment plan.

Philadelphia tapped as a new home port for Norwegian Cruise Line starting in 2026 July 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia has been chosen as a new home port for a cruise line once again, starting in 2026.

Norwegian Cruise Line's Norwegian Jewel plans to launch 24 cruises to Bermuda and Canada from Philadelphia beginning in April 2026. It's the first time since 2011 that major cruise ships will sail directly out of Philadelphia.

"It's a huge deal for us," said Sean Mahoney, senior director of marketing at the Port of Philadelphia.

The Norwegian Jewel will dock on the eastern end of the Navy Yard, near Pier 122. Mahoney said the port has already started to dredge some of the river and build structures to process passengers on and off the ships.

"We want the pier to be an all-weather pier so that people are protected should any thunderstorms come up," he added.

The port is also developing parking for 2,300 cars.

"It's kind of a mantra in the cruise world: car to bar in 15 minutes. So we want that to happen here in Philadelphia," said Mahoney.

By 2028, officials expect the revived cruise industry could create more than 2,000 jobs and generate more than \$40 million in local and state tax revenue.

In a statement, Gov. Josh Shapiro said Norwegian's new home port gives passengers from across the region another reason to visit Philadelphia's waterfront.

SEPTA Board considers \$725M contract to buy new fleet of cars for Market-Frankford Line

July 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The SEPTA Board is scheduled to vote Thursday on a \$725 million contract to buy all new cars for the Market-Frankford Line.

"This is really going to be a monumental shift in transit service for the region," said SEPTA Chief Operating Officer Scott Sauer. "It's a generational purchase."

Under the contract with Pittsburgh-based Hitachi Rail STS USA, SEPTA would buy 200 cars with options to buy more. The effort would replace the entire 1990s-era fleet on SEPTA's most-used line.

"This equipment has to last 30 to 40 years," he noted.

Sauer said the seating arrangements would look different. The new cars would have longitudinal seating — seats along the side of the car that face inward. Riders won't have to open a door to move between cars either.

"This train is going to be designed with open gangways that will facilitate movement between cars," he said. "It'll create better sight lines for law enforcement or SEPTA staff. They'll be able to see car to car a little easier.

"There will be dedicated space for customers with mobility needs, disabilities, people with strollers or bicycles — there will be designated areas for that. So these are the pretty obvious upgrades you're going to see in a modern fleet replacing our Market-Frankford fleet."

SEPTA is using a \$317 million Federal Transit Administration grant to buy the new cars. The first pilot car is expected to arrive in the fall of 2028, with SEPTA taking delivery of the first production cars in the spring of 2029. All 200 new cars are expected to join the fleet by the spring of 2031.

Two years from now, Sauer said, SEPTA plans to begin the process of replacing the nearly 40-year-old cars on the Broad Street subway. "We could be seeing the Broad Street cars aged out and be replaced within the next decade," he added.

Gov. Shapiro joins Treasury head Yellen to announce IRS Direct File will launch in Pennsylvania

July 30, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Pennsylvania has joined the growing list of states where taxpayers will be able to get free help filing their returns with the IRS through a federal program called Direct File.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen came to Philadelphia personally on Tuesday to make the announcement and was joined by Gov. Josh Shapiro, stoking more speculation about his prospects as a vice presidential candidate.

The Direct File program allows taxpayers earning under \$200,000 a year (\$250,000 for married couples) to file directly with the IRS, without the need for a private, for-profit tax prep services.

"It saves taxpayers money up front," Yellen said. "They do not have to pay to prepare or file their returns and it saves money on the back end by helping them get their refunds and tax credits they deserve."

Her announcement comes a week after Treasury officials announced New Jersey would also join the program, which was piloted in 12 states last year. According to the IRS, more than 140,000 people used the program during the pilot phase, with many of them reporting filing times of about 30 minutes.

“It makes the whole process easier and more efficient,” said Yellen, who added that pilot users saved \$5.6 million in fees and collected \$90 million in refunds.

There are restrictions on who can use the program. In addition to income limits, users must have a simple W-2 or 1099 form for Social Security or unemployment income. People who earn money from tips, gig work, property rental and online payment apps are ineligible for the program.

Gov. Shapiro heaped praise on the Biden-Harris administration for creating the program, calling it a “game-changer,” and for other investments in the commonwealth, highlighting the replacement of lead water service lines and wiring that will connect 276,000 Pennsylvania homes without Wi-Fi to the internet.

“The investments in these infrastructure projects are having a positive impact on people’s lives every single day,” said Shapiro.

Shapiro emerged as a contender to be Vice President Kamala Harris’ running mate shortly after she became the presumptive nominee but he has consistently declined to discuss the matter. However, he’s already become an important campaign surrogate in this crucial swing state.

At the Direct File announcement, the governor said the program shows that the Biden-Harris administration shared his own priorities of a more efficient, responsive government. “Anyone who’s interacted with government knows it can be a frustrating process,” he said. “[Direct File] is going to allow people ease of access to their government.”

August

City of Chester launches multimillion-dollar initiative to beautify facades in business corridor

August 2, 2024

CHESTER, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Several businesses in Chester are getting thousands of dollars from a city initiative to help fix up their storefronts and boost the economy of the downtown area.

Chester's Facade Enhancement Initiative (FEI) aims to revitalize the city's central business district by enhancing the aesthetic of its commercial buildings.

Businesses along the 400 and 500 blocks of Avenue of the States had the opportunity to apply for the program. Each will receive state grants of up to \$50,000 to transform their commercial properties' visual appeal and make the business corridor more inviting to locals and visitors.

"It's a \$2 million program," said Chester Mayor Stefan Roots. "The money will go into architect, 3D renderings of what it will look like, and the contractor that will be doing the work."

Priority was given to minority- and women-owned businesses, reinforcing the city's commitment to equitable development. Applications closed last month and are currently being reviewed.

Many once-abandoned properties have already been rehabbed into art galleries, restaurants and clothing stores that Roots said are beautiful on the inside.

"The young artist community has taken the opportunity to reacquire a lot of the spaces that are right outside the front door of City Hall primarily into artists spaces," he said. "You open your doors and it will blow your mind what these men and women have done."

However, he said their exteriors leave a lot to be desired. That's where FEI comes in. Starting next year, storefronts will undergo reconstruction, including paint, lighting and signage upgrades, among other decorative elements.

"By investing in the aesthetic side of our community, we are not only elevating the visual landscape of our city but also cultivating a sense of community pride and attracting new businesses and visitors to Chester," the mayor said in a statement.

The project will also help stores replace windows, powerwash exteriors and remove security gates.

The city aims to complete the program by the end of 2026.

"The desire has always been to bring back downtown," Roots added. The initiative will "make the outsides look nice and have a consistent look and feel that's modern, that's attractive."

**More than a dozen US mayors convene in Philadelphia to promote Black business growth
August 15, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — More than a dozen mayors from around the country are meeting in Philadelphia Thursday for the African American Chamber of Commerce's fourth annual National Convening of Black Mayors.

AACC President Regina Hairston said the event began four years ago because Black-owned businesses in the Philadelphia region were lagging compared to other U.S. cities.

"We brought mayors from across the country to talk about initiatives in their cities that are growing and scaling Black businesses," she said.

The mayors will be discussing several topics, including advocacy, innovation and support systems, at the Wells Fargo Center, where a business expo will showcase Black-owned businesses.

Mayor Derrick Wood, of Dumfries, Virginia, admires the way Atlanta used its airport to become the city with the highest percentage of Black-owned businesses.

"Forty percent of the contracts in that airport go to Black [businesses]," he said. "We as mayors have to figure out: What is our Atlanta airport, and how do we create that same type of Black wealth in our communities?"

Hairston hopes to increase the 2.5% of Philadelphia businesses with Black owners.

"The point of this event is making sure that our mayors, our ecosystems, our Black businesses are coming together as one so that we are increasing generational wealth for Black businesses and getting folks out of poverty here in Philadelphia," she added.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba, of Jackson, Mississippi, said he expects to learn as much as he contributes.

"I think it's our collective genius that ultimately puts us in a position not only for our cities to thrive but to exchange best practices so our communities at large can prosper and be in a better position than we find ourselves currently," he said.

Ironically, though Philadelphia has its first Black mayor in eight years, Cherelle Parker will not be attending. Her office said she was traveling.

76 Place impact report shows potential economic boom with grave consequences for community

August 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Reports on the impact of the Sixers' proposed new arena are out. They detail a major new revenue source for the city but at the expense of one of its most storied communities.

Four reports, completed by a third party but funded by the developers of 76 Place, were released on Monday.

The impact of arena construction on Market East was inconclusive. However, it found a potential spending boom of \$1.9 billion over the next 30 years along with \$390 million in new tax revenue and more than 700 new jobs.

As for Chinatown, it found grave consequences for the community — car congestion, gentrification, and the loss of cultural identity as small, ethnic-owned businesses move away.

The report also showed that one-fifth of all small businesses in Chinatown stood to benefit from the arena's presence, but half of them would be negatively impacted.

The traffic report said a lot more planning was needed to support public transit to 76 Place, as even a marginal increase in people driving to events would gridlock the streets surrounding the arena.

The design report found major concerns because there was no public gathering place outside the arena for people ahead of events listed in any of the plans.

"Our community is, like, literally on the edge, so if this arena comes in, that tips us over," said Vivian Chang, with Asian Americans United, one of the leaders of the Save Chinatown Coalition.

She was among a group of arena opponents who met with Mayor Cherelle Parker ahead of the release.

She said they were not expecting the reports to drop and questioned their intention given how they were funded.

"It's just a little concerning, about who is this for? Is this concern for Chinatown and the rest of Philadelphia," Chang said, "or is it really about what the developers are pushing and wanting?"

The Sixers told KYW they would not comment on the reports until they review them, but a spokesperson said "it is clear already that they support what we've said since we first announced

76 Place: The arena is an appropriate use for Center City and will generate significant new jobs and tax revenue because Philadelphia can support two arenas. Our parking and traffic assumptions are achievable and these findings are more evidence that 76 Place can be developed in a way that protects our neighbors and maximizes benefits to Philadelphia.”

Parker said the reports were released so the public could “understand the implications of such a multi-faceted proposed project for Philadelphia.”

Former industrial site in Camden gets \$1M federal grant for clean up to build homes August 29, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — A former industrial site in Camden will soon be developed for 15 single-family homes thanks to a \$1 million federal grant for cleanup efforts.

The half-acre lot at Front and Elm in North Camden used to be home to a paper factory. Mayor Vic Carstarphen says families will put down their roots and continue the transformation of this neighborhood in the shadow of the Ben Franklin Bridge.

“Changing blightness to brightness, this is what this is,” he said. “Blightness to brightness for the community. Spaces that were environmentally messed up, and changing it for community.”

Money for site remediation is coming from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Administrator and Camden native Olivia Glenn says the federal government is dedicated to improving urban areas like Camden.

“I see today as a fulfillment of the work that the grassroots has done,” she said. “EPA just simply has the pleasure of giving the fiscal support to the vision and the resilience that has long been here.”

Camden City Council President Angel Fuentes says he’s excited about the future because of investments like this.

“Camden was once an economic powerhouse, and it seems like, slowly but surely, we’re getting there,” he said.

So far there’s no timeline on when the homes will be finished.

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September

FTC data analyst warns consumers about sophisticated imposter scams and how to avoid them

September 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Federal Trade Commission is warning people about imposter scams. A data analyst at the FTC has some advice about what to watch out for to avoid them.

There’s been a dramatic jump in the number of impersonation scams — calls from people pretending to be from companies like Amazon and Microsoft, creating panic and fear among consumers. Last year, victims reported losing \$2.7 billion.

“A top theme that we see is a message that looks like a security alert from a bank or Amazon about suspicious activity or an unauthorized charge,” said Emma Fletcher, a senior data researcher.

Fletcher analyzes fraud and scams and says they are becoming more sophisticated. And they target every demographic — not just older citizens, she said.

“A really common theme is that they will make you think there is something wrong with your account.”

She says many times they spoof the phone numbers and text messages of legitimate companies, targeting your money and sometimes personal information.

“They create a fictitious threat and then they position themselves as the people that can make it all go away, but you need to do exactly what we tell you to do to make it go away,” says Fletcher.

“People who call the number in the text or email, or engage — they ultimately end up losing a lot of money while believing they are protecting their money.”

She says they are also using cryptocurrency to get you to move all your money to a bitcoin ATM or something similar to “protect it.”

“There's a lot of kind of tag-teaming going on,” she said. “Say it starts out as Microsoft, and then the supposed Microsoft person tells you, ‘This is much more serious than we thought. We are going to need to send you over to your bank.’ “So then they are claiming to transfer you to your bank.

“And then, from there, your supposed bank may be transferring you to the FTC. And before you know it, you are rushing out to move money, thinking that you are fixing this really major problem that is affecting your identity or your financial future, when in fact this is their ploy to get you to send them money.”

Fletcher says, just take a breath. If you get such a call, make sure to verify the number. Hang up and call the company’s legitimate phone to ensure everything is all right.

“No matter how urgent it seems — ‘It’s your bank,’ ‘It’s your account’ — just find the number for your entity, a number you know is real, and call them.”

Fletcher urges anyone who may have been scammed to contact the FTC, by phone or online at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/ReportFraud), so they can track it and pass it to law enforcement.

“Even the people who this happens to thought it would never happen to them,” she said.

“There’s a threat, there’s a scary thing, but we are going to be the people who help you resolve it.”

This one-time grant helps single parents in Philly afford activities for their kids **September 7, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Low-income, single parents in Philadelphia can apply for a one-time grant to help fund an activity they otherwise couldn’t afford for their children.

Whether a child dreams of learning to swim, mastering martial arts, playing an instrument or boosting their academic skills, this \$1,000 grant, made possible through The Brian Dawkins Impact Foundation in partnership with Caring People Alliance, can help it become a reality.

Brandon Gilmore, vice president of the Boys and Girls Club for Caring People Alliance, says money is often a barrier to opportunity and exposure for kids, especially when there is only one stream of income in a home.

“It increases the opportunity for the household, and it just helps the child feel that they're not just stuck where they're at, there's an opportunity to see something outside of their community,” he said. “I'm not saying their community is a bad place, but there's more to see and do in this world.”

The grant, he says, provides hope.

“Kids who have dreams, they now don't have a barrier, they don't have anyone saying that, ‘Oh, we can't do this because we don't have the money.’”

Applications for the grant must be completed by Sept. 30 at caringpeoplealliance.org.

This year, single parents can also apply for a grant for their own wellness or career advancement.

Bankrate study shows average interest rates for retail cards have hit record highs September 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The holidays are around the corner, and that means retailers will be offering credit card promotions. However, economists say that annual percentage rates have hit an all-time high.

Retail credit cards traditionally tend to carry a higher interest rate than companies that partner with major carriers such as VISA. But a recent Bankrate study finds interest rates for a retail card averages near 30.5 percent.

Those cards are often less selective when approving applicants and some even offer rewards, but Senior Industry Analyst with Bankrate Ted Rossman says it's only a reward if you pay off your statements in full.

“You definitely don't want to fall into the trap of paying interest, or sometimes you're offered those at the point of sale, and it's kind of pressured and it's like do you want to save 10 percent off of today's purchase, not if you're paying 30 percent,” he said.

Rossman says retail card signups have seen a significant decline in recent years — and high interest rates coupled with the buy-now-pay-later approach are most likely contributing to that.

But companies like Affirm, Afterpay, and Klarna have shaken up the landscape of retail shopping.

“Everybody sees that pitch about 'do you want to split today's purchase into installments, maybe it's four interest-free payments over 6 weeks,’” Rossman said. “That has taken over, especially online for a lot of store cards.”

Rossman says it is going to take a while for credit card rates to come down meaningfully once the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates. But he says he expects retail card APRs to remain high.

Philadelphia gets \$12 million USDA grant to grow its urban tree canopy **September 19, 2024**

WEST PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Government officials, community leaders and members of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society gathered in Malcolm X Park on Thursday to celebrate a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support planting more trees in Philadelphia.

The \$12 million grant, made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act, will go towards the Philly Tree Plan, the city's 10-year plan to equitably grow the city's tree canopy.

Meryl Harrel, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment for the USDA, spoke about the importance of Philly's tree strategy.

“It is such an inspirational plan and vision,” she said. “To be able to help support activating, and realizing and implementing that vision is why we are so grateful to have had this opportunity for resources from the inflation reduction act to invest in urban and community forestry.”

Currently, the average city canopy coverage in Philadelphia is 20%, but some neighborhoods fall as low as 2.5%.

Michael Pearson, president and CEO of Public Health Management Corporation, said the longevity of the city depends on a “healthy and well-cared-for urban forest.”

“That protects us from heat, improves mental and physical health, and serves as a weapon against climate change,” he said.

Correction: A previous version of this story incorrectly attributed Harrel. The current article reflects that change.

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**I'm Listening Audacy National Public Affairs
3rd QRT 2024
July 1, 2024- September 30, 2024**

Talk Away the Dark: Mental Health and Suicide Prevention during Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Aired on KYW Newsradio at 5:30am on July 7, 2024

In partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Audacy presents a new episode in our I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark limited series featuring host Dr. Maria Boynton, along with her guests, Vic Armstrong and Sarah Dixon-Hackey.

Dr. Boynton is a recipient of the Obama and Biden Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards which honor those in our nation who exhibit outstanding character, work ethic, and dedication to their communities. Dr. Boynton is also a member of the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and is named among Atlanta's Top 100 Black Women of Influence by the Atlanta Business League.

In this episode, Dr. Boynton is joined by AFSP Expert Vic Armstrong, and Sarah Dixon-Hackey, M.B.A. who currently serves as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison for Clay County Public Health working to identify and bridge health gaps for under-served populations. She is an approved Trainer for the AFSP's "More Than Sad" suicide prevention training for parents and educators and is a certified Mental Health First Aid Trainer, a nationally recognized program by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

Maxed Out: Surviving and Thriving in Turbulent Times

Aired on KYW Newsradio on Thursday, September 5th, 2024 at 7pm

How are you getting by in this economy? The latest Audacy Conversation explores skyrocketing housing and rent costs, increasing daycare and construction and interest rates and more.

I'm Listening

Aired on KYW Newsradio on September 25, 2024 from 7pm - 9pm

I'm Listening is a special program that airs every September on Audacy stations. Every hour in the United States, we lose five people to suicide. During this hour-long special produced by KYW Newsradio and Bridging Philly, we shine the spotlight on the importance of suicide prevention and mental health and wellness.

Eating disorders are serious mental illnesses that can have grim outcomes. Without treatment, up to 20% of people with serious eating disorders die. For those who suffer, it's frightening and eating is complicated. What are the root causes of eating disorders and what treatments are available? Carol McKenzie spoke with Joanie Pagano of Wayne, a mother of three who battled an eating disorder for 34 years. She's now recovered and shares her story.

For teens, coming of age is stressful, and it includes questions about sexual orientation, gender identity and the journey to self-awareness. 4.5% of the US population identifies as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Of those, 39% reported having a mental health issue within the past year. Shara Dae Howard talks with Jasper Liem, the Executive Director of the Attic Youth Center. and Bryant Christie, their Director of Clinical Services.

Social media is part of our lives, but what are our algorithms actually doing to us? Conner Barkon talks with Sherri Hope Culver, Director of the Center for Media and Information Literacy at Temple University, and Rachel Daltry, Director of the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services at West Chester University.

Parents wear many hats, oftentimes juggling work and home life responsibilities while raising children. This year, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, who's been laser focused on mental health, issued an advisory warning about an increase in parental stress, saying it's become a public health problem. According to an American Psychological Association survey, 41% of parents reported they can't function most days because of stress, and 48% said they're completely overwhelmed by it. As the saying goes, you can't pour from an empty cup. So what can parents do to alleviate stress? Denise Nakano talks with Dr. Nicole Johnson, Department Chair of Counseling and Behavioral Health at Thomas Jefferson University.

In 2023 US, Surgeon General Vivek Murphy declared loneliness an epidemic and a national health emergency. Last year, half of US adults suffered from loneliness, and it hasn't gotten much better. It can have adverse effects not only on our physical health but our mental health. So where are we today with regards to this problem, and what can we do to dig ourselves out? Racquel Williams spoke with Dr Matthew Hereford, President and CEO of UPMC's Community Care Behavioral Health, for some answers.

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Bridging Philly
Q3 July - September 2024

Best of Bridging Philly: Finding the right therapist | The Awbury Arboretum
Jul 6, 2024

Navigating the mental health care system is a challenge for the most experienced of patients, but what about people looking to see a therapist for the first time? Where do you start? Do you go to someone who matches your demographic? Is telehealth a good option? Host Racquel Williams asks these questions and more with our panel of therapists.

Then on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard spends some time in nature and introduces us to the poets and musicians who are inspired by the historic Germantown Awbury Arboretum.

Best of Bridging Philly: Focus on Fathers | New: Wissahickon's Doomsday Cave
Jul 13, 2024

The Focus on Fathers parenting education program shows new fathers how to have positive relationships with their kids. The “fathers to the fathers” try to fill in the gaps for men raised without a strong father figure in their lives, through child development education, job readiness, and mental health awareness, with remote and in-person classes.

Then, on Shara in the City, we explore a cave that's said to be built by America's first cult of mystics to predict the apocalypse, right in Wissahickon Park - the Cave of Kelpius.

Friends Select School's Anti-racist Mission | Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey
Jul 20, 2024

While many schools have faced fights over book bans and how they teach about racism, Friends Select School in Philadelphia is taking an actively anti-racist approach to education. As a Quaker school, they follow the same philosophies that the Quakers who fought in the abolitionist movement did, and they're able to incorporate social justice into their curriculum, staff training, and how they interact with the greater Philadelphia community. Racquel Williams speaks with educators and staff from Friends Select to find out how they put their mission into action.

And on Shara in the City, as we get ready to kick off the 2024 Olympics, Shara Dae Howard remembers when Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey came through Philadelphia to inspire over 200 elementary students at Drexel University's Vidas Field Day and give away copies of her children's book, “Running for the Gold: Connecting Kids to Dreams.”

Dr. Ala Stanford On Unifying Philadelphia against COVID | The last living member of The Blue Notes

Jul 27, 2024

When COVID-19 hit, Dr. Ala Stanford stepped up to help Philadelphians get access to information, testing, care, and later, vaccines. She founded the Black Doctors Consortium, and after her work gained national media attention, President Biden appointed her Regional Director of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Now, Dr. Stanford has written a book, “Take Care of Them Like My Own”, coming out August 6 with a launch event at the Kimmel Center. It’s about her personal journey, her work, and the importance of equity and representation in medicine. She talks about all of that with our host, Racquel Williams.

And on Shara in the City, Lloyd Parks is the last living member of the famous Philly R&B group Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes - and he can still hit those high notes in songs like “I Miss You” and “If You Don’t Know Me by Now”. Shara Dae Howard takes a journey through time to hear Lloyd’s story.

PA Human Relations Commission | ABA Center for Kids with Autism

Aug 3, 2024

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission is on tour! Their “Beloved Community” tour is stopping in towns across the state to host open discussions about civil rights issues in each community. Racquel Williams speaks with Executive Director Chad Dion Lassiter to understand the purpose of this tour, the important work PHRC does, and how to reach out if you’re having an issue with any kind of prejudice or discrimination.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard visits the ABA Centers of Pennsylvania in Wayne, a play and therapy center for children with autism, complete with everything from a climbing wall to a bubble machine.

Food Insecurity On The Rise | Pizza with a purpose

Aug 10, 2024

We’ve seen a surge of people facing food insecurity since pandemic relief ended, and the numbers have not gone back down. It’s a particular issue in Philadelphia, where about 22% of people live in poverty - twice the national average. Share Food Program is the city’s leading hunger relief organization. Their executive director, George Matysik, and deputy chief program officer, Cat Bartoli, join host Racquel Williams to discuss the programs they offer - from pantries to delivery, school lunches to senior programs - and how widespread the issue of food insecurity is.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard visits Down North Pizza, where they hire formerly incarcerated people as employees. She joins the staff for a day to make a pizza and learn why their mission is so important.

Rebuilding The City While Learning a Trade | Broad Street Love’s “radical hospitality” Aug 17, 2024

At 55 years old, Marie-Monique Marthol made a life-changing decision to change careers. She learned carpentry through Rebuild’s Workforce Development Program, where participants learn trade skills while revitalizing Philadelphia’s neighborhoods. Marie-Monique joins host Racquel Williams to talk about her experience. We also hear from Rebuild’s Director of Workforce Development, Tiffany Smith, about how Rebuild is bringing more women and people of color into the trades.

Then, on Shara in the City, we visit Broad Street Love, where they provide stabilizing services to those experiencing deep poverty. Shara steps into the shoes of a volunteer, serving restaurant-style meals to folks who have found an affirming and supportive community in this space.

Exposing Youth To Career Paths | Philly’s takes on Olympic breaking Aug 24, 2024

Youth and young adults in Philadelphia can learn about career options and job skills while getting paid through C2L-PHL’s youth work programs, run by JEVS Human Services. Summer and school year job opportunities range from the medical field to government, even working with horses and people with disabilities at Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Academy. Racquel Williams talks with representatives from JEVS, Pegasus, and LNEESC - a nonprofit that works with JEVS to place students in meaningful work experiences - as well as a student who worked at Pegasus this summer.

Then, on Shara in the City, break dancing made its first appearance in the Olympics this year - and with questions over how the culture was represented on an international stage, it might not be back. Shara Dae Howard talks with some Philly OG breakers to get their takes and learn a few moves.

College Parents: It’s Your Time, Too | Life on tour with the Village People Aug 31, 2024

The transition to college can be tough for both students and parents. Whether it’s your first time moving a kid into a dorm or you find yourself with an empty nest after all your kids are out of the house, life is suddenly different. Racquel Williams hosts a panel of moms and advisors to

learn how to parent differently at this stage of life, avoid being a helicopter parent, and embrace your “second act”. She's joined by Jodi Silverman, founder of Moms Who Dare, Beth Allen, a participant in Moms Who Dare and founder of DIY HIP Chicks, and Dr. Deanne DeCrescenzo, Associate Dean of Students in the Division of Student Affairs at Temple University.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard meets a disco legend: Russell Dabney, the drummer for the Village People. Sitting on a Philly stoop, they talk about his career, life on tour, and the unbeatable feeling of watching a crowd do the “YMCA” as he plays.

How Tracking Devices Are Used In Domestic Violence | A place of healing at Still Rise Farms

Sep 7, 2024

Domestic abusers want to have control over their victims, and often, that involves knowing where they are at all times. Tracking devices have made that easier, and devices that look like a phone charger or a child’s toy are readily available. Amanda L. Murray, Center for Hope & Safety's Domestic Violence Liaison to New Jersey’s Division of Child Protection and Permanency, joins host Racquel Williams to discuss what to do if you think you or someone you love is being tracked.

Then, on Shara in the City, we visit Still Rise Farms, a retreat center started by a breast cancer surgeon to encourage healing and holistic well-being. Shara Dae Howard spends the day there fishing and learning with Camp Jill Scott.

Advocating For Pennsylvania Schools | Formerly incarcerated artists at The F.I.R.M.

Sep 14, 2024

Only 1 in 3 fourth graders in Pennsylvania is reading proficiently - a statistic that Teach Plus hopes to change. The organization works to improve student outcomes by empowering teachers to advocate for policy change, as well as helping to recruit a diverse teacher workforce. Laura Boyce, Teach Plus Pennsylvania’s Executive Director, joins host Racquel Williams to talk about the teacher shortage, teacher retention, the latest school budget, and more. Teachers interested in joining a Teach Plus BIPOC affinity group can sign up [here](#) or attend their mixer on September 27.

Then, on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard visits The Formerly Incarcerated Renaissance Museum, or The F.I.R.M., to find out how this new museum is illuminating the stories of formerly incarcerated people in Philadelphia.

Growing Green Community Spaces | Fireman's Hall Museum

Sep 21, 2024

PECO does more than just keep your lights on - they're marking 20 years of their Green Region Open Space Program, which has provided over \$2.5 million in grants to preserve, protect, and expand green spaces throughout southeastern Pennsylvania. Spaces like gardens and parks are vital for our physical and mental health, but they can be hard to find in the city, especially in disinvested neighborhoods. We hear how PECO has partnered with Natural Lands and Neighborhood Gardens Trust to make nature more accessible to everyone.

Then, on Shara in the City, we visit Fireman's Hall Museum in Old City. The renovated 1898 firehouse is a treasure trove of Philadelphia fire history and home to the first exhibit commemorating the firefighters who died on 9/11.

Election Security With The Committee of Seventy | Habitat for Humanity's all-women build day

Sep 28, 2024

The Committee of Seventy provides essential voter information, not just on how to vote, but on what happens to your ballot after it's submitted. How can you be sure your ballot is counted? Who is at polling places assuring security and safety? Host Raquel Williams speaks with C70's CEO, Lauren Cristella, about their work for a fair and transparent election, and what you should know when you head to the polls or vote by mail.

Then, on Shara in the City, we pick up our tools and get to work with Habitat for Humanity. Shara Dae Howard joins their "building blitz" effort to build affordable housing, kicking off with an all-women build day.

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SECOND QUARTER 2024
(APRIL 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2024)

Prepared by: Sabrina Boyd-Surka, On-Air Personality
Jared Andrea, Programming Coordinator, KNX

**Issues of Concern to Los Angeles, CA
Addressed in Responsive Programming in the
2nd Quarter, 2024**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Description of Issue of Concern</u>
1. Health	Information regarding the latest breakthroughs in health care is needed, including new discoveries, programs and services. Disaster preparedness to preserve one's health.
2. Economy	Our local economy has been slow to recover from the recent recession. Information on services to assist the public is needed.
3. Education & Child Care	Whether being abused, needing special education, fighting truancy or needing college prep, children & parents need assistance.
4. Local Community Services	Mentioned are free or low-cost community services available to the public to assist with spousal abuse, child abuse, animal abuse or even the arts. Information on free programs is featured.
5. Crime & Drugs	Crime and drug abuse remain a key issue in our area.
6. Public Safety	The safety of the public is priority and information on how to prevent danger and maintain caution.
7. Animals & Wildlife	As wildlife is constantly affected by the perils of man and nature, OpenLine helps to provide the means of animal protection and adoption information needed to sustain the ecosystem and its diverse chain of useful inhabitants.
8. Politics	Highlighting propositions, political issues, and presidential candidates during this year's Elections
9. Environment	From our coastal areas to our forests, the environment needs our help to preserve and restore it.

**KNX-FM HD2 (Channel Q) Programs That Address Community Issues
(Regularly Scheduled Public Affairs Programs)
2nd Quarter, 2024**

Public Affairs Program

Schedule and Description

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Open Line | Sundays, 6-7am. Hosted by Tami Heide, this program features interviews with experts on community issues, along with comments from the listeners. |
|-----------------|--|

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
2nd Quarter, 2024
(Apr 1st - Jun 30th)

ISSUE: Health

Open Line

Date: 4/14/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Marcus Plescia

CDC warns of bird flu, don't freak out yet. The Centers for Disease Control today briefed local public health agencies on the spreading bird flu virus. H5N1, as this strain is known, has already been responsible for infecting one farm worker in Texas ... where the virus is thought to have jumped from a dairy cow to a human. And this week farms in Texas started the grim process of culling millions of chickens to slow the spread of bird flu. Dr. Marcus Plescia is chief medical officer of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials ... he tells us they're approaching the bird flu with guarded confidence. Dr. Plescia says they're trying to balance a message of caution ... without freaking people out. He says that the people should be most on guard for a bird flu infection are those working in the agriculture industry or anyone who routinely comes into contact with wild bird populations

Open Line

Date: 5/5/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Art Caplan

LESSONS NOT LEARNED FROM COVID COULD PUT US AT RISK WITH BIRD FLU

As public health officials grow increasingly more concerned about the spread of the H5N1 bird virus among cattle stocks in the U.S., there are parallels being drawn to the start of the COVID pandemic. And those parallels aren't exactly hopeful. Dr. Art Caplan heads the medical ethics department at NYU ... he tells KNX News' Jonathan Serviss that in just a few short years, we've seemingly forgotten ALL of the lessons we should've learned from COVID.

He says we're once again letting our guard down as the bird flu is spreading.

Dr. Caplan tells us even if the H5N1 virus doesn't turn into a global threat ... the next dangerous virus is likely already out there. The latest round of bird flu testing in cows shows signs of the dead virus actually making into the milk supply that ends up supermarket shelves.

ISSUE: Health (continued)

Open Line

Date: 5/26/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Victor Armstrong & Michell Clark

In partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Audacy presents I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark, a limited series with host David O'Leary featuring intimate conversations on grief, loss, and suicide. For the latest discussion in the series, David is joined by Victor Armstrong, AFSP Vice President of Health Equity and Engagement, and Michell Clark, father, husband, entrepreneur, writer, and podcaster in the mental wellness space.

Open Line

Date: 5/26/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Victor Armstrong & Michell Clark

In partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Audacy presents I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark, a limited series with host David O'Leary featuring intimate conversations on grief, loss, and suicide. For the latest discussion in the series, David is joined by Victor Armstrong, AFSP Vice President of Health Equity and Engagement, and Michell Clark, father, husband, entrepreneur, writer, and podcaster in the mental wellness space. Part Two!

Open Line

Date: 6/2/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Christine Yu Moutier & Bradley Boulandis

In partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Audacy presents I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark, a limited series with host Corey Crockett and AFSP CMO Dr. Christine Yu Moutier and advocate and volunteer Bradley Boulandis, focusing on mental health and suicide prevention in the LGBTQIA+ community. PART ONE

Open Line

Date: 6/2/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Christine Yu Moutier & Bradley Boulandis

In partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Audacy presents I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark, a limited series with host Corey Crockett and AFSP CMO

Dr. Christine Yu Moutier and advocate and volunteer Bradley Boulandis, focusing on mental health and suicide prevention in the LGBTQIA+ community. PART 2

ISSUE: Health (continued)

Open Line

Date: 6/9/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Peter Chin-Hong

A 4th COVID summer could be coming. The novel coronavirus ... that's so 2020, right?! Just when we think we're done with COVID, the virus that has been in our lives for four years running, COVID reminds us that it's alive and well. There are indications in wastewater testing that a few places in California could be on the leading edge of what would be a fourth straight year of a summer COVID surge. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman checked in with Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, an infectious disease specialist at UC San Francisco ... where they are starting to see increasing levels of the COVID virus in their wastewater: Data from Stanford University's WastewaterSCAN project, which monitors the presence of COVID-19 in human sewage across the U.S, indicates that COVID levels are up across 82% of the sites monitored around the Bay Area.

Open Line

Date: 6/16/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Alex Lee

New bill aims to prevent 13 year olds from buying anti-aging products. California Assemblymember Alex Lee proposed a bill that would prevent those under 13 from buying anti-aging skin care products that include ingredients such as retinol, alpha hydroxy acid (AHAs), and glycolic acid.

ISSUE: Health (continued)

Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Richard Webby

Time to get concerned about bird flu. We've been telling you this afternoon about the extremely alarming report coming out of the European Union, documenting the last 12-month period as the hottest in Earth's recorded history ... well here's another reason to worry. The H-5-N-1 bird flu has made the jump, for the third time, from a farm animal to a human. The latest case is a farm worker in Michigan who's experiencing respiratory symptoms from the infection. The H5N1

virus is clearly adapting, and that could be very bad news for us. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with Dr. Richard Webby, a virologist at St. Jude's Children's Hospital ... and asked him whether he was concerned about the direction in which we're headed: UC Davis released "pre print" research today ... which has not yet been peer reviewed ... that confirmed the bird flu virus is showing greater adaptation in mammals ... which in turn could presage eventual human-to-human transmission.

Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Karen North

Challenges to putting warning labels on social media. Warnings of the extreme health risks of smoking cigarettes started to appear on packages in the '80s and '90s, and they're credited with helping to dramatically bring down the smoking rate. Today, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy announced he'd like to do something similar with social media: a pop-up warning label on social media platforms advising parents that using the platforms might damage the mental health of adolescents. Can it work? KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman posed that question to Karen North, she's founder of the USC's Annenberg's Digital Social Media program. In his argument for the warning label, Dr. Murthy says the power of social media has grown beyond the control of parents ... he argues that potential harms from social media "are the consequence of unleashing powerful technology without adequate safety measures, transparency or accountability."

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
2nd Quarter, 2024
(Apr 1st - Jun 30th)

ISSUE:	Economy
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Open Line

Date: 4/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ahmad Faruqui

California public utilities drastically change bill calculation. This week the California Public Utilities Commission released its plan to overhaul the way that power customers in the state pay their bills. Gone would be the simple setup of paying for the electricity you use. In its place, the Commission wants to see a tiered scale of upfront flat charges ... all depending on your income level. Economist Ahmad Faruqui explained to us how this new system would work. Faruqui says the idea is to incentivize Californians going electric, from their cars to their appliances ... he's just not sure it will work. While the Public Utilities Commission will vote on this plan in May, there is still a long way to go before the flat fee system would actually go into effect. And several members of the state legislature have already voiced their opposition to it ... and their plans to stop it.

Open Line

Date: 4/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Keith Miller

California fast food workers now make \$20 an hour. Fast food workers in California are making \$20/hour, starting today. Can fast food franchise owners survive the significant jump in labor costs ... and are job cuts and price increases all but guaranteed? KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman spoke to Keith Miller, owner of a couple of Subway stores in the Bay Area and founder of Franchisee Advocacy Consulting. When all is said and done, a little over half-a-million Californians working at fast-food restaurants are set to earn a starting wage of 20 dollars per hour.

ISSUE: Economy (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 4/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Walter Shild

High inflation big toll on SoCal small businesses. The consumer price index report out today confirmed what California consumers and business owners have long suspected: inflation is alive and well ... and price increases, from commodities to services, show no signs of slowing down. We wanted to hear more about how Southern California's small business owners are withstanding what's been four straight years of high inflation ... Walter Shild is CEO of Culinary Lab, a Los Angeles-based restaurant and hospitality company.

Open Line

Date: 4/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 7 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Douglas Farrar

New report supermarkets manipulating prices since COVID. Prices at grocery stores and supermarkets have hit record highs since the COVID pandemic ... but even as all of those pandemic-induced supply chain disruptions have eased, prices have stayed high. If you've been waiting for some price relief on everything from produce to basic goods at your local grocery store ... those price drops never happened ... and they probably won't ever happen. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with Douglas Farrar at the Federal Trade Commission, they just produced a report on why grocery store prices have remained so high ... and asked him about why the costs jumped and remained expensive.

Open Line

Date: 4/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Divya Sangameshwar

If your homeowners' policy cancelled, what next? State Farm's cancellation of 72-thousand homeowner insurance policies here in California is just the latest round of property insurers either discontinuing policies ... or pulling out of the state altogether. Say you were one of the unlucky State Farm customers to receive a cancellation notice ... what should your next move be? KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman put that question to insurance industry expert Divya Sangameshwar at Lending Tree.

ISSUE: Economy (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 4/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jake Fisher

Do Americans still care about EVs? Tesla's plan to lay off 14,000 workers is sounding alarms. KNX News asked Jake Fisher, director of automotive testing at Consumer Reports, if low interest from car buyers for EV's is signaling big trouble ahead. Fisher tells us one of the biggest challenges is the fact that EV's are all VERY expensive right now ... he says it didn't used to be that way. But when drivers do finally experience what it's like drive an EV ... few go back to gas-powered cars.

Open Line

Date: 5/19/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: H.D. Palmer

Newsom scrambles to close budget deficit. What a whiplash couple of years it's been for California's state budget. Just two years after state coffers were flush with billions of extra dollars ... today Governor Gavin Newsom announced, in his May budget revise, a series of painful cuts and withdrawals from the state's savings account ... to balance a deficit of at least 28-billion-dollars, although that number is highly disputed. H.D. Palmer, Deputy Director of the state's Department of Finance, explained to KNX News' Jonathan Serviss that sinking tax revenues are mostly to blame. The state's "rainy day" savings account will be tapped, to the tune of nearly \$19-billion. Palmer acknowledged that relying on California's richest residents ... and on capital gains taxes ... for the bulk of our revenues has been a recipe for volatility ... and will probably have to be changed. The Legislature must pass a budget by June 15 for lawmakers to continue getting paid.

ISSUE: Economy

Open Line

Date: 5/19/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Roger Niello

California Republicans doubt Newsom's budget math. California is staring down an estimated \$56-billion budget deficit over the next two years, quite a reversal of fortunes for a state that just two years back was flush with a multi-billion-dollar surplus. In his May Revise today, Governor

Gavin Newsom proposed a series of spending cuts, budget gimmicks, and dipping into the state's "rainy day" reserve fund to help close the deficit. But Republicans in the state seem suspicious of both Governor Newsom's solutions ... they even dispute the budget numbers he presented. Republican State Senator Roger Niello represents the Sacramento area, he's the vice chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.

Open Line

Date: 5/19/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Joe Flint

NFL now on Netflix. Live sports broadcasts were the last thing that belonged almost exclusively to the old-school TV networks and cable channels. But now streaming services are muscling into that territory. Netflix has announced that they've won the rights to broadcast the NFL's Christmas Day games this year. Joe Flint covers the entertainment industry for the Wall Street Journal ... he tells us that streaming services have been eager to get in on live events. But Flint says there's another reason that the NFL was so attractive for Netflix, Netflix will pay the NFL a cool \$150-million to broadcast just two games on Christmas Day

ISSUE: Economy (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/9/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 7 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jamie Court

Consumer advocacy group warns Gov. Newsom going easy on insurance companies. Consumer advocacy groups are expressing their frustrations with California Governor Gavin Newsom over his proposed reforms to the insurance rate hike review process. The governor, in a bid to keep property insurance carriers from continuing to flee the state, released proposed legislative language this week that would speed up reviews and limit the oversight role of consumer groups ... each time an insurance company asks to raise their policy rates. For Consumer Watchdog president Jamie Court, that's an unacceptable gift to insurance carriers. He argued to KNX News that there's no need to make it easier for carriers to raise prices. He said there are smarter reforms that will keep insurance carriers issuing policies in California ... and encourage homeowners to lower the risks that their properties are impacted by natural disasters. KNX has reached out to the California Department of Insurance to get their reaction to the criticism coming from consumer groups but so far, we have not received a response.

Open Line

Date: 6/9/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Paul Audley

No post-strike bounce back for Hollywood. TV and film production still hasn't bounced back after the strikes. And there are fears that the entertainment industry is falling into a bad slump. Paul Audley is president of FilmLA, a nonprofit that tracks on-location permitting in Los Angeles ... he tells us that the data isn't promising. He says the days of peak TV... are dead and gone. He says some of this production slowdown might be permanent, with growing evidence of film and TV work heading overseas. The next possible Hollywood work stoppage to keep an eye on: at the end of July, the contract for IATSE runs out ...Negotiations are ongoing, but another strike is a real possibility.

ISSUE: Economy (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/16/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Meghan Gerhardt

Clash of generations in workplace: Millennial calls Gen Z workers fragile
Let's first set up the background for this story: The scene is a fast food restaurant in Australia, where a Millennial customer witnesses a very young Gen Z worker ... likely around 18 years old... mess up a bunch of orders and get yelled at by her older boss. The young worker breaks down in tears. So the Millennial takes to TikTok to talk about the clash of generations in the workplace, and in the process sets up a big debate over Gen Z workers. That was from the TikTok account of Rachel Lynch who witnessed the restaurant scene ... she is herself a Millennial business owner. KNX News chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked about all of this with Meghan Gerhardt, she's a professor of business management at Miami University in Ohio ... he asked her if she's hearing that young Gen Z workers are, indeed, too fragile.

Open Line

Date: 6/16/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 2 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jake Aguas

Are young Gen Z workers too fragile?

Let's set the scene for this next story:

At a fast food restaurant in Australia, a Millennial-aged customer witnesses a very young Gen Z worker ... likely around 18 years old... mess up a bunch of orders and get yelled at by her older boss. The young worker breaks down in tears. So the Millennial takes to TikTok to talk about the clash of generations. That was from the TikTok account of Rachel Lynch, who is a Millennial

business owner in Australia. She witnessed the restaurant fight between the younger worker and her older manager. The post set off a big debate about whether Gen Z workers are too "fragile" to make it in the modern workplace. We talked with business management consultant Jake Aguas ... he says the different generations have drastically different communication styles. Aguas says today's workplace has evolved quite a bit from when baby boomers were in charge. A survey by the employment firm Glassdoor found that Generation Z workers are more likely to get political in the office ... and they're more likely to prioritize work-life balance.

ISSUE: Economy (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/16/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ian Sherr

Apple leans hard into AI. With its worldwide developers conference today, Apple has jumped into the world of artificial intelligence. The tech giant was seen as being a little behind the curve in adapting generative AI tools on all of its devices ... But CBS News tech contributor Ian Sherr tells KNX's Jonathan Serviss that Apple hopes to change that quickly. Consumers have turned to Apple because of their intuitive products, whether it's the iPhone or Apple Watch ... but another big draw has been Apple's commitment to privacy. Sherr tells us Apple is making that same promise when it comes to using data for its artificial intelligence systems. Sherr says Apple knows it has to make up ground on AI development. Apple's new artificial intelligence features will ONLY be available on the iPhone 15 or upcoming new iPhone models ... the AI features will also only work on newer Apple laptop models.

Open Line

Date: 6/16/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ramsay Brown

Using AI powered laptops. Microsoft announced this week that it will soon be releasing a new kind of computer designed for artificial intelligence ... and indeed POWERED by AI. This will just be the start of AI chips and processors being built into new personal computers ... as Apple will follow suit. Ramsay Brown is CEO of the AI Responsibility Lab, otherwise known as Mission Control AI. He explained how having AI built into laptops will change the user experience to KNX's Jonathan Serviss.

Open Line

Date: 6/16/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Diane Swonk

Americans out of touch with economic realities. The American economy continues to be one of the strongest in the world. The stock market is booming, the unemployment rate is at a near 50-year low and GDP has been steadily growing. But there's a huge contingent of Americans who either don't know about those economic facts ... or they don't care. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman put those questions to Diane Swonk, she's the chief economist for KPMG: The vast majority of respondents in this Guardian poll ... 72% ... indicated they think inflation is increasing. And yet, in reality, the rate of inflation has fallen sharply from its post-Covid peak.

ISSUE: Economy (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Alexander Alonso

Wells Fargo fires dozens of employees for faking work from home. Anyone who's ever worked from home would ... in their more honest moments ... admit to the fact that they're rarely spending all eight hours of those days actually ... working. As more employers are calling their workers back to offices for at least a few days a week, the hybrid work-from-home schedule remains alive and well ... and problematic. Wells Fargo just fired a few dozen worker after it was discovered they were using keyboard simulation programs, to make it look like they were busy on the job when, in fact, they were probably lounging on the couch. KNX News chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with Alexander Alonso, he's chief insights officer at the Society for HR Managers ... and asked him how productive work-from-home employees are these days. Wells Fargo ordered its employees back to the office at least three times a week back in 2022.

Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Marc Goldwein

Social security and Medicare in danger of bankruptcy within decade. A new report for Congress out today paints a dire future for two of the biggest social safety nets in the United States. The report predicts that the savings accounts for Social Security and Medicare will both run out in a little over a decade from now. Marc Goldwein, an analyst at the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, explained to KNX News' Jonathan Serviss what that would mean for people receiving Social Security benefits. He says there are limited options on how to pump more money into Social Security to keep the program solvent. Goldwein says he expects Congress and future presidents to wait to the last possible moments to fix Social Security ... because making changes to the program remains politically unpopular.

ISSUE: Economy (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Stephanie Brinley

Are TESLA layoffs an Elon Musk problem? Tesla announced in April it will begin laying off about 14-thousand workers. That's about 10 percent of its workforce. We wanted to know whether this was a Tesla problem ... or a problem with the E-V market in general. KNX News spoke with Stephanie Brinley, automotive analyst at Standard & Poor's ... She says the E-V market is in the middle of a really messy period of transition. Brinley says outside of California, the rest of the country is proving to be reluctant about E-V's. But is that switch away from gas-powered vehicles to electric ones ... inevitable?

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Tony Fernandez

AI not serving it your way at McDonald's. If you've ever ordered at a fast food drive-thru...chances are you've had your order messed up. Artificial Intelligence was supposed to help fix that. But it apparently hasn't, at least at McDonald's. McDonald's says it's ending its partnership with IBM which has been testing A-I technology at some drive-thrus since 2021. The drive-thru A-I has been criticized for getting people's orders wrong...and not just a little wrong...a lot wrong. People have gone on TikTok like this woman to complain...KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked to A-I expert Tony Fernandez about why A-I has failed so badly at taking food orders. Carl's Junior and Wendy's are among other fast food chains that are either testing or using A-I in drive-thrus.

ISSUE: Economy (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 2 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Justine Bateman

Justine Bateman slams Open AI exec. Mira Murati is the chief technology officer of OpenAI... that's the company designing and deploying early generative artificial intelligence programs like ChatGPT. She ruffled a lot of feathers in the creative industries when she made these comments at a recent forum at Dartmouth ... when asked if AI programs will eventually replace human creative jobs. For writers and actors in Hollywood, this is exactly the fear they had when they

fought so hard to win certain AI protections during last year's strikes. KNX News spoke to writer, producer, director, and actor Justine Bateman ... who also holds a bachelor's degree in computer science ... to get her reaction to Murati's cavalier dismissal of creative jobs ... and her insistence that AI and human creators were working collaboratively. She's warning creative workers in the entertainment industry to brace themselves for more AI intrusions.

Bateman believes it's absolutely the intention of Hollywood studios to replace human creative jobs with AI models. For her part, OpenAI's Mira Murati has insisted during several media appearances that they're designing AI tools to HELP and collaborate with human workers, not REPLACE them.

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Elsa Ramo

Like actors and writers, managers also struggle. There are a lot of struggling actors, writers, directors, and supporting crew members in Hollywood right now ... with a slowdown in film and television production that has now lasted for well over a year. But managers, agents, and lawyers are also hurting for business. We checked in with Elsa Ramo ... she's an entertainment lawyer representing studios like Skydance, New Line, and Imagine Entertainment.

She said the slowing production hurts agents and managers just like their actor and writer clients. Ramo tells us agents and managers could likely see the production slowdown coming before actors and writers. She says that managers and agents are turning to social media content creators. But will that be steady and reliable work? ... It's too early to tell. So far in 2024, box office revenues are down almost 25 percent compared to this time last year.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
2nd Quarter, 2024
(Apr 1st - Jun 30th)

ISSUE:	Education & Child Care
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Open Line

Date: 4/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jeffrey Abrams

Anti-Defamation League gives failing grades to some California universities. The Anti-Defamation League has released a report card that grades American universities for how they've handled a surge in anti-Semitism on campuses. The overwhelming number of grades handed out were C's, D's, and F's ... with several California-based schools performing quite poorly in how they're protecting Jewish students. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with A-D-L regional director Jeffrey Abrams and asked him about contentious pro-Palestinian protests that just broke out on a Southern California campus. Only two schools ... Brandeis University in New York and Elon University in North Carolina ... received "A" grades

Open Line

Date: 4/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Katie Rosanbalm

Big story: COVID delay caused big absentee student crisis. Last year, over a quarter of ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL students across the country missed enough school to be considered chronically absent. That is a huge surge in student absenteeism ... from before the COVID pandemic disruptions to schooling. This stubborn problem is the KNX "big story" today...I talked with Dr. Katie Rosanbalm at Duke University's Center for Child and Family Policy...and asked her about why the root of the student absenteeism problem traces back to COVID.

Open Line

Date: 4/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Hedy Chang

With chronic absenteeism, how to keep students in class? Over a quarter of ALL public school students IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY are missing so many days of school that they're considered chronically absent. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with Hedy Chang, director of the group "Attendance Works," to ask how the pandemic has led to chronic absenteeism.

ISSUE: Education & Child Care

Open Line

Date: 5/12/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Vince Fong

CALIFORNIA REPUBLICANS DEMAND HEARINGS INTO CAMPUS UNREST

California's Republican state legislators are calling for hearings to examine the breakdowns in leadership and security that have led to the protest chaos that has broken out on several California college campuses over the last few weeks. Bakersfield Assemblymember Vince Fong tells KNX News' Jonathan Serviss the violence that broke out at UCLA was especially personal to him...and he's looking for people to hold to account. Fong says he and his fellow Republicans want to ask leaders of the University of California and California State systems why they did not take a more aggressive stance to pro-Palestinian encampments as soon as they were established. He argues that California's university leaders could have...and should have...been watching and learning as the protests turned violent at East Coast schools. No word yet on whether state Republicans have convinced their Democrat colleagues ... who hold majorities in both the assembly and state senate .. to hold hearings on the campus protests.

Open Line

Date: 5/19/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Gene Segura

Over 800 UCLA faculty calling on chancellor to resign. Hundreds of faculty members are demanding that UCLA Chancellor Gene Block resign. It's all over how Block handled campus protests. Gene Segura is one of those UCLA professors who says Chancellor Block has got to go. Block announced plans to step down as Chancellor last year, but plans to remain on UCLA staff as a professor--faculty members are demanding that Block be booted for good. with Jonathan Serviss

ISSUE: Education & Child Care

Open Line

Date: 5/19/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jordan Renville and Henry Kofman

Student journalists at USC, UCLA covering complex protest issues. The outbreak of pro-Palestinian protests on campuses ... gave student journalists across the country an unrivaled

education in covering intense breaking news. Photo journalists at several student newspapers teamed up to share the images they've captured over the last month in a provocative photo essay. Those images include ones taken by Jordan Renville and Henry Kofman, the editor and deputy editor of USC's "Daily Trojan." They both talked to us about their experiences covering the protests...Jordan says appreciated the responsibility that came with covering these events. Henry described the day that the first pro-Palestinian encampment sprung up at USC ... and how he balances his journalism job with being a student. Jordan talked about his experience covering the clash between protesters and police trying to clear out the camp. Henry says something good came out of a tough situation for these student journalists. You can see the work of Jordan and Henry for the Daily Trojan ... and examples of work from student photojournalists from around the country ... on the KNX News website.

Open Line

Date: 5/26/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 7 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ariela Gross

UCLA Chancellor appears before house committee. Thursday morning, UCLA Chancellor Gene Block will be answering tough questions over violence on campus during several weeks of pro-Palestinian protests. Block, along with his crosstown colleague USC president Carol Folt, have been the targets of criticism. Ariela Gross teaches constitutional law at UCLA Law School ... she tells KNX News that she feels Chancellor Block handled the protests poorly ... but she's still hopeful he takes a stand tomorrow. Gross argues that there were plenty of valuable lessons to learn from all this, but she's not entirely confident that university leadership across the country will apply those lessons in the future. UCLA's chancellor will appear alongside the presidents of Rutgers and Northwestern universities at tomorrow morning's House hearing.

ISSUE: Education & Child Care

Open Line

Date: 6/16/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Andrea Kasko

UCLA new chancellor faces divided and irritable campus. UCLA has picked its new Chancellor. Julio Frenk, who had been serving as president of the University of Miami, will become UCLA's first ever Latino chancellor. Frenk, who was born in Mexico and served as that country's Minister of Health, will be taking over UCLA at perhaps the most divisive time in the school's history. Outgoing Chancellor Gene Block, along with most of the university's leadership, managed to anger and alienate just about everyone ... after a month of contentious pro-Palestinian protests on campus, which often resulted in violence. Andrea Kasko is a professor of bioengineering at UCLA ... she's also chair of UCLA's Academic Senate

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
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ISSUE: Local & Community Services

Open Line

Date: 4/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 13 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Candice Dickens Russell

Tami has a California conversation with Candice Dickens Russell, CEO of FOLAR, Friends of the L.A. River. FOLAR aims to bring the River to the People, and the People to the River, and FOLAR has 2 events coming up to celebrate Earth Day, Saturday and Sunday 4/20-4/21. Saturday is restoration and seed ball making day, and Sunday is FOLAR's first ever Earth Day Extravaganza with live music and other fun family activities. Find out how to get in on these and other volunteer opportunities at www.folar.org

Open Line

Date: 4/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 21 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Rachel Norton

Tami has a California conversation with Rachel Norton, Executive Director of California State Parks Foundation. During Earth Month, Cal Parks are celebrating stewardship and climate action with several volunteer events. You can help maintain trails, get rid of invasive plants, and take action to change human behavior and create global, national, and local policy changes that benefit the planet. Sign up for a workday event at a California park near you at www.calparks.org

Open Line

Date: 4/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 22 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Mim Michelove

Tami has a California conversation with Mim Michelove, CEO and President of Healthy Day Partners in Encinitas. Healthy Day Partners mission is to nourish and heal people and the planet through healthier food systems, ecological practices and environmental education. Find out about their many volunteer opportunities at www.healthydaypartners.org

ISSUE: Local & Community Services (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 4/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 11 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Rich Barnes

Tami has a California conversation with Rich Barnes, president of the Barnes Firm, about their scholarship fund. This is the first time they are offering it. It's a \$50,000 dollar scholarship for California and New York graduating high school seniors class of 2024. Ten students from California and ten from New York will be chosen to divide the scholarship. Deadline to enter is May 15, find out more and enter at www.thebarnesfirm/scholarship.com

Open Line

Date: 5/5/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 16 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Cheech Marin and Esther Fernandez

Tami has a California conversation with Cheech Marin and Esther Fernandez of the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture at the Riverside Art Museum, affectionately known as the Cheech at R.A.M. The Cheech is celebrating two years of uplifting diverse artistic and cultural voices, cultivating inclusive exhibitions, collections, and educational programming, engaging in transformative conversations, and fostering strong community connections. Cheech Marin has amassed a vast Chicano art collection over the last 40 years, toured with the art, and now has a permanent home for the collection at the Cheech. The museum is a space for continued exhibition, scholarship, and dialogue of Chicano art's deep roots in the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, to its contemporary and evolving response to current social conditions and global artistic movements. Starting June 2nd through September 1st, every Sunday at the R.A.M. and the Cheech will be free and open to the public! More info about upcoming and permanent exhibits and events is at www.riversideartmuseum.org

Open Line

Date: 5/12/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 18 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Major Anthony Barnes

Tami has a California conversation with Major Anthony Barnes, General Secretary of the Salvation Army, about Salvation Army's summer camp program for underserved youth. The camp is open June 10 through August 2, and they have programs that will expand campers world view, teach empathy, explore wilderness and music activities, and make happy campers by "doing the most good", which is the Salvation Army's motto. Sign up and get more info at www.socal.salvationarmy.org

ISSUE: Local & Community Services (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 5/12/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 12 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Tonya Martin

Tami has a California conversation with Long Beach Pride President Tonya Martin, AKA Ms. Lez Prez, about the 41st annual Long Beach Pride Festival and Parade, happening next weekend May 18-19. It is a spectacular event celebrating diversity and unity within the LGBTQIA+ community. This year's theme is The Rhythm of the Rainbow, inviting participants from all walks of life to contribute to the colorful expressions of pride and resilience. The parade on Sunday is the only pride parade on the beach! All the info is at www.longbeachpride.com

Open Line

Date: 5/12/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 11 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Tisha Janigian

Tami has a California conversation with Tisha Janigian of SHE Is Hope LA. SHE is Hope LA is a non-profit that provides low-income single mothers in LA with the resources and support they need to create a brighter future for themselves and their families. SHE IS HOPE LA Moms and Minis Fashion and Lifestyle Show annual fundraiser is Sunday, May 19th, 1-4pm at their Encino location 17942 Ventura Boulevard, and it is their final blast at that location before they go virtual as they search for a new hub. Get tickets and find out more at www.sheishopela.org

Open Line

Date: 5/19/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 12 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Lisa H. Wong

Tami has a California conversation with Dr. Lisa H. Wong, Director at LACDMH, LA County Department of Mental Health. May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the LACDMH is celebrating that with their Take Action initiative promoting wellness and well-being while sharing the vast array of resources and services provided by the nation's largest behavioral health department. They are bringing communities together in wellness by encouraging everyone to pay attention to their own needs, and those around them. There are over 190 events through LA, mental health fairs with music and food, find one of them at www.takeactionla.com

ISSUE: Local & Community Services (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 5/26/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 18 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ron Hasson & Tia Boyd

Tami has a California conversation with Ron Hasson, President of the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP, and Tia Boyd, producer of the 30th Annual NAACP Theatre Awards. This is their major fundraiser happening Monday, June 3rd at the Taglyan Complex at 1201 North Vine Street in Los Angeles, and it supports their branch community outreach programs, which includes a successful youth program. There is a celebrity red carpet, VIP reception, awards dinner, DJ after party, and a special performance of Super Freak the Rick James Story, as well as Lifetime Achievement, Trailblazer, Spirit and Community Service Awards presentations. More info and tickets at www.naacptheatreawards.com

Open Line

Date: 6/2/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 19 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jackie Thu-Huong Wong

Tami has a California conversation with Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Executive Director of First 5 California, about their Stronger Starts campaign. Stronger Starts is a First 5 California initiative that aims to raise awareness about the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and toxic stress in young children. The Stronger Starts campaign helps parents and caregivers learn about ACEs that can lead to toxic stress and the physiological and psychological effects on children. The most commonly reported ACE in the U.S. is economic hardship, followed by the separation or divorce of a parent or guardian. The most commonly reported ACEs in California are verbal or emotional abuse and household substance use. To learn more, check www.First5California.com

ISSUE: Local & Community Services (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/9/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 21 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Richard Ayoub & Salvador Ramirez

Tami has a California conversation with Richard Ayoub of Project Angel Food and Salvador Ramirez of Ralphs and Food 4 Less about this month's Round Up for a Good Cause fundraiser benefitting Project Angel Food. Go to any Ralphs or Food 4 Less in SoCal during the month of

June, and ask the cashier to round up (or make your own donation) to help feed Project Angel Food clients. Project Angel Food feeds 2,500 critically ill people each day, they recently served their 18 millionth meal, and are celebrating 35 years of service. Also, the Project Angel Food Lead with Love 2024 telethon will air from 7-9pm Saturday, June 22nd on KTLA 5, with celebrity guests galore. More info at www.angelfood.org

Open Line

Date: 6/16/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ricardo Sebastian

Tami has a California conversation with Ricardo Sebastian, Executive Director of OutLoud, about Pride on the Promenade in Santa Monica on Saturday, June 22 from 2-8pm. It is a free family-friendly event. Hosted by Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM, Inc.), Pride on the Promenade makes its return on Saturday, June 22, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. This lively festival spans across Third Street Promenade and celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community and promotes inclusivity and acceptance in Santa Monica. All ages are welcome to enjoy musical performances, Pride-themed treats, free swag, informational booths, games, and much more. Families can also venture to Santa Monica Place, where they can explore the kid-friendly Pride programming and activities exclusively at the Kid Zone, offering an educational and entertaining space for children to play and learn about inclusivity and acceptance. Plus, don't miss the family-friendly live musical entertainment by LGBTQIA+ performers in the Center Plaza. Visit <https://downtownsm.com/pride-on-the-promenade> for more information. RSVP is requested please, but not required at www.downtownsm.com

ISSUE: Local & Community Services (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 14 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Marco Winkler

Tami has a California conversation with Marco Winkler, Director of Communication and Marketing at the National Coalition for LGBTQIA+ Health. He shares important healthcare tips for keeping the community healthy now and in the future. Mpox was top-of-mind in 2022 when many major cities experienced a surge in cases in the months following Pride. The problem is far from over; Mpox cases are double what they were at this time last year in the US and in California, and the CDC is now urging those at risk to be vaccinated due to an increase in Mpox cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to the CDC, this outbreak poses "a global threat for potential spread." Mpox is a viral disease that can spread through close or intimate contact, but the good news is that it can be prevented with a vaccine that is more available than ever before. Getting vaccinated against Mpox is the best way to protect not just yourself against the disease, but your community as well. National vaccination rates are low overall. Federal

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data show that more than half (60%) of those most at risk for Mpox remain unvaccinated and only 15% of those at risk have received one of the two recommended doses. Marco also shares more about preventive measures for HIV, STDs, and other ways to stay healthy this Pride month. More info at www.HealthLGBTQ.org

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 26 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Brian Holt

Tami has a California conversation with Brian Holt, Brand Manager at Channel Q, to wrap up Pride Month 2024. Channel Q is dedicated to giving everyone a voice. CHANNEL Q is a powerful voice for the LGBTQ+ community. The platform was founded to ensure that the queer community is represented in the media in a positive, affirming, and accurate way. Through providing quality content, CHANNEL Q works to break down barriers, helps to spur social change, and creates an inclusive and vibrant culture for everyone. The station and streaming service offer music, news, and interviews that celebrate and empower the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as provide a platform for those who may feel silenced or underrepresented. <https://www.audacy.com/wearechannelq/latest/channel-q-is-giving-everyone-a-voice>

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
2nd Quarter, 2024
(Apr 1st - Jun 30th)

ISSUE: Crime & Drugs
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Open Line

Date: 4/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Steve Cooley

How OJ Simpson murder trial exposed flaws in justice system. The death of OJ Simpson provides us with an opportunity to look back on the legacy of his murder trial ... and how many changes, whether it be in the courts, the police, and the media ... came out of what was referred to as the "trial of the century." KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with former Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley, the man who would eventually replace the man who lost the OJ case, Gil Garcetti, as D.A. in 2000. Charles asked Cooley about the impact OJ's trial would have on the entire justice system.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
2nd Quarter, 2024
(Apr 1st - Jun 30th)

ISSUE: Public Safety

Open Line

Date: 4/7/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Janiele Maffei,

Structural engineers worry about older buildings in quake. We're using today's KNX "Big Story" to take look at the aftermath of the 7.4-magnitude earthquake that hit Taiwan .. and what would happen if a quake of that size were to hit Southern California. So far the reports we're getting back are NOT reassuring. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with Janiele Maffei, a structural engineer with the California Earthquake Authority, and asked her whether a big California city could withstand a 7.4.

Open Line

Date: 4/7/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Yehuda Ben-Zion

California cities could fare worse than Taiwan in big quake. The images of intense shaking from a 7.4-magnitude earthquake in Taiwan are striking ... but perhaps more striking have been the relatively low numbers of people hurt and killed from such a massive quake. We're taking a closer look at whether California can hold up like Taiwan has after large quake ... it's the KNX Big Story of the day. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with Yehuda Ben-Zion is the Director of the Southern California Earthquake Center and a geologist at USC ... who had a very pessimistic outlook for how we would fare if a 7.4 quake hit Los Angeles.

Open Line

Date: 5/12/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Eric Mann

LA bus riders union not fans of more cops on buses. The apparent "sick out" by LA Metro bus drivers inconvenienced thousands of Metro passengers by disrupting some of the most heavily used bus lines in the city. And while riders seem to empathize with the driver's complaints over a failure of public safety on buses ... they're NOT all on board with the proposed solutions to beefing up security. Eric Mann is co-chair of the Bus Riders Union here in Los Angeles.

ISSUE: Public Safety

Open Line

Date: 5/19/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Gina Osborn & Marc Greenberg

More violence on metro trains and buses this week. Gina Osborn was Metro's first-ever chief of public safety ... up until the end of March when she was relieved of her position.

We're telling you about Osborn's firing because it is part of the bigger story of LA Metro's continued struggle with ensuring the safety of its riders on trains and buses ... there were three more stabbings at Metro stations or buses just this week alone. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman called up Gina Osborn ... and her lawyer Marc Greenberg as well ... and asked her about Metro's failures to enforce public safety. KNX News reached out to Metro with a request to talk with their CEO Stephanie Wiggins to give her an opportunity to respond to Gina Osborn's criticisms; here's the statement provided by Metro in lieu of an interview: "Metro does not comment on personnel matters. That said, public safety is Metro's top priority. Most security incidents arise from untreated mental illness and drug addiction. Although Metro didn't create these issues, we must manage them. We're increasing law enforcement presence, enhancing cameras, lighting, and barriers, and exploring fare gate designs. We're also employing a care-based approach with ambassadors, homeless outreach, and crisis intervention teams."

Open Line

Date: 5/19/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Kathryn Barger

LA Supervisor feels wrong approach used for Metro safety. There's been three incidents of violence on the Metro System in the past two days including two stabbings on a bus and one at a Metro station. What steps are being taken to prevent further violence and what can be done? L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger discussed it with L.A.'s Morning News.

ISSUE: Public Safety

Open Line

Date: 6/9/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Gina Osborn

FORMER METRO DIRECTOR SAYS CREATE METRO'S OWN POLICE FORCE

More attacks occurred over the Memorial Day weekend on L-A's troubled public transit system.

And while the spike in assaults has garnered a lot of attention, Metro is pointing out that arrests on the system's trains and buses are up over 160 percent from March of last year to this May ... while crimes are down. Gina Osborn, up until March of this year, served as Metro's chief of security ... She tells KNX's Jonathan Serviss that coming out of the COVID pandemic, the system recognized they had a safety problem and had to adjust strategies.

Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 2 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Craig Fiegenger

LAPD loses 10% of force in 2 months. In April, the Los Angeles Police Department had 8,888 sworn officers – already far below Mayor Karen Bass' hiring goal. Two months later, KNX News' Craig Fiegenger reports the ranks have fallen to 8,038 officers.

ISSUE: Public Safety

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Rabbi Yossi Eilfort

Jewish owned security working with synagogues. Even before this weekend's violent clash of pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel protesters in front of a Pico-Robertson synagogue took place, Jewish congregations in Los Angeles were working on increasing levels of security ... in the wake of last year's October 7th Hamas terror attacks. Enter Rabbi Yossi Eilfort, he's the founder of nonprofit self-defense organization "Magen Am" ... who has spent the last several months recruiting and training members of Jewish synagogues across Southern California to act as Indigenous security teams. Rabbi Yossi talked with KNX News, explaining the goals of his organization. He argues that pro-Palestinian protesters showed up at that synagogue on Sunday looking for a fight ... and that there will be more of these incidents in the future. Rabbi Yossi and his client synagogues are circling dates in October, when the Jewish high holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur land this year ... in anticipation of more protests and more violence. He says they're trying to balance creating free and welcoming places of worship ... with strict security measures. He tells us that his security group has held talks with Mayor Karen Bass's office ... and with LAPD Chief Dominic Choi ... with promises of much closer cooperation on securing synagogues going forward.

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 2 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Rabbi Erez Sherman

LA SYNAGOGUES BEEF UP SECURITY, WARN OF MORE ANTI-SEMITISM

More Jewish people live in Los Angeles than in any other place on Earth ... that aren't Israel and New York City. So our city is teeming with vibrant synagogues serving all kinds of different denominations of Judaism. And rest assured that all of those temples are looking at what happened yesterday ... where a pro-Palestinian protest turned violent in front of a synagogue in the Pico-Robertson ... with a great deal of interest and wariness. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman caught up with Rabbi Erez Sherman at Sinai Temple on Wilshire Boulevard ... and asked him whether protesting Israel's war in Gaza in front of a Los Angeles synagogue counts as antisemitism: Also today on KNX we'll be hearing from a LA-based Islamic group for their reactions on yesterday's violence.

ISSUE: Public Safety

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Hussam Ayloush

Muslim leaders defend pro-Palestinian protests and denounce antisemitism. The President of the United States has labeled the pro-Palestinian protest ... which ultimately turned violent ... that broke out in front of a Pico-Robertson synagogue on Sunday as antisemitic. So has LA Mayor Karen Bass, California Governor Gavin Newsom, and a whole host of other elected officials and analysts. So ... how would an Islamic group here in Los Angeles characterize what went down yesterday? KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman reached out to Hussam Ayloush, he's executive director of the LA-chapter of the Council of American-Islamic Relations ... and asked him if protesting Israel's war in Gaza ... in front of a LA synagogue ... was antisemitic. The Anti Defamation League, in its reporting, says that last year represented a record-increase in the number of antisemitic incidents and attacks in Los Angeles.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
2nd Quarter, 2024
(Apr 1st - Jun 30th)

ISSUE: Animals

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
2nd Quarter, 2024
(Apr 1st - Jun 30th)

ISSUE: Politics

Open Line

Date: 4/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Matt Haney

"Right to Disconnect" law. We've all fallen victim to it: the late night or early morning text, email, or call from the boss ... asking us to go above and beyond for work, well outside of actual working hours. Well now one California Assemblyman is trying to change that. San Francisco Democratic Assemblymember Matt Haney has introduced the "Right to Disconnect" bill ... KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman asked Haney why a law is required to control office work policies. If this legislation becomes law it would make California the first state in the country to have any type of work-life balance requirement for employers.

Open Line

Date: 4/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Brandie Nonnecke

Can California protect artists and performers from likeness stealing by AI? SAG-AFTRA is trying to achieve in committee rooms of Sacramento what it could not achieve at the bargaining table last year: there is an effort underway to write protections for performers against AI-generated digital replicas ... into California state law. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with Brandie Nonnecke, co-director of the Center for Law and Technology at the UC Berkeley Law School and asked her if this Hollywood dispute over artificial intelligence really rose to the level of becoming state law.

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 4/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ash Kalra

Where SAG AFTRA came up short Sacramento tries to make up. The battle in Hollywood over artificial intelligence is nowhere close to being resolved ... even after the settlement of the writers' and actors' strikes last year. Lawyers at the actors union SAG-AFTRA teamed up with

California Assemblymember Ash Kalra to write two bills that would put protections for performers against AI-generated digital replicas into state law. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman asked him about how his legislation would work with the still-new contracts that emerged from Hollywood's strikes.

Open Line

Date: 4/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Lesley Goldberg

Post-strike TV writers' landscape bleak. Hollywood hasn't bounced back after last year's strikes. In fact, some writers say they haven't gotten any work since BEFORE the strike. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with Hollywood Reporter editor Lesley Goldberg on her story that follows increasingly desperate TV writers. Goldberg says that while last year's strikes sped up Hollywood's contraction ... spending cuts and show cancellations were already coming for the TV industry

Open Line

Date: 4/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Frank Sesno

How OJ Simpson murder trial changed American media forever. OJ Simpson's murder trial was, by all measures, a cultural event that forever changed the media in this country. Before OJ we put on trial for the murders of his ex-wife and her friend, American celebrities were often coddled in the media ... and in fact, protected BY the media. OJ changed all of that. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with his old colleague Frank Sesno, a seasoned, veteran journalist on CNN for many years ... to ask what made the OJ story so unique.

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 5/5/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Rabbi Nicole Guzik

UCLA clash highlights differing views on college campuses. Reactions differ over the violent clash at UCLA and the protests at other universities around the country. One pro-Palestinian protester at UCLA slammed the pro-Israel protesters who she said attacked her side last night. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman talked to Rabbi Nicole Guzik with Sinai Temple in LA. Her opinion on the whole thing is quite different.

Open Line

Date: 5/5/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 7 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jonathan Park

USC students frustrated over cancellation of main stage graduation. At what is supposed to be a celebratory and joyous time of the year, there is instead a lot of frustration and bitterness on the USC campus right now. We caught up with Jonathan Park ... he's a USC junior majoring in applied mathematics, and also happens to be the managing digital editor of USC's newspaper, the Daily Trojan. We asked him whether he's seen or heard of any violent incidents.

Were the protests or camps disruptive to student life on USC's campus? Park says that after surveying a broad sampling of USC students, on both sides of the Israel-Palestinian divide, most people blamed campus tensions on university leadership. Park says there's a sense of resignation and disappointment among seniors over the cancellation of the main stage graduation. Final exams and the Spring semester will wrap up on USC by May 8th.

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 5/5/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 7 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Richard Tofel

Owner of 8 newspapers sues Microsoft and OPEN AI.

Alden Global Capital, the owner of eight major newspapers in cities across the U.S. has sued OpenAI and Microsoft for copyright infringement. They are claiming that generative artificial intelligence models are being fed human-created reporting ... and then essentially ripping it off. This comes after the New York Times filed a similar lawsuit against OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, earlier this year. Richard Tofel is a consultant who formerly served as president of the independent news reporting outlet Pro-Publica; he writes a substack called Second Rough Draft. He explained to us the copyright principles at stake; Tofel says newspapers are arguing that human created articles and reporting are just being re-purposed by AI: Several other news outlets ... including the Financial Times and Associated Press ... have made similar claims about A-I models stealing from their reporting. But instead of a lawsuit, the outlets have worked out compensation deals to be paid by OpenAI and Microsoft.

Open Line

Date: 5/5/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Will O'Neill

SCOTUS to hear case about towns deciding their own homeless enforcement laws.

The Supreme Court heard arguments in a case right that will have a big impact on whether local cities can clean up homeless encampments. This case comes from Grants Pass, Oregon which started fining people for sleeping outside to manage homeless encampments. One local city that the ruling will impact is Newport Beach. Mayor Will O'Neill joined L.A.'s Morning News to discuss the case.

Open Line

Date: 5/19/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jennifer York

Former KNX traffic reporter Jennifer York remembers Sam Rubin. Former KNX News traffic reporter Jennifer York remembers KTLA entertainment reporter Sam Rubin, who died Friday at the age of 64. with Rob Archer

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/9/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 11 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Larry Farmer

Remembering UCLA basketball great Bill Walton. We talked with UCLA champion player and then coach Larry Farmer about his memories of Bill Walton following his death at the age of 71. Farmer set a college basketball record by going 89-1 with the Bruins back in the early 70s. Larry talks about being a close friend and teammate of Walton's and what made him so special.

Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Branimir Kvartuc

Photojournalist reflects on OJ Bronco chase. One of the most famous events in LA history happened nearly 30 years ago. On June 17th, 1994 the whole country was glued to the TV and KNX as the infamous OJ Simpson Bronco chase took place on the freeways around LA. A young photojournalist, Branimir Kvartuc, captured the most famous photo from the whole event - a close-up image of the front of the Bronco driven by AC Cowlings with numerous police cars trailing right behind. Branimir Kvartuc joins L.A.'s Morning News to talk about how he captured the famous photo that summed up the entire spectacle.

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Mike Madrid

The Latino century not your grandpa's Latino voters. The 2024 presidential election will likely swing on the votes of second and third-generation Latino-American voters. But today's Latino voters are not the same from 30, 20 or even 10 years ago ... that's because these voters aren't motivated by issues like immigration, like they used to be. Today's Latino voters are voting and behaving very similarly to white, working class voters. That's the subject of Mike Madrid's new book, "The Latino Century: How America's Largest Minority Is Transforming Democracy." Mike was a long-time Republican strategist and consultant ... who eventually left the party to co-found The Lincoln Project during the Trump administration. Mike stopped by KNX to talk today ... KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman asked him why more Latino voters are leaving the Democratic Party, and turning to Republicans.

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Shira Feldman

Supreme Court upholds restrictions on guns for domestic abusers. The U.S. Supreme Court delivered a rare victory in court to gun control advocates today ... Justices voted 8-to-1 to uphold a federal law that would prevent a domestic abuser ... under a restraining order ... from owning a gun. Clarence Thomas was the only dissenting vote. Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts said that there were limitations to the Second Amendment. KNX News chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with Shira Feldman ... she's Director of Constitutional Litigation for the Brady Campaign gun control organization ... He asked if, in her view, this was the right decision. Today's ruling on gun ownership limited the scope of a much-debated 2022 ruling by the Supreme Court. That ruling, at the time, dramatically expanded gun rights ... and touched off several legal challenges to established gun laws across the country.

Open Line

Date: 6/30/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Clayton Davis

Remembering Donald Sutherland. Hollywood lost an unquestionable legend of film and television today...Donald Sutherland has died at the age of 88, after suffering through a long illness. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked about Sutherland's unparalleled career

with Variety awards editor Clayton Davis...pointing out that, for all of Sutherland's lauded work ...he was never nominated for an Oscar. Donald Sutherland, who kept on working in Hollywood up to the very end, is actually on this year's Emmy ballot, up for voting right now, for his role on the Paramount-plus series "Lawmen: Bass Reeves."

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
2nd Quarter, 2024
(Apr 1st - Jun 30th)

ISSUE: Environment

Open Line

Date: 4/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Michael Anderson

How far can California stretch water supply? Almost all major reservoirs in California sitting at, or above, total capacity ... and a Sierra snowpack sitting right at 100 percent of average for this time of year. It has been a really good couple of water years for our normally parched state ... but how long can the good times last? KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman asked California's state climatologist Michael Anderson the risk versus reward calculation for yet more rain and snow heading our way. The KNX Big Story rolls on, as we prepare for the latest storm barreling into Southern California ... we will look at the increasing risks of landslides for our already soggy hillsides.

Open Line

Date: 4/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Matthew Thomas

Can SoCal hillsides take more rain? California's reservoirs are full, the Sierra snowpack is at 100% of its seasonal level and groundwater is being recharged--it's been a bountiful two, wet winters for the normally parched state. But with another late season storm on the way this weekend, there are plenty of risks that come with another round of rain. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman talked with USGS geologist Matthew Thomas at the Landslide Hazards Program ... and asked whether SoCal's soggy hillsides can withstand more rain.

Open Line

Date: 4/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Audacy National Staff

Audacy conversations: the State of the Environment.

ISSUE: Environment (cont.)
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Open Line

Date: 4/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Audacy National Staff

Audacy Earth Day / Earth Month, the Nature Conservancy, and Audacy's One Thing, our commitment to sustainability

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Open Line

Date: 4/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 7 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Tony Markovich

Us News and World Report picks best green cars. U.S. News and World Report released their "best green cars of 2024" list. Tony Markovich is the senior automobile editor for U.S. News, he tells Jonathan Serviss that the performance and range of electric vehicles continues to improve. The biggest winner of the year, by far, for electric cars was Hyundai; the biggest surprise on this green car list ... no Teslas! Volvo and Toyota models also scored high on the list ... while the Ford F-150 Lightning was the top rated electric truck.

Open Line

Date: 5/5/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Alan Scheller-Wolf

CALIFORNIA far from ambitious battery building goal. In order for California to meet its ambitious climate goals of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from power generation ... the state is going to need one key piece of technology to work out. That would be battery storage ... and so far building out battery capacity isn't going according to plan.

Governor Gavin Newsom says the state is making progress, but it will be far short of meeting its goals in building out battery storage farms.

Alan Scheller-Wolf studies and teaches about sustainable energy systems at Carnegie Mellon University. He tells KNX News why batteries are necessary to help make renewable energies like wind and solar viable. Wolf says building batteries is a messy business. Wolf says there are also unanswered questions about what to do with batteries ... made up of highly toxic components ... when they reach the end of their service life. So he says it's not surprising the state isn't where it wants to be on battery storage ... but there are few realistic alternatives.

ISSUE: Environment (cont.)
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Open Line

Date: 6/16/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: John Vidale

SOCAL'S earthquake swarm, sign of something bigger to come? There have been at least a dozen earthquakes that have hit over the last two weeks .. spread out over an area of Southern California raging from Ojai in the north to Costa Mesa in the south ... all measuring over 2.5 in magnitude. Since it's been over 30 years since SoCal's last major quake and we're all anxiously awaiting the promised "big one" ... is a quake swarm like we've just experienced a sign to get nervous ... or a sign of reduced geological pressure? KNX News put that question to John Vidale, USC geophysicist and former director of the Southern California Earthquake Center. He told us ... it depends. Vidale says there are instances of earthquakes touching off neighboring fault lines, but it would have to be a sizable shaker. As far as Southern California being due a major earthquake ... Vidale says while that's true, it's not like we haven't had steady seismic activity here. Vidale says that predicting earthquakes is still very much an imperfect science. Seismologists didn't see the Northridge quake coming, nor did they anticipate the big earthquake near Oakland in 1989 ... so best to be prepared for anything.

ISSUE: Environment (cont.)
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Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Luca Carmignani; Mary Johnson

(Both fire stories combined)

Are we learning the right lessons in wildfire prevention? With several large wildfires burning up and down the state of California, it's safe to declare the 2024 wildfire season officially underway. And after two straight years of wet winter and subdued wildfire activity ... Californians could be lulled into a false sense of security. This fire season could be a bad one. And KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman wanted to know why we keep making the same mistakes when it comes to failing to adequately prepare for intensifying wildfires. So he called up Luca Carmignani, a fire advisor to the University of California Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources. The National Interagency Fire Center is predicting 2024 to a more intense fire season than usual for the entire North American continent.

Increasing levels of wildfire smoke. If you woke up this morning to hazy skies, a general burning smell in the air and ash on your car ... you're not alone. Welcome to the start of wildfire season in Southern California. The Post fire in Gorman fire that broke out over the weekend has been

sending clouds of smoke both east out to Las Vegas and then back west over the LA basin. And as a result we're all breathing in the smoke from burning trees, brush and structures KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman called up Mary Johnson, she's a principal research scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health who specializes in the effects of air pollution ... he asked her if it's safe to assume that wildfire smoke it increasingly becoming a public health crisis. Smoke produced from wildfires over the last decade is almost single-handedly responsible for reversing dramatic gains this country has made on reducing levels of air pollution since the 1950's.

ISSUE: Environment (cont.)
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Open Line

Date: 6/23/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Gavin Schmidt

Earth hottest year on record. The parade of disturbing news about our changing climate has become so consistent that it's almost easy to tune it out. But today's report out of the European Union is so alarming that we can't look away. EU scientists crunched the data and determined that the last 12 straight months have been the hottest EVER in the planet's recorded history. The general secretary of the United Nations slammed fossil fuel companies as "godfathers of climate chaos" ... and he described Earth as being on a "highway to climate hell." KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman checked in with Gavin Schmidt, he's a climatologist and director of NASA's Goddard Space Institute ... he said that we're in uncharted climate territory. As if all of this wasn't troubling enough ... there's every indication that the negative impacts from climate change will be far, far, FAR worse in the coming years.

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Bridging Philly Q2 April - June 2024

2024 PA Primary & General Election | Alexey Brodovitch: Astonish Me Apr 6, 2024

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May 25, 2024

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Women Against Abuse | LGBTQ+ exhibit at The Fabric Museum

Jun 1, 2024

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Issues and Programs Report
For
WBEB-FM / WBEB-FM HD2/ BetQL-WBEB-FM HD3



SECOND QUARTER 2024
(APRIL 01, 2024 through JUNE 30, 2024)

Prepared by: Sabrina Boyd-Surka, KYW On-Air Personality

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I'M LISTENING

2ND QRT 2024

April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024

ISSUE: ENVIRONMENT

1Thing / Audacy Conversations

April / Earth Month

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO

Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

ISSUE: HEALTH, VETERANS

Audacy Conversations

April 21, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy's David Glover recently welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) expert and former Air Force member, Alex Silva, in addition to Wounded Warrior Project Clinical Expert, Dr. Erin Fletcher and guest Dan Miller, to discuss the importance of mental health care for Military members and share that the bravest thing many of them can do is ask for help.

ISSUE: HEALTH

I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark

May 5, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Host David O'Leary and Victor Armstrong, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Vice President of Health Equity and Engagement, and Michell Clark; father, husband, entrepreneur, writer and podcaster in the mental wellness space, had an intimate discussion on grief, loss, and suicide.

ISSUE: HEALTH, MINORITY

Talk Away The Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ community

June 2, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

**KYW-AM/WIP-HD2 PHILADELPHIA, WPHI-FM JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT**

April, 1, 2024 – June, 30, 2024

Station KYW (AM) provides an all-news radio service to Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area at 1060kHz AM, with simulcasts on the FM dial on WPHI-FM at 103.9 MHz and WIP-FM-HD2 at 94.1 MHz HD2. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.

This report was prepared and placed in the station's public inspection file on **June 28th, 2024.**

The report was prepared and reviewed by Newsroom Operations Manager, Dennis Edward.

Bridging Philly is KYW Newsradio's half-hour public affairs show that airs Saturdays at 9:30p and Sundays at 8:30a

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Arts and Culture - Page 13

Education - Page 29

Elections and Politics - Page 45

Gun Crimes and Public Safety - Page 63

Economy - Page 76

CHILDREN AND HUMAN SERVICES

April

Federal judge deals major setback to nonprofit hoping to open supervised drug consumption site in Philadelphia

April 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When a federal judge on Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit from Safehouse, which had been seeking permission to operate a medically supervised drug consumption site in Philadelphia, it delivered a serious setback to the nonprofit.

After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit confirmed that Safehouse could be criminally prosecuted if it opened a facility where people with addiction could use drugs under medical supervision, Safehouse counter-sued, claiming a First Amendment right to operate as a matter of religious principle to preserve life.

Judge Gerald McHugh rejected Safehouse’s argument, writing that he is persuaded the nonprofit is not a religious entity, and he dismissed the case.

Safehouse Vice President Ronda Goldfein said she was disappointed.

“We respectfully disagree. We think Safehouse has a right to exercise its religious beliefs by saving the lives of people in need,” Goldfein said.

“We’ve been fighting a lawsuit for five years — and in that time, 6,500 people have died. And we’re trying to provide relief.”

The U.S. Attorney had no comment. The case was brought by her predecessor.

But the decision was good news for City Councilmember Quetcy Lozada, who represents Kensington, where neighbors feared the facility would have been located.

“I am very pleased that the government has made the decision that it made,” she said. “It’s something the residents have been adamantly against, so I think today is a very good day for the residents of Kensington.”

The decision also relieves one headache for Mayor Cherelle Parker, who opposes the sites. She says she believes in harm reduction but doesn't believe it's a complete answer.

"We're going to be focused on prevention, intervention and enforcement, long-term care, treatment and housing," Parker said.

Goldfein says Safehouse is still considering its options, including an appeal to the Third Circuit court.

Free gun-lock program expanding to fight drastic increase in number of kids accidentally shooting themselves and others

April 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The number of kids getting hold of guns and unintentionally shooting either themselves or other kids is drastically increasing. In 2019, two children were involved in unintentional shootings. In 2021, about a dozen kids unintentionally shot themselves or another kid — and about two dozen have every year since.

In March, a 4-year-old boy picked up a gun and shot himself in the stomach. In January, a 5-year-old shot himself in the leg. And on Saturday, 3-year-old Kayden Barnes was shot in the eye and later died. Investigators believe she accidentally shot herself with her father's gun.

Authorities have still not announced whether charges will be filed against her father.

"Kids are naturally curious," says Scott Charles, a trauma outreach manager for Temple University Hospital.

"Small kids as young as 2 can apply enough pressure to a trigger to fire a gun," he said. "And it's often the case that small children will look down the barrel of the gun because they are curious."

"And while they are pulling the trigger, they are not expecting a bullet is going to come out of the barrel. And that is why so many children, as we saw recently here in Philadelphia, unintentionally shoot themselves in the head."

The hospital gives out free gun locks through the Safe Bet program.

"It's imperative that we keep guns out of the reach of children, and the best way to do that is to keep them in a gun safe, but we provide gun locks because sometimes gun safes are beyond the ability of people to buy them," Charles said.

“The purpose of the gun locks [is] to reduce the likelihood that young people — particularly young people — will get their hands on firearms and unintentionally shoot themselves.”

Charles started the program after seeing the need, through social media posts and reaching out to the Philadelphia Police Department to kickstart free gun lock giveaways.

“The cable locks that we use are 15-inch cable locks. They can be used on handguns. They can be used on shotguns. They can be used on rifles.”

So far Safe Bet has given away 10,000 locks. And the program is now expanding, with new grant money from the state.

“We are going to start a campaign where we are going to be conducting workshops in communities where we know there are high rates of gun violence; reaching out to those concerned family members who might have a gun lying around the house, who find it unaffordable to buy a gun safe,” Charles said.

“And we are going to be providing them biometric gun safes so that they can keep those guns safe and secure in their homes.”

To get a gun lock through the Safe Bet program, go to templesafetynet.org for more information.

Law enforcement agencies are holding a free gun lock giveaway on Thursday from noon to 3 p.m. at New Journey Christian Center, 1001 East Cheltenham Ave., in Philadelphia, near where Kayden Barnes was shot.

Philly officials reveal this year’s slate of summer activities for youth

April 10, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Summer is still two months away but Philadelphia officials already have big summer plans for the city’s youth, with an assortment of free and paid activities.

Among activities offered through Parks and Recreation, the Free Library, the School District of Philadelphia, the Department of Human Services, and the summer jobs program, Mayor Cherelle Parker says there’s something for everyone this summer. She believes that offering summer activities for every child in the city is important on many levels.

“We know that keeping young people engaged and active can improve not only their physical health and well-being, but prevent learning loss and to reduce violence,” she said.

Parker says there's no excuse for any young person not to be plugged into some sort of activity, given the array of options, from classes, camps, and clubs to sports and — for teenagers — jobs.

First of all, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Susan Slawson says the city is hiring 400 lifeguards.

“This year, we're bringing back bonuses for our lifeguards. If you sign up by April 15 and you work throughout the summer, you get an additional \$1,000,” Slawson explained.

In addition, there are 8,000 career path summer jobs for teens through a program called C2L — formerly known as WorkReady. At least 2,000 of them will continue into the school year.

New program offers Philly residents a path to first-time home ownership

April 24, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation is trying to keep the dream of home ownership within reach of Philadelphia's working class through a program for first-time buyers.

The city and PHDC are looking for first-time buyers to take advantage of the Turn The Key initiative. They're holding an open house on May 8 at SEPTA headquarters (1234 Market Street) in Center City, to show prospective buyers that a huge down payment or a perfect credit score is not necessary for home ownership in the city.

“Let's be really honest. They're hustling, they're working a full-time job, a part-time job, and you know, they're paying rent and not seeing any wealth creation,” said Angel Rodriguez, executive director of the Philadelphia Land Bank. “And here, we have this opportunity for them to move into a home.”

Turn The Key puts publicly owned vacant land back into productive use while increasing the limited supply of affordable homes available for purchase in the city. For example, for a home that costs \$280,000, qualifying applicants can get as much as \$95,000 in assistance, with an average monthly payment of about \$1,353.

“You're getting the \$1353 monthly, you're getting three bedrooms, two baths, and it's a starter home, it's your home,” Rodriguez said. “You know what you're getting. You know the neighborhood. Plus you're saving so much money monthly, that really changes a family's life.”

He says the criteria for approval is income-based, and that applicants have an average credit score of 600.

“We’ve approved ... over 700 properties,” he said. “Right now we have about 265 in production. I expect by the end of this calendar year to have 359 done. And then we have another 325 that we hope to see done in the calendar year 2025.”

Registration is required to attend the open house.

May

Delco Health Department to host Mindfulness Monday series

May 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — In collaboration with Keystone First, the Delaware County Health Department will be hosting a Mindfulness Monday series beginning May 6.

The series kicks off with two free yoga classes at 10 a.m. and noon at the Wellness Center in Yeadon. Each class is about an hour and a half long and is open to residents of all ages.

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, the program is aimed at helping people find ways to care for their mind, body, and health, said Aminata Donzo with the health department.

“We really want members to be able to leave just feeling relaxed,” Donzo said. “We understand that things can be really, really busy with work, kids, bills — we just wanted to be like a space to relax and take a time out to be able to breathe and just prioritize yourself and your mental health.”

To register, call 484-276-2100 or email DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us

Philly Abuse Shelter celebrates \$3.6M renovation, adding 33 beds

May 14, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia's Women Against Abuse cut the ribbon on its newly expanded and renovated domestic violence shelter on Tuesday.

Ameya's Place, one of two domestic violence shelters in Philadelphia operated by Women Against Abuse, received \$3.6 million in much needed renovations. The changes include new private bathrooms, flooring, lighting, HVAC system upgrades, windows and roof repair, and security updates.

Those improvements make it a welcomed home away from home for those seeking refuge from intimate partner violence.

"We house about 600 individuals every year who are trying to flee their homes to be safe," said Joanna Otero-Cruz, president and executive director of Women Against Abuse. The organization runs both facilities in Philadelphia, which serve 1,200 women, men, and children fleeing abusive relationships each year.

"Unfortunately, there are times we don't have space. The prevalence of domestic violence is huge in Philadelphia, the 911 calls received are over 110,000 a year."

The expansion will allow the organization to serve 33 more people each year. 88 people were turned away in 2023 due to lack of space.

Jamie Colleen Miller is a domestic violence survivor who fled to Ameya's Place with her daughter in 2014. She now serves on the board.

"Being in an abusive relationship was the darkest time of my life and breaking free felt like I was digging myself out of a grave," she said, "but I wasn't buried, I was determined. I was strong. I was so strong, even on the days when I felt weak and broken."

The facility is named for Ameya Spratley, who was killed by her abusive boyfriend in 2010.

“You never knew my daughter, but you know her name,” said her father, Willie Spratley. “With your help and your support, her name’s gonna help someone. Someone that really needs help can call Ameya, and she’s there.”

Families could face barriers to their children’s care if Medicaid drops CHOP as in-network provider

May 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Leslie Proffitt’s daughter, 14-year-old Lily Ciechoski, has been a patient at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for most of her life, as she was born with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Also for most of her life, Proffitt said her daughter has been on the Keystone First health insurance plan. However, Proffitt and other families fear they could lose some of their insurance coverage because Medicaid may no longer keep CHOP as an in-network provider.

CHOP is “currently a participating provider of AmeriHealth Caritas PA and Keystone First,” it said on an information page for affected patients. “However, those contracts will end July 1, 2024, unless a new agreement is signed before that date.”

If contract negotiations fail, CHOP will no longer be considered an in-network Medicaid provider through AmeriHealth Caritas PA and Keystone First.

“If they decide that they’re going to not come to an agreement with CHOP, we’ve got to make the decision to switch insurance plans, which might sound easy but it’s not an instantaneous thing,” said Proffitt. “We see CHOP for a variety of specialists, so that’s going to be a huge issue. The switch for insurance plans like that can take weeks.”

After Proffitt and other affected parents petitioned lawmakers, two dozen Pennsylvania State House Democrats issued an open letter — penned by Chester County state Rep. Paul Friel — that calls on insurers to “find a solution that maintains CHOP’s inclusion in the network.”

Removing CHOP from the networks would create barriers to crucial health care for children with disabilities and from low-income families, they said.

“There’s a lot of things that Keystone First provides that Aetna doesn’t consider medically necessary, like diapers,” Proffitt added. “They don’t find that medically necessary. They won’t pay for it.”

The lawmakers wrote in their letter: “Failure to reach an agreement would result in disrupted care for thousands of young and sick patients. Families who are already navigating the complexities of the medical system would face additional challenges. For children with severe chronic conditions, unique disorders, and special needs, finding an alternative provider with the necessary expertise would be an uphill battle. Moreover, since the affected patients are covered through Medicaid, the consequences are even more pronounced, as fewer practices are available to many of these children due to their parents’ income limitations.”

Keystone First said in a statement that negotiations are active, and it put the onus on CHOP to choose to remain in-network. In another statement, CHOP said it is in contact with potentially affected families, and if no agreement is reached, it will work with those families to avoid disruptions in care.

CHOP is considered in-network with all other Pennsylvania Medicaid plans.

Health officials warn of potential measles exposure in Philly pharmacy, Montco medical facility

May 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Health officials are warning of potential measles exposure in Philadelphia and Montgomery County.

They say people may be at risk if they were inside the CVS Pharmacy on 10901C Bustleton Avenue on May 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the Holy Redeemer Hospital Emergency Department on May 16-17 from 11:30 a.m. until midnight; or the Holy Redeemer Hospital Medical-Surgical Unit on May 16-17 from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

As of Monday, May 20, Philadelphia Health Department reported one confirmed case of measles with exposure to residents in Montgomery County. There are no confirmed cases in Montgomery County.

Measles can spread very easily from person to person — especially those not protected against the virus — through air droplets by coughing or sneezing.

Early symptoms include a fever, runny nose, cough, puffy eyes, and a rash. It's contagious four days before to four days after a rash appears and can lead to pneumonia, brain infection, and even death.

Health officials say if you develop symptoms through June 7 and are not immune and may have been exposed, contact your doctor immediately.

June

Agencies working to make New Jersey more age-friendly as senior population grows rapidly

June 3, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — New Jersey, known for its high cost of living, poses challenges for older residents looking to age in place. Making ends meet can be tough, even for seniors who have already paid off their houses. For renters or those with mortgages, the costs oftentimes push them to consider moving to another state.

To combat the rising costs, several New Jersey agencies created an age-friendly guide to make living more affordable. The blueprint identifies several areas of improvement: housing, health, transportation, socialization, employment, and communication and outreach.

“Some of the recommendations that we highlight are about how to make modifications or how to build housing that will remain affordable and accessible for people as they age,” said Kaylee McGuire, New Jersey Department of Human Services deputy commissioner for aging and disability services.

New Jersey's population of people 65 and older is expected to grow from 1.5 million in 2019 to 1.9 million by 2030, according to the department. By the end of this decade, 1 in 5 New Jerseyans will be 65 or older.

McGuire added, “The housing section has a whole host of recommendations that are focused on helping make communities more affordable for our older adults as they age and to also make sure that their homes and their communities are more accessible.”

The department also announced \$5.5 million in available grant funding to implement some of the suggestions.

Margate police say parents, guardians may get a ticket if unsupervised teen is breaking the law

June 17, 2024

MARGATE, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Police in Margate say they’ll be enforcing an ordinance this summer that states a summons can be issued to a parent or guardian of unruly teenagers.

The summer season has only just begun, and already a few towns across the region have had to deal with rowdy crowds. Specifically down the Shore, teenagers have been involved in some isolated incidents. It has elected officials and law enforcement leaders on guard.

Over Memorial Day weekend, a 15-year-old from another town was stabbed in Ocean City and had non-life threatening injuries.

Wildwood Police also had to shut down the boardwalk for a few hours during the holiday weekend, after they got call after call on large gatherings of unsupervised teens.

The Margate City Police Department says, in order to prevent similar situations from happening, they’ll be enforcing a city ordinance that looks to parents and guardians who knowingly leave juveniles unsupervised.

According to a post on Facebook, the Department says between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., if any minor under the age of 17 is unattended and doing something dangerous or unlawful, they’ll be taken to the police station. An adult will be contacted to pick them up and, officials say, a summons will be issued.

Per the ordinance, the first violation could result in a fine of between \$100 and \$1,000 or as many as 90 days of community service.

Philabundance brings back free meal program for second summer

June 19, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With school out of session and cafeterias closed for the summer, many kids have lost access to food assistance.

That's why, for the second year in a row, Philabundance is kicking off the summer with its free Summer Lunchbox program.

Through Aug. 24, Philabundance Community Kitchen will whip up 66,000 fresh lunches and 11,000 breakfast kits for thousands of food-insecure families in the Philadelphia region.

The meals will be distributed by 25 of their community partners in nine surrounding counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Advocare reaches multi-year agreement with Horizon insurance to remain in network

June 28, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — An agreement has been reached between health provider Advocare and a major insurance group in the region days before their contract was set to expire.

Advocare announced on Thursday that it reached a multi-year agreement with Horizon. In the spring, Advocare sent letters to patients informing them that if no deal is reached by June 30, its doctors would no longer be in network with Horizon.

Now that the agreement is settled, Advocare said there will be no disruptions for its patients.

Advocare has 900 providers in more than 150 care centers throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania, serving more than 800,000 patients.

In a statement, Horizon spokesperson Tom Wilson said, "Our members rely on Horizon to ensure they can access doctors they want to see at a fair and reasonable cost. It is a responsibility that we take seriously — medical costs should never prevent someone from getting the care they

need and all of us in New Jersey's healthcare system have a role to play in making it more affordable. We appreciate Advocare's commitment to work with us to reach a fair agreement and are pleased that our members will continue to have in-network access to Advocare practices."

ARTS AND CULTURE

South Philly Street renamed in honor of longtime radio DJ Bob Pantano

April 10, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A South Philadelphia native whose radio show has beamed into homes for decades was honored on Tuesday with a special tribute.

In front of friends, family, entertainers, and adoring fans, Bob Pantano smiled as South Philly's Federal Street, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, was renamed Bob Pantano Way. Long before the Philadelphia radio legend received the accolade, however, his childhood neighborhood helped propel him to radio stardom.

"My career started at my house on Federal Street," Pantano recalled. "I drove up Seventh Street, went over to Camden in 1971 and filled in for the 'Geator' Jerry Blavat, and that's how it started."

Many came to the Tuesday ceremony, from celebrities and elected officials — like Robert "Kool" Bell from Kool & the Gang and Mayor Cherelle Parker — to neighbors and old friends, to show their love for the Temple grad and longtime WOGL DJ. They also enjoyed free cheesesteaks, cannolis, and other South Philly staples.

"I'm just happy to see everybody. I see some of the old neighbors are still living here and I'm happy to see the neighborhood is still very nice," he said.

Among the many attendees was childhood friend Sonny Averona Jr. "I'm honored because Bob Pantano is the people's champion like my dear friend Joe Frazier was. He gives back to everybody," he said.

Pantano received a plaque on the Philadelphia Music Alliance Walk of Fame, on South Broad Street, in 2017. Still, he said the street renaming was especially humbling. "I'm just overwhelmed by everyone who is here," he shared.

Through puppetry, Opera Philadelphia reclaims Asian agency in production of ‘Madame Butterfly’

April 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Opera Philadelphia is adding something new to their next show: puppetry. As Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month begins next week, the opera company presents a reimagined version of Puccini’s “Madame Butterfly,” created by a team of AAPI artists.

“Madame Butterfly” is about a Japanese geisha named Cio Cio San who gets sold to a U.S. Navy lieutenant. In most productions, she’s portrayed as a helpless victim, but Opera Philadelphia wanted to change that stereotype — with the help of a puppet.

“The puppet allows us to separate the stereotype from the human spirit,” said director Ethan Heard. In this version, a singer represents Cio Cio San’s spirit, who takes a different path, while the puppet maintains the traditional role.

“She starts to realize, ‘Oh, I feel trapped in this trope. And I want to be something new. I want to find my agency,’” he said.

The puppet is designed by Philadelphia-based artist Hua Hua Zhang, who studied traditional rod puppetry in China. She began training in the Chinese tradition when she was just 14 years old.

“I have to take dance class, voice class ... we learn Chinese-style acting, which is more dramatic and more unreal,” she said.

Zhang brings that “unreal” quality to the stage, performing with the puppet while soprano Karen Chia-ling Ho sings. Zhang must use her whole body to control the puppet’s movements.

They both portray the same character, but their paths diverge as the show goes on. The puppet is stuck in old, traditional ways, while the singer’s version of the character has the freedom to choose her own story — leading to a new, alternate ending.

“Also, the puppet can fly, the puppet can stand on the table, the puppet can express in a really vivid, imaginative way that a mature soprano can’t do while performing the role vocally,” Heard added.

For him, this production is an opportunity to reclaim a story that has pigeonholed and often misrepresented Asian performers.

“‘Madame Butterfly,’ in the last century or 125 years, has, more often than not, been staged with non-Asian singers in these roles,” he said. “I’m very proud that our production features Asian and Asian American singers in all of the lead Japanese roles.”

“Madame Butterfly” will be performed at the Academy of Music from April 26 to May 5.

Philly artists use World Book Day to share art of tufting with the world through new book April 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — There were a number of events in Philadelphia to mark UNESCO’s World Book Day on Tuesday — but no one celebrated quite like two West Philly entrepreneurs, who dropped a book on their quest to bring the art of tufting to the world.

Every World Book Day when she was a teacher, Debra Gress Jansen would let her students read all day.

“It can teach you something you don’t know, it can take you back in time, it can take you into the future,” said Jansen. “It just helps you use your brain power a little bit more.”

That is why Jansen went into the bookselling business after teaching, opening Booked in Chestnut Hill.

And in the spirit of learning something new — and for World Book Day — she invited artists and entrepreneurs Tim Eads and Tiernan Alexander to the shop to showcase their new book all about tufting, the textile process behind carpet making.

“Tufting is for everybody,” said Alexander. “Tufting is so fun and if you look at it and think: ‘Oh I don’t know if I can do this,’ you can.”

Alexander is one half of the founding partnership of West Philly-based Tuft the World. She and business partner Eads first found the textile process behind carpet making in 2018.

“What we wanted to do was a how-to book, so that people who really like learning from books, that’s the format they prefer, would have a way to start tufting, to see examples,” she said.

“I think our role in this has been just really teaching artists and crafters a craft that’s been around for a long time that no one really knew about,” Eads added, “so it’s really just opening a door to something that’s been there.”

The book, which is named after their business, is also peppered with history notes and highlights fellow tufting artists from around the country.

“Everybody comes to their creativity through a different path, and I really feel like books are a great path to find things you love,” Alexander said.

For Jansen, that’s what World Book Day is all about.

“You’re utilizing everything, your imagination,” she said. “Just all your senses are involved in reading a book. It’s so important.”

Upcoming BalletX Festival looks to make dance more accessible, with local and international talent

April 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Hundreds of local dancers and their families will unite this weekend at the TD Pavilion at the Mann Center for the BalletX Festival, a two-day event on April 26 and 27, featuring live music and special guests.

BalletX founder Christine Cox says the festival is part of a larger effort to invest in Philadelphia’s next generation of dancers. “BalletX is about that idea of creating an incubator in our studios at 19th and Washington and bringing the ideas, perspectives, and imagination back into the community,” she said.

This year, the festival’s lineup includes Emmy Award-winning choreographer Natasha Adorlee with the sultry vocals of Jac Ross, the debut of “Heroes” by choreographer Takehiro Ueyama, “Eros and Psyche” by choreographer and Alvin Ailey veteran Jamar Roberts, and more.

The festival will also feature performances by 11 community dance groups and schools from across Philadelphia. Cox says the festival is meant to celebrate dance, art, and community, and she hopes the event will be one part of a greater push to make dance accessible to all.

“We really believe in the power of creation, and bringing in artists from around the world, inspiring community through dance is really such an honor and a privilege,” said Cox.

May

Philly comic fans unite for Free Comic Book Day

May 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — On Free Comic Book Day, there is rarely a minute of calm at Brave New Worlds in Old City.

People flocked there Saturday to scour one of the shop’s back walls full of free comics, where they were limited to three each.

“Free Comic Book Day is awesome because it’s the day every year we give out free comics to get people psyched on comics they wouldn’t normally read or check out,” said Brian Johnson, one of the managers at Brave New Worlds.

“Hopefully when they come in and get comics, they kind of get that itch, get that bug, and they come back for more.”

University of the Arts student James Valentine got the bug reading “Bitter Root,” a comic about a family of monster hunters during the Harlem Renaissance.

He says comic illustrations are often inspirations for his own work, in which he devises designs for advertising.

“Definitely like bold outlines and dynamic line work ... I take those whole comic book elements outside of their contexts and put them in new contexts,” he said.

Customer John Stillwaggon echoed a similar sentiment, saying the comics motivate him as a filmmaker.

“It’s really inspiring to see all these other works and it really inspires you to make great stuff,” he said.

For him, Free Comic Book Day was all about people feeling included and like they were a part of something.

“Everybody’s here, and everybody’s talking about comics. I’ve just talked to a bunch of people about like, ‘Did you read the new Ultimate Spider-Man?’... You really bond with people and form these connections over these characters and these stories,” he said.

The first Free Comic Book Day was on May 4, 2002. More than 2 million books were given away from over 2,200 retailers worldwide.

Drexel Hill gymnast swings back into town with Cirque du Soleil

May 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Cirque du Soleil’s “Corteo” is coming to Philadelphia for the first time, but it will be a return home for one performer.

Aerialist Jonathan Buese was born in Drexel Hill, where he started doing gymnastics as a kid.

“My dad used to work at Temple,” Buese said, “and that’s actually the arena where we’re going to be playing, which is pretty neat.”

Buese and his family later moved to Florida, and he went on to compete at the NCAA gymnastics championships for the University of Iowa.

Cirque du Soleil, a Canadian entertainment company, recruited him during a competition. He joined their Las Vegas show and then a tour in Europe.

“I never traveled so much before I started touring,” he said. “I still hadn't really left the U.S. besides going to Canada ... and so just jumping around in all these different cities and countries in Europe was amazing ... and I've been touring ever since.”

Cirque du Soleil has a variety of shows, both tours and residencies, that feature dazzling acrobatics and fantastical stories. Beuse joined the “Corteo” tour in 2022.

“Corteo means kind of a procession,” he explained. “The show is about the clown’s dream of his funeral. So it’s the funeral procession that he's dreaming of.”

Buese performs in “Tournik,” an adaptation of a Russian act that involves swinging on and between bars.

“It's a big kind of choreographed number of different swinging and a lot of traffic,” he said. “So the timing has to be really precise, but it's a beautiful piece. A lot of big acrobatics in it.”

Buese says “Corteo” is great for the whole family and features a live band.

The show will be at Temple University’s Liacouras Center from May 30 to June 2. Tickets are available on Cirque du Soleil’s website.

A beach ball drop, a turtle trot and all the ‘Shore Things’ happening Memorial Day weekend

May 22, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Beach season is back and so is “It’s a Shore Thing,” your go-to spot for all things fun at the Jersey Shore!

We’re headed for a hot Memorial Day weekend — and not just because temperatures are in the 80s. The weekend is loaded with fun events along the shore for the whole family. If you need a few ideas, we’ve got you covered.

WILDWOOD FOOD TRUCK AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

There’s something for everyone at the Wildwood Food Truck and Music FEASTival on Sunday starting at noon. More than a dozen food trucks will be parked in Byrne Plaza, offering

everything from cheesesteaks and tacos to seafood, as well as dessert. Vegetarian options will also be available.

There will also be music to go along with your meal, with DJ Louis spinning all day on the wheels of steel. Kids will have plenty to keep them entertained as well, from face painting and miniature golf to a bungee trampoline.

WILDWOODS INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

Described as a “full-blown kite festival on steroids,” the Wildwoods International Kite Festival is aimed at both kite enthusiasts and beginners, running all weekend at the Wildwoods Convention Center and on the beach at Rio Grande Avenue in Wildwood.

It all starts on Friday with the “Unlocking of the Beach” ceremony. Festivities include a welcome social, an illuminated night kite flight and a kite makers’ competition. If you don’t have a kite, there will be a sales tent on hand. There will also be workshops and lessons for beginning flyers.

The festival culminates in the World Indoor Kite Competition on Monday. Even if you’ve never flown a kite before, the event is open and instructors will be on hand. It’s an all-inclusive event organizers say will have everyone on cloud nine.

CAPE MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Classical and jazz music lovers will find much to love at the Cape May Music Festival, kicking off on Sunday and running through June 23.

The Atlantic Brass Band starts things off with a free outdoor performance Sunday night at 7. The lineup throughout the month-long festival includes the New Jersey Chamber Symphony Players, the New York Chamber Ensemble, the Bay Atlantic Symphony, a jazz brunch featuring musicians Mary Lou Newnam and Ray Mallach, and indie pop group BAILEN.

STONE HARBOR TURTLE TROT

If you need help coming out of your shell, you can join the runners taking part in the Stone Harbor Turtle Trot. The 23rd annual event includes a 5K run and 2-mile fun walk.

Organizers say the event, named for the diamondback terrapins crossing Stone Harbor’s roads, has become a Memorial Day weekend tradition for runners, families and beach enthusiasts. A

portion of the event proceeds goes to the Diamondback Terrapin Conservation Program at the Wetlands Institute.

This year, the run is part of the USA Track & Field New Jersey Grand Prix, so USATF runners can earn points toward their 2024 Grand Prix totals. Even if you aren't part of the Grand Prix, organizers promise a shell of a good time.

ATLANTIC CITY BEACH BALL DROP

Do you hear the blues a-calling? If you do, then organizers hope the Atlantic City Beach Ball Drop on Friday will chase them away.

It's part of an entire weekend of events on the Atlantic City boardwalk. There will be live entertainment on the boardwalk from noon until 5 p.m. on Friday, culminating in the Beach Ball Drop, with more than 5,000 beach balls dropped from a giant net for everyone to enjoy. If that isn't enough, "Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer will be on hand for the fun.

Barnes Foundation to host Miami-born Philadelphia artist whose work examines impact of communities

May 28, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Barnes Foundation is starting their summer programming with a bit of Miami heat. The museum will co-host a program featuring a Miami-born artist who has turned his focus to Philadelphia's communities of color.

Mark Thomas Gibson moved to Philly from Miami just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020. While there, his "This Life: Black Life in the Time of Now" exhibit — at the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora — garnered global recognition. Gibson now hopes to bring that same passion to Philly.

"Philadelphia is an amazing city as far as the Black community that exists in Philadelphia and the history of Philadelphia and its Black community," Gibson said. "I'm very proud to be in this space to think and conceive what could a space be like for African American artists."

With his upcoming "Artist Conversation" event at the Barnes on June 4, Gibson invites the public to come explore art's impact on Philly's Black community.

“As we move forward when thinking about 250 years of this country,” he asked, “what does that look like for Philadelphia as it develops?”

He also acknowledges how the voice of the art community can have a broad impact on city development, something he promises to address in his talk. “There’s so much construction and there are so many elements that come into play, financial elements in the city,” he said. “What does that mean?”

One thing Gibson has learned is how Philly’s tight-knit art community and communities of color are woven together.

“I’ve had to learn that this is a city of neighborhoods and sometimes just a city of blocks,” he said. “You don’t actually just get in. In Philadelphia, you have to live here and be in it with people.”

June

Black Music Month celebrations underway in Philadelphia

June 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Black Music Month kicks off this weekend with the Roots Picnic, hosted by Philly’s legendary Roots Crew, but if you didn’t get tickets, you can still keep the celebration going all month long at the African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Kenny Gamble, Ed Wright, and Dyana Williams came up with the idea of setting a month aside to celebrate Black music in 1979. On June 7 of that same year, President Jimmy Carter hosted a reception to “formally recognize the cultural and financial contributions of Black music,” according to the National Museum of African American Music.

Since then, the month has grown from small celebrations to national, with events right here in Philadelphia.

“The Philadelphia sound holds a very, very special place in the narrative of American music. And so we’re very fortunate to be in a city with such a musical history and background,” said Christopher Miller, executive vice president of the African American Museum of Philadelphia.

He says Black music has been at the cornerstone of nearly every music genre — “the origin of the banjo, for example, resides in the hands of those who were enslaved Africans. The original architects of rock ‘n’ roll reside with Black music. Think about jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, soul, funk, bebop, pop, hip hop, gospel and more.”

Miller says Philly’s signature lush, orchestral soul music gives the city a reputation that sets it apart, which you can learn about this month at the African American Museum in Center City, beginning a Rhythms of Liberation series on June 8 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

There, Miller says Black music will be showcased across different genres, helping to represent its wide-ranging characteristics.

“You’re able to have those various touchpoints from struggle to joy. And then also to have a consciousness about the social condition of America through the lens of the Black experience,” he said.

On June 19, there will be a Juneteenth Block Party with music and free admission to the museum. Registration prior to the event is encouraged.

‘Ripped out from under them’: UArts community rallies outside Hamilton Hall on school's last day of operations

June 7, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The University of the Arts is set to shut down on Friday, a week after officials shocked the school community and announced that the 150-year-old institution would close because of financial struggles.

Around 3 p.m. Friday, tears and final embraces came in abundance as students, faculty, and alumni rallied on and around the steps of Hamilton Hall, the main UArts building on South Broad Street.

Brenda Patzer, who was in her fourth year, training to become an actress, spoke at the rally.

“May those responsible for ripping so many futures away never know the gift of a clean conscience,” she said.

Faculty member Melanie Bilenker studied crafts at the university from 1996-2000.

“It just breaks my heart... Some of these kids were getting ready to do their thesis work in their final year and now it’s all ripped out from under them,” Bilenker said.

She says she came to Philly to go to the school and stayed like many others.

“People came, people stayed. They put down roots, they stayed... I did, my husband did, a ton of my friends did, and I worry about not having this as a source of the creative community in Philadelphia.”

Members of the school community said they have been left in the dark since the closure announcement was made on the night of May 31. Their questions were supposed to be addressed at a town hall meeting on Monday, but the university canceled it minutes before it was set to start because officials said they could not adequately answer them.

Since then, students have been camping out on the steps of Hamilton Hall, which is covered in signs and messages written in chalk. Many members of the school community said they first found out about the closure through news reports and social media posts. They then received an email from the university stating that it was in a “fragile financial state, with many years of declining enrollments, declining revenues, and increasing expenses.”

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) said it learned about the closure on May 29, and because UArts did not take the proper steps, it withdrew the university’s accreditation.

In the days after the closure announcement, UArts President Kerry Walk resigned and the board hired a management firm to lead the transition.

Stunned city and state officials want answers too. Philadelphia City Council voted on Thursday to hold hearings to investigate the closure. Co-sponsor of the resolution, Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, said City Council hopes to get the “answers UArts has failed to provide.” He said it is

particularly concerning that the abrupt closure comes just months after faculty and staff ratified union contracts, which took four years to negotiate.

The Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office is also looking into how the situation has been handled. A spokesperson said in a statement, "The Office of Attorney General has oversight authority regarding nonprofits, charitable entities, or institutions. We are very concerned by the sudden closure of University of the Arts, which has impacted students, staff, and the community. We are reviewing the circumstances of the closure and any transfer or loss of assets."

There is also a push to keep the school open. A petition is going around, and UArts alumni and parents committees set up saveuarts.org to share information.

A number of colleges and universities in the city, region, and elsewhere said they would welcome affected students by honoring credits and scholarships and providing counseling services to keep them on a path to graduate on time.

Sensory Coalition creates safe spaces for autistic youth through art

June 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Colleen Ott decided to start The Autistic Art Coalition of Philadelphia back in 2022 when she heard about an individual being bullied because they were autistic.

"I said heck no!" Ott recounted.

The coalition's various art groups incorporate things like drawing, watercolors, and even photography to build motor skills and more for autistic youth.

"I've been able to take all my lived experience and teaching I've done and put it all together and with the help of professionals," said Ott.

Ott said the outlet provided by The Autistic Art Coalition was much needed when it was founded after the worst of COVID in 2022.

“There was no art for individuals who are autistic, neurodivergent or who had intellectual disabilities because the pandemic wiped it all out,” she said.

Now, two years later, the end result is an equally diverse community where non-verbal and autistic youth who once felt like outsiders can now thrive together through expression.

“They can get out how they’re feeling, what is going on in what they’re thinking...communication,” said Ott.

2-Night Gallery at Plays & Players Theatre showcases work of those affected by UArts closure

June 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When Gigi LoVond first heard about the abrupt closure of University of the Arts, she cried over the memories it brought back.

“I was also an arts student — not of UArts, but I was an arts student, and my school also closed,” she said.

LoVond went to the Art Institute of Philadelphia, which shuttered in 2018.

“I understand how this could be just, totally dramatizing, and this was so spur of the moment,” she said. “There’s a lot of people who are very hurt and I felt as though that not only are the UArts students and staff hurt, but also the Philadelphia art community.”

Through that pain came inspiration.

On Friday and Saturday night at Plays & Players Theatre in Center City, some of the students, faculty, and alumni affected by the UArts closure will have a chance to show off their work.

Matt Madrigal, a sophomore film student at the university, is one of those people. On Friday, he showcased two paintings and a still from one of his short films.

“I was just very interested because it would be my first gallery and I would like to have some exposure with my art,” he said.

“The arts around here, I guess it’s just more alive... everybody’s so tight, like a community, and that’s what’s so special... Everyone’s willing to collaborate.”

Dare Oredipe also had work on display at the gallery.

His time at UArts spanned more than a decade, as he studied illustration before managing the school’s print shop.

“I found my way as an artist there at UArts... There’s just something that’s indispensable about being able to sit in a space surrounded by like-minded artists and also artists that have completely different minds to you,” he said.

Seven other artists also had work on display.

LoVond says the event is all about supporting displaced artists and showing them there is a path forward.

“You don’t have to graduate from arts school to be in a gallery or to be in a play,” she said.

EDUCATION

April

Pa. warns of scam soliciting SAT, ACT student prep materials to parents

April 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Parents, be cautious during student testing season. The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General is seeing more scams related to SAT and ACT prep.

According to Pennsylvania Attorney General Michelle Henry, scammers are contacting parents of kids who are expected to take the PSAT, SAT, or ACT and claiming to be associated with the College Board or another educational organization.

They trick the parent into confirming their student's name, address, school, test details, and other personal information before offering preparation materials. Then, they ask for a cash deposit, which they say will be refunded after the test materials are mailed back.

State prosecutors said they have received several reports of these scams. They urge parents to be cautious of anyone calling and asking for money of any kind, and not to give out personal information.

Prosecutors said the College Board will never ask for bank or credit card information over the phone or by email. Anyone who receives a call like this should report it to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.

Reports can be submitted by emailing scams@attorneygeneral.gov or calling 1-800-441-2555.

Philadelphia School District to end controversial practice of 'leveling' teachers this fall

April 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia says it will end the controversial practice of transferring teachers based on enrollment after the school year begins.

For years, the district has engaged in a practice known as "leveling" — moving teachers from school to school in October because actual enrollment didn't match up with projections.

Teachers, parents, and students agreed that leveling was disruptive because it took dozens of teachers away from students who just got to know them.

Effective in the fall of 2024, the district will end leveling, Superintendent Tony Watlington announced Tuesday.

“I’m pleased to announce that we will discontinue the process of leveling in the School District of Philadelphia and stop the process of moving teachers after the school year begins,” Watlington said in a YouTube video.

To pay for the additional teachers needed, the district plans to use \$8.8 million from central office cuts and energy savings, Watlington said. The cuts would not involve layoffs of current employees.

The decision to end leveling was made after hearing from students, parents, teachers and elected officials, Watlington said.

Philadelphia Federation of Teachers President Jerry Jordan hailed the move as “a sound one and a very welcome one.” Jordan, in a statement, said, “Every child in every school deserves a highly qualified, certified teacher from the first day of school. ... To know that the District recognizes and appreciates the importance of a stable staff is significant.”

Robin Cooper, president of the principals union, the Commonwealth Association of School Administrators, called the move “encouraging.”

“The key positive impact is that other schools will not be losing any teachers to schools with increasing enrollments, with the end result that all schools will remain or become whole,” she said in a statement.

Report: Camden students rebounding from pandemic learning loss

April 23, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Education experts say learning loss from the pandemic has affected children all over the world, with greater impacts felt in low-income neighborhoods. However, a recent report from a Camden nonprofit says students in the city are rebounding from pandemic learning loss, with improved numbers for the first time in a couple of years.

The Camden Education Fund's report shows a lot of progress for students, with recent state standardized test scores rebounding from post-pandemic levels. Camden schools were found to have narrowed the citywide and state proficiency gap in English language arts by five percentage points since 2015, from 36 to 31 — with a 20% proficiency rate in 2023.

Camden schools also narrowed the math proficiency gap between city and state by two points, with a 10% proficiency rate last year, up from 8% in 2022.

Executive director Giana Campbell says efforts to provide additional tutoring for the students that were the furthest behind has paid off.

“One of the big things we’ve learned since the pandemic is just how important those supports are, not only in the classroom but also outside of the classroom,” said Campbell.

“One of the other things that we’ve supported schools around and heard from schools is making sure that the type of curriculum and instruction that students are working on is rigorous and that we’re setting a high bar for our students.”

Campbell says there's still and will always be hard work ahead, which is why she says one of the most important initiatives moving forward is to ensure Camden can hire and retain the very best teachers.

“We know that the number one indicator for student success is a great teacher,” she said.

According to Campbell, the fund would also like to see more programs and support offered to students outside of the classroom, “whether it be mental health supports, social-emotional learning, recreational opportunities to really nurture the whole child.”

CCP administration leaves bargaining table after students interrupt negotiations with faculty

April 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Students at Community College of Philadelphia interjected themselves into faculty contract negotiations Friday, causing the administration to leave the session.

About two dozen students crowded into CCP's boardroom to support the faculty union's contract proposal that students be given free SEPTA rides to classes. Frank Scales, president-elect of the student government, contended transportation affects student attendance, so it should be part of the teacher contract.

"We wanted to advocate for TransPasses and deal with that," he said. "The administration decided that they were not going to speak with students in the room."

In a statement to KYW Newsradio, the college said the union violated a written agreement for bargaining rules. The college says it has "a good offer on the table, to which the union has refused to respond."

Students plan to take their concerns to City Council and the May 2 CCP Board of Trustees meeting. It's unclear whether they'll continue to demand a seat at the bargaining table.

The AFT Local 2026 contract expires in August.

"One thing that's important to us is getting more funding from the city so that we can get the things that we need for our students to be successful," said AFT Local 2026 Treasurer Jamie Zigarelli. "And one of those things is public transportation. It's a common good issue."

May

New online portal aims to guide people considering careers in teaching

May 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — People considering a career as a teacher in Philadelphia now have a website to demystify the process.

It's another strategy to address the national teacher shortage. The newly-launched TeachPHL.org is a project of the Philadelphia Citywide Talent Coalition, run by the nonprofit Elevate 215.

The campaign is funded by a \$250,000 state grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. David Saenz, Elevate 215's communications director, says the new teacher hub simplifies the process of finding jobs at city district and charter schools.

"There are resources that exist specifically at the state level on how to navigate this process, but it is not necessarily user-friendly. If we help guide them along, then [TeachPHL.org] will hopefully provide the information they need in a digestible way," Saenz told KYW Newsradio.

"In order to make sure that the pipeline can not only be filled with more talented individuals — but also diverse individuals — we have to start thinking about different audiences to try to attract to teaching."

TeachPHL.org leads prospective teachers through their options, such as whether they're already certified in another state or if they want to be paid in a teacher residency program while they're seeking certification. The site aims to define a pathway for people who want to be teachers — whether they're already state-certified, or considering a new vocation.

For example, Saenz says the site provides information on residency programs. "If you're a career changer and you're doing something else and [say], 'Oh, I don't want to go back to school to become a teacher,' well, there are opportunities to be able to transition that without having to have a lapse in income," he said.

75-year-old ‘grandma’ named top building substitute teacher in the region

May 8, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — For some passing by her in the halls, Annie Gadson is a regular substitute teacher. To her students, she’s known affectionately as “grandma.” And now, she’s recognized as the best sub in the region.

The normally unflappable Gadson was floored on Tuesday at a surprise assembly at West Philly’s Paul Robeson High School, where she was honored as the most outstanding substitute teacher in the region.

Gadson is a building sub at Robeson, covering different classes and filling in when teachers aren’t available. She was a district teacher for 40 years and returned as a sub two years ago.

“I am in total shock,” said the 75-year-old. “I have never in my life received any type of award like this, so it’s very gratifying.”

The 2024 Impact Award is given by ESS, the staffing firm that manages substitute teachers. Joe Birmingham, vice president of Philadelphia operations for ESS, also presented Gadson with a prize: a check for \$1,000.

“Her flexibility and willingness to accept any challenge, any assignment — it just set her above any of the other great nominees that we had,” he said.

Filling substitute teacher jobs has been a challenge. Overall, ESS expects to fill 142,000 Philadelphia sub jobs this year — on pace to fill more than half of the total jobs available.

State audit commends Philadelphia School District’s oversight of charter schools but says there’s room for improvement

May 8, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia works in compliance with state law when it comes to authorizing, monitoring, and renewing charter schools, but there is room for improvement, according to a new state audit.

On Tuesday, the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General released its findings of an audit of Philly charter schools. State Auditor General Timothy DeFoor said there was “a lot of good news to share.”

“While the system is working, there are things that can be done better,” he said.

The audit recommends getting an external review of the district’s framework to evaluate charters, putting charter responses in renewal reports to increase transparency, and doing more frequent audits of charter admissions lotteries.

DeFoor said situations, like allegations that Franklin Towne Charter High School rigged its enrollment lottery to exclude minorities, could have been detected sooner.

At a Harrisburg news conference on Tuesday, Peng Chao, head of the district’s Charter Schools Office, said the audit confirms the district has a robust charter evaluation system.

“This system holds all charter schools to the same set of performance standards in order to foster high-quality educational options and improved outcomes for all of our students,” said Chao.

No system is perfect, Chao added, and his office will continue to learn and reassess its practices.

Pennridge School Board in Bucks County votes to institute a bathroom policy based on gender identity

May 14, 2024

PERKASIE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The Pennridge School District in Bucks County on Monday voted to retire its controversial Policy 720, which required students to use bathrooms that correspond to the sex indicated on their birth certificate.

The board had approved the policy just a year ago, but it would violate a revised Title IX regulation that blocks blanket policies preventing transgender students from using the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity.

The school board voted 5-4 to reverse the policy.

Before voting, board members heard from the community. Most people who spoke at the hearing did not want to see Policy 720 changed. Parent Dave Rice was among them.

"If this policy is removed in August, it will open the floodgates to many lawsuits by many district families," Rice said.

Pennridge High School graduate Matthew Carbonaro spoke out before the vote.

"This will be the tip of the iceberg. What's left — gender-neutral sports?"

The meeting was heated at times. Board members had to remind the crowd to stop interrupting when some attendees started heckling people who spoke in support of changing the policy.

A non-binary Class of 2019 graduate told board members there should be more single-use bathrooms, saying most queer and transgender kids prefer them because they're scared of harassment.

"We would just prefer to use the bathroom in peace."

Under the new policy, there will be single-occupancy bathrooms that can be used by all students.

Starting in August, the school district will provide separate bathrooms for students and faculty use depending on gender identity. They will be labeled for faculty only, for biological males, for biological females, for students who identify as male, and for students who identify as female.

June

These are the final days for one Philly charter whose founder decided to retire and close the school

June 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A longtime Philadelphia charter school is closing for good this month, leaving many parents asking why, while they try to find new schools for their children in September.

June 14 is the last day ever for classes at the Mathematics, Civics, and Sciences Charter School of Philadelphia. Since Veronica Joyner announced last October that the first- through 12th-grade school she founded would close when she retires at the end of this year, 900 families have been scrambling.

The School District of Philadelphia has been trying to help, says Peng Chao, who heads up its charter schools office.

"We actually recently — as recently as last week — held an event here, where we had a number of families come in — I think almost 100 families came in — to try to find new options for them, both district and charter."

Chao says many parents at Math, Civics, and Sciences don't know where their children will be going this fall.

"It's impossible to say precisely right now. What we do know is that there are a couple of hundred families that still don't have a definitive placement yet," Chao said.

But Joyner says most parents have secured placements, and she says they've thanked her for providing a charter school option over the years.

"They've been congratulating me for a job well done for 25 years — as a private citizen, seeing a problem and helping to resolve the problem."

But parent Kieyera Williams questions why Joyner sought to close the school, rather than allow someone else to run it. The school board gave the school a one-year, instead of a five-year, charter renewal.

"I think that is just wrong, honestly. I feel like she should at least leave it to somebody she trusted. This is a whole school. People have been going here for years."

Williams still hasn't found a new school for her second grader.

"I'm undecided because I still want him in a charter school and everywhere else is so far and is not giving me enough time to find him a school."

Joyner heads the nonprofit Parents United for Better Schools, which plans to sell the North Broad Street building where the school is housed.

“I think that I should be respected as a private citizen in Philadelphia for the hard work that I’ve done. I’ve provided diplomas to over 2,000 students,” Joyner said.

"I did something to help the community. I'm not obligated as a private citizen to continue a school that I've run very well for 25 years."

NJ Assembly committee advances bill that would prohibit book bans at public schools and libraries

June 7, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — New Jersey’s Assembly Education Committee heard several hours of testimony for and against an amended bill that would allow controversial books to remain on school and public library shelves. It would also prevent legal action against librarians.

Dozens of people shared their thoughts about the Freedom to Read Act, a bill that has undergone several changes since it was first introduced.

Those in favor say diverse voices and subjects shouldn’t be banned, and just because someone doesn’t like a book doesn’t mean they should have the power to prevent others from reading it.

“There are a lot of other books that help children in the LGBTQ community to become who they are, to help them understand they are not alone, that they are not abnormal, and that they have support,” one person testified.

People opposed to the legislation had various concerns, but the most common criticism was about books with obscene and even pornographic images. They argue removing those books isn’t book banning — it’s age-appropriate curation.

“No child, especially those struggling with their identity, should be led to explore sex and kink as a means for finding themselves,” said another individual.

Another controversial aspect of the bill is legal immunity for librarians and staff. Advocates say they shouldn't be targeted or punished for providing literature. Opponents argue nobody should be above the law.

One librarian urged lawmakers to vote for the bill because library staff should not face harassment for doing their jobs. "The harassment faced by myself and many in our profession have had severe mental and emotional repercussions."

The bill advanced committee 7-1. It is still far from becoming law, as legislators say there are more changes and amendments to debate at future hearings.

C-SPAN honors Philly students for short documentary on public school funding

June 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A six-minute video by three Science Leadership Academy students has earned an honorable mention in C-SPAN's 20th annual StudentCam documentary competition.

History teacher Michael Clapper says the entry, "Funding Our Future," from juniors El Palmer, Violet Brenner, and Clarisa Lanzas, examines inequities in public school funding from a student perspective.

"It's not just sort of the larger things that we read about — but trying to give the student experience of that," Clapper said.

Zach Lowe, a C-SPAN education resource specialist, visited SLA on Monday to honor the students for their work.

"They're going to be the next generation of leaders, the next generation of consumers of news and public affairs," Lowe said. "So we offered this opportunity called StudentCam to them to create documentaries and get through some of these very hot-button, very difficult topics."

SLA student Anna Berman also took third place for her video about disposable fashions: "Fast Fashion: A Race to the Bottom."

"Funding Our Future" presents images of run-down bathrooms in city schools juxtaposed with photos of bright, well-maintained hallways in the suburbs.

"We got a lot of footage from friends in suburban public schools. So we had an interesting experience of having our experience in an urban school versus a suburban school," said Brenner. "I think that having a public school kid's perspective on this is very important."

Palmer said making the video taught students to follow the money. "Because of the way that neighborhoods are taxed and things like that, I think we kind of just learned so much about all of the kind of money aspects that we didn't really know about before," Palmer told KYW Newsradio.

"We kind of learned how the history tied in. It was always imbalanced between suburban and urban public schools," Lanzas said. "I hope that getting the word out there and seeing people that can help us, it'll inspire them to make change."

More winners

Kaitlyn Hess and Charlize Ko, 11th graders from Conestoga High School in Berwyn, scored an honorable mention for their documentary "Change in America — The Public Education System."

And a trio of students from Central Bucks South High School were honored for their documentary.

Mayor Parker outlines extended-day program for 25 district, charter schools

June 27, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City officials have officially announced a pilot for year-round extended-day programs at 25 district and charter schools.

At first, the School District of Philadelphia said it would launch extended-day programs at 20 area schools. But Mayor Cherelle Parker announced at City Hall Thursday, that five charters were added to the list, bringing the total to 25.

Starting this fall, those schools – all elementary-level – would be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with academics, arts, and activities before and after the school day. Schools in the pilot would also be open during the spring and winter breaks and for six weeks in the summer.

But Mayor Parker wants to make it clear – while it may be her vision for the future, this does not mean classes will be in session literally all year round.

“It is not mandatory for students to participate,” she said. “We are not asking anything more of our incredibly hard-working educators.”

In a statement to KYW Newsradio, President-elect of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers Arthur Steinberg says its members were not consulted about this pilot, saying in part:

We have requested more information about the pilot and its potential impact on our members from Superintendent Watlington's administration. As we await communication from the District, we intend to have more information to share with our members in the very near future.

The mayor's education secretary said the program would not require changes to the teachers' contract. Superintendent Tony Watlington says the district is working with its unions.

“We are not going to burn out or overburden our hard-working, well-supported teachers,” he said.

Parker wouldn't get specific about the future of the program but assures the pilot is just phase one.

List of participating School District of Philadelphia Schools:

Vare-Washington Elementary School

Southwark Elementary School

Thomas G. Morton Elementary School

George Childs Elementary School

Add B Anderson Elementary School

Alain Locke Elementary School

Samuel Gompers Elementary School

Overbrook Educational Center

Richard R. Wright Elementary School
Edward Gideon Elementary School
Solomon Solis-Cohen Elementary School
John H. Webster Elementary School
Juniata Park Academy
William Cramp Elementary School
Thomas M. Peirce Elementary School
Joseph Pennell Elementary School
Franklin S. Edmonds Elementary School
Laura Carnell Elementary School
Louis Farrell Elementary School
Joseph Greenberg Elementary School

List of participating Charter Schools:

Belmont Charter School
Northwood Charter School
Pan American Charter School
Mastery Pickett (6-8 only)
Universal Creighton Charter School

ELECTIONS & POLITICS

April

City officials unveil first of 10 satellite election offices across Philadelphia

April 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A former Philadelphia election official who was the target of Donald Trump’s 2020 election campaign over false claims of voter fraud returned to Philadelphia Tuesday morning alongside other officials to welcome the city’s first permanent election site ahead of November’s general election.

The permanent satellite election office near North 40th and Market Streets in West Philadelphia is the first of 10 new sites. Mayor Cherelle Parker applauded the office at the grand opening on Tuesday. Officials said it will make voting more accessible, allowing residents to register to vote and request a mail-in ballot in person, receive it, complete it, and return it — all in one place.

Al Schmidt, former Philadelphia city commissioner and current secretary of the commonwealth, called it a big improvement to voter access. In 2020, Schmidt, a Republican, was the target of harassment by Trump supporters as he helped oversee the recount efforts in Philadelphia.

Trump called out Schmidt by name on Twitter at the time, falsely accusing him of voter fraud. As a result, Schmidt, his family, and his staff received death threats from Trump supporters.

No evidence of widespread voter fraud was ever discovered in Philadelphia.

Schmidt said the new permanent satellite offices offer a convenience for voters.

“You don’t have to go to City Hall if you want to apply in person for a mail-in ballot,” he said, “or if you want to register in person and you need that voter registration right away.”

Also during the 2020 election, two armed men were arrested outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center, where the ballot count was underway. District Attorney Larry Krasner said efforts to interfere with the 2024 election will not be tolerated.

“We are not putting up with people who think democracy is something for them to step on,” he said.

City officials have not yet revealed where the remaining election offices will be located.

Philadelphia House Delegation urges Pa. Senate to pass 3 gun laws

April 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — State representatives from Philadelphia gathered at City Hall Thursday to celebrate the passage of gun safety bills in the state House. The bills are likely to die in the state Senate, but even getting the bills through the House is something that hasn’t happened in years.

The chairman of the Philadelphia House Delegation, Morgan Cephas, boasted that the House had passed three gun safety bills: a red flag bill that would temporarily disarm people in crisis; background checks for all gun sale venues, including gun shows; and, last Friday, a bill outlawing ghost guns.

“We are all standing here together to call on the Pennsylvania Senate to take up the gun bills that we have sent to their chamber,” Cephas said.

That is a long shot, at best, but Cephas considers even getting this far as progress.

“It is a very historic moment to be able to do this because it has been decades — decades — since we have even been able to get a hearing about the way the guns that are flooding our communities need to be further regulated,” she said.

House Speaker Joanna McClinton said the lawmakers haven’t heard from Republicans, who control the Senate, but House Democrats will keep trying to work with them.

“That is to protect our law enforcement, that is to protect our children getting out of school, that is to change the narrative that politicians do nothing,” she added.

The Republican Senate majority leader has not said if the chamber would take up the bills but has said the state has “robust” gun laws on the books, which must be enforced.

Pa. GOP lawmakers call on Gov. Shapiro to return to zero-based budget plan he used as Montgomery County commissioner

April 10, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Republican leaders in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives called on Gov. Josh Shapiro to implement a budgeting plan he used while he was a Montgomery County commissioner — by praising him for doing such a good job with it.

York County Republican state Rep. Dawn Keefer said she introduced a zero-based budgeting bill for each of the past three legislative sessions. She noted that when she joined the state House in 2017, the budget was about \$32 billion, while this year's proposed budget would be around \$48 billion.

Keefer said zero-based budgeting requires every state agency to start from zero, then explain why they need each dollar they're asking for, rather than just asking for an increase in funding.

"The agencies determine what their core purpose and mission is," she said, "and then the agencies have to align each action with those core missions, assess what their needs are, their costs, and the efficacy of each program that they have."

Shapiro implemented zero-based budgeting while chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, according to Keefer.

"He started the budget year with a \$10 million hole that he had to cover and a \$49 million structural deficit. When he was done with his zero-based budgeting that he had implemented, he had a \$1.6 million reserve," she said.

Zero-based budgeting at the state level could be much more challenging, she said, especially in the current political environment. She said she understands why the governor didn't push for zero-based budgeting after he took office last year.

"This is a heavy lift, zero-based budgeting for somebody just starting out in the administration," said Keefer.

“But we're 14 months in and there's still been no action. In fact, there's just been the complete opposite. It's more spending, more growth — one of the greatest levels of spending growth that we've seen.”

Keefer's legislation is part of a package of GOP budget bills that Republican lawmakers have called “back to basics.”

Highlights from KYW's Democratic debate for Pa. attorney general

April 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The five candidates seeking the Democratic nomination in the Pennsylvania attorney general race met at KYW Newsradio's studios Wednesday for a live debate ahead of the primary election on Tuesday, April 23.

THE CANDIDATES

Joe Khan

Former US Attorney and Bucks County solicitor Joe Khan says he would use the “unique powers of the attorney general's office to create a housing justice unit.

“We all know that the housing crisis impacts every community in Pennsylvania, rural, urban, and suburban, and it requires someone that wants to be held accountable for what they do or don't do.”

Eugene DePasquale

Former Pennsylvania State Rep. and Auditor General Eugene DePasquale says, in addition to protecting voters' rights, he will “protect abortion rights, take on the crooks trying to scam our seniors every single day, and also be the environmental attorney general.

Jared Solomon

Northeast Philadelphia State Rep. Jared Solomon says he wants to get back to the roots of the Democratic party and “really take on those big corporations that are not trying to help people in our communities.”

Kier Bradford-Grey

Former head of the Philadelphia and Montgomery County public defenders offices Kier Bradford-Grey says she'll "give children a fighting chance to thrive."

"We're going to make sure that families have financial protections, and we're going to make sure that families have the opportunity to have health care access, whether that is physical health or mental health."

Jack Stollsteimer

The Delaware County District Attorney says he'll continue the work he's done in his current job.

"The most important fights I've made that I've got to be passionate about are wage theft and the work I've done in the City of Chester to stop the gun violence. I'm going to do that for every community in Pennsylvania."

KYW's Suburban Bureau Chief Jim Melwert and Community Impact reporter Racquel Williams hosted the debate, asking the candidates how they would address many issues in the state, including one of the most pressing ones: gun violence.

TACKLING GUN VIOLENCE

Each year 1,600 Pennsylvanians die from gun violence, and 3,000 more are injured, according to CeaseFirePA.

Williams asked the candidates what they would do to tackle this issue.

Stollsteimer reflected on his work as district attorney and federal prosecutor in Philadelphia, and a strategy called "focused deterrents."

"Bringing the community and police together, we focus on the one percent of people who commit 75 to 80% of the shootings and we offer them a carrot and a stick. They've taken us up on it — we've reduced the number of shootings by 72% over the last four years."

Solomon says he'll do what he's done in Northeast Philly.

“Protection from special interest driving money to the gun violence task force to get illegal ghost guns off of our street.”

He says an expanded view of safety is what Pennsylvania needs.

Khan said he would take the same approach he used 17 years ago as a federal prosecutor.

“By working with the community, we brought agencies together, we brought team members together, we intervened with arrest, and then we worked our way up the system to solve unsolved homicides and to shut down gun trafficking that was happening in the community.”

DePasquale wants to crack down on illegal gun dealers.

“We need to hold them punishable to the fullest extent of the law, but we also need to focus on suicide. Two-thirds of all firearm deaths in Pennsylvania are the result of suicide.”

Bradford-Grey, also wants to tackle illegal guns, saying they’re accessible by people who should not have them.

“I know what that looks like, and I know how to target that appropriately, so I will ensure that all of the sales will be legal and will follow the common sense gun laws on the books.”

SEPTA SAFETY

In December, Pennsylvania passed a law that gives a special prosecutor jurisdiction over crime on SEPTA. The Attorney General is tasked with appointing that position — the acting attorney general hasn't done so yet.

Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner contends the law is unconstitutional. He says it subverts the will of voters in the city.

Melwert asked the candidates if they think this law should be implemented. And, if so, will they appoint and oversee this position?

Khan feels this is a terrible policy.

“This was pushed by the same people that I pleaded with to let Philadelphia and other cities pass common sense gun laws. These are the same folks who refuse to provide SEPTA the funding it needs to have more police officers and to keep riders and workers safe, and it makes me outraged as someone who grew up in the city, who still has family in the city, to see the tragedies unfolding on SEPTA being used as political theater, and what I see as a stunt that does nothing to keep Philadelphia or anywhere else more safe.”

DePasquale thinks how the legislature approached it was wrong.

“I think there could have been a significantly better approach to someone that rode public transportation to go to school as a kid, it's important to me that we have public safety there. But there could have been a better approach. Having said that, if the courts say it is constitutional, I'll work with the district attorney and others to implement it as effectively as possible to make sure people riding SEPTA are protected and safe.”

Bradford-Grey says she wants real public safety in the city.

“I live in this city, and I don't want a facade of public safety. And I do agree that this is a facade — to have one special prosecutor come in and cherry-pick cases is not going to solve our problems here in Philadelphia. We need to make sure that police have the resources they need and make sure that the district attorney has the resources that they need and any attorney general that has resources to help improve the quality of investigations so that the convictions are final. That's where we need to be. And I'll work with any district attorney to bring resources to their investigation so that we can make sure that our decisions are credible.”

Solomon says he voted against Act 40 and feels this is a continuation of the effort to impeach the district attorney.

“That was unconstitutional. My caucus chose me to stand against that constant unconstitutional move. This is along the same lines. This is simply an attempt to silence the voices, the voters in Philadelphia. What we need to be doing is moving forward on the approach I'm taking in Northeast Philadelphia, and common sense gun reforms.”

Stollsteimer says SEPTA is critical to the economic health of our region and they need to do everything they can to keep people safe on it, including the workers.

“My dad was a SEPTA bus driver. So, for me, this is personal. I spent most of my childhood on that system. I don't think this is the smartest approach. If the legislature asked me my opinion, I would have said put more money to transit police — have a police officer on buses, platforms, and trains. But I will use the powers whatever the tools they give us in the toolbox to save SEPTA and to protect the people who ride that system.”

Despite several recent homicides, SEPTA says serious crime is down by 45% compared to the first quarter of 2023.

The candidates were also asked about their approaches to combating mass incarceration and the opioid crisis. Take a listen in the player below to hear their responses:

Attempts to organize a debate between the two candidates seeking the Republican nomination — York County District Attorney Dave Sunday and former federal prosecutor and Delaware County State Rep. Craig Williams —were unsuccessful. Sunday declined the invitation to participate.

May

Bill aimed at putting brakes on dangerous pop-up car rallies sails through Pa. Senate, with broad bipartisan support

May 1, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A bill that supporters say is aimed at “putting the brakes on illegal street racing” is on its way to the Pennsylvania House, after passing the State Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Bucks County Republican State Sen. Frank Farry’s bill would increase fines, impound participants’ vehicles, and punish organizers.

“People are organizing what they're calling ‘meetups’ in intersections and in parking lots and essentially taking them over, doing what older folks may call ‘donuts,’ which is now referred to as ‘drifting,’” Farry said.

“The organizers are taking to social media and announcing that these events will be taking place. And you know, but for the organization of them, these men and women would not be showing up with their fancy cars and doing what they're doing.”

Farry's bill would up the fine for a first offense to \$500. Repeat offenders could face a \$2,000 fine, prison time, and the impound of their cars.

"Numerous police officers have been injured in the process, being struck by vehicles. One of the drivers was actually shot and killed in Philadelphia after striking some troopers. They were injured in the process. So these dangerous precedents need some addressing statutorily."

Last June 18-year-old Anthony Allegrini Jr. was shot and killed by Pennsylvania State Police in Philadelphia after, officers say, he hit two law enforcement officials as he was fleeing a meet-up on I-95 near Penn's Landing. In 2022, two people were killed by a man fleeing a rally in Wildwood. That same year, there was a serious car crash by a driver who police say was trying to get away from a meet-up at the Willow Grove Mall.

The bill passed the Senate 49-1 with Philadelphia Democrat Nikil Saval the only vote against. It now heads to the Pennsylvania House.

Pennsylvania House passes bill to prevent stalking using remote devices

May 2, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a bill this week that would make it a crime to use remote tracking devices to stalk someone without their knowledge.

The legislation would amend Pennsylvania's stalking laws to include the use of devices like Apple AirTags to secretly follow someone.

AirTags are small, inexpensive transmitters designed to keep track of often misplaced items. In recent years, Apple has come under fire over the devices, including a class-action lawsuit filed in December. The suit alleges the tech company hasn't done enough to prevent stalkers from secretly using them. In March, a judge denied a motion from Apple to dismiss the litigation.

The bill comes from Allegheny County Democratic state Rep. Lindsay Powell.

“We need to stay vigilant about how new devices can be exploited by bad actors with criminal motives,” she said. “Too often, government is playing catchup when it comes to developing policies to minimize harm that new technologies can cause when applied beyond their intended use.”

Powell says 7.5 million Americans are victimized by stalking each year, with 80% of those victims being tracked by technology. Under her bill, it would be a third-degree misdemeanor to track someone without their knowledge, with some exceptions like parents or legal guardians and law enforcement.

“What is particularly striking about this report is that, on average, the fear that cyberstalking victims experience is often higher than it is for in person victims of stalking,” she said.

The bill passed the Pennsylvania House 199-1. It now heads to the state Senate, where there is a similar bill that carries harsher penalties. It’s not clear which one the Senate will choose to take up.

Pennsylvania to ban cell phone use while driving and require police to collect traffic stop data

May 10, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania will join the majority of states that ban motorists from handling a cell phone for almost any purpose while driving, as backers of the legislation hope to reduce distracted driving accidents and deaths after nearly two decades of pressing the measure.

Gov. Josh Shapiro's office said Thursday that the Democrat will sign the bill, 18 years after he first introduced a similar bill when he served in the state House of Representatives. The ban will take effect a year after he signs it, which is expected in the coming days.

The bill also includes a provision long-sought by the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus as a bulwark against racial profiling. That provision requires bigger police departments, as well as the Pennsylvania State Police, to collect and publicly report data on traffic stops, including a driver's race.

The bill passed both chambers of the state Legislature this week and will bring Pennsylvania into alignment with the law on motorists' cell phone use in every one of its neighboring states. Currently, Pennsylvania's restriction on cell phone use while driving applies only to texting.

Sen. Rosemary Brown, R-Monroe, had pushed for more than a decade to toughen Pennsylvania's restriction on cell phone use while driving. Its passage is a “monumental victory” for Pennsylvania that will protect drivers, prevent crashes, and save lives, Brown said in a statement.

Under the bill, police can ticket a driver who is handling their phone for almost any reason. Drivers can still use their phone to make phone calls or for other functions, such as listening to music, if they are using it hands-free with technology such as a docking station, Bluetooth, or speakers.

The ban applies to motorists sitting in traffic or stopped at a traffic light, but does not include a driver who has parked on the side of the road or another place where the vehicle can remain stopped safely.

Other exceptions include for navigational use or alerting emergency responders. A first offense is punishable by a \$50 fine and offenders who cause serious accidents could get more time in prison.

Shapiro called the bill “common sense.”

“I’ve met too many families that have an empty seat at the dinner table because of distracted driving. I’ve met too many people with injuries that they’re going to live with for the rest of their lives because they were hit by a distracted motorist,” Shapiro told WILK-FM radio in Pittston during an interview last month.

Crashes where a distracted driver was a contributing factor are down in Pennsylvania in the past decade, as crashes overall have declined, according to state data.

In some years, it was the second-leading cause of accidents. In 2022, it was the third-leading cause. That was behind the speed and improper turning, but ahead of drinking alcohol, careless passing, and tailgating.

Twenty-eight states already ban cell phone use while driving, according to information from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Meanwhile, at least 23 states have laws on collecting data on traffic stops, the group said.

Rep. Napoleon Nelson, D-Montgomery, the chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, said caucus members were concerned that police could abuse a broad new power to pull over motorists and target racial minorities.

Collecting traffic stop data is important for accountability, Nelson said.

“I think this will be a significant win for transparency and help to continue building trust between community members and those who are sworn to serve and protect,” Nelson said in an interview.

Rep. Donna Bullock, D-Philadelphia, who worked for several years to get the provision into law, called it a “big step for Pennsylvania.” The Pennsylvania State Police recently began voluntarily collecting and reporting traffic stop data and some municipal police departments do as well, Bullock said.

But the methods of individual departments aren't uniform, like they will be under the new law, Bullock said.

Data released last year by the state police and analyzed by the National Policing Institute showed no disparities between racial and ethnic groups for warnings, citations, or arrests. But troopers were more than twice more likely to search Black and Hispanic drivers than white drivers, the report showed.

Under the forthcoming law, data that police must report includes the reason for the stop, details from a search of the vehicle, and the race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the driver who was stopped. Police forces that serve municipalities under 5,000 people are exempt from the requirement.

The data collection requirement takes effect in a year and a half. After the cell phone ban takes effect, drivers get a grace period of another year in which they only receive a written warning for violating it.

Where do older Pennsylvania voters stand ahead of the 2024 election?

May 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A recent poll from AARP Pennsylvania identified some of the core issues driving the decisions of voters 50 and older at the polls in 2024, and they're all economic concerns.

As a community that lives mostly on a fixed income, Bill Johnston Walsh, state director of AARP said top concerns revolved around preserving social security, taxes, and Medicare access.

“They have been about the bread and butter issues of utilities, you know, can I pay for my water, my electricity, my heat? Can I put food on the table? Can I afford my prescription drugs?” he said.

By the numbers, 80% of those surveyed said social security preservation was top of mind, and 73% said some sort of healthcare concern like Medicare access and affordability of prescription drugs, doctor's visits and hospitalizations were vital.

Housing was also a priority.

“They've raised their families in their homes, they want to be able to stay there,” said Johnston Walsh. “And they really want to see some policies out there, to be able to afford their taxes to stay in their home, or the upkeep of their home.”

As the voter group that statistically turns out the most for elections, they will have a big say in who gets Pennsylvania's electoral votes. And given the state's swing status, they could go a long way in determining who wins the White House.

June

Andy Kim destroyed the county line ballot, but Tuesday's primary results showed it wasn't everything

June 5, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — This primary election, at least on the Democratic side, was thought by some to be a referendum on the much-maligned county line ballot structure.

A lot of the headlines leading up to this primary focused on Andy Kim's legal battle against party organizations in the state, who were backing Tammy Murphy until she dropped out. There were many progressives who were thrilled about that federal ruling, but it didn't translate to success at the polls for them against Democratic machine candidates.

Micah Rasmussen from Rider University's Rebovich Institute said party-backed candidates won all over the state, including Herb Conaway in the 3rd Congressional District by a two-to-one margin.

Conaway, like other candidates in other parts of the state, had name recognition in his community along with the money and resources to win handily. Rasmussen said all three will continue to be big factors in determining who will win elections in the state with or without the county line.

"Parties want to win elections, and they've gotten good at figuring out, they know their districts best. They know their blocks by blocks best. And it turns out they have a pretty good idea of who's going to sell and who's not going to sell," he said. "They didn't miss a beat. They figured out what they had to do in place of the county line."

Turnout for the primary was around 15% statewide, with about half of those votes coming from mail-in ballots and early in-person voting.

City Council passes over 100 bills and resolutions, gives final approval to \$6.37B budget June 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City Council gave final approval to next year's city budget Thursday and passed more than 100 bills and resolutions.

The \$6.37 billion budget takes effect July 1. It includes money to hire 400 new police officers, conduct citywide street cleaning, and pilot twice-a-week trash collection, among other initiatives.

Council President Kenyatta Johnson says it was a win for both Mayor Cherelle Parker and City Council.

“My colleagues all voted unanimously to pass the budget because it was a budget that also prioritized issues and concerns of City Council, so I believe it was a good negotiation process,” he said.

Among the scores of other bills, council approved speed cameras on Broad Street, curfews in several commercial corridors, standards for electric vehicle chargers, zoning for two new public health centers, and new training requirements for eviction officers.

One controversial measure will prohibit city departments from entering into emergency contracts rather than asking for bids when services are needed immediately. Several council members expressed reservations but only two voted no.

There was also a cut in funding for the city’s Labor Department, which enforces worker protections. A large contingent of public speakers denounced this.

“Whatever kind of political stuff happens in this building, to leave these women on the cutting room floor is absolutely unacceptable and disgraceful. These women deserve so much more respect than the budget you’re about to pass,” said Nicole Kligerman who helped found the Domestic Workers Alliance.

Council won’t meet again until September.

Parker signs 3 public safety bills into law

June 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Mayor Cherelle Parker signed three bills into law Tuesday that she says are widely different, but will improve safety in the city.

“All of these bills, in their own ways, Philadelphia, work to do what I committed to doing for you, and that is making your public health and safety our number one priority,” she said.

One bill bans the production, sale, transfer, or possession of bump stocks, used to increase the amount of bullets a gun can fire.

“Back in March, do you remember this shooting where we had eight young people shot? Guess what was attached to that glock,” Public Safety Director Adam Geer said.

A recent Supreme Court ruling overturned the federal ban on bump stocks, but officials said it would not apply to this bill, as it was passed by a legislative body.

A second bill authorizes speed cameras on Broad Street to reduce crashes. It's an expansion of the bill that allowed speed cameras on Roosevelt Boulevard in 2020.

Executive Director Rich Lazer is studying where the cameras will go.

"This is governed by the data," Lazer said. "We look at the data, we look at the crash data, and we make the decisions on where we will save people's lives and that's what these cameras do."

Data from the Bicycle Coalition found that four of the six highest crash intersections in the city are on Broad Street — 90% of crashes involve a speeding driver.

The third bill puts new training requirements on people who carry out evictions. It's named for Angel Davis, who was critically injured last year when a contractor shot her during an eviction. A few months later, a Port Richmond woman was shot in the leg by a contractor appointed by the court to evict her.

Davis was present for the bill signing Tuesday but said the real victory will come when the city starts enforcing it.

"I need it to really take place for real great change, not just for show," Davis said.

A closer look at what's in New Jersey's proposed \$56.6 billion budget, from taxes to spending

June 28, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey lawmakers are poised to send a \$56.6 billion fiscal year 2025 budget to Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy this week, hiking taxes on high-earning businesses and funding for many state services and programs.

The annual spending plan is expected to get enough votes in the Democrat-led Legislature on Friday to reach Murphy's desk. The state constitution requires a balanced budget to be enacted by July 1.

Here's a closer look at what's in the budget, which would spend 4.2% more than the plan Murphy signed last year.

ARE THERE ANY NEW TAXES?

Yes. The budget calls for increasing the state's corporation business tax on companies that make more than \$10 million a year. The current 9% rate would climb to 11.5%. Business groups say that would give New Jersey the nation's highest tax rate and punish the state's best corporate citizens.

WHY ARE TAXES GOING UP?

The higher rate was first proposed by Murphy as part of his budget proposal early this year to help New Jersey Transit. He's billing the levy as a corporate transit fee to help the beleaguered agency, which has regularly had to use capital funds to help finance projects.

Critics note that the revenue won't go to transit until next year. The current budget keeps it in the general fund, so when the money goes to transit next year, whatever is being paid for now out of the general would need to be replenished or cut, those critics say.

ARE THERE OTHER TAX CHANGES?

Yes. The budget calls for ending a sales tax holiday on school supplies that had gone into effect around the start of the academic year. That cut was first introduced in 2022 when the Democrats who control state government aimed to show voters they were making the state more affordable. Lawmakers didn't explain this cut when they unveiled the budget Wednesday, but the additional revenue could help balance the budget.

WHAT ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES?

New Jersey has among the nation's highest property taxes, levied by local governments to finance services and schools. The state dedicates some income tax revenue to fund local governments, which helps keep property tax rates from growing even higher. This budget calls for increasing state K-12 funding to fully implement an aid formula ratified by the state Supreme Court, raising such aid to more than \$11 billion, up nearly \$1 billion from the current fiscal year. The budget also has about \$2.5 billion for direct property tax relief, and continuing programs

introduced in 2022 and 2023 to help residents, renters, and seniors. The average property tax amount in 2022, which is the most recently available information, is about \$9,500, according to the state.

WHAT ELSE IS IN THE BUDGET?

Quite a bit, given it funds all aspects of state government, from the executive departments to public colleges and universities, to the Legislature itself, which this year passed a 67% pay raise for lawmakers, their first since 2002, which goes into effect in 2026. Overall, spending is up just over 4% compared with the current fiscal year budget.

It includes a number of expenditures — sometimes referred to as Christmas tree line items because they're viewed as gifts for specific constituencies. They include funding for ending homelessness, helping people re-enter society from prison, fire departments, arts programs, and one city's effort to teach life skills through tennis.

Republican lawmakers said they barely had time to review the budget and lamented that they weren't sure what all was in it. Even Democratic Senate Budget Committee Chairman Paul Sarlo said the document is too vast to read line by line, but he supports it overall.

"I could not take a test and be quizzed on every line item because it would take hours and hours and days and months," Sarlo said. "I try to look at it in totality and that's where I think we're at."

GUN CRIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

April

Shots fired near a mass gathering of juveniles off of Temple's campus, police say April 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police chased after two suspects and are still looking for a third after gunshots were fired near Temple University's main campus Sunday night, blocks away from where dozens of young people had gathered on the street.

The shooting occurred in the area of 16th and Sydenham streets around 7 p.m., police said. No one was hurt. Temple police arrested one of the suspects at 1700 Liacouras Walk and the other at 12th and Jefferson Streets, according to the Temple University Police Association.

Investigators recovered one gun. Officers are trying to locate a third suspected shooter who was wearing a pink hooded sweatshirt and a skullcap, the police union said.

Simultaneously, police were monitoring a large crowd of about 60 juveniles at the corner of Broad Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue. The police union said these types of large gatherings are happening more and more often, and not enough is being done to address the problem.

On March 26, the university issued an alert telling students to stay away from 1400 North Broad Street because of a gathering of 100 to 200 "unruly juveniles." As police closed down the nearby intersection to traffic and tried to disperse the crowd, a juvenile threw a brick toward Philly police, Temple officials said.

There were several arrests. No one was injured.

Lawsuit settled: 2 top US gun parts makers agree to temporarily halt sales in Philadelphia April 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (AP/ KYW Newsradio) — Two of America's leading gun parts manufacturers have agreed to temporarily halt sales of their products in Philadelphia and elsewhere in

Pennsylvania, city officials said Thursday, announcing a settlement of their lawsuit against the companies.

Philadelphia filed suit against Polymer80 and JSD Supply in July, accusing the manufacturers of perpetuating gun violence in the city by manufacturing and selling untraceable, self-manufactured weapons commonly known as “ghost guns.” The suit came under a broader legal effort to restrict where manufacturers can market their assemble-at-home guns.

David Pucino, legal director of Giffords Law Center, which represented the city, accused Polymer80 and JSD Supply of “reckless business practices ... that threatened public safety.”

“The gun industry must be held accountable when it breaks the law and endangers Americans,” he said in a statement.

Under the settlement, JSD Supply, based in Butler, Pennsylvania, agreed it would no longer sell its products in the state for four years, city officials said. JSD-owned Eagle Shows, which bills itself as Pennsylvania's largest gun show, will be required to prohibit vendors from selling such gun parts for two years.

Dayton, Nevada-based Polymer80 agreed to a four-year ban on sales to customers in Philadelphia and the nearby counties of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton, which include the cities of Allentown, Easton, Reading and Lancaster. Additionally, Polymer80 agreed to pay \$1.3 million, which Philadelphia officials said will fund efforts to address gun violence.

The settlement was expected to be filed with the court on Friday. Messages were left at both companies seeking comment on the agreement.

“In general, we’re going to be talking about a period of years where these companies are not going to be able to sell these dangerous products in ways that are going to affect Philadelphians,” said Pucino.

“These weapons have ended up in the hands of our youth and individuals who are not otherwise permitted to possess a firearm, and the consequences in our communities have been devastating,” Renee Garcia, Philadelphia's city solicitor, added in a statement.

Ghost guns, which can be purchased without a background check and assembled at home, have become the weapon of choice for children, criminals, and others who cannot lawfully own a gun, according to city officials.

They have been used in a staggering number of shootings in recent years. Between 2019 and 2022, police recorded a fourfold increase in the number of ghost guns that had been used to commit crimes, according to the city's lawsuit. In 2022, city police seized 575 of the guns.

Last July, a gunman armed with an AR-15-style weapon and a handgun — both self-manufactured — went on a shooting spree that killed five people in Kingessing.

Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker, announcing the settlement at a news conference to discuss her first 100 days in office, said Polymer80 and JSD produced 90% of the ghost guns recovered in the city,

“We needed to find a way to hold them accountable for their role in supplying the crime gun market, and perpetuating gun violence,” she said.

In February, Polymer80 agreed to stop selling its firearms to Maryland residents under a settlement with the city of Baltimore.

Last month, a federal judge permanently banned a Florida gun retailer from selling or delivering certain gun parts in New York that officials say could be used to assemble untraceable ghost guns and sold without background checks.

18-year-old fatally shot on Delaware State University’s campus

April 21, 2024

DOVER, Del. (KYW Newsradio) — Police are investigating a shooting on the campus of Delaware State University that left an 18-year-old woman dead. She was not a student at the school, officials said. In response to the incident, the university closed the campus for visitors on Sunday and canceled classes on Monday.

Dover police were called to the campus around 2 a.m. Sunday in the area of one of the residential buildings, Warren-Franklin Hall. The victim had been shot in the upper body, police said. She was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

The victim was later identified as Camay Mitchell DeSilva, of Wilmington. Officials said she was visiting the school.

“Although she was not one of our students, she was a daughter, a beloved family member, and a friend; and, senselessly, her life was cut short. We should pray for better days and pray for the safety and well-being of our campus as a whole,” Dr. Tony Allen, Delaware State University president, said in a message to the school community.

Police and university officials have not gone into detail about the circumstances leading up to the shooting. It’s not exactly clear who was involved. Allen, in his statement, said the “assailants fled,” and he asked that students, staff and anyone who may have information about the incident call police.

“An event that affects the safety of one of us affects all of us,” Allen stated. “That means each of us is responsible for holding one another accountable, saying so when something does not seem, sound, or look right, and denying wrongdoing in all its forms, no matter the person or the circumstance.”

Monday classes have been canceled. Counseling services are available for students.

Allen said the university would share any available updates at a scheduled forum on Tuesday for students, parents, and faculty.

76-year-old arrested, facing charges for fatally shooting wife and daughter inside Chester County home

April 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A 76-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection to the fatal shooting of his wife and daughter inside their Chester County home Thursday night.

Police say around 6:15 p.m. troopers were dispatched to the 200 block of Wiltshire Drive following a report of a shooting. Inside, they found Roger Hanks’ wife and daughter unresponsive on the ground with gunshot wounds.

“The defendant senselessly shot and killed his family because of a basic dispute,” said District Attorney Christopher L. de Barrena-Sarobe. “It is unfathomable that anyone would react this way.”

Hanks is being held at Chester County Prison without bail. He’s charged with two counts of first-degree murder and other related charges.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 8.

May

Philadelphia man charged with straw purchasing 31 guns, soliciting a failed murder-for-hire plot

May 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A Philadelphia man is facing charges after he allegedly made nearly three dozen illegal gun transactions and solicited a failed murder-for-hire plot, the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General said.

Richard Taylor, 31, was charged with making at least 31 straw purchases, as well as criminal solicitation of homicide, among related offenses.

Officials said at least 12 of the 31 guns were recovered by Philadelphia police officers — nine of them during different arrests. Fourteen guns purchased by Taylor remain unaccounted for.

Taylor purchased the firearms at gun shops and online, prosecutors said, and he bragged to others that he could buy them as many firearms as they wanted, as he did not have a criminal record. A straw purchase is the act of buying a gun for someone who is legally prohibited from possessing one.

Then last month, investigators said Taylor tried to hire a person to kill someone. He offered the hitman \$200 and a Glock handgun. The plot was foiled, though, and the intended target was not harmed.

Taylor was arrested on April 26 after a straw purchase at Frank’s Gun Shop in Philadelphia.

His bail is set at 10% of \$5 million.

Gov. Shapiro proposes \$37.5M increase to state program aimed at curbing gun violence
May 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Standing on a soccer field in West Kensington Friday, Jim Hardy said there were times when being a Philadelphia teacher broke his heart.

"The summer of 2009, one of my students, Eric Dixon, was killed by another one of my students," he said.

He then started the Kensington Soccer Club to give young people a productive outlet.

"When it comes down to it, we all know what our youth desperately need. Our youth are dying for guidance," he said.

Last year, the club received a \$400,000 grant from the state's Violence Intervention and Prevention program. Gov. Josh Shapiro said that with a \$14 billion surplus, the state can afford to spend more on efforts like the VIP program. He joined Hardy and elected officials Friday in promoting a \$37.5 million increase in the program as part of his budget proposal.

He said reducing gun violence requires more than investing in law enforcement.

"It is an important part, but it is not enough. We have to make sure that our young people have hope in their lives," Shapiro said.

"This is a moment in our community where we have to think about budgets not just as dollars and cents, but as statements of our priorities and principles."

1 juvenile dead, another injured in Collingdale shooting
May 18, 2024

COLLINGDALE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Two juveniles were shot late Friday afternoon in Delaware County — one, fatally.

Collingdale police were dispatched to the 100 block of Lafayette Avenue just before 4:30 p.m.

When they arrived at the scene, they found one juvenile suffering from a gunshot wound to the stomach and another suffering from a gunshot wound to the foot.

Both were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. Officials say the juvenile who was shot in the stomach later died.

What led to the shooting is not yet known but an investigation is underway.

Police ask if you have any information on this incident to call 610-586-0502.

Man robbed, fired gunshots at off-duty Philly cop, police say

May 31, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia police are looking for a man who robbed an off-duty police officer in Kensington early Thursday morning and fired gunshots at him.

The officer only suffered minor injuries — possibly a graze wound to the shin — and was treated and released from the hospital, officials said.

It happened around 5 a.m. on East Westmoreland Street, near Frankford Avenue.

Police said the off-duty cop was standing by his white Tesla when a man with a gun approached him. The officer gave up his belongings and ran west toward Amber Street. Police said the robber ran after him and fired a few shots, so the cop took his gun out and shot back.

The officer is with the 16th District and is a seven-year veteran of the police force. Because he used his weapon, the officer has been moved to administrative duty while officials investigate the incident, as is police protocol.

Police are not sure if the robber was hit. They said he fled in a gray Chrysler 300 south on Collins Avenue, toward Allegheny Avenue.

Anyone with information is asked to call police. To submit a tip, call or text 215-686-8477, or submit a tip anonymously online.

June

String of weekend shootings in Philadelphia leads to at least 2 dead, several critically injured

June 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police are investigating a series of shootings on Saturday that led to at least two deaths and left several people in critical condition.

Hunting Park

A double shooting in the early hours of Saturday in Hunting Park put two men, ages 20 and 31, in the hospital in critical condition. It happened on Bristol Street near its intersection with Seventh Street, four blocks from Hunting Park Avenue.

The 20-year-old was shot throughout the body, and the 31-year-old was shot once in the left hip. Both were transported to Temple University Hospital.

No arrests have been made, and no weapons were recovered at this time.

Powelton

In another double shooting, around 1 a.m. in the West Philadelphia neighborhood of Powelton, a woman was shot in the head and a 26-year-old man was shot in the right ankle. The woman's age was not disclosed.

It happened on North Preston Street, between Wallace Street and Haverford Avenue.

Both were rushed to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, where the woman is in critical condition and the man is in stable condition.

No arrests have been made and no weapons are recovered at this time.

Cobbs Creek

Four people were shot, one of them killed, at 58th Street and Baltimore Avenue in Southwest Philadelphia, just after 10:30 p.m., according to police.

Two men and two women were taken to the hospital. A 23-year-old man was pronounced dead less than an hour later. Authorities say the others were shot in their extremities and are expected to recover.

"There is a crime scene in front of a store at 58th and Baltimore, where apparently some of the gunshot victims attempted to run into for help after they were shot," said Inspector D.F. Pace. "And we did find at least five spent shell casings on the 900 block of South 58th Street."

None of the victims has been identified yet, but officials believe they were all in their early 20s.

No arrests have been made, and police have not said if they know what motivated the shooting.

Elmwood Park

An apparent road rage incident in Southwest Philadelphia about a half-hour later led to three people being shot, one of them fatally.

Police say it happened shortly after 11 p.m. at 62nd Street and Grays Avenue.

A 21-year-old man was pronounced dead soon after the shooting. A 22-year-old victim is fighting for his life in the hospital. The third victim, also 22, is listed in stable condition.

"Appears a blue SUV, a Ford SUV, struck a white Jeep SUV and, rather than exchanging information, civilly, it appears that the parties in both vehicles began arguing with each other," said Inspector D.F. Pace. "Arguing turned into threats. And it appears that parties from both vehicles were in possession of guns. And at some point, at least one of those people began firing at others."

One person involved in the shooting went to police headquarters to report what happened and is now in custody. Officials are investigating to determine who was the instigator and what exactly caused them to fire the shots.

Philadelphia police tout reduction in crime ahead of summer, when gun violence is often notably high

June 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel is cautiously optimistic as crime trends down across the city. So far this year, crime has drastically dropped — with the biggest drop in homicides and shootings since the pandemic’s all-time highs.

Shootings are down 40% and homicides are down about 38%.

“Our rapes are down significantly. Our robberies are down significantly. Our auto thefts are down almost 37%,” Bethel said.

He credits some of the initiatives that were implemented under former interim commissioner and now Deputy Commissioner John Stanford, such as increased patrols in violent areas like the 22nd District, which makes up the core of North Philadelphia.

He said there has been a significant level of crime reduction in that area: 64% down in violent crime and 40% down in shootings.

“We are happy with the direction we are going, but it is very, very early in the process,” Bethel noted. “We are only six months [in]. The summer has not started yet. We still have a long way to go in turning the tide.”

The warmer months historically bring more gun violence. The police department is working on more strategies, but for now, officials are concentrating on violence that typically trends higher.

“You will start to see some additional foot beats,” Bethel added. “We have an academy class graduating very shortly and so we’re going to continue to press.”

Hatboro barbershop owner shot, killed upstairs neighbor amid ongoing dispute, police say
June 10, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A barbershop owner shot and killed a man who lived above his business in Hatboro, Montgomery County, police said.

It happened around 6 p.m. Saturday outside Razor Reese's Salon and Spa on North York Road, near Summit Avenue.

Police said the salon owner, 41-year-old Maurice Byrd, called 911 to report that a man who lived above the salon, 37-year-old Stephen Strassburg, was harassing him. The 911 dispatcher then heard five gunshots, a pause, and two more gunshots.

Police arrived and found Strassburg in the parking lot with multiple gunshot wounds. They found a handgun registered to Byrd, who has a permit to carry. Investigators said Strassburg did not have a weapon.

Officials said there was an ongoing dispute between the two men.

Police arrested Byrd. He is charged with first-degree murder.

PA pediatricians hold webinar on child gun safety after gun violence declared a public health emergency
June 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With the U.S. Surgeon General declaring gun violence a public health crisis this week, the Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics hosted an online community forum on strategies to prevent child firearm injury and suicide.

The CDC says hundreds of young children in the U.S. have been killed while playing with guns over the last two decades. The majority of the deaths are due to guns being kept unlocked and loaded.

Doctors with the Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics stressed the importance of gun locks, gun ownership training, and how to become an advocate for public policy to prevent unintentional injury and suicide by firearm among children.

Dr. Vivek Ashok, a pediatrician at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, said education must be paired with proper preventative safety measures.

"Children are curious, they are impulsive, they are in a stage of development, in which education needs to be supplemented by prevention of access through secure firearm storage and other lethal means of safety," he said.

Ashok went on to say that just like discussing the importance of bicycle helmets or vaccines with patients and their families, gun safety is also brought up.

"The goal of a harm reduction approach is really to ally with the family and patients to identify an achievable action against firearm related harm, but considering patient concerns, preferences, structural inequities, and other relevant factors," he said.

The Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics routinely holds webinars to educate parents, professionals, legislators, media, and the public about the needs of children, families, and communities.

ECONOMY

April

Made in America Music Festival calls off 2024 edition

April 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — For the second consecutive year, there will be no Made in America music festival in Philadelphia.

In a statement on the event website, organizers say they're "reimagining a live music experience that affirms our love and dedication to music and the work we do."

The annual festival was founded in 2012 by rapper and entrepreneur Shawn "Jay Z" Carter and usually takes place during Labor Day weekend on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Last year's festival was canceled just weeks beforehand. While no cause was given, speculation from fans ranged from controversy surrounding headliner Lizzo to high ticket prices and low sales. Organizers, however, say their efforts to make the event accessible included affordable ticket pricing.

No artists were announced for this year's event before it was called off. In its statement, the Made in America team promised "an exciting return to the festival." A date for that return was not given.

How much can Philly wrestle from Mania Week wallets? Temple economist smacks down promise of windfall

April 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — WrestleMania is coming to Philadelphia for the first time in a quarter-century, but an economic expert does not expect the event to bring in much stone-cold cash for the city.

When Mania Week's main-event matches light up Lincoln Financial Field in South Philadelphia this weekend, the entertainment value to fans will be over-the-top, but the monetary value to the host city will be ... more subtle, says Dr. Michael Leeds, who studies applied microeconomics at Temple University.

WrestleMania: Everything you need to know this week

“You have to take into consideration only the new money that is spent — money that is spent by people in Philadelphia that would not have been spent in Philadelphia had this not taken place,” Leeds said.

He calls WrestleMania “a once-every-couple-of-decades event that’s basically going to have zero lasting impact on tourism in the city.”

Reports from WWE estimating that WrestleMania generated hundreds of millions of dollars for cities like Los Angeles and Dallas are overstated, Leeds says.

“You have to make some fairly strong assumptions to get the dollar figure they are talking about.”

Leeds says the Dallas study assumed each fan who went to WrestleMania or a related or supplemental event spent \$1,300 restaurants and lodging.

“If people are going, from the city, that \$1,300 gets reduced to zero,” he said. “If they’re coming from the surrounding counties, that number gets reduced — maybe not to zero, but to a much smaller number.”

He says most WrestleMania visitors are focused on official WWE events: “You’re going to see them going to the WrestleMania events — not going to the Liberty Bell, not going to the zoo.”

Leeds says even though he doesn’t expect the event to drive economic growth, some things can’t be measured.

“If it makes people in Philadelphia feel better about themselves and feel happy — that’s great — but we don’t have to pretend that it’s going to be a driver of economic growth in the city.”

Philly to be 'Open for Business' under Parker's new executive order

April 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When Irene Grant decided to open a small business on Girard Avenue, she was flummoxed by the various permit, license, and clearance requirements.

“I had to run here to get that, I had to run there to get that, then I had to go back to the same man that told me to go over there. It was crazy,” she said.

Mayor Cherelle Parker hopes to eliminate that sort of run-around with the Open for Business Executive Order she signed Monday. It creates a “one-stop shop” for opening, operating, and expanding a business in Philadelphia.

Commerce Director Alba Martinez says their office analyzed what it takes to open a business in Philadelphia and inventoried 96 permits, licenses, certifications, and registrations that the city requires for 53 different business types.

She says large restaurants must go through 26 steps just to open and operate.

Martinez says the mayor’s Business Action Team — formerly the Office of Business Services, renamed and refocused in Monday’s executive order — is assessing how to reduce steps, accelerate those that remain, improve payment systems, and provide assistance for businesses. Reducing red tape for food businesses is the first project.

“When businesses succeed, we succeed, and we want to be here every step to assist,” Martinez said.

Parker says they are committed to “elevating efficient government services that are streamlined, user friendly, and accessible.”

It will be a busy summer at the Jersey Shore, but there are rentals still available

April 18, 2024

SEA ISLE CITY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Many points at the Jersey Shore are expecting another busy summer this year. Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City director of community services, said it could be even busier than last year.

"There's a little lull between Memorial Day and when school lets out. But after that mid-mark in June, when colleges and high schools and grammar schools are all out, and people are starting to take their summer vacations. That's when we really see things ramp up," she said.

Ahead of the busy season, rentals are still available at all shore points. Sea Isle properties range from about \$2,000 to \$12,000 per week. How much visitors pay depends on where they stay. The condominiums usually run cheaper than the luxury beachfront properties.

If a summer trip is not in the cards, Custer said going in the spring and fall are also good times to go.

"The weather is ideal," she said. "It's not as hot, it's not as crowded."

The largest attraction of the year in Sea Isle is over Father's Day weekend when a vendor's market comes to town followed by an antique auto show.

May

Construction along Route 70 in Camden County continues to pose a challenge for local businesses

May 6, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Linda's Bras and Swimwear has been in business for more than 30 years, with a location along Route 70 in Camden County for about two and a half years.

This is her busiest time of year, but with detours, lane shifts, and road closures making it difficult to navigate the area, customers are less inclined to come in.

To get to Linda's Bras and Swimwear, drivers have to pull off the roadway and onto dirt before slowly pulling into her parking lot.

“It's hard. A lot of people tell me they want to come in, but they don't want to come down Route 70,” said owner Linda Becker.

Crews have been repairing stretches of Route 70 since 2021. It's part of a \$153 million corridor safety and improvement project that will improve gas and water mains, upgrade traffic signals, replace or install Dynamic Message Signs, improve drainage and sidewalks, and resurface nine miles of Route 70 between Route 38 in Cherry Hill and Cooper Avenue in Evesham. The project is expected to be completed in 2027.

Construction is taking place simultaneously within six work zones:

- Work Zone 3 – MP 0.00 to 2.31, Route 38 to Haddonfield Road
- Work Zone 1 – MP 2.31 to 3.66, Haddonfield Road to Kings Highway
- Work Zone 2 – MP 3.66 to 5.00, Kings Highway to I-295
- I-295 Work Zone – MP 5.00 to 5.20
- Work Zone 4/Route 70 Milling Work Zone – MP 5.20 to 7.67, I-295 to Cropwell Road
- Work Zone 5 – MP 7.68 to 8.70, Cropwell Road to Cooper Avenue

Currently, there is construction on Route 70 westbound between Haddonfield Road to Kings Highway (Work Zone 1).

Cherry Hill Mayor David Fleisher says the project continues to be a challenge for neighborhoods and businesses.

“NJDOT needs to do better with communication, signage and advance notice of lane shifts and road closures,” he said. “We have them on ‘speed dial’ and contact them regularly advocating for our residents and small businesses. Our residents deserve better.”

Becker says she realizes things need to be repaired, but feels like “it's not moving fast enough.”

Joseph Croce, owner of Croce Pasta, says the construction and roadwork have hurt his business a lot.

“Especially at lunchtime because my parking lot is in the back of my building and they closed the road right at Route 70 — people couldn't get into my store.”

He said the side of Route 70 he's located on has been better since crews moved across the street, but they're still hurting.

"Not even the [Corona] virus hurt me like it, you know."

An NJDOT spokesperson said they understand the community's concerns and have been responsive to any issues brought to their attention and will continue to do so.

"We provide regular updates to town officials, including biweekly progress meetings. We are committed to continued communication with local officials, businesses, and residents," the spokesperson said.

Area Sam Ash employees react to closing announcement: 'Nothing's promised' May 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Fire sales are happening at Sam Ash locations as the one-time music instrument retail giant closes down all of its stores.

The chain was founded 100 years ago in Brooklyn, New York by musician Sam Ash, and remained within the Ash family ever since. It operates three stores in our area: in King of Prussia, Cherry Hill, and at the Philadelphia Mills Mall.

The company announced on May 2 it would close all of its locations nationwide. Employees were told the King of Prussia store would remain open until May 29, but some told KYW Newsradio they wouldn't be surprised if the company locked the doors before that date.

"Nothing's promised. I mean, they could lock the doors tomorrow," said an employee who asked to be identified as "John," who worked at the King of Prussia location for two years. He says the company failed to tell employees just how bad the situation had become.

"The one guy, he's telling people, 'Oh, your job's going to be okay. These stores are protected,' and then via email, [he] just sends out, 'Actually, all locations are going to be closing.'"

John says he has never gotten a raise or increase in paid time off during his time there. He says his next job will not be related to music. Instead, he'll sell vacation packages."

"Hopefully that company is a little more honest, a little more loyal to me," he said, "and values their employees more than the Ashes did."

Christian used to work in the store's drum department but now has students of his own.

"This store — and any music store in general — has a place in my heart because I'm still a musician and gig musician, always was," he said, "and now I'm a music teacher. So this is a good resource, or was a good resource."

While shopping for a computer microphone, longtime customer Gerry Herbison said young musicians may have an easier experience shopping online but are going to miss out on getting in-person advice.

"I had to self-teach with the guitar, so I bought all of the basic guitar books. And everybody knew what they were talking about here," Herbison said.

CEO David Ash originally told the Wall Street Journal the company was considering a restructure, but he did not say what that might look like. The company has since filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

With Philly's oldest comic shop closing next week, longtime fans stop through for some final memories

May 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Fat Jack's Comicrypt, the city's oldest comic book store, is closing next week on Wednesday, and longtime fans flocked to the Center City shop for a final weekend.

"We're running a sale right now, 70% off everything in the store, except the new books so ... it's just been super, super busy, super slammed," said store manager Olias. "But customers are making less stuff for us to move so that's nice."

Olias first joined Fat Jack's as a manager a little more than a year ago. He came from the music world, but comics are a close second among his passions.

"The best part about working here has definitely been the customers," he says.

Fat Jack's, at 20th and Sansom Streets, has been a part of John Melbourne's life for 40 years.

"I would just come in every week, asking for a job, and eventually they gave in," Melbourne said. "That manager said, 'Well, I can only pay you in comic books.' And I said, 'That's what I'd spend all my money on anyway.'"

After graduating from high school, Melbourne was hired at Fat Jack's City Avenue location and would eventually become the general manager of its five locations in the city.

"Fat Jack's has been here before superheroes were cool. It was kind of the heart of geek culture. There was this, there was the roleplaying Dungeons and Dragons shop that was around the corner. It's kind of like when Tower Records closed on South Street, it's an icon that's gone."

Across town, Brian Johnson, manager of Brave New Worlds on North Second Street in Old City, says Fat Jack's has been an institution.

"It's a very unique and classic kind of space," Johnson said. "Everyone has sort of built on that and done something a little bit different to set a different identity to their store and their space. But these guys started it all."

With the Center City location closing, the only Fat Jack's location left is in Oaklyn, New Jersey. Olias encourages people to go there to still get their comic fix but said the Center City closure may only be temporary.

"For now, we are. But there are plans to relocate somewhere nearby in Center City. We have a couple places we're looking at."

June

Philadelphia City Council passes \$6.4B budget that includes most of what the mayor asked for

June 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Council worked until 1 a.m. Thursday to hammer out a \$6.4 billion budget for the next fiscal year, approving Mayor Cherelle Parker's first budget with only a few adjustments.

City Council added more money for street cleaning, a home repair program, rental assistance, and tree planting. The budget also includes funding to increase the city workforce through programs such as a city workers' school at the Community College of Philadelphia and money to add more police officers to neighborhood bike and foot patrols.

Council President Kenyatta Johnson said the budget is very similar to what the mayor proposed in March.

"A lot of her goals and a lot of council members' goals are in alignment and, most importantly, will allow us to move the city of Philadelphia forward," he said.

Overall, the budget grew by \$80 million through negotiations with City Council. It includes not only new money but also a new approach, Parker said.

“This budget is a huge step to making good on that promise to make Philadelphia the safest, cleanest, greenest big city in the country,” she said, boasting that it’s being done with no new taxes.

In fact, this budget provides new property tax relief, with an increase in the Homestead Exemption for owner-occupied homes and a new low-income tax freeze, sponsored by Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

“This property tax freeze is not a handout,” she said. “It’s an investment in home ownership in our city. By making sure our neediest homeowners can afford their tax bills, we invest in their ability to remain in our neighborhoods.”

The Homestead Exemption for owner-occupied homes will go up to \$100,000, which Johnson estimates will produce an additional \$240 in tax savings for homeowners.

The capital budget increased by \$40 million as council members won additional spending on rec centers and libraries in their districts. It includes the entire \$100 million the mayor requested for so-called “wellness centers,” an effort to address the city’s addiction epidemic.

Parker thanked City Council in a statement and promised that “residents will be able to see, touch, and feel the positive impacts of this budget in their neighborhoods.”

Mayor Parker’s new roundtables hope to make Philly more friendly to business June 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — On Wednesday, Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker was joined at City Hall by the leaders of dozens of companies, unions, and trade associations to announce a new initiative to finally put Philly’s unfriendly-to-business reputation to rest.

Parker called the initiative her “business roundtable,” and said it would be “a vehicle for change” when it comes to businesses interacting with city government.

“This is a new approach to governance where the voice of the business community will be captured via policy and legislation,” said Parker.

The mayor announced 10 subcommittees, each focused on some industry or some aspect of doing business, and set out a schedule of meetings to provide feedback and advise the city on growth and more.

“We are going to remove the red tape and streamline processes by listening to the people who have the real-life experiences of making the payroll and running the businesses that keep our city afloat,” said Parker.

Greg Segall, chairman and CEO of Versa Capital, is a co-chair of the new ‘roundtable,’ seemed happy to be a part of the new effort, and said its ultimate goal is economic revitalization for the city.

“The mayor’s business roundtable can’t wave a magic wand and perfect the gears of commerce overnight but the city also has enormous assets and opportunities,” said Segall.

One of those enormous assets Parker pointed out at the announcement press conference was Philly’s burgeoning life sciences industry — second in growth only to Boston.

“We have to work and be intentional and proactive so that the policies we pursue are the right ones for these sectors,” she said.

Ryan Boyer, business manager for the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council, is another co-chair, and said he wants workers to be ready for the jobs of the future, but also leaned into the spirit of competition between Boston and Philly mentioned by Parker.

“We want to compete at the highest level,” he said. “I don’t want to be second to anybody for anything and the first city I don’t want to be second to is those green clowns from Boston.”

Car dealerships disrupted by multi-day outage after cyberattacks on software supplier June 21, 2024

NEW YORK (AP) — Car dealerships across North America have faced major disruptions this week.

CDK Global, a company that provides software for thousands of auto dealers in the U.S. and Canada, was hit by back-to-back cyberattacks on Wednesday. That led to an outage that continued to impact many of their operations on Friday.

For prospective car buyers, that may mean delays at dealerships or vehicle orders written up by hand, with no immediate end in sight.

Problems started for Prestige Subaru and Volkswagen in Turnersville, New Jersey Wednesday morning.

General Manager Brett Harrington says when the services team arrived that day, they couldn't log into any of their systems that manage repair orders for customers.

Harrington says that was just the tip of the iceberg.

"For service, it's easy. They can handwrite a repair order and get it back to the shop and start working on a customer's car," he said. "For the sales side, we're kind of handcuffed because we use CDK to work the numbers for the customer, print the contracts. A lot of the contracts these days are electronic."

He says it's been a lot of sitting and waiting, as they aren't being told much of what's going on

"... We're doing what everyone else is doing and that's turning to the news and Googling it, trying to figure out what exactly is going on," he said.

What is CDK Global?

CDK Global is a major player in the auto sales industry. The company, based just outside of Chicago in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, provides software technology to dealers that helps with day-to-day operations — like facilitating vehicle sales, financing, insurance, and repairs.

CDK serves more than 15,000 retail locations across North America, according to the company. Whether all of these locations were impacted by this week's cyberattacks was not immediately clear.

What happened this week?

CDK is "actively investigating a cyber incident" and the company shut down all of its systems out of an abundance of caution, spokesperson Lisa Finney said Wednesday.

CDK "executed extensive testing," consulted third-party experts, and restored its core DMS and Digital Retailing solutions by the afternoon, Finney said in a prepared statement.

CDK experienced another "cyber incident" Wednesday evening, Finney said in an update the following day. "We remain vigilant in our efforts to reinstate our services and get our dealers back to business as usual as quickly as possible," she said.

When that will be is still unknown. As of Friday morning, a recorded message from CDK on a hotline detailing updates for its customers said "We do not have an estimated time frame for

resolution — and therefore our dealer systems will not be available, likely for several days.” Customer care support channels also remain unavailable, it said.

The message added that the company was aware of “bad actors” posing as members or affiliates of CDK to try to obtain system access by contacting customers. It urged employers to be cautious of any attempted phishing.

Are impacted dealerships still selling cars?

Several major auto companies — including Stellantis, Ford, and BMW — confirmed to The Associated Press Friday that the CDK outage had impacted some of their dealers, but that sales operations continue.

In light of the ongoing situation, a spokesperson for Stellantis said that many dealerships had switched to manual processes to serve customers. That includes writing up orders by hand.

A Ford spokesperson said that the outage may cause “some delays and inconveniences at some dealers and for some customers.” However, many Ford and Lincoln customers are still getting sales and service support through alternative routes being used at dealerships.

With many details of the cyberattacks still unknown, customer privacy is also at top of mind — especially with little known about what information may have been compromised this week.

In a statement sent to the AP on Friday, Mike Stanton, president and CEO of the National Automobile Dealers Association said that “dealers are very committed to protecting their customer information and are actively seeking information from CDK to determine the nature and scope of the cyber incident so they can respond appropriately.”

Philly business community pushes for decrease in wage and business taxes

June 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia’s revived Tax Reform Commission held its first public hearing last week, where businessmen turned out in force, urging cuts to business taxes.

Jeff DuVono told the commission that through his decades in local real estate, he’s seen suburban office space almost double while Philadelphia’s has stagnated. The reason, he said, is that the combination of the Business Income Receipts Tax (BIRT), the use and occupancy tax, and wage tax doubles the cost of office space in the city.

“If the city wants to continue to see a decline in its population, workforce, and economic vitality, leave the BIRT and wage tax unchanged, but if it wants to increase the number of people living, working, and growing within its borders, it must decrease or, better yet, eliminate the BIRT and wage tax,” he said.

DuVono works for Brandywine Real Estate, whose owner has long championed replacing those taxes with an increase in property taxes. But Jon Sgro of Community Legal Services said that approach threatens low-income homeowners.

“Some believe property taxes are a more reliable source of revenue because real estate doesn’t move, but families and long-time homeowners do move when they can no longer afford their bills,” Sgro said.

Parking magnate Robert Zuritsky also argued for a decrease, if not the actual elimination of, the parking tax.

“Philadelphia’s parking industry has seen its taxes increase seven times,” Zuritsky said. “We are at a point where city taxes take between 40 and 70% of everything we collected from our customers before we pay workers, insurance or repairs to our facilities.”

Cutting business taxes without replacing the revenue, though, would mean huge cuts in services, as Stan Shapiro of Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks reminded the commission.

“Magical tax cuts, especially ones that mostly benefit big business, will not pay for those services,” Shapiro said.

Tom Ginsberg of Pew’s Philadelphia Research Center testified that city business taxes are actually pretty progressive, thanks to an exemption on the first \$100,000 in receipts.

“The smaller a business in terms of gross receipts, the lower its tax burden,” Ginsberg said.

The 15-member commission has the summer to sort through all this. It’s expected to make recommendations in the fall.

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Bridging Philly Q2 April - June 2024

2024 PA Primary & General Election | Alexey Brodovitch: Astonish Me Apr 6, 2024

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Al Schmidt clears up myths and realities of voting, including automatic voter registration, mail-in voting, and protections for voters and election workers.

Then, Barnes Foundation's assistant curator Corrinne Chong leads a tour of the 20th-century artist who inspired commercial art at the exhibit "Alexey Brodovitch: Astonish Me."

Gift of Life Donor Program at 50 | Maple Grove Raceway Apr 13, 2024

For fifty years, Gift of Life Donor Program has helped organ and tissue recipients off the transplant wait list with their growing donation network. Five years after North Philly rapper and hip-hop recording artist Freeway received a kidney, he's raising awareness about routine physicals and organ donation with his music and Freedom Thinkers Academy. (Gift of Life Donor Program is the sponsor of Bridging Philly.)

Then, Shara Dae Howard takes a ride-along at Berks County's Maple Grove Raceway, which hosts national races, monster trucks, car shows and more.

Philly BOLT | The Free Library of Philadelphia's Unusual Collections Apr 20, 2024

2024 KYW GameChanger Hillary Do created the non-profit BOLT (Build Our Lives Together) to support community grassroots organizations with tools, grants and knowledge to bring about change. She introduces us to Cleopatra Robinson of A Home from Shana Foundation, who is working to lower the rate of Black maternal mortality in Philadelphia, and Ron Toles of Ordinary Heroes, who works with BIPOC youth in Hunting Park.

Then, the hidden history behind the Free Library of Philadelphia's Central Branch, which includes Charles Dickens' stuffed pet bird, Grip - widely thought to have inspired Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Raven." The library also has the only handwritten copy of the poem, which is part of its rare book collection.

This episode re-ran on Apr 27, 2024.

Teaching Kids Self-acceptance | “A Great Day in Philly”

May 25, 2024

Author Susanne Munn of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, says her neurodivergent son had a hard time fitting in. She wrote a poem to help him celebrate himself, and 10 years later, she’s releasing that poem as a children’s book with the help of her friend and illustrator, Amy Towers. Susanne and Amy tell us about “The Great Shape Debate”. Plus Kim Wheeler Poitevien, MSW, LCSW, owner of Amel Counseling, joins us to expand on ways to help kids - and adults - stop comparing themselves to others and love who they are.

And on Shara in the City, local musicians re-create the iconic “A Great Day in Harlem” photo, with a Philly twist.

Women Against Abuse | LGBTQ+ exhibit at The Fabric Museum

Jun 1, 2024

More than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the U.S. have experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Women Against Abuse aims to help domestic violence victims of all genders by providing shelters, counseling, legal services, and safety planning. Executive Director Joanna Otero-Cruz joins us along with board member Jamie Colleen Miller, who shares her own story of escaping an abusive relationship with help from Women Against Abuse. If you are facing domestic violence and need help, call their hotline at 1-866-723-3014 or visit their website for more resources.

And on Shara in the City, we kick off Pride Month at The Rose Garden exhibit by local artist John Jarboe at The Fabric Workshop and Museum - an immersive exploration of her gender journey.

A Juneteenth Dance Celebration | The “Love Letter” mural challenge

Jun 8, 2024

A Philadelphia performing arts organization is celebrating Juneteenth with a twist on an old tradition: the house party. Running June 20 - 22, Intercultural Journeys’ “The Re-Emancipation of Social Dance” is an interactive party-performance through five “living rooms”, inviting you to reclaim the freedom of dance. We talk with the show’s curator and former Philadelphia Poet Laureate, Yolanda Wisher, and Intercultural Journeys' Executive Director, Carly Rapaport-Stein, about this performance and how Black Americans throughout history have built community through dance. Learn more, get tickets, and listen to their podcast on the history of social dance at reemancipatedance.org.

And on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard hops on the El to try to catch a glimpse of all 50 murals in Steve Powers' "A Love Letter For You" series in West Philly.

Youth Empowerment Through International Travel | West Philly Birding

Jun 15, 2024

The experience of traveling to a different part of the world can be life-changing, but many people don't get that opportunity because of the cost. A new initiative called Invest in Human Potential aims to take five young Black men from Philadelphia on a two-week trip to Sardinia, Italy, and empower them with the skills to become social justice warriors over the course of a year-long fellowship. Racquel Williams talks with the director, Amir Joshua Palmer, about what the fellowship will involve and what it will take to get it off the ground. Learn more about how you can support the fellowship at investinhumanpotential.com.

And on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard discovers a hidden sanctuary in West Philly to learn about Black Birding.

Disparities In Cancer Care | Philly break dancing

Jun 22, 2024

We've seen tremendous progress in diagnosing and treating cancer, but not all people have benefited from that progress equally. The American Association for Cancer Research recently released their 2024 Cancer Disparities Progress Report, which highlights gaps in diagnoses, treatment, and outcomes for people in marginalized groups. What is being done to close those gaps? We talk with Mitch Stoller, Chief Philanthropic Officer and Vice President of Development for the AACR, and Dr. Camille Ragin, a professor and Associate Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Fox Chase Cancer Center and a member of the steering committee for the AACR's report.

And on Shara in the City, we get ready for the first year of Olympic breakdancing by visiting Philly's longest-running hip-hop and breakdancing event, The Gathering at The Rotunda.

A Space For Teens In South Philly | Smith Memorial Playground

Jun 29, 2024

Pennsylvania's funding for after-school care ends when children turn 13, and many parents are concerned about where their teens can go after school and in the summer. Caring People Alliance runs a teen program and recently opened a new center at their South Philadelphia Boys & Girls Club where teens can go to get a meal, play basketball, make music and art, and have a safe space to talk and learn. We speak with Branon Gilmore, VP of CPA's Boys & Girls Club

Movement, Jewel Felder-James, Director of Teen Programming, and Alphonso Cobbs, a participant in the teen program.

And on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard re-discovers the joy of play at the historic Smith Memorial Playground.

###

I'M LISTENING

2ND QRT 2024

April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024

ISSUE: ENVIRONMENT

1Thing / Audacy Conversations

April / Earth Month

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

ISSUE: HEALTH, VETERANS

Audacy Conversations

April 21, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy's David Glover recently welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) expert and former Air Force member, Alex Silva, in addition to Wounded Warrior Project Clinical Expert, Dr. Erin Fletcher and guest Dan Miller, to discuss the importance of mental health care for Military members and share that the bravest thing many of them can do is ask for help.

ISSUE: HEALTH

I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark

May 5, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Host David O'Leary and Victor Armstrong, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Vice President of Health Equity and Engagement, and Michell Clark; father, husband, entrepreneur, writer and podcaster in the mental wellness space, had an intimate discussion on grief, loss, and suicide.

ISSUE: HEALTH, MINORITY

Talk Away The Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ community

June 2, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

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**KYW-AM/WIP-HD2 PHILADELPHIA, WPHI-FM JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT**

April, 1, 2024 – June, 30, 2024

Station KYW (AM) provides an all-news radio service to Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area at 1060kHz AM, with simulcasts on the FM dial on WPHI-FM at 103.9 MHz and WIP-FM-HD2 at 94.1 MHz HD2. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.

This report was prepared and placed in the station's public inspection file on **June 28th, 2024.**

The report was prepared and reviewed by Newsroom Operations Manager, Dennis Edward.

Bridging Philly is KYW Newsradio's half-hour public affairs show that airs Saturdays at 9:30p and Sundays at 8:30a

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CHILDREN AND HUMAN SERVICES

April

Federal judge deals major setback to nonprofit hoping to open supervised drug consumption site in Philadelphia

April 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When a federal judge on Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit from Safehouse, which had been seeking permission to operate a medically supervised drug consumption site in Philadelphia, it delivered a serious setback to the nonprofit.

After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit confirmed that Safehouse could be criminally prosecuted if it opened a facility where people with addiction could use drugs under medical supervision, Safehouse counter-sued, claiming a First Amendment right to operate as a matter of religious principle to preserve life.

Judge Gerald McHugh rejected Safehouse’s argument, writing that he is persuaded the nonprofit is not a religious entity, and he dismissed the case.

Safehouse Vice President Ronda Goldfein said she was disappointed.

“We respectfully disagree. We think Safehouse has a right to exercise its religious beliefs by saving the lives of people in need,” Goldfein said.

“We’ve been fighting a lawsuit for five years — and in that time, 6,500 people have died. And we’re trying to provide relief.”

The U.S. Attorney had no comment. The case was brought by her predecessor.

But the decision was good news for City Councilmember Quetcy Lozada, who represents Kensington, where neighbors feared the facility would have been located.

“I am very pleased that the government has made the decision that it made,” she said. “It’s something the residents have been adamantly against, so I think today is a very good day for the residents of Kensington.”

The decision also relieves one headache for Mayor Cherelle Parker, who opposes the sites. She says she believes in harm reduction but doesn't believe it's a complete answer.

"We're going to be focused on prevention, intervention and enforcement, long-term care, treatment and housing," Parker said.

Goldfein says Safehouse is still considering its options, including an appeal to the Third Circuit court.

Free gun-lock program expanding to fight drastic increase in number of kids accidentally shooting themselves and others

April 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The number of kids getting hold of guns and unintentionally shooting either themselves or other kids is drastically increasing. In 2019, two children were involved in unintentional shootings. In 2021, about a dozen kids unintentionally shot themselves or another kid — and about two dozen have every year since.

In March, a 4-year-old boy picked up a gun and shot himself in the stomach. In January, a 5-year-old shot himself in the leg. And on Saturday, 3-year-old Kayden Barnes was shot in the eye and later died. Investigators believe she accidentally shot herself with her father's gun.

Authorities have still not announced whether charges will be filed against her father.

"Kids are naturally curious," says Scott Charles, a trauma outreach manager for Temple University Hospital.

"Small kids as young as 2 can apply enough pressure to a trigger to fire a gun," he said. "And it's often the case that small children will look down the barrel of the gun because they are curious."

"And while they are pulling the trigger, they are not expecting a bullet is going to come out of the barrel. And that is why so many children, as we saw recently here in Philadelphia, unintentionally shoot themselves in the head."

The hospital gives out free gun locks through the Safe Bet program.

"It's imperative that we keep guns out of the reach of children, and the best way to do that is to keep them in a gun safe, but we provide gun locks because sometimes gun safes are beyond the ability of people to buy them," Charles said.

“The purpose of the gun locks [is] to reduce the likelihood that young people — particularly young people — will get their hands on firearms and unintentionally shoot themselves.”

Charles started the program after seeing the need, through social media posts and reaching out to the Philadelphia Police Department to kickstart free gun lock giveaways.

“The cable locks that we use are 15-inch cable locks. They can be used on handguns. They can be used on shotguns. They can be used on rifles.”

So far Safe Bet has given away 10,000 locks. And the program is now expanding, with new grant money from the state.

“We are going to start a campaign where we are going to be conducting workshops in communities where we know there are high rates of gun violence; reaching out to those concerned family members who might have a gun lying around the house, who find it unaffordable to buy a gun safe,” Charles said.

“And we are going to be providing them biometric gun safes so that they can keep those guns safe and secure in their homes.”

To get a gun lock through the Safe Bet program, go to templesafetynet.org for more information.

Law enforcement agencies are holding a free gun lock giveaway on Thursday from noon to 3 p.m. at New Journey Christian Center, 1001 East Cheltenham Ave., in Philadelphia, near where Kayden Barnes was shot.

Philly officials reveal this year’s slate of summer activities for youth

April 10, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Summer is still two months away but Philadelphia officials already have big summer plans for the city’s youth, with an assortment of free and paid activities.

Among activities offered through Parks and Recreation, the Free Library, the School District of Philadelphia, the Department of Human Services, and the summer jobs program, Mayor Cherelle Parker says there’s something for everyone this summer. She believes that offering summer activities for every child in the city is important on many levels.

“We know that keeping young people engaged and active can improve not only their physical health and well-being, but prevent learning loss and to reduce violence,” she said.

Parker says there's no excuse for any young person not to be plugged into some sort of activity, given the array of options, from classes, camps, and clubs to sports and — for teenagers — jobs.

First of all, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Susan Slawson says the city is hiring 400 lifeguards.

“This year, we're bringing back bonuses for our lifeguards. If you sign up by April 15 and you work throughout the summer, you get an additional \$1,000,” Slawson explained.

In addition, there are 8,000 career path summer jobs for teens through a program called C2L — formerly known as WorkReady. At least 2,000 of them will continue into the school year.

New program offers Philly residents a path to first-time home ownership

April 24, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation is trying to keep the dream of home ownership within reach of Philadelphia's working class through a program for first-time buyers.

The city and PHDC are looking for first-time buyers to take advantage of the Turn The Key initiative. They're holding an open house on May 8 at SEPTA headquarters (1234 Market Street) in Center City, to show prospective buyers that a huge down payment or a perfect credit score is not necessary for home ownership in the city.

“Let's be really honest. They're hustling, they're working a full-time job, a part-time job, and you know, they're paying rent and not seeing any wealth creation,” said Angel Rodriguez, executive director of the Philadelphia Land Bank. “And here, we have this opportunity for them to move into a home.”

Turn The Key puts publicly owned vacant land back into productive use while increasing the limited supply of affordable homes available for purchase in the city. For example, for a home that costs \$280,000, qualifying applicants can get as much as \$95,000 in assistance, with an average monthly payment of about \$1,353.

“You're getting the \$1353 monthly, you're getting three bedrooms, two baths, and it's a starter home, it's your home,” Rodriguez said. “You know what you're getting. You know the neighborhood. Plus you're saving so much money monthly, that really changes a family's life.”

He says the criteria for approval is income-based, and that applicants have an average credit score of 600.

“We’ve approved ... over 700 properties,” he said. “Right now we have about 265 in production. I expect by the end of this calendar year to have 359 done. And then we have another 325 that we hope to see done in the calendar year 2025.”

Registration is required to attend the open house.

May

Delco Health Department to host Mindfulness Monday series

May 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — In collaboration with Keystone First, the Delaware County Health Department will be hosting a Mindfulness Monday series beginning May 6.

The series kicks off with two free yoga classes at 10 a.m. and noon at the Wellness Center in Yeadon. Each class is about an hour and a half long and is open to residents of all ages.

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, the program is aimed at helping people find ways to care for their mind, body, and health, said Aminata Donzo with the health department.

“We really want members to be able to leave just feeling relaxed,” Donzo said. “We understand that things can be really, really busy with work, kids, bills — we just wanted to be like a space to relax and take a time out to be able to breathe and just prioritize yourself and your mental health.”

To register, call 484-276-2100 or email DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us

Philly Abuse Shelter celebrates \$3.6M renovation, adding 33 beds

May 14, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia's Women Against Abuse cut the ribbon on its newly expanded and renovated domestic violence shelter on Tuesday.

Ameya's Place, one of two domestic violence shelters in Philadelphia operated by Women Against Abuse, received \$3.6 million in much needed renovations. The changes include new private bathrooms, flooring, lighting, HVAC system upgrades, windows and roof repair, and security updates.

Those improvements make it a welcomed home away from home for those seeking refuge from intimate partner violence.

"We house about 600 individuals every year who are trying to flee their homes to be safe," said Joanna Otero-Cruz, president and executive director of Women Against Abuse. The organization runs both facilities in Philadelphia, which serve 1,200 women, men, and children fleeing abusive relationships each year.

"Unfortunately, there are times we don't have space. The prevalence of domestic violence is huge in Philadelphia, the 911 calls received are over 110,000 a year."

The expansion will allow the organization to serve 33 more people each year. 88 people were turned away in 2023 due to lack of space.

Jamie Colleen Miller is a domestic violence survivor who fled to Ameya's Place with her daughter in 2014. She now serves on the board.

"Being in an abusive relationship was the darkest time of my life and breaking free felt like I was digging myself out of a grave," she said, "but I wasn't buried, I was determined. I was strong. I was so strong, even on the days when I felt weak and broken."

The facility is named for Ameya Spratley, who was killed by her abusive boyfriend in 2010.

“You never knew my daughter, but you know her name,” said her father, Willie Spratley. “With your help and your support, her name’s gonna help someone. Someone that really needs help can call Ameya, and she’s there.”

Families could face barriers to their children’s care if Medicaid drops CHOP as in-network provider

May 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Leslie Proffitt’s daughter, 14-year-old Lily Ciechoski, has been a patient at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for most of her life, as she was born with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Also for most of her life, Proffitt said her daughter has been on the Keystone First health insurance plan. However, Proffitt and other families fear they could lose some of their insurance coverage because Medicaid may no longer keep CHOP as an in-network provider.

CHOP is “currently a participating provider of AmeriHealth Caritas PA and Keystone First,” it said on an information page for affected patients. “However, those contracts will end July 1, 2024, unless a new agreement is signed before that date.”

If contract negotiations fail, CHOP will no longer be considered an in-network Medicaid provider through AmeriHealth Caritas PA and Keystone First.

“If they decide that they’re going to not come to an agreement with CHOP, we’ve got to make the decision to switch insurance plans, which might sound easy but it’s not an instantaneous thing,” said Proffitt. “We see CHOP for a variety of specialists, so that’s going to be a huge issue. The switch for insurance plans like that can take weeks.”

After Proffitt and other affected parents petitioned lawmakers, two dozen Pennsylvania State House Democrats issued an open letter — penned by Chester County state Rep. Paul Friel — that calls on insurers to “find a solution that maintains CHOP’s inclusion in the network.”

Removing CHOP from the networks would create barriers to crucial health care for children with disabilities and from low-income families, they said.

“There’s a lot of things that Keystone First provides that Aetna doesn’t consider medically necessary, like diapers,” Proffitt added. “They don’t find that medically necessary. They won’t pay for it.”

The lawmakers wrote in their letter: “Failure to reach an agreement would result in disrupted care for thousands of young and sick patients. Families who are already navigating the complexities of the medical system would face additional challenges. For children with severe chronic conditions, unique disorders, and special needs, finding an alternative provider with the necessary expertise would be an uphill battle. Moreover, since the affected patients are covered through Medicaid, the consequences are even more pronounced, as fewer practices are available to many of these children due to their parents’ income limitations.”

Keystone First said in a statement that negotiations are active, and it put the onus on CHOP to choose to remain in-network. In another statement, CHOP said it is in contact with potentially affected families, and if no agreement is reached, it will work with those families to avoid disruptions in care.

CHOP is considered in-network with all other Pennsylvania Medicaid plans.

Health officials warn of potential measles exposure in Philly pharmacy, Montco medical facility

May 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Health officials are warning of potential measles exposure in Philadelphia and Montgomery County.

They say people may be at risk if they were inside the CVS Pharmacy on 10901C Bustleton Avenue on May 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the Holy Redeemer Hospital Emergency Department on May 16-17 from 11:30 a.m. until midnight; or the Holy Redeemer Hospital Medical-Surgical Unit on May 16-17 from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

As of Monday, May 20, Philadelphia Health Department reported one confirmed case of measles with exposure to residents in Montgomery County. There are no confirmed cases in Montgomery County.

Measles can spread very easily from person to person — especially those not protected against the virus — through air droplets by coughing or sneezing.

Early symptoms include a fever, runny nose, cough, puffy eyes, and a rash. It's contagious four days before to four days after a rash appears and can lead to pneumonia, brain infection, and even death.

Health officials say if you develop symptoms through June 7 and are not immune and may have been exposed, contact your doctor immediately.

June

Agencies working to make New Jersey more age-friendly as senior population grows rapidly

June 3, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — New Jersey, known for its high cost of living, poses challenges for older residents looking to age in place. Making ends meet can be tough, even for seniors who have already paid off their houses. For renters or those with mortgages, the costs oftentimes push them to consider moving to another state.

To combat the rising costs, several New Jersey agencies created an age-friendly guide to make living more affordable. The blueprint identifies several areas of improvement: housing, health, transportation, socialization, employment, and communication and outreach.

“Some of the recommendations that we highlight are about how to make modifications or how to build housing that will remain affordable and accessible for people as they age,” said Kaylee McGuire, New Jersey Department of Human Services deputy commissioner for aging and disability services.

New Jersey's population of people 65 and older is expected to grow from 1.5 million in 2019 to 1.9 million by 2030, according to the department. By the end of this decade, 1 in 5 New Jerseyans will be 65 or older.

McGuire added, “The housing section has a whole host of recommendations that are focused on helping make communities more affordable for our older adults as they age and to also make sure that their homes and their communities are more accessible.”

The department also announced \$5.5 million in available grant funding to implement some of the suggestions.

Margate police say parents, guardians may get a ticket if unsupervised teen is breaking the law

June 17, 2024

MARGATE, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Police in Margate say they’ll be enforcing an ordinance this summer that states a summons can be issued to a parent or guardian of unruly teenagers.

The summer season has only just begun, and already a few towns across the region have had to deal with rowdy crowds. Specifically down the Shore, teenagers have been involved in some isolated incidents. It has elected officials and law enforcement leaders on guard.

Over Memorial Day weekend, a 15-year-old from another town was stabbed in Ocean City and had non-life threatening injuries.

Wildwood Police also had to shut down the boardwalk for a few hours during the holiday weekend, after they got call after call on large gatherings of unsupervised teens.

The Margate City Police Department says, in order to prevent similar situations from happening, they’ll be enforcing a city ordinance that looks to parents and guardians who knowingly leave juveniles unsupervised.

According to a post on Facebook, the Department says between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., if any minor under the age of 17 is unattended and doing something dangerous or unlawful, they’ll be taken to the police station. An adult will be contacted to pick them up and, officials say, a summons will be issued.

Per the ordinance, the first violation could result in a fine of between \$100 and \$1,000 or as many as 90 days of community service.

Philabundance brings back free meal program for second summer

June 19, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With school out of session and cafeterias closed for the summer, many kids have lost access to food assistance.

That's why, for the second year in a row, Philabundance is kicking off the summer with its free Summer Lunchbox program.

Through Aug. 24, Philabundance Community Kitchen will whip up 66,000 fresh lunches and 11,000 breakfast kits for thousands of food-insecure families in the Philadelphia region.

The meals will be distributed by 25 of their community partners in nine surrounding counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Advocare reaches multi-year agreement with Horizon insurance to remain in network

June 28, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — An agreement has been reached between health provider Advocare and a major insurance group in the region days before their contract was set to expire.

Advocare announced on Thursday that it reached a multi-year agreement with Horizon. In the spring, Advocare sent letters to patients informing them that if no deal is reached by June 30, its doctors would no longer be in network with Horizon.

Now that the agreement is settled, Advocare said there will be no disruptions for its patients.

Advocare has 900 providers in more than 150 care centers throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania, serving more than 800,000 patients.

In a statement, Horizon spokesperson Tom Wilson said, "Our members rely on Horizon to ensure they can access doctors they want to see at a fair and reasonable cost. It is a responsibility that we take seriously — medical costs should never prevent someone from getting the care they

need and all of us in New Jersey's healthcare system have a role to play in making it more affordable. We appreciate Advocare's commitment to work with us to reach a fair agreement and are pleased that our members will continue to have in-network access to Advocare practices."

ARTS AND CULTURE

South Philly Street renamed in honor of longtime radio DJ Bob Pantano

April 10, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A South Philadelphia native whose radio show has beamed into homes for decades was honored on Tuesday with a special tribute.

In front of friends, family, entertainers, and adoring fans, Bob Pantano smiled as South Philly's Federal Street, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, was renamed Bob Pantano Way. Long before the Philadelphia radio legend received the accolade, however, his childhood neighborhood helped propel him to radio stardom.

"My career started at my house on Federal Street," Pantano recalled. "I drove up Seventh Street, went over to Camden in 1971 and filled in for the 'Geator' Jerry Blavat, and that's how it started."

Many came to the Tuesday ceremony, from celebrities and elected officials — like Robert "Kool" Bell from Kool & the Gang and Mayor Cherelle Parker — to neighbors and old friends, to show their love for the Temple grad and longtime WOGL DJ. They also enjoyed free cheesesteaks, cannolis, and other South Philly staples.

"I'm just happy to see everybody. I see some of the old neighbors are still living here and I'm happy to see the neighborhood is still very nice," he said.

Among the many attendees was childhood friend Sonny Averona Jr. "I'm honored because Bob Pantano is the people's champion like my dear friend Joe Frazier was. He gives back to everybody," he said.

Pantano received a plaque on the Philadelphia Music Alliance Walk of Fame, on South Broad Street, in 2017. Still, he said the street renaming was especially humbling. "I'm just overwhelmed by everyone who is here," he shared.

Through puppetry, Opera Philadelphia reclaims Asian agency in production of ‘Madame Butterfly’

April 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Opera Philadelphia is adding something new to their next show: puppetry. As Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month begins next week, the opera company presents a reimagined version of Puccini’s “Madame Butterfly,” created by a team of AAPI artists.

“Madame Butterfly” is about a Japanese geisha named Cio Cio San who gets sold to a U.S. Navy lieutenant. In most productions, she’s portrayed as a helpless victim, but Opera Philadelphia wanted to change that stereotype — with the help of a puppet.

“The puppet allows us to separate the stereotype from the human spirit,” said director Ethan Heard. In this version, a singer represents Cio Cio San’s spirit, who takes a different path, while the puppet maintains the traditional role.

“She starts to realize, ‘Oh, I feel trapped in this trope. And I want to be something new. I want to find my agency,’” he said.

The puppet is designed by Philadelphia-based artist Hua Hua Zhang, who studied traditional rod puppetry in China. She began training in the Chinese tradition when she was just 14 years old.

“I have to take dance class, voice class ... we learn Chinese-style acting, which is more dramatic and more unreal,” she said.

Zhang brings that “unreal” quality to the stage, performing with the puppet while soprano Karen Chia-ling Ho sings. Zhang must use her whole body to control the puppet’s movements.

They both portray the same character, but their paths diverge as the show goes on. The puppet is stuck in old, traditional ways, while the singer’s version of the character has the freedom to choose her own story — leading to a new, alternate ending.

“Also, the puppet can fly, the puppet can stand on the table, the puppet can express in a really vivid, imaginative way that a mature soprano can’t do while performing the role vocally,” Heard added.

For him, this production is an opportunity to reclaim a story that has pigeonholed and often misrepresented Asian performers.

“‘Madame Butterfly,’ in the last century or 125 years, has, more often than not, been staged with non-Asian singers in these roles,” he said. “I’m very proud that our production features Asian and Asian American singers in all of the lead Japanese roles.”

“Madame Butterfly” will be performed at the Academy of Music from April 26 to May 5.

Philly artists use World Book Day to share art of tufting with the world through new book April 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — There were a number of events in Philadelphia to mark UNESCO’s World Book Day on Tuesday — but no one celebrated quite like two West Philly entrepreneurs, who dropped a book on their quest to bring the art of tufting to the world.

Every World Book Day when she was a teacher, Debra Gress Jansen would let her students read all day.

“It can teach you something you don’t know, it can take you back in time, it can take you into the future,” said Jansen. “It just helps you use your brain power a little bit more.”

That is why Jansen went into the bookselling business after teaching, opening Booked in Chestnut Hill.

And in the spirit of learning something new — and for World Book Day — she invited artists and entrepreneurs Tim Eads and Tiernan Alexander to the shop to showcase their new book all about tufting, the textile process behind carpet making.

“Tufting is for everybody,” said Alexander. “Tufting is so fun and if you look at it and think: ‘Oh I don’t know if I can do this,’ you can.”

Alexander is one half of the founding partnership of West Philly-based Tuft the World. She and business partner Eads first found the textile process behind carpet making in 2018.

“What we wanted to do was a how-to book, so that people who really like learning from books, that’s the format they prefer, would have a way to start tufting, to see examples,” she said.

“I think our role in this has been just really teaching artists and crafters a craft that’s been around for a long time that no one really knew about,” Eads added, “so it’s really just opening a door to something that’s been there.”

The book, which is named after their business, is also peppered with history notes and highlights fellow tufting artists from around the country.

“Everybody comes to their creativity through a different path, and I really feel like books are a great path to find things you love,” Alexander said.

For Jansen, that’s what World Book Day is all about.

“You’re utilizing everything, your imagination,” she said. “Just all your senses are involved in reading a book. It’s so important.”

Upcoming BalletX Festival looks to make dance more accessible, with local and international talent

April 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Hundreds of local dancers and their families will unite this weekend at the TD Pavilion at the Mann Center for the BalletX Festival, a two-day event on April 26 and 27, featuring live music and special guests.

BalletX founder Christine Cox says the festival is part of a larger effort to invest in Philadelphia’s next generation of dancers. “BalletX is about that idea of creating an incubator in our studios at 19th and Washington and bringing the ideas, perspectives, and imagination back into the community,” she said.

This year, the festival’s lineup includes Emmy Award-winning choreographer Natasha Adorlee with the sultry vocals of Jac Ross, the debut of “Heroes” by choreographer Takehiro Ueyama, “Eros and Psyche” by choreographer and Alvin Ailey veteran Jamar Roberts, and more.

The festival will also feature performances by 11 community dance groups and schools from across Philadelphia. Cox says the festival is meant to celebrate dance, art, and community, and she hopes the event will be one part of a greater push to make dance accessible to all.

“We really believe in the power of creation, and bringing in artists from around the world, inspiring community through dance is really such an honor and a privilege,” said Cox.

May

Philly comic fans unite for Free Comic Book Day

May 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — On Free Comic Book Day, there is rarely a minute of calm at Brave New Worlds in Old City.

People flocked there Saturday to scour one of the shop’s back walls full of free comics, where they were limited to three each.

“Free Comic Book Day is awesome because it’s the day every year we give out free comics to get people psyched on comics they wouldn’t normally read or check out,” said Brian Johnson, one of the managers at Brave New Worlds.

“Hopefully when they come in and get comics, they kind of get that itch, get that bug, and they come back for more.”

University of the Arts student James Valentine got the bug reading “Bitter Root,” a comic about a family of monster hunters during the Harlem Renaissance.

He says comic illustrations are often inspirations for his own work, in which he devises designs for advertising.

“Definitely like bold outlines and dynamic line work ... I take those whole comic book elements outside of their contexts and put them in new contexts,” he said.

Customer John Stillwaggon echoed a similar sentiment, saying the comics motivate him as a filmmaker.

“It’s really inspiring to see all these other works and it really inspires you to make great stuff,” he said.

For him, Free Comic Book Day was all about people feeling included and like they were a part of something.

“Everybody’s here, and everybody’s talking about comics. I’ve just talked to a bunch of people about like, ‘Did you read the new Ultimate Spider-Man?’... You really bond with people and form these connections over these characters and these stories,” he said.

The first Free Comic Book Day was on May 4, 2002. More than 2 million books were given away from over 2,200 retailers worldwide.

Drexel Hill gymnast swings back into town with Cirque du Soleil

May 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Cirque du Soleil’s “Corteo” is coming to Philadelphia for the first time, but it will be a return home for one performer.

Aerialist Jonathan Buese was born in Drexel Hill, where he started doing gymnastics as a kid.

“My dad used to work at Temple,” Buese said, “and that’s actually the arena where we’re going to be playing, which is pretty neat.”

Buese and his family later moved to Florida, and he went on to compete at the NCAA gymnastics championships for the University of Iowa.

Cirque du Soleil, a Canadian entertainment company, recruited him during a competition. He joined their Las Vegas show and then a tour in Europe.

“I never traveled so much before I started touring,” he said. “I still hadn't really left the U.S. besides going to Canada ... and so just jumping around in all these different cities and countries in Europe was amazing ... and I've been touring ever since.”

Cirque du Soleil has a variety of shows, both tours and residencies, that feature dazzling acrobatics and fantastical stories. Beuse joined the “Corteo” tour in 2022.

“Corteo means kind of a procession,” he explained. “The show is about the clown’s dream of his funeral. So it’s the funeral procession that he's dreaming of.”

Buese performs in “Tournik,” an adaptation of a Russian act that involves swinging on and between bars.

“It's a big kind of choreographed number of different swinging and a lot of traffic,” he said. “So the timing has to be really precise, but it's a beautiful piece. A lot of big acrobatics in it.”

Buese says “Corteo” is great for the whole family and features a live band.

The show will be at Temple University’s Liacouras Center from May 30 to June 2. Tickets are available on Cirque du Soleil’s website.

A beach ball drop, a turtle trot and all the ‘Shore Things’ happening Memorial Day weekend

May 22, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Beach season is back and so is “It’s a Shore Thing,” your go-to spot for all things fun at the Jersey Shore!

We’re headed for a hot Memorial Day weekend — and not just because temperatures are in the 80s. The weekend is loaded with fun events along the shore for the whole family. If you need a few ideas, we’ve got you covered.

WILDWOOD FOOD TRUCK AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

There’s something for everyone at the Wildwood Food Truck and Music FEASTival on Sunday starting at noon. More than a dozen food trucks will be parked in Byrne Plaza, offering

everything from cheesesteaks and tacos to seafood, as well as dessert. Vegetarian options will also be available.

There will also be music to go along with your meal, with DJ Louis spinning all day on the wheels of steel. Kids will have plenty to keep them entertained as well, from face painting and miniature golf to a bungee trampoline.

WILDWOODS INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

Described as a “full-blown kite festival on steroids,” the Wildwoods International Kite Festival is aimed at both kite enthusiasts and beginners, running all weekend at the Wildwoods Convention Center and on the beach at Rio Grande Avenue in Wildwood.

It all starts on Friday with the “Unlocking of the Beach” ceremony. Festivities include a welcome social, an illuminated night kite flight and a kite makers’ competition. If you don’t have a kite, there will be a sales tent on hand. There will also be workshops and lessons for beginning flyers.

The festival culminates in the World Indoor Kite Competition on Monday. Even if you’ve never flown a kite before, the event is open and instructors will be on hand. It’s an all-inclusive event organizers say will have everyone on cloud nine.

CAPE MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Classical and jazz music lovers will find much to love at the Cape May Music Festival, kicking off on Sunday and running through June 23.

The Atlantic Brass Band starts things off with a free outdoor performance Sunday night at 7. The lineup throughout the month-long festival includes the New Jersey Chamber Symphony Players, the New York Chamber Ensemble, the Bay Atlantic Symphony, a jazz brunch featuring musicians Mary Lou Newnam and Ray Mallach, and indie pop group BAILEN.

STONE HARBOR TURTLE TROT

If you need help coming out of your shell, you can join the runners taking part in the Stone Harbor Turtle Trot. The 23rd annual event includes a 5K run and 2-mile fun walk.

Organizers say the event, named for the diamondback terrapins crossing Stone Harbor’s roads, has become a Memorial Day weekend tradition for runners, families and beach enthusiasts. A

portion of the event proceeds goes to the Diamondback Terrapin Conservation Program at the Wetlands Institute.

This year, the run is part of the USA Track & Field New Jersey Grand Prix, so USATF runners can earn points toward their 2024 Grand Prix totals. Even if you aren't part of the Grand Prix, organizers promise a shell of a good time.

ATLANTIC CITY BEACH BALL DROP

Do you hear the blues a-calling? If you do, then organizers hope the Atlantic City Beach Ball Drop on Friday will chase them away.

It's part of an entire weekend of events on the Atlantic City boardwalk. There will be live entertainment on the boardwalk from noon until 5 p.m. on Friday, culminating in the Beach Ball Drop, with more than 5,000 beach balls dropped from a giant net for everyone to enjoy. If that isn't enough, "Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer will be on hand for the fun.

Barnes Foundation to host Miami-born Philadelphia artist whose work examines impact of communities

May 28, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Barnes Foundation is starting their summer programming with a bit of Miami heat. The museum will co-host a program featuring a Miami-born artist who has turned his focus to Philadelphia's communities of color.

Mark Thomas Gibson moved to Philly from Miami just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020. While there, his "This Life: Black Life in the Time of Now" exhibit — at the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora — garnered global recognition. Gibson now hopes to bring that same passion to Philly.

"Philadelphia is an amazing city as far as the Black community that exists in Philadelphia and the history of Philadelphia and its Black community," Gibson said. "I'm very proud to be in this space to think and conceive what could a space be like for African American artists."

With his upcoming "Artist Conversation" event at the Barnes on June 4, Gibson invites the public to come explore art's impact on Philly's Black community.

“As we move forward when thinking about 250 years of this country,” he asked, “what does that look like for Philadelphia as it develops?”

He also acknowledges how the voice of the art community can have a broad impact on city development, something he promises to address in his talk. “There’s so much construction and there are so many elements that come into play, financial elements in the city,” he said. “What does that mean?”

One thing Gibson has learned is how Philly’s tight-knit art community and communities of color are woven together.

“I’ve had to learn that this is a city of neighborhoods and sometimes just a city of blocks,” he said. “You don’t actually just get in. In Philadelphia, you have to live here and be in it with people.”

June

Black Music Month celebrations underway in Philadelphia

June 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Black Music Month kicks off this weekend with the Roots Picnic, hosted by Philly’s legendary Roots Crew, but if you didn’t get tickets, you can still keep the celebration going all month long at the African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Kenny Gamble, Ed Wright, and Dyana Williams came up with the idea of setting a month aside to celebrate Black music in 1979. On June 7 of that same year, President Jimmy Carter hosted a reception to “formally recognize the cultural and financial contributions of Black music,” according to the National Museum of African American Music.

Since then, the month has grown from small celebrations to national, with events right here in Philadelphia.

“The Philadelphia sound holds a very, very special place in the narrative of American music. And so we’re very fortunate to be in a city with such a musical history and background,” said Christopher Miller, executive vice president of the African American Museum of Philadelphia.

He says Black music has been at the cornerstone of nearly every music genre — “the origin of the banjo, for example, resides in the hands of those who were enslaved Africans. The original architects of rock ‘n’ roll reside with Black music. Think about jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, soul, funk, bebop, pop, hip hop, gospel and more.”

Miller says Philly’s signature lush, orchestral soul music gives the city a reputation that sets it apart, which you can learn about this month at the African American Museum in Center City, beginning a Rhythms of Liberation series on June 8 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

There, Miller says Black music will be showcased across different genres, helping to represent its wide-ranging characteristics.

“You’re able to have those various touchpoints from struggle to joy. And then also to have a consciousness about the social condition of America through the lens of the Black experience,” he said.

On June 19, there will be a Juneteenth Block Party with music and free admission to the museum. Registration prior to the event is encouraged.

‘Ripped out from under them’: UArts community rallies outside Hamilton Hall on school's last day of operations

June 7, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The University of the Arts is set to shut down on Friday, a week after officials shocked the school community and announced that the 150-year-old institution would close because of financial struggles.

Around 3 p.m. Friday, tears and final embraces came in abundance as students, faculty, and alumni rallied on and around the steps of Hamilton Hall, the main UArts building on South Broad Street.

Brenda Patzer, who was in her fourth year, training to become an actress, spoke at the rally.

“May those responsible for ripping so many futures away never know the gift of a clean conscience,” she said.

Faculty member Melanie Bilenker studied crafts at the university from 1996-2000.

“It just breaks my heart... Some of these kids were getting ready to do their thesis work in their final year and now it’s all ripped out from under them,” Bilenker said.

She says she came to Philly to go to the school and stayed like many others.

“People came, people stayed. They put down roots, they stayed... I did, my husband did, a ton of my friends did, and I worry about not having this as a source of the creative community in Philadelphia.”

Members of the school community said they have been left in the dark since the closure announcement was made on the night of May 31. Their questions were supposed to be addressed at a town hall meeting on Monday, but the university canceled it minutes before it was set to start because officials said they could not adequately answer them.

Since then, students have been camping out on the steps of Hamilton Hall, which is covered in signs and messages written in chalk. Many members of the school community said they first found out about the closure through news reports and social media posts. They then received an email from the university stating that it was in a “fragile financial state, with many years of declining enrollments, declining revenues, and increasing expenses.”

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) said it learned about the closure on May 29, and because UArts did not take the proper steps, it withdrew the university’s accreditation.

In the days after the closure announcement, UArts President Kerry Walk resigned and the board hired a management firm to lead the transition.

Stunned city and state officials want answers too. Philadelphia City Council voted on Thursday to hold hearings to investigate the closure. Co-sponsor of the resolution, Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, said City Council hopes to get the “answers UArts has failed to provide.” He said it is

particularly concerning that the abrupt closure comes just months after faculty and staff ratified union contracts, which took four years to negotiate.

The Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office is also looking into how the situation has been handled. A spokesperson said in a statement, "The Office of Attorney General has oversight authority regarding nonprofits, charitable entities, or institutions. We are very concerned by the sudden closure of University of the Arts, which has impacted students, staff, and the community. We are reviewing the circumstances of the closure and any transfer or loss of assets."

There is also a push to keep the school open. A petition is going around, and UArts alumni and parents committees set up saveuarts.org to share information.

A number of colleges and universities in the city, region, and elsewhere said they would welcome affected students by honoring credits and scholarships and providing counseling services to keep them on a path to graduate on time.

Sensory Coalition creates safe spaces for autistic youth through art

June 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Colleen Ott decided to start The Autistic Art Coalition of Philadelphia back in 2022 when she heard about an individual being bullied because they were autistic.

"I said heck no!" Ott recounted.

The coalition's various art groups incorporate things like drawing, watercolors, and even photography to build motor skills and more for autistic youth.

"I've been able to take all my lived experience and teaching I've done and put it all together and with the help of professionals," said Ott.

Ott said the outlet provided by The Autistic Art Coalition was much needed when it was founded after the worst of COVID in 2022.

“There was no art for individuals who are autistic, neurodivergent or who had intellectual disabilities because the pandemic wiped it all out,” she said.

Now, two years later, the end result is an equally diverse community where non-verbal and autistic youth who once felt like outsiders can now thrive together through expression.

“They can get out how they’re feeling, what is going on in what they’re thinking...communication,” said Ott.

2-Night Gallery at Plays & Players Theatre showcases work of those affected by UArts closure

June 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When Gigi LoVond first heard about the abrupt closure of University of the Arts, she cried over the memories it brought back.

“I was also an arts student — not of UArts, but I was an arts student, and my school also closed,” she said.

LoVond went to the Art Institute of Philadelphia, which shuttered in 2018.

“I understand how this could be just, totally dramatizing, and this was so spur of the moment,” she said. “There’s a lot of people who are very hurt and I felt as though that not only are the UArts students and staff hurt, but also the Philadelphia art community.”

Through that pain came inspiration.

On Friday and Saturday night at Plays & Players Theatre in Center City, some of the students, faculty, and alumni affected by the UArts closure will have a chance to show off their work.

Matt Madrigal, a sophomore film student at the university, is one of those people. On Friday, he showcased two paintings and a still from one of his short films.

“I was just very interested because it would be my first gallery and I would like to have some exposure with my art,” he said.

“The arts around here, I guess it’s just more alive... everybody’s so tight, like a community, and that’s what’s so special... Everyone’s willing to collaborate.”

Dare Oredipe also had work on display at the gallery.

His time at UArts spanned more than a decade, as he studied illustration before managing the school’s print shop.

“I found my way as an artist there at UArts... There’s just something that’s indispensable about being able to sit in a space surrounded by like-minded artists and also artists that have completely different minds to you,” he said.

Seven other artists also had work on display.

LoVond says the event is all about supporting displaced artists and showing them there is a path forward.

“You don’t have to graduate from arts school to be in a gallery or to be in a play,” she said.

EDUCATION

April

Pa. warns of scam soliciting SAT, ACT student prep materials to parents

April 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Parents, be cautious during student testing season. The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General is seeing more scams related to SAT and ACT prep.

According to Pennsylvania Attorney General Michelle Henry, scammers are contacting parents of kids who are expected to take the PSAT, SAT, or ACT and claiming to be associated with the College Board or another educational organization.

They trick the parent into confirming their student's name, address, school, test details, and other personal information before offering preparation materials. Then, they ask for a cash deposit, which they say will be refunded after the test materials are mailed back.

State prosecutors said they have received several reports of these scams. They urge parents to be cautious of anyone calling and asking for money of any kind, and not to give out personal information.

Prosecutors said the College Board will never ask for bank or credit card information over the phone or by email. Anyone who receives a call like this should report it to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.

Reports can be submitted by emailing scams@attorneygeneral.gov or calling 1-800-441-2555.

Philadelphia School District to end controversial practice of 'leveling' teachers this fall

April 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia says it will end the controversial practice of transferring teachers based on enrollment after the school year begins.

For years, the district has engaged in a practice known as "leveling" — moving teachers from school to school in October because actual enrollment didn't match up with projections.

Teachers, parents, and students agreed that leveling was disruptive because it took dozens of teachers away from students who just got to know them.

Effective in the fall of 2024, the district will end leveling, Superintendent Tony Watlington announced Tuesday.

“I’m pleased to announce that we will discontinue the process of leveling in the School District of Philadelphia and stop the process of moving teachers after the school year begins,” Watlington said in a YouTube video.

To pay for the additional teachers needed, the district plans to use \$8.8 million from central office cuts and energy savings, Watlington said. The cuts would not involve layoffs of current employees.

The decision to end leveling was made after hearing from students, parents, teachers and elected officials, Watlington said.

Philadelphia Federation of Teachers President Jerry Jordan hailed the move as “a sound one and a very welcome one.” Jordan, in a statement, said, “Every child in every school deserves a highly qualified, certified teacher from the first day of school. ... To know that the District recognizes and appreciates the importance of a stable staff is significant.”

Robin Cooper, president of the principals union, the Commonwealth Association of School Administrators, called the move “encouraging.”

“The key positive impact is that other schools will not be losing any teachers to schools with increasing enrollments, with the end result that all schools will remain or become whole,” she said in a statement.

Report: Camden students rebounding from pandemic learning loss

April 23, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Education experts say learning loss from the pandemic has affected children all over the world, with greater impacts felt in low-income neighborhoods. However, a recent report from a Camden nonprofit says students in the city are rebounding from pandemic learning loss, with improved numbers for the first time in a couple of years.

The Camden Education Fund's report shows a lot of progress for students, with recent state standardized test scores rebounding from post-pandemic levels. Camden schools were found to have narrowed the citywide and state proficiency gap in English language arts by five percentage points since 2015, from 36 to 31 — with a 20% proficiency rate in 2023.

Camden schools also narrowed the math proficiency gap between city and state by two points, with a 10% proficiency rate last year, up from 8% in 2022.

Executive director Giana Campbell says efforts to provide additional tutoring for the students that were the furthest behind has paid off.

“One of the big things we’ve learned since the pandemic is just how important those supports are, not only in the classroom but also outside of the classroom,” said Campbell.

“One of the other things that we’ve supported schools around and heard from schools is making sure that the type of curriculum and instruction that students are working on is rigorous and that we’re setting a high bar for our students.”

Campbell says there’s still and will always be hard work ahead, which is why she says one of the most important initiatives moving forward is to ensure Camden can hire and retain the very best teachers.

“We know that the number one indicator for student success is a great teacher,” she said.

According to Campbell, the fund would also like to see more programs and support offered to students outside of the classroom, “whether it be mental health supports, social-emotional learning, recreational opportunities to really nurture the whole child.”

CCP administration leaves bargaining table after students interrupt negotiations with faculty

April 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Students at Community College of Philadelphia interjected themselves into faculty contract negotiations Friday, causing the administration to leave the session.

About two dozen students crowded into CCP's boardroom to support the faculty union's contract proposal that students be given free SEPTA rides to classes. Frank Scales, president-elect of the student government, contended transportation affects student attendance, so it should be part of the teacher contract.

"We wanted to advocate for TransPasses and deal with that," he said. "The administration decided that they were not going to speak with students in the room."

In a statement to KYW Newsradio, the college said the union violated a written agreement for bargaining rules. The college says it has "a good offer on the table, to which the union has refused to respond."

Students plan to take their concerns to City Council and the May 2 CCP Board of Trustees meeting. It's unclear whether they'll continue to demand a seat at the bargaining table.

The AFT Local 2026 contract expires in August.

"One thing that's important to us is getting more funding from the city so that we can get the things that we need for our students to be successful," said AFT Local 2026 Treasurer Jamie Zigarelli. "And one of those things is public transportation. It's a common good issue."

May

New online portal aims to guide people considering careers in teaching

May 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — People considering a career as a teacher in Philadelphia now have a website to demystify the process.

It's another strategy to address the national teacher shortage. The newly-launched TeachPHL.org is a project of the Philadelphia Citywide Talent Coalition, run by the nonprofit Elevate 215.

The campaign is funded by a \$250,000 state grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. David Saenz, Elevate 215's communications director, says the new teacher hub simplifies the process of finding jobs at city district and charter schools.

"There are resources that exist specifically at the state level on how to navigate this process, but it is not necessarily user-friendly. If we help guide them along, then [TeachPHL.org] will hopefully provide the information they need in a digestible way," Saenz told KYW Newsradio.

"In order to make sure that the pipeline can not only be filled with more talented individuals — but also diverse individuals — we have to start thinking about different audiences to try to attract to teaching."

TeachPHL.org leads prospective teachers through their options, such as whether they're already certified in another state or if they want to be paid in a teacher residency program while they're seeking certification. The site aims to define a pathway for people who want to be teachers — whether they're already state-certified, or considering a new vocation.

For example, Saenz says the site provides information on residency programs. "If you're a career changer and you're doing something else and [say], 'Oh, I don't want to go back to school to become a teacher,' well, there are opportunities to be able to transition that without having to have a lapse in income," he said.

75-year-old ‘grandma’ named top building substitute teacher in the region

May 8, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — For some passing by her in the halls, Annie Gadson is a regular substitute teacher. To her students, she’s known affectionately as “grandma.” And now, she’s recognized as the best sub in the region.

The normally unflappable Gadson was floored on Tuesday at a surprise assembly at West Philly’s Paul Robeson High School, where she was honored as the most outstanding substitute teacher in the region.

Gadson is a building sub at Robeson, covering different classes and filling in when teachers aren’t available. She was a district teacher for 40 years and returned as a sub two years ago.

“I am in total shock,” said the 75-year-old. “I have never in my life received any type of award like this, so it’s very gratifying.”

The 2024 Impact Award is given by ESS, the staffing firm that manages substitute teachers. Joe Birmingham, vice president of Philadelphia operations for ESS, also presented Gadson with a prize: a check for \$1,000.

“Her flexibility and willingness to accept any challenge, any assignment — it just set her above any of the other great nominees that we had,” he said.

Filling substitute teacher jobs has been a challenge. Overall, ESS expects to fill 142,000 Philadelphia sub jobs this year — on pace to fill more than half of the total jobs available.

State audit commends Philadelphia School District’s oversight of charter schools but says there’s room for improvement

May 8, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia works in compliance with state law when it comes to authorizing, monitoring, and renewing charter schools, but there is room for improvement, according to a new state audit.

On Tuesday, the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General released its findings of an audit of Philly charter schools. State Auditor General Timothy DeFoor said there was “a lot of good news to share.”

“While the system is working, there are things that can be done better,” he said.

The audit recommends getting an external review of the district’s framework to evaluate charters, putting charter responses in renewal reports to increase transparency, and doing more frequent audits of charter admissions lotteries.

DeFoor said situations, like allegations that Franklin Towne Charter High School rigged its enrollment lottery to exclude minorities, could have been detected sooner.

At a Harrisburg news conference on Tuesday, Peng Chao, head of the district’s Charter Schools Office, said the audit confirms the district has a robust charter evaluation system.

“This system holds all charter schools to the same set of performance standards in order to foster high-quality educational options and improved outcomes for all of our students,” said Chao.

No system is perfect, Chao added, and his office will continue to learn and reassess its practices.

Pennridge School Board in Bucks County votes to institute a bathroom policy based on gender identity

May 14, 2024

PERKASIE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The Pennridge School District in Bucks County on Monday voted to retire its controversial Policy 720, which required students to use bathrooms that correspond to the sex indicated on their birth certificate.

The board had approved the policy just a year ago, but it would violate a revised Title IX regulation that blocks blanket policies preventing transgender students from using the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity.

The school board voted 5-4 to reverse the policy.

Before voting, board members heard from the community. Most people who spoke at the hearing did not want to see Policy 720 changed. Parent Dave Rice was among them.

"If this policy is removed in August, it will open the floodgates to many lawsuits by many district families," Rice said.

Pennridge High School graduate Matthew Carbonaro spoke out before the vote.

"This will be the tip of the iceberg. What's left — gender-neutral sports?"

The meeting was heated at times. Board members had to remind the crowd to stop interrupting when some attendees started heckling people who spoke in support of changing the policy.

A non-binary Class of 2019 graduate told board members there should be more single-use bathrooms, saying most queer and transgender kids prefer them because they're scared of harassment.

"We would just prefer to use the bathroom in peace."

Under the new policy, there will be single-occupancy bathrooms that can be used by all students.

Starting in August, the school district will provide separate bathrooms for students and faculty use depending on gender identity. They will be labeled for faculty only, for biological males, for biological females, for students who identify as male, and for students who identify as female.

June

These are the final days for one Philly charter whose founder decided to retire and close the school

June 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A longtime Philadelphia charter school is closing for good this month, leaving many parents asking why, while they try to find new schools for their children in September.

June 14 is the last day ever for classes at the Mathematics, Civics, and Sciences Charter School of Philadelphia. Since Veronica Joyner announced last October that the first- through 12th-grade school she founded would close when she retires at the end of this year, 900 families have been scrambling.

The School District of Philadelphia has been trying to help, says Peng Chao, who heads up its charter schools office.

"We actually recently — as recently as last week — held an event here, where we had a number of families come in — I think almost 100 families came in — to try to find new options for them, both district and charter."

Chao says many parents at Math, Civics, and Sciences don't know where their children will be going this fall.

"It's impossible to say precisely right now. What we do know is that there are a couple of hundred families that still don't have a definitive placement yet," Chao said.

But Joyner says most parents have secured placements, and she says they've thanked her for providing a charter school option over the years.

"They've been congratulating me for a job well done for 25 years — as a private citizen, seeing a problem and helping to resolve the problem."

But parent Kieyera Williams questions why Joyner sought to close the school, rather than allow someone else to run it. The school board gave the school a one-year, instead of a five-year, charter renewal.

"I think that is just wrong, honestly. I feel like she should at least leave it to somebody she trusted. This is a whole school. People have been going here for years."

Williams still hasn't found a new school for her second grader.

"I'm undecided because I still want him in a charter school and everywhere else is so far and is not giving me enough time to find him a school."

Joyner heads the nonprofit Parents United for Better Schools, which plans to sell the North Broad Street building where the school is housed.

“I think that I should be respected as a private citizen in Philadelphia for the hard work that I’ve done. I’ve provided diplomas to over 2,000 students,” Joyner said.

"I did something to help the community. I'm not obligated as a private citizen to continue a school that I've run very well for 25 years."

NJ Assembly committee advances bill that would prohibit book bans at public schools and libraries

June 7, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — New Jersey’s Assembly Education Committee heard several hours of testimony for and against an amended bill that would allow controversial books to remain on school and public library shelves. It would also prevent legal action against librarians.

Dozens of people shared their thoughts about the Freedom to Read Act, a bill that has undergone several changes since it was first introduced.

Those in favor say diverse voices and subjects shouldn’t be banned, and just because someone doesn’t like a book doesn’t mean they should have the power to prevent others from reading it.

“There are a lot of other books that help children in the LGBTQ community to become who they are, to help them understand they are not alone, that they are not abnormal, and that they have support,” one person testified.

People opposed to the legislation had various concerns, but the most common criticism was about books with obscene and even pornographic images. They argue removing those books isn’t book banning — it’s age-appropriate curation.

“No child, especially those struggling with their identity, should be led to explore sex and kink as a means for finding themselves,” said another individual.

Another controversial aspect of the bill is legal immunity for librarians and staff. Advocates say they shouldn't be targeted or punished for providing literature. Opponents argue nobody should be above the law.

One librarian urged lawmakers to vote for the bill because library staff should not face harassment for doing their jobs. "The harassment faced by myself and many in our profession have had severe mental and emotional repercussions."

The bill advanced committee 7-1. It is still far from becoming law, as legislators say there are more changes and amendments to debate at future hearings.

C-SPAN honors Philly students for short documentary on public school funding

June 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A six-minute video by three Science Leadership Academy students has earned an honorable mention in C-SPAN's 20th annual StudentCam documentary competition.

History teacher Michael Clapper says the entry, "Funding Our Future," from juniors El Palmer, Violet Brenner, and Clarisa Lanzas, examines inequities in public school funding from a student perspective.

"It's not just sort of the larger things that we read about — but trying to give the student experience of that," Clapper said.

Zach Lowe, a C-SPAN education resource specialist, visited SLA on Monday to honor the students for their work.

"They're going to be the next generation of leaders, the next generation of consumers of news and public affairs," Lowe said. "So we offered this opportunity called StudentCam to them to create documentaries and get through some of these very hot-button, very difficult topics."

SLA student Anna Berman also took third place for her video about disposable fashions: "Fast Fashion: A Race to the Bottom."

"Funding Our Future" presents images of run-down bathrooms in city schools juxtaposed with photos of bright, well-maintained hallways in the suburbs.

"We got a lot of footage from friends in suburban public schools. So we had an interesting experience of having our experience in an urban school versus a suburban school," said Brenner. "I think that having a public school kid's perspective on this is very important."

Palmer said making the video taught students to follow the money. "Because of the way that neighborhoods are taxed and things like that, I think we kind of just learned so much about all of the kind of money aspects that we didn't really know about before," Palmer told KYW Newsradio.

"We kind of learned how the history tied in. It was always imbalanced between suburban and urban public schools," Lanzas said. "I hope that getting the word out there and seeing people that can help us, it'll inspire them to make change."

More winners

Kaitlyn Hess and Charlize Ko, 11th graders from Conestoga High School in Berwyn, scored an honorable mention for their documentary "Change in America — The Public Education System."

And a trio of students from Central Bucks South High School were honored for their documentary.

Mayor Parker outlines extended-day program for 25 district, charter schools

June 27, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City officials have officially announced a pilot for year-round extended-day programs at 25 district and charter schools.

At first, the School District of Philadelphia said it would launch extended-day programs at 20 area schools. But Mayor Cherelle Parker announced at City Hall Thursday, that five charters were added to the list, bringing the total to 25.

Starting this fall, those schools – all elementary-level – would be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with academics, arts, and activities before and after the school day. Schools in the pilot would also be open during the spring and winter breaks and for six weeks in the summer.

But Mayor Parker wants to make it clear – while it may be her vision for the future, this does not mean classes will be in session literally all year round.

“It is not mandatory for students to participate,” she said. “We are not asking anything more of our incredibly hard-working educators.”

In a statement to KYW Newsradio, President-elect of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers Arthur Steinberg says its members were not consulted about this pilot, saying in part:

We have requested more information about the pilot and its potential impact on our members from Superintendent Watlington's administration. As we await communication from the District, we intend to have more information to share with our members in the very near future.

The mayor's education secretary said the program would not require changes to the teachers' contract. Superintendent Tony Watlington says the district is working with its unions.

“We are not going to burn out or overburden our hard-working, well-supported teachers,” he said.

Parker wouldn't get specific about the future of the program but assures the pilot is just phase one.

List of participating School District of Philadelphia Schools:

Vare-Washington Elementary School

Southwark Elementary School

Thomas G. Morton Elementary School

George Childs Elementary School

Add B Anderson Elementary School

Alain Locke Elementary School

Samuel Gompers Elementary School

Overbrook Educational Center

Richard R. Wright Elementary School
Edward Gideon Elementary School
Solomon Solis-Cohen Elementary School
John H. Webster Elementary School
Juniata Park Academy
William Cramp Elementary School
Thomas M. Peirce Elementary School
Joseph Pennell Elementary School
Franklin S. Edmonds Elementary School
Laura Carnell Elementary School
Louis Farrell Elementary School
Joseph Greenberg Elementary School

List of participating Charter Schools:

Belmont Charter School
Northwood Charter School
Pan American Charter School
Mastery Pickett (6-8 only)
Universal Creighton Charter School

ELECTIONS & POLITICS

April

City officials unveil first of 10 satellite election offices across Philadelphia

April 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A former Philadelphia election official who was the target of Donald Trump’s 2020 election campaign over false claims of voter fraud returned to Philadelphia Tuesday morning alongside other officials to welcome the city’s first permanent election site ahead of November’s general election.

The permanent satellite election office near North 40th and Market Streets in West Philadelphia is the first of 10 new sites. Mayor Cherelle Parker applauded the office at the grand opening on Tuesday. Officials said it will make voting more accessible, allowing residents to register to vote and request a mail-in ballot in person, receive it, complete it, and return it — all in one place.

Al Schmidt, former Philadelphia city commissioner and current secretary of the commonwealth, called it a big improvement to voter access. In 2020, Schmidt, a Republican, was the target of harassment by Trump supporters as he helped oversee the recount efforts in Philadelphia.

Trump called out Schmidt by name on Twitter at the time, falsely accusing him of voter fraud. As a result, Schmidt, his family, and his staff received death threats from Trump supporters.

No evidence of widespread voter fraud was ever discovered in Philadelphia.

Schmidt said the new permanent satellite offices offer a convenience for voters.

“You don’t have to go to City Hall if you want to apply in person for a mail-in ballot,” he said, “or if you want to register in person and you need that voter registration right away.”

Also during the 2020 election, two armed men were arrested outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center, where the ballot count was underway. District Attorney Larry Krasner said efforts to interfere with the 2024 election will not be tolerated.

“We are not putting up with people who think democracy is something for them to step on,” he said.

City officials have not yet revealed where the remaining election offices will be located.

Philadelphia House Delegation urges Pa. Senate to pass 3 gun laws

April 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — State representatives from Philadelphia gathered at City Hall Thursday to celebrate the passage of gun safety bills in the state House. The bills are likely to die in the state Senate, but even getting the bills through the House is something that hasn’t happened in years.

The chairman of the Philadelphia House Delegation, Morgan Cephas, boasted that the House had passed three gun safety bills: a red flag bill that would temporarily disarm people in crisis; background checks for all gun sale venues, including gun shows; and, last Friday, a bill outlawing ghost guns.

“We are all standing here together to call on the Pennsylvania Senate to take up the gun bills that we have sent to their chamber,” Cephas said.

That is a long shot, at best, but Cephas considers even getting this far as progress.

“It is a very historic moment to be able to do this because it has been decades — decades — since we have even been able to get a hearing about the way the guns that are flooding our communities need to be further regulated,” she said.

House Speaker Joanna McClinton said the lawmakers haven’t heard from Republicans, who control the Senate, but House Democrats will keep trying to work with them.

“That is to protect our law enforcement, that is to protect our children getting out of school, that is to change the narrative that politicians do nothing,” she added.

The Republican Senate majority leader has not said if the chamber would take up the bills but has said the state has “robust” gun laws on the books, which must be enforced.

Pa. GOP lawmakers call on Gov. Shapiro to return to zero-based budget plan he used as Montgomery County commissioner

April 10, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Republican leaders in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives called on Gov. Josh Shapiro to implement a budgeting plan he used while he was a Montgomery County commissioner — by praising him for doing such a good job with it.

York County Republican state Rep. Dawn Keefer said she introduced a zero-based budgeting bill for each of the past three legislative sessions. She noted that when she joined the state House in 2017, the budget was about \$32 billion, while this year's proposed budget would be around \$48 billion.

Keefer said zero-based budgeting requires every state agency to start from zero, then explain why they need each dollar they're asking for, rather than just asking for an increase in funding.

"The agencies determine what their core purpose and mission is," she said, "and then the agencies have to align each action with those core missions, assess what their needs are, their costs, and the efficacy of each program that they have."

Shapiro implemented zero-based budgeting while chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, according to Keefer.

"He started the budget year with a \$10 million hole that he had to cover and a \$49 million structural deficit. When he was done with his zero-based budgeting that he had implemented, he had a \$1.6 million reserve," she said.

Zero-based budgeting at the state level could be much more challenging, she said, especially in the current political environment. She said she understands why the governor didn't push for zero-based budgeting after he took office last year.

"This is a heavy lift, zero-based budgeting for somebody just starting out in the administration," said Keefer.

“But we're 14 months in and there's still been no action. In fact, there's just been the complete opposite. It's more spending, more growth — one of the greatest levels of spending growth that we've seen.”

Keefer's legislation is part of a package of GOP budget bills that Republican lawmakers have called “back to basics.”

Highlights from KYW's Democratic debate for Pa. attorney general

April 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The five candidates seeking the Democratic nomination in the Pennsylvania attorney general race met at KYW Newsradio's studios Wednesday for a live debate ahead of the primary election on Tuesday, April 23.

THE CANDIDATES

Joe Khan

Former US Attorney and Bucks County solicitor Joe Khan says he would use the “unique powers of the attorney general's office to create a housing justice unit.

“We all know that the housing crisis impacts every community in Pennsylvania, rural, urban, and suburban, and it requires someone that wants to be held accountable for what they do or don't do.”

Eugene DePasquale

Former Pennsylvania State Rep. and Auditor General Eugene DePasquale says, in addition to protecting voters' rights, he will “protect abortion rights, take on the crooks trying to scam our seniors every single day, and also be the environmental attorney general.

Jared Solomon

Northeast Philadelphia State Rep. Jared Solomon says he wants to get back to the roots of the Democratic party and “really take on those big corporations that are not trying to help people in our communities.”

Kier Bradford-Grey

Former head of the Philadelphia and Montgomery County public defenders offices Kier Bradford-Grey says she'll "give children a fighting chance to thrive."

"We're going to make sure that families have financial protections, and we're going to make sure that families have the opportunity to have health care access, whether that is physical health or mental health."

Jack Stollsteimer

The Delaware County District Attorney says he'll continue the work he's done in his current job.

"The most important fights I've made that I've got to be passionate about are wage theft and the work I've done in the City of Chester to stop the gun violence. I'm going to do that for every community in Pennsylvania."

KYW's Suburban Bureau Chief Jim Melwert and Community Impact reporter Racquel Williams hosted the debate, asking the candidates how they would address many issues in the state, including one of the most pressing ones: gun violence.

TACKLING GUN VIOLENCE

Each year 1,600 Pennsylvanians die from gun violence, and 3,000 more are injured, according to CeaseFirePA.

Williams asked the candidates what they would do to tackle this issue.

Stollsteimer reflected on his work as district attorney and federal prosecutor in Philadelphia, and a strategy called "focused deterrents."

"Bringing the community and police together, we focus on the one percent of people who commit 75 to 80% of the shootings and we offer them a carrot and a stick. They've taken us up on it — we've reduced the number of shootings by 72% over the last four years."

Solomon says he'll do what he's done in Northeast Philly.

“Protection from special interest driving money to the gun violence task force to get illegal ghost guns off of our street.”

He says an expanded view of safety is what Pennsylvania needs.

Khan said he would take the same approach he used 17 years ago as a federal prosecutor.

“By working with the community, we brought agencies together, we brought team members together, we intervened with arrest, and then we worked our way up the system to solve unsolved homicides and to shut down gun trafficking that was happening in the community.”

DePasquale wants to crack down on illegal gun dealers.

“We need to hold them punishable to the fullest extent of the law, but we also need to focus on suicide. Two-thirds of all firearm deaths in Pennsylvania are the result of suicide.”

Bradford-Grey, also wants to tackle illegal guns, saying they’re accessible by people who should not have them.

“I know what that looks like, and I know how to target that appropriately, so I will ensure that all of the sales will be legal and will follow the common sense gun laws on the books.”

SEPTA SAFETY

In December, Pennsylvania passed a law that gives a special prosecutor jurisdiction over crime on SEPTA. The Attorney General is tasked with appointing that position — the acting attorney general hasn't done so yet.

Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner contends the law is unconstitutional. He says it subverts the will of voters in the city.

Melwert asked the candidates if they think this law should be implemented. And, if so, will they appoint and oversee this position?

Khan feels this is a terrible policy.

“This was pushed by the same people that I pleaded with to let Philadelphia and other cities pass common sense gun laws. These are the same folks who refuse to provide SEPTA the funding it needs to have more police officers and to keep riders and workers safe, and it makes me outraged as someone who grew up in the city, who still has family in the city, to see the tragedies unfolding on SEPTA being used as political theater, and what I see as a stunt that does nothing to keep Philadelphia or anywhere else more safe.”

DePasquale thinks how the legislature approached it was wrong.

“I think there could have been a significantly better approach to someone that rode public transportation to go to school as a kid, it's important to me that we have public safety there. But there could have been a better approach. Having said that, if the courts say it is constitutional, I'll work with the district attorney and others to implement it as effectively as possible to make sure people riding SEPTA are protected and safe.”

Bradford-Grey says she wants real public safety in the city.

“I live in this city, and I don't want a facade of public safety. And I do agree that this is a facade — to have one special prosecutor come in and cherry-pick cases is not going to solve our problems here in Philadelphia. We need to make sure that police have the resources they need and make sure that the district attorney has the resources that they need and any attorney general that has resources to help improve the quality of investigations so that the convictions are final. That's where we need to be. And I'll work with any district attorney to bring resources to their investigation so that we can make sure that our decisions are credible.”

Solomon says he voted against Act 40 and feels this is a continuation of the effort to impeach the district attorney.

“That was unconstitutional. My caucus chose me to stand against that constant unconstitutional move. This is along the same lines. This is simply an attempt to silence the voices, the voters in Philadelphia. What we need to be doing is moving forward on the approach I'm taking in Northeast Philadelphia, and common sense gun reforms.”

Stollsteimer says SEPTA is critical to the economic health of our region and they need to do everything they can to keep people safe on it, including the workers.

“My dad was a SEPTA bus driver. So, for me, this is personal. I spent most of my childhood on that system. I don't think this is the smartest approach. If the legislature asked me my opinion, I would have said put more money to transit police — have a police officer on buses, platforms, and trains. But I will use the powers whatever the tools they give us in the toolbox to save SEPTA and to protect the people who ride that system.”

Despite several recent homicides, SEPTA says serious crime is down by 45% compared to the first quarter of 2023.

The candidates were also asked about their approaches to combating mass incarceration and the opioid crisis. Take a listen in the player below to hear their responses:

Attempts to organize a debate between the two candidates seeking the Republican nomination — York County District Attorney Dave Sunday and former federal prosecutor and Delaware County State Rep. Craig Williams —were unsuccessful. Sunday declined the invitation to participate.

May

Bill aimed at putting brakes on dangerous pop-up car rallies sails through Pa. Senate, with broad bipartisan support

May 1, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A bill that supporters say is aimed at “putting the brakes on illegal street racing” is on its way to the Pennsylvania House, after passing the State Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Bucks County Republican State Sen. Frank Farry’s bill would increase fines, impound participants’ vehicles, and punish organizers.

“People are organizing what they're calling ‘meetups’ in intersections and in parking lots and essentially taking them over, doing what older folks may call ‘donuts,’ which is now referred to as ‘drifting,’” Farry said.

“The organizers are taking to social media and announcing that these events will be taking place. And you know, but for the organization of them, these men and women would not be showing up with their fancy cars and doing what they're doing.”

Farry's bill would up the fine for a first offense to \$500. Repeat offenders could face a \$2,000 fine, prison time, and the impound of their cars.

"Numerous police officers have been injured in the process, being struck by vehicles. One of the drivers was actually shot and killed in Philadelphia after striking some troopers. They were injured in the process. So these dangerous precedents need some addressing statutorily."

Last June 18-year-old Anthony Allegrini Jr. was shot and killed by Pennsylvania State Police in Philadelphia after, officers say, he hit two law enforcement officials as he was fleeing a meet-up on I-95 near Penn's Landing. In 2022, two people were killed by a man fleeing a rally in Wildwood. That same year, there was a serious car crash by a driver who police say was trying to get away from a meet-up at the Willow Grove Mall.

The bill passed the Senate 49-1 with Philadelphia Democrat Nikil Saval the only vote against. It now heads to the Pennsylvania House.

Pennsylvania House passes bill to prevent stalking using remote devices

May 2, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a bill this week that would make it a crime to use remote tracking devices to stalk someone without their knowledge.

The legislation would amend Pennsylvania's stalking laws to include the use of devices like Apple AirTags to secretly follow someone.

AirTags are small, inexpensive transmitters designed to keep track of often misplaced items. In recent years, Apple has come under fire over the devices, including a class-action lawsuit filed in December. The suit alleges the tech company hasn't done enough to prevent stalkers from secretly using them. In March, a judge denied a motion from Apple to dismiss the litigation.

The bill comes from Allegheny County Democratic state Rep. Lindsay Powell.

“We need to stay vigilant about how new devices can be exploited by bad actors with criminal motives,” she said. “Too often, government is playing catchup when it comes to developing policies to minimize harm that new technologies can cause when applied beyond their intended use.”

Powell says 7.5 million Americans are victimized by stalking each year, with 80% of those victims being tracked by technology. Under her bill, it would be a third-degree misdemeanor to track someone without their knowledge, with some exceptions like parents or legal guardians and law enforcement.

“What is particularly striking about this report is that, on average, the fear that cyberstalking victims experience is often higher than it is for in person victims of stalking,” she said.

The bill passed the Pennsylvania House 199-1. It now heads to the state Senate, where there is a similar bill that carries harsher penalties. It’s not clear which one the Senate will choose to take up.

Pennsylvania to ban cell phone use while driving and require police to collect traffic stop data

May 10, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania will join the majority of states that ban motorists from handling a cell phone for almost any purpose while driving, as backers of the legislation hope to reduce distracted driving accidents and deaths after nearly two decades of pressing the measure.

Gov. Josh Shapiro's office said Thursday that the Democrat will sign the bill, 18 years after he first introduced a similar bill when he served in the state House of Representatives. The ban will take effect a year after he signs it, which is expected in the coming days.

The bill also includes a provision long-sought by the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus as a bulwark against racial profiling. That provision requires bigger police departments, as well as the Pennsylvania State Police, to collect and publicly report data on traffic stops, including a driver's race.

The bill passed both chambers of the state Legislature this week and will bring Pennsylvania into alignment with the law on motorists' cell phone use in every one of its neighboring states. Currently, Pennsylvania's restriction on cell phone use while driving applies only to texting.

Sen. Rosemary Brown, R-Monroe, had pushed for more than a decade to toughen Pennsylvania's restriction on cell phone use while driving. Its passage is a “monumental victory” for Pennsylvania that will protect drivers, prevent crashes, and save lives, Brown said in a statement.

Under the bill, police can ticket a driver who is handling their phone for almost any reason. Drivers can still use their phone to make phone calls or for other functions, such as listening to music, if they are using it hands-free with technology such as a docking station, Bluetooth, or speakers.

The ban applies to motorists sitting in traffic or stopped at a traffic light, but does not include a driver who has parked on the side of the road or another place where the vehicle can remain stopped safely.

Other exceptions include for navigational use or alerting emergency responders. A first offense is punishable by a \$50 fine and offenders who cause serious accidents could get more time in prison.

Shapiro called the bill “common sense.”

“I’ve met too many families that have an empty seat at the dinner table because of distracted driving. I’ve met too many people with injuries that they’re going to live with for the rest of their lives because they were hit by a distracted motorist,” Shapiro told WILK-FM radio in Pittston during an interview last month.

Crashes where a distracted driver was a contributing factor are down in Pennsylvania in the past decade, as crashes overall have declined, according to state data.

In some years, it was the second-leading cause of accidents. In 2022, it was the third-leading cause. That was behind the speed and improper turning, but ahead of drinking alcohol, careless passing, and tailgating.

Twenty-eight states already ban cell phone use while driving, according to information from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Meanwhile, at least 23 states have laws on collecting data on traffic stops, the group said.

Rep. Napoleon Nelson, D-Montgomery, the chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, said caucus members were concerned that police could abuse a broad new power to pull over motorists and target racial minorities.

Collecting traffic stop data is important for accountability, Nelson said.

“I think this will be a significant win for transparency and help to continue building trust between community members and those who are sworn to serve and protect,” Nelson said in an interview.

Rep. Donna Bullock, D-Philadelphia, who worked for several years to get the provision into law, called it a “big step for Pennsylvania.” The Pennsylvania State Police recently began voluntarily collecting and reporting traffic stop data and some municipal police departments do as well, Bullock said.

But the methods of individual departments aren't uniform, like they will be under the new law, Bullock said.

Data released last year by the state police and analyzed by the National Policing Institute showed no disparities between racial and ethnic groups for warnings, citations, or arrests. But troopers were more than twice more likely to search Black and Hispanic drivers than white drivers, the report showed.

Under the forthcoming law, data that police must report includes the reason for the stop, details from a search of the vehicle, and the race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the driver who was stopped. Police forces that serve municipalities under 5,000 people are exempt from the requirement.

The data collection requirement takes effect in a year and a half. After the cell phone ban takes effect, drivers get a grace period of another year in which they only receive a written warning for violating it.

Where do older Pennsylvania voters stand ahead of the 2024 election?

May 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A recent poll from AARP Pennsylvania identified some of the core issues driving the decisions of voters 50 and older at the polls in 2024, and they're all economic concerns.

As a community that lives mostly on a fixed income, Bill Johnston Walsh, state director of AARP said top concerns revolved around preserving social security, taxes, and Medicare access.

“They have been about the bread and butter issues of utilities, you know, can I pay for my water, my electricity, my heat? Can I put food on the table? Can I afford my prescription drugs?” he said.

By the numbers, 80% of those surveyed said social security preservation was top of mind, and 73% said some sort of healthcare concern like Medicare access and affordability of prescription drugs, doctor's visits and hospitalizations were vital.

Housing was also a priority.

“They've raised their families in their homes, they want to be able to stay there,” said Johnston Walsh. “And they really want to see some policies out there, to be able to afford their taxes to stay in their home, or the upkeep of their home.”

As the voter group that statistically turns out the most for elections, they will have a big say in who gets Pennsylvania's electoral votes. And given the state's swing status, they could go a long way in determining who wins the White House.

June

Andy Kim destroyed the county line ballot, but Tuesday's primary results showed it wasn't everything

June 5, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — This primary election, at least on the Democratic side, was thought by some to be a referendum on the much-maligned county line ballot structure.

A lot of the headlines leading up to this primary focused on Andy Kim's legal battle against party organizations in the state, who were backing Tammy Murphy until she dropped out. There were many progressives who were thrilled about that federal ruling, but it didn't translate to success at the polls for them against Democratic machine candidates.

Micah Rasmussen from Rider University's Rebovich Institute said party-backed candidates won all over the state, including Herb Conaway in the 3rd Congressional District by a two-to-one margin.

Conaway, like other candidates in other parts of the state, had name recognition in his community along with the money and resources to win handily. Rasmussen said all three will continue to be big factors in determining who will win elections in the state with or without the county line.

"Parties want to win elections, and they've gotten good at figuring out, they know their districts best. They know their blocks by blocks best. And it turns out they have a pretty good idea of who's going to sell and who's not going to sell," he said. "They didn't miss a beat. They figured out what they had to do in place of the county line."

Turnout for the primary was around 15% statewide, with about half of those votes coming from mail-in ballots and early in-person voting.

City Council passes over 100 bills and resolutions, gives final approval to \$6.37B budget June 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City Council gave final approval to next year's city budget Thursday and passed more than 100 bills and resolutions.

The \$6.37 billion budget takes effect July 1. It includes money to hire 400 new police officers, conduct citywide street cleaning, and pilot twice-a-week trash collection, among other initiatives.

Council President Kenyatta Johnson says it was a win for both Mayor Cherelle Parker and City Council.

“My colleagues all voted unanimously to pass the budget because it was a budget that also prioritized issues and concerns of City Council, so I believe it was a good negotiation process,” he said.

Among the scores of other bills, council approved speed cameras on Broad Street, curfews in several commercial corridors, standards for electric vehicle chargers, zoning for two new public health centers, and new training requirements for eviction officers.

One controversial measure will prohibit city departments from entering into emergency contracts rather than asking for bids when services are needed immediately. Several council members expressed reservations but only two voted no.

There was also a cut in funding for the city’s Labor Department, which enforces worker protections. A large contingent of public speakers denounced this.

“Whatever kind of political stuff happens in this building, to leave these women on the cutting room floor is absolutely unacceptable and disgraceful. These women deserve so much more respect than the budget you’re about to pass,” said Nicole Kligerman who helped found the Domestic Workers Alliance.

Council won’t meet again until September.

Parker signs 3 public safety bills into law

June 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Mayor Cherelle Parker signed three bills into law Tuesday that she says are widely different, but will improve safety in the city.

“All of these bills, in their own ways, Philadelphia, work to do what I committed to doing for you, and that is making your public health and safety our number one priority,” she said.

One bill bans the production, sale, transfer, or possession of bump stocks, used to increase the amount of bullets a gun can fire.

“Back in March, do you remember this shooting where we had eight young people shot? Guess what was attached to that glock,” Public Safety Director Adam Geer said.

A recent Supreme Court ruling overturned the federal ban on bump stocks, but officials said it would not apply to this bill, as it was passed by a legislative body.

A second bill authorizes speed cameras on Broad Street to reduce crashes. It's an expansion of the bill that allowed speed cameras on Roosevelt Boulevard in 2020.

Executive Director Rich Lazer is studying where the cameras will go.

"This is governed by the data," Lazer said. "We look at the data, we look at the crash data, and we make the decisions on where we will save people's lives and that's what these cameras do."

Data from the Bicycle Coalition found that four of the six highest crash intersections in the city are on Broad Street — 90% of crashes involve a speeding driver.

The third bill puts new training requirements on people who carry out evictions. It's named for Angel Davis, who was critically injured last year when a contractor shot her during an eviction. A few months later, a Port Richmond woman was shot in the leg by a contractor appointed by the court to evict her.

Davis was present for the bill signing Tuesday but said the real victory will come when the city starts enforcing it.

"I need it to really take place for real great change, not just for show," Davis said.

A closer look at what's in New Jersey's proposed \$56.6 billion budget, from taxes to spending

June 28, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey lawmakers are poised to send a \$56.6 billion fiscal year 2025 budget to Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy this week, hiking taxes on high-earning businesses and funding for many state services and programs.

The annual spending plan is expected to get enough votes in the Democrat-led Legislature on Friday to reach Murphy's desk. The state constitution requires a balanced budget to be enacted by July 1.

Here's a closer look at what's in the budget, which would spend 4.2% more than the plan Murphy signed last year.

ARE THERE ANY NEW TAXES?

Yes. The budget calls for increasing the state's corporation business tax on companies that make more than \$10 million a year. The current 9% rate would climb to 11.5%. Business groups say that would give New Jersey the nation's highest tax rate and punish the state's best corporate citizens.

WHY ARE TAXES GOING UP?

The higher rate was first proposed by Murphy as part of his budget proposal early this year to help New Jersey Transit. He's billing the levy as a corporate transit fee to help the beleaguered agency, which has regularly had to use capital funds to help finance projects.

Critics note that the revenue won't go to transit until next year. The current budget keeps it in the general fund, so when the money goes to transit next year, whatever is being paid for now out of the general would need to be replenished or cut, those critics say.

ARE THERE OTHER TAX CHANGES?

Yes. The budget calls for ending a sales tax holiday on school supplies that had gone into effect around the start of the academic year. That cut was first introduced in 2022 when the Democrats who control state government aimed to show voters they were making the state more affordable. Lawmakers didn't explain this cut when they unveiled the budget Wednesday, but the additional revenue could help balance the budget.

WHAT ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES?

New Jersey has among the nation's highest property taxes, levied by local governments to finance services and schools. The state dedicates some income tax revenue to fund local governments, which helps keep property tax rates from growing even higher. This budget calls for increasing state K-12 funding to fully implement an aid formula ratified by the state Supreme Court, raising such aid to more than \$11 billion, up nearly \$1 billion from the current fiscal year. The budget also has about \$2.5 billion for direct property tax relief, and continuing programs

introduced in 2022 and 2023 to help residents, renters, and seniors. The average property tax amount in 2022, which is the most recently available information, is about \$9,500, according to the state.

WHAT ELSE IS IN THE BUDGET?

Quite a bit, given it funds all aspects of state government, from the executive departments to public colleges and universities, to the Legislature itself, which this year passed a 67% pay raise for lawmakers, their first since 2002, which goes into effect in 2026. Overall, spending is up just over 4% compared with the current fiscal year budget.

It includes a number of expenditures — sometimes referred to as Christmas tree line items because they're viewed as gifts for specific constituencies. They include funding for ending homelessness, helping people re-enter society from prison, fire departments, arts programs, and one city's effort to teach life skills through tennis.

Republican lawmakers said they barely had time to review the budget and lamented that they weren't sure what all was in it. Even Democratic Senate Budget Committee Chairman Paul Sarlo said the document is too vast to read line by line, but he supports it overall.

"I could not take a test and be quizzed on every line item because it would take hours and hours and days and months," Sarlo said. "I try to look at it in totality and that's where I think we're at."

GUN CRIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

April

Shots fired near a mass gathering of juveniles off of Temple's campus, police say April 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police chased after two suspects and are still looking for a third after gunshots were fired near Temple University's main campus Sunday night, blocks away from where dozens of young people had gathered on the street.

The shooting occurred in the area of 16th and Sydenham streets around 7 p.m., police said. No one was hurt. Temple police arrested one of the suspects at 1700 Liacouras Walk and the other at 12th and Jefferson Streets, according to the Temple University Police Association.

Investigators recovered one gun. Officers are trying to locate a third suspected shooter who was wearing a pink hooded sweatshirt and a skullcap, the police union said.

Simultaneously, police were monitoring a large crowd of about 60 juveniles at the corner of Broad Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue. The police union said these types of large gatherings are happening more and more often, and not enough is being done to address the problem.

On March 26, the university issued an alert telling students to stay away from 1400 North Broad Street because of a gathering of 100 to 200 "unruly juveniles." As police closed down the nearby intersection to traffic and tried to disperse the crowd, a juvenile threw a brick toward Philly police, Temple officials said.

There were several arrests. No one was injured.

Lawsuit settled: 2 top US gun parts makers agree to temporarily halt sales in Philadelphia April 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (AP/ KYW Newsradio) — Two of America's leading gun parts manufacturers have agreed to temporarily halt sales of their products in Philadelphia and elsewhere in

Pennsylvania, city officials said Thursday, announcing a settlement of their lawsuit against the companies.

Philadelphia filed suit against Polymer80 and JSD Supply in July, accusing the manufacturers of perpetuating gun violence in the city by manufacturing and selling untraceable, self-manufactured weapons commonly known as “ghost guns.” The suit came under a broader legal effort to restrict where manufacturers can market their assemble-at-home guns.

David Pucino, legal director of Giffords Law Center, which represented the city, accused Polymer80 and JSD Supply of “reckless business practices ... that threatened public safety.”

“The gun industry must be held accountable when it breaks the law and endangers Americans,” he said in a statement.

Under the settlement, JSD Supply, based in Butler, Pennsylvania, agreed it would no longer sell its products in the state for four years, city officials said. JSD-owned Eagle Shows, which bills itself as Pennsylvania's largest gun show, will be required to prohibit vendors from selling such gun parts for two years.

Dayton, Nevada-based Polymer80 agreed to a four-year ban on sales to customers in Philadelphia and the nearby counties of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton, which include the cities of Allentown, Easton, Reading and Lancaster. Additionally, Polymer80 agreed to pay \$1.3 million, which Philadelphia officials said will fund efforts to address gun violence.

The settlement was expected to be filed with the court on Friday. Messages were left at both companies seeking comment on the agreement.

“In general, we’re going to be talking about a period of years where these companies are not going to be able to sell these dangerous products in ways that are going to affect Philadelphians,” said Pucino.

“These weapons have ended up in the hands of our youth and individuals who are not otherwise permitted to possess a firearm, and the consequences in our communities have been devastating,” Renee Garcia, Philadelphia's city solicitor, added in a statement.

Ghost guns, which can be purchased without a background check and assembled at home, have become the weapon of choice for children, criminals, and others who cannot lawfully own a gun, according to city officials.

They have been used in a staggering number of shootings in recent years. Between 2019 and 2022, police recorded a fourfold increase in the number of ghost guns that had been used to commit crimes, according to the city's lawsuit. In 2022, city police seized 575 of the guns.

Last July, a gunman armed with an AR-15-style weapon and a handgun — both self-manufactured — went on a shooting spree that killed five people in Kingessing.

Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker, announcing the settlement at a news conference to discuss her first 100 days in office, said Polymer80 and JSD produced 90% of the ghost guns recovered in the city,

“We needed to find a way to hold them accountable for their role in supplying the crime gun market, and perpetuating gun violence,” she said.

In February, Polymer80 agreed to stop selling its firearms to Maryland residents under a settlement with the city of Baltimore.

Last month, a federal judge permanently banned a Florida gun retailer from selling or delivering certain gun parts in New York that officials say could be used to assemble untraceable ghost guns and sold without background checks.

18-year-old fatally shot on Delaware State University’s campus

April 21, 2024

DOVER, Del. (KYW Newsradio) — Police are investigating a shooting on the campus of Delaware State University that left an 18-year-old woman dead. She was not a student at the school, officials said. In response to the incident, the university closed the campus for visitors on Sunday and canceled classes on Monday.

Dover police were called to the campus around 2 a.m. Sunday in the area of one of the residential buildings, Warren-Franklin Hall. The victim had been shot in the upper body, police said. She was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

The victim was later identified as Camay Mitchell DeSilva, of Wilmington. Officials said she was visiting the school.

“Although she was not one of our students, she was a daughter, a beloved family member, and a friend; and, senselessly, her life was cut short. We should pray for better days and pray for the safety and well-being of our campus as a whole,” Dr. Tony Allen, Delaware State University president, said in a message to the school community.

Police and university officials have not gone into detail about the circumstances leading up to the shooting. It’s not exactly clear who was involved. Allen, in his statement, said the “assailants fled,” and he asked that students, staff and anyone who may have information about the incident call police.

“An event that affects the safety of one of us affects all of us,” Allen stated. “That means each of us is responsible for holding one another accountable, saying so when something does not seem, sound, or look right, and denying wrongdoing in all its forms, no matter the person or the circumstance.”

Monday classes have been canceled. Counseling services are available for students.

Allen said the university would share any available updates at a scheduled forum on Tuesday for students, parents, and faculty.

76-year-old arrested, facing charges for fatally shooting wife and daughter inside Chester County home

April 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A 76-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection to the fatal shooting of his wife and daughter inside their Chester County home Thursday night.

Police say around 6:15 p.m. troopers were dispatched to the 200 block of Wiltshire Drive following a report of a shooting. Inside, they found Roger Hanks’ wife and daughter unresponsive on the ground with gunshot wounds.

“The defendant senselessly shot and killed his family because of a basic dispute,” said District Attorney Christopher L. de Barrena-Sarobe. “It is unfathomable that anyone would react this way.”

Hanks is being held at Chester County Prison without bail. He’s charged with two counts of first-degree murder and other related charges.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 8.

May

Philadelphia man charged with straw purchasing 31 guns, soliciting a failed murder-for-hire plot

May 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A Philadelphia man is facing charges after he allegedly made nearly three dozen illegal gun transactions and solicited a failed murder-for-hire plot, the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General said.

Richard Taylor, 31, was charged with making at least 31 straw purchases, as well as criminal solicitation of homicide, among related offenses.

Officials said at least 12 of the 31 guns were recovered by Philadelphia police officers — nine of them during different arrests. Fourteen guns purchased by Taylor remain unaccounted for.

Taylor purchased the firearms at gun shops and online, prosecutors said, and he bragged to others that he could buy them as many firearms as they wanted, as he did not have a criminal record. A straw purchase is the act of buying a gun for someone who is legally prohibited from possessing one.

Then last month, investigators said Taylor tried to hire a person to kill someone. He offered the hitman \$200 and a Glock handgun. The plot was foiled, though, and the intended target was not harmed.

Taylor was arrested on April 26 after a straw purchase at Frank’s Gun Shop in Philadelphia.

His bail is set at 10% of \$5 million.

Gov. Shapiro proposes \$37.5M increase to state program aimed at curbing gun violence
May 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Standing on a soccer field in West Kensington Friday, Jim Hardy said there were times when being a Philadelphia teacher broke his heart.

"The summer of 2009, one of my students, Eric Dixon, was killed by another one of my students," he said.

He then started the Kensington Soccer Club to give young people a productive outlet.

"When it comes down to it, we all know what our youth desperately need. Our youth are dying for guidance," he said.

Last year, the club received a \$400,000 grant from the state's Violence Intervention and Prevention program. Gov. Josh Shapiro said that with a \$14 billion surplus, the state can afford to spend more on efforts like the VIP program. He joined Hardy and elected officials Friday in promoting a \$37.5 million increase in the program as part of his budget proposal.

He said reducing gun violence requires more than investing in law enforcement.

"It is an important part, but it is not enough. We have to make sure that our young people have hope in their lives," Shapiro said.

"This is a moment in our community where we have to think about budgets not just as dollars and cents, but as statements of our priorities and principles."

1 juvenile dead, another injured in Collingdale shooting
May 18, 2024

COLLINGDALE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Two juveniles were shot late Friday afternoon in Delaware County — one, fatally.

Collingdale police were dispatched to the 100 block of Lafayette Avenue just before 4:30 p.m.

When they arrived at the scene, they found one juvenile suffering from a gunshot wound to the stomach and another suffering from a gunshot wound to the foot.

Both were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. Officials say the juvenile who was shot in the stomach later died.

What led to the shooting is not yet known but an investigation is underway.

Police ask if you have any information on this incident to call 610-586-0502.

Man robbed, fired gunshots at off-duty Philly cop, police say

May 31, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia police are looking for a man who robbed an off-duty police officer in Kensington early Thursday morning and fired gunshots at him.

The officer only suffered minor injuries — possibly a graze wound to the shin — and was treated and released from the hospital, officials said.

It happened around 5 a.m. on East Westmoreland Street, near Frankford Avenue.

Police said the off-duty cop was standing by his white Tesla when a man with a gun approached him. The officer gave up his belongings and ran west toward Amber Street. Police said the robber ran after him and fired a few shots, so the cop took his gun out and shot back.

The officer is with the 16th District and is a seven-year veteran of the police force. Because he used his weapon, the officer has been moved to administrative duty while officials investigate the incident, as is police protocol.

Police are not sure if the robber was hit. They said he fled in a gray Chrysler 300 south on Collins Avenue, toward Allegheny Avenue.

Anyone with information is asked to call police. To submit a tip, call or text 215-686-8477, or submit a tip anonymously online.

June

String of weekend shootings in Philadelphia leads to at least 2 dead, several critically injured

June 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police are investigating a series of shootings on Saturday that led to at least two deaths and left several people in critical condition.

Hunting Park

A double shooting in the early hours of Saturday in Hunting Park put two men, ages 20 and 31, in the hospital in critical condition. It happened on Bristol Street near its intersection with Seventh Street, four blocks from Hunting Park Avenue.

The 20-year-old was shot throughout the body, and the 31-year-old was shot once in the left hip. Both were transported to Temple University Hospital.

No arrests have been made, and no weapons were recovered at this time.

Powelton

In another double shooting, around 1 a.m. in the West Philadelphia neighborhood of Powelton, a woman was shot in the head and a 26-year-old man was shot in the right ankle. The woman's age was not disclosed.

It happened on North Preston Street, between Wallace Street and Haverford Avenue.

Both were rushed to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, where the woman is in critical condition and the man is in stable condition.

No arrests have been made and no weapons are recovered at this time.

Cobbs Creek

Four people were shot, one of them killed, at 58th Street and Baltimore Avenue in Southwest Philadelphia, just after 10:30 p.m., according to police.

Two men and two women were taken to the hospital. A 23-year-old man was pronounced dead less than an hour later. Authorities say the others were shot in their extremities and are expected to recover.

"There is a crime scene in front of a store at 58th and Baltimore, where apparently some of the gunshot victims attempted to run into for help after they were shot," said Inspector D.F. Pace. "And we did find at least five spent shell casings on the 900 block of South 58th Street."

None of the victims has been identified yet, but officials believe they were all in their early 20s.

No arrests have been made, and police have not said if they know what motivated the shooting.

Elmwood Park

An apparent road rage incident in Southwest Philadelphia about a half-hour later led to three people being shot, one of them fatally.

Police say it happened shortly after 11 p.m. at 62nd Street and Grays Avenue.

A 21-year-old man was pronounced dead soon after the shooting. A 22-year-old victim is fighting for his life in the hospital. The third victim, also 22, is listed in stable condition.

"Appears a blue SUV, a Ford SUV, struck a white Jeep SUV and, rather than exchanging information, civilly, it appears that the parties in both vehicles began arguing with each other," said Inspector D.F. Pace. "Arguing turned into threats. And it appears that parties from both vehicles were in possession of guns. And at some point, at least one of those people began firing at others."

One person involved in the shooting went to police headquarters to report what happened and is now in custody. Officials are investigating to determine who was the instigator and what exactly caused them to fire the shots.

Philadelphia police tout reduction in crime ahead of summer, when gun violence is often notably high

June 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel is cautiously optimistic as crime trends down across the city. So far this year, crime has drastically dropped — with the biggest drop in homicides and shootings since the pandemic’s all-time highs.

Shootings are down 40% and homicides are down about 38%.

“Our rapes are down significantly. Our robberies are down significantly. Our auto thefts are down almost 37%,” Bethel said.

He credits some of the initiatives that were implemented under former interim commissioner and now Deputy Commissioner John Stanford, such as increased patrols in violent areas like the 22nd District, which makes up the core of North Philadelphia.

He said there has been a significant level of crime reduction in that area: 64% down in violent crime and 40% down in shootings.

“We are happy with the direction we are going, but it is very, very early in the process,” Bethel noted. “We are only six months [in]. The summer has not started yet. We still have a long way to go in turning the tide.”

The warmer months historically bring more gun violence. The police department is working on more strategies, but for now, officials are concentrating on violence that typically trends higher.

“You will start to see some additional foot beats,” Bethel added. “We have an academy class graduating very shortly and so we’re going to continue to press.”

Hatboro barbershop owner shot, killed upstairs neighbor amid ongoing dispute, police say
June 10, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A barbershop owner shot and killed a man who lived above his business in Hatboro, Montgomery County, police said.

It happened around 6 p.m. Saturday outside Razor Reese's Salon and Spa on North York Road, near Summit Avenue.

Police said the salon owner, 41-year-old Maurice Byrd, called 911 to report that a man who lived above the salon, 37-year-old Stephen Strassburg, was harassing him. The 911 dispatcher then heard five gunshots, a pause, and two more gunshots.

Police arrived and found Strassburg in the parking lot with multiple gunshot wounds. They found a handgun registered to Byrd, who has a permit to carry. Investigators said Strassburg did not have a weapon.

Officials said there was an ongoing dispute between the two men.

Police arrested Byrd. He is charged with first-degree murder.

PA pediatricians hold webinar on child gun safety after gun violence declared a public health emergency
June 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With the U.S. Surgeon General declaring gun violence a public health crisis this week, the Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics hosted an online community forum on strategies to prevent child firearm injury and suicide.

The CDC says hundreds of young children in the U.S. have been killed while playing with guns over the last two decades. The majority of the deaths are due to guns being kept unlocked and loaded.

Doctors with the Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics stressed the importance of gun locks, gun ownership training, and how to become an advocate for public policy to prevent unintentional injury and suicide by firearm among children.

Dr. Vivek Ashok, a pediatrician at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, said education must be paired with proper preventative safety measures.

"Children are curious, they are impulsive, they are in a stage of development, in which education needs to be supplemented by prevention of access through secure firearm storage and other lethal means of safety," he said.

Ashok went on to say that just like discussing the importance of bicycle helmets or vaccines with patients and their families, gun safety is also brought up.

"The goal of a harm reduction approach is really to ally with the family and patients to identify an achievable action against firearm related harm, but considering patient concerns, preferences, structural inequities, and other relevant factors," he said.

The Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics routinely holds webinars to educate parents, professionals, legislators, media, and the public about the needs of children, families, and communities.

ECONOMY

April

Made in America Music Festival calls off 2024 edition

April 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — For the second consecutive year, there will be no Made in America music festival in Philadelphia.

In a statement on the event website, organizers say they're "reimagining a live music experience that affirms our love and dedication to music and the work we do."

The annual festival was founded in 2012 by rapper and entrepreneur Shawn "Jay Z" Carter and usually takes place during Labor Day weekend on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Last year's festival was canceled just weeks beforehand. While no cause was given, speculation from fans ranged from controversy surrounding headliner Lizzo to high ticket prices and low sales. Organizers, however, say their efforts to make the event accessible included affordable ticket pricing.

No artists were announced for this year's event before it was called off. In its statement, the Made in America team promised "an exciting return to the festival." A date for that return was not given.

How much can Philly wrestle from Mania Week wallets? Temple economist smacks down promise of windfall

April 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — WrestleMania is coming to Philadelphia for the first time in a quarter-century, but an economic expert does not expect the event to bring in much stone-cold cash for the city.

When Mania Week's main-event matches light up Lincoln Financial Field in South Philadelphia this weekend, the entertainment value to fans will be over-the-top, but the monetary value to the host city will be ... more subtle, says Dr. Michael Leeds, who studies applied microeconomics at Temple University.

WrestleMania: Everything you need to know this week

“You have to take into consideration only the new money that is spent — money that is spent by people in Philadelphia that would not have been spent in Philadelphia had this not taken place,” Leeds said.

He calls WrestleMania “a once-every-couple-of-decades event that’s basically going to have zero lasting impact on tourism in the city.”

Reports from WWE estimating that WrestleMania generated hundreds of millions of dollars for cities like Los Angeles and Dallas are overstated, Leeds says.

“You have to make some fairly strong assumptions to get the dollar figure they are talking about.”

Leeds says the Dallas study assumed each fan who went to WrestleMania or a related or supplemental event spent \$1,300 restaurants and lodging.

“If people are going, from the city, that \$1,300 gets reduced to zero,” he said. “If they’re coming from the surrounding counties, that number gets reduced — maybe not to zero, but to a much smaller number.”

He says most WrestleMania visitors are focused on official WWE events: “You’re going to see them going to the WrestleMania events — not going to the Liberty Bell, not going to the zoo.”

Leeds says even though he doesn’t expect the event to drive economic growth, some things can’t be measured.

“If it makes people in Philadelphia feel better about themselves and feel happy — that’s great — but we don’t have to pretend that it’s going to be a driver of economic growth in the city.”

Philly to be 'Open for Business' under Parker's new executive order

April 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When Irene Grant decided to open a small business on Girard Avenue, she was flummoxed by the various permit, license, and clearance requirements.

“I had to run here to get that, I had to run there to get that, then I had to go back to the same man that told me to go over there. It was crazy,” she said.

Mayor Cherelle Parker hopes to eliminate that sort of run-around with the Open for Business Executive Order she signed Monday. It creates a “one-stop shop” for opening, operating, and expanding a business in Philadelphia.

Commerce Director Alba Martinez says their office analyzed what it takes to open a business in Philadelphia and inventoried 96 permits, licenses, certifications, and registrations that the city requires for 53 different business types.

She says large restaurants must go through 26 steps just to open and operate.

Martinez says the mayor’s Business Action Team — formerly the Office of Business Services, renamed and refocused in Monday’s executive order — is assessing how to reduce steps, accelerate those that remain, improve payment systems, and provide assistance for businesses. Reducing red tape for food businesses is the first project.

“When businesses succeed, we succeed, and we want to be here every step to assist,” Martinez said.

Parker says they are committed to “elevating efficient government services that are streamlined, user friendly, and accessible.”

It will be a busy summer at the Jersey Shore, but there are rentals still available

April 18, 2024

SEA ISLE CITY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Many points at the Jersey Shore are expecting another busy summer this year. Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City director of community services, said it could be even busier than last year.

"There's a little lull between Memorial Day and when school lets out. But after that mid-mark in June, when colleges and high schools and grammar schools are all out, and people are starting to take their summer vacations. That's when we really see things ramp up," she said.

Ahead of the busy season, rentals are still available at all shore points. Sea Isle properties range from about \$2,000 to \$12,000 per week. How much visitors pay depends on where they stay. The condominiums usually run cheaper than the luxury beachfront properties.

If a summer trip is not in the cards, Custer said going in the spring and fall are also good times to go.

"The weather is ideal," she said. "It's not as hot, it's not as crowded."

The largest attraction of the year in Sea Isle is over Father's Day weekend when a vendor's market comes to town followed by an antique auto show.

May

Construction along Route 70 in Camden County continues to pose a challenge for local businesses

May 6, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Linda's Bras and Swimwear has been in business for more than 30 years, with a location along Route 70 in Camden County for about two and a half years.

This is her busiest time of year, but with detours, lane shifts, and road closures making it difficult to navigate the area, customers are less inclined to come in.

To get to Linda's Bras and Swimwear, drivers have to pull off the roadway and onto dirt before slowly pulling into her parking lot.

“It's hard. A lot of people tell me they want to come in, but they don't want to come down Route 70,” said owner Linda Becker.

Crews have been repairing stretches of Route 70 since 2021. It's part of a \$153 million corridor safety and improvement project that will improve gas and water mains, upgrade traffic signals, replace or install Dynamic Message Signs, improve drainage and sidewalks, and resurface nine miles of Route 70 between Route 38 in Cherry Hill and Cooper Avenue in Evesham. The project is expected to be completed in 2027.

Construction is taking place simultaneously within six work zones:

- Work Zone 3 – MP 0.00 to 2.31, Route 38 to Haddonfield Road
- Work Zone 1 – MP 2.31 to 3.66, Haddonfield Road to Kings Highway
- Work Zone 2 – MP 3.66 to 5.00, Kings Highway to I-295
- I-295 Work Zone – MP 5.00 to 5.20
- Work Zone 4/Route 70 Milling Work Zone – MP 5.20 to 7.67, I-295 to Cropwell Road
- Work Zone 5 – MP 7.68 to 8.70, Cropwell Road to Cooper Avenue

Currently, there is construction on Route 70 westbound between Haddonfield Road to Kings Highway (Work Zone 1).

Cherry Hill Mayor David Fleisher says the project continues to be a challenge for neighborhoods and businesses.

“NJDOT needs to do better with communication, signage and advance notice of lane shifts and road closures,” he said. “We have them on ‘speed dial’ and contact them regularly advocating for our residents and small businesses. Our residents deserve better.”

Becker says she realizes things need to be repaired, but feels like “it's not moving fast enough.”

Joseph Croce, owner of Croce Pasta, says the construction and roadwork have hurt his business a lot.

“Especially at lunchtime because my parking lot is in the back of my building and they closed the road right at Route 70 — people couldn't get into my store.”

He said the side of Route 70 he's located on has been better since crews moved across the street, but they're still hurting.

"Not even the [Corona] virus hurt me like it, you know."

An NJDOT spokesperson said they understand the community's concerns and have been responsive to any issues brought to their attention and will continue to do so.

"We provide regular updates to town officials, including biweekly progress meetings. We are committed to continued communication with local officials, businesses, and residents," the spokesperson said.

Area Sam Ash employees react to closing announcement: 'Nothing's promised' May 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Fire sales are happening at Sam Ash locations as the one-time music instrument retail giant closes down all of its stores.

The chain was founded 100 years ago in Brooklyn, New York by musician Sam Ash, and remained within the Ash family ever since. It operates three stores in our area: in King of Prussia, Cherry Hill, and at the Philadelphia Mills Mall.

The company announced on May 2 it would close all of its locations nationwide. Employees were told the King of Prussia store would remain open until May 29, but some told KYW Newsradio they wouldn't be surprised if the company locked the doors before that date.

"Nothing's promised. I mean, they could lock the doors tomorrow," said an employee who asked to be identified as "John," who worked at the King of Prussia location for two years. He says the company failed to tell employees just how bad the situation had become.

"The one guy, he's telling people, 'Oh, your job's going to be okay. These stores are protected,' and then via email, [he] just sends out, 'Actually, all locations are going to be closing.'"

John says he has never gotten a raise or increase in paid time off during his time there. He says his next job will not be related to music. Instead, he'll sell vacation packages."

"Hopefully that company is a little more honest, a little more loyal to me," he said, "and values their employees more than the Ashes did."

Christian used to work in the store's drum department but now has students of his own.

"This store — and any music store in general — has a place in my heart because I'm still a musician and gig musician, always was," he said, "and now I'm a music teacher. So this is a good resource, or was a good resource."

While shopping for a computer microphone, longtime customer Gerry Herbison said young musicians may have an easier experience shopping online but are going to miss out on getting in-person advice.

"I had to self-teach with the guitar, so I bought all of the basic guitar books. And everybody knew what they were talking about here," Herbison said.

CEO David Ash originally told the Wall Street Journal the company was considering a restructure, but he did not say what that might look like. The company has since filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

With Philly's oldest comic shop closing next week, longtime fans stop through for some final memories

May 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Fat Jack's Comicrypt, the city's oldest comic book store, is closing next week on Wednesday, and longtime fans flocked to the Center City shop for a final weekend.

"We're running a sale right now, 70% off everything in the store, except the new books so ... it's just been super, super busy, super slammed," said store manager Olias. "But customers are making less stuff for us to move so that's nice."

Olias first joined Fat Jack's as a manager a little more than a year ago. He came from the music world, but comics are a close second among his passions.

"The best part about working here has definitely been the customers," he says.

Fat Jack's, at 20th and Sansom Streets, has been a part of John Melbourne's life for 40 years.

"I would just come in every week, asking for a job, and eventually they gave in," Melbourne said. "That manager said, 'Well, I can only pay you in comic books.' And I said, 'That's what I'd spend all my money on anyway.'"

After graduating from high school, Melbourne was hired at Fat Jack's City Avenue location and would eventually become the general manager of its five locations in the city.

"Fat Jack's has been here before superheroes were cool. It was kind of the heart of geek culture. There was this, there was the roleplaying Dungeons and Dragons shop that was around the corner. It's kind of like when Tower Records closed on South Street, it's an icon that's gone."

Across town, Brian Johnson, manager of Brave New Worlds on North Second Street in Old City, says Fat Jack's has been an institution.

"It's a very unique and classic kind of space," Johnson said. "Everyone has sort of built on that and done something a little bit different to set a different identity to their store and their space. But these guys started it all."

With the Center City location closing, the only Fat Jack's location left is in Oaklyn, New Jersey. Olias encourages people to go there to still get their comic fix but said the Center City closure may only be temporary.

"For now, we are. But there are plans to relocate somewhere nearby in Center City. We have a couple places we're looking at."

June

Philadelphia City Council passes \$6.4B budget that includes most of what the mayor asked for

June 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Council worked until 1 a.m. Thursday to hammer out a \$6.4 billion budget for the next fiscal year, approving Mayor Cherelle Parker's first budget with only a few adjustments.

City Council added more money for street cleaning, a home repair program, rental assistance, and tree planting. The budget also includes funding to increase the city workforce through programs such as a city workers' school at the Community College of Philadelphia and money to add more police officers to neighborhood bike and foot patrols.

Council President Kenyatta Johnson said the budget is very similar to what the mayor proposed in March.

"A lot of her goals and a lot of council members' goals are in alignment and, most importantly, will allow us to move the city of Philadelphia forward," he said.

Overall, the budget grew by \$80 million through negotiations with City Council. It includes not only new money but also a new approach, Parker said.

“This budget is a huge step to making good on that promise to make Philadelphia the safest, cleanest, greenest big city in the country,” she said, boasting that it’s being done with no new taxes.

In fact, this budget provides new property tax relief, with an increase in the Homestead Exemption for owner-occupied homes and a new low-income tax freeze, sponsored by Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

“This property tax freeze is not a handout,” she said. “It’s an investment in home ownership in our city. By making sure our neediest homeowners can afford their tax bills, we invest in their ability to remain in our neighborhoods.”

The Homestead Exemption for owner-occupied homes will go up to \$100,000, which Johnson estimates will produce an additional \$240 in tax savings for homeowners.

The capital budget increased by \$40 million as council members won additional spending on rec centers and libraries in their districts. It includes the entire \$100 million the mayor requested for so-called “wellness centers,” an effort to address the city’s addiction epidemic.

Parker thanked City Council in a statement and promised that “residents will be able to see, touch, and feel the positive impacts of this budget in their neighborhoods.”

Mayor Parker’s new roundtables hope to make Philly more friendly to business June 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — On Wednesday, Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker was joined at City Hall by the leaders of dozens of companies, unions, and trade associations to announce a new initiative to finally put Philly’s unfriendly-to-business reputation to rest.

Parker called the initiative her “business roundtable,” and said it would be “a vehicle for change” when it comes to businesses interacting with city government.

“This is a new approach to governance where the voice of the business community will be captured via policy and legislation,” said Parker.

The mayor announced 10 subcommittees, each focused on some industry or some aspect of doing business, and set out a schedule of meetings to provide feedback and advise the city on growth and more.

“We are going to remove the red tape and streamline processes by listening to the people who have the real-life experiences of making the payroll and running the businesses that keep our city afloat,” said Parker.

Greg Segall, chairman and CEO of Versa Capital, is a co-chair of the new ‘roundtable,’ seemed happy to be a part of the new effort, and said its ultimate goal is economic revitalization for the city.

“The mayor’s business roundtable can’t wave a magic wand and perfect the gears of commerce overnight but the city also has enormous assets and opportunities,” said Segall.

One of those enormous assets Parker pointed out at the announcement press conference was Philly’s burgeoning life sciences industry — second in growth only to Boston.

“We have to work and be intentional and proactive so that the policies we pursue are the right ones for these sectors,” she said.

Ryan Boyer, business manager for the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council, is another co-chair, and said he wants workers to be ready for the jobs of the future, but also leaned into the spirit of competition between Boston and Philly mentioned by Parker.

“We want to compete at the highest level,” he said. “I don’t want to be second to anybody for anything and the first city I don’t want to be second to is those green clowns from Boston.”

Car dealerships disrupted by multi-day outage after cyberattacks on software supplier June 21, 2024

NEW YORK (AP) — Car dealerships across North America have faced major disruptions this week.

CDK Global, a company that provides software for thousands of auto dealers in the U.S. and Canada, was hit by back-to-back cyberattacks on Wednesday. That led to an outage that continued to impact many of their operations on Friday.

For prospective car buyers, that may mean delays at dealerships or vehicle orders written up by hand, with no immediate end in sight.

Problems started for Prestige Subaru and Volkswagen in Turnersville, New Jersey Wednesday morning.

General Manager Brett Harrington says when the services team arrived that day, they couldn't log into any of their systems that manage repair orders for customers.

Harrington says that was just the tip of the iceberg.

"For service, it's easy. They can handwrite a repair order and get it back to the shop and start working on a customer's car," he said. "For the sales side, we're kind of handcuffed because we use CDK to work the numbers for the customer, print the contracts. A lot of the contracts these days are electronic."

He says it's been a lot of sitting and waiting, as they aren't being told much of what's going on

"... We're doing what everyone else is doing and that's turning to the news and Googling it, trying to figure out what exactly is going on," he said.

What is CDK Global?

CDK Global is a major player in the auto sales industry. The company, based just outside of Chicago in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, provides software technology to dealers that helps with day-to-day operations — like facilitating vehicle sales, financing, insurance, and repairs.

CDK serves more than 15,000 retail locations across North America, according to the company. Whether all of these locations were impacted by this week's cyberattacks was not immediately clear.

What happened this week?

CDK is "actively investigating a cyber incident" and the company shut down all of its systems out of an abundance of caution, spokesperson Lisa Finney said Wednesday.

CDK "executed extensive testing," consulted third-party experts, and restored its core DMS and Digital Retailing solutions by the afternoon, Finney said in a prepared statement.

CDK experienced another "cyber incident" Wednesday evening, Finney said in an update the following day. "We remain vigilant in our efforts to reinstate our services and get our dealers back to business as usual as quickly as possible," she said.

When that will be is still unknown. As of Friday morning, a recorded message from CDK on a hotline detailing updates for its customers said "We do not have an estimated time frame for

resolution — and therefore our dealer systems will not be available, likely for several days.” Customer care support channels also remain unavailable, it said.

The message added that the company was aware of “bad actors” posing as members or affiliates of CDK to try to obtain system access by contacting customers. It urged employers to be cautious of any attempted phishing.

Are impacted dealerships still selling cars?

Several major auto companies — including Stellantis, Ford, and BMW — confirmed to The Associated Press Friday that the CDK outage had impacted some of their dealers, but that sales operations continue.

In light of the ongoing situation, a spokesperson for Stellantis said that many dealerships had switched to manual processes to serve customers. That includes writing up orders by hand.

A Ford spokesperson said that the outage may cause “some delays and inconveniences at some dealers and for some customers.” However, many Ford and Lincoln customers are still getting sales and service support through alternative routes being used at dealerships.

With many details of the cyberattacks still unknown, customer privacy is also at top of mind — especially with little known about what information may have been compromised this week.

In a statement sent to the AP on Friday, Mike Stanton, president and CEO of the National Automobile Dealers Association said that “dealers are very committed to protecting their customer information and are actively seeking information from CDK to determine the nature and scope of the cyber incident so they can respond appropriately.”

Philly business community pushes for decrease in wage and business taxes

June 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia’s revived Tax Reform Commission held its first public hearing last week, where businessmen turned out in force, urging cuts to business taxes.

Jeff DuVono told the commission that through his decades in local real estate, he’s seen suburban office space almost double while Philadelphia’s has stagnated. The reason, he said, is that the combination of the Business Income Receipts Tax (BIRT), the use and occupancy tax, and wage tax doubles the cost of office space in the city.

“If the city wants to continue to see a decline in its population, workforce, and economic vitality, leave the BIRT and wage tax unchanged, but if it wants to increase the number of people living, working, and growing within its borders, it must decrease or, better yet, eliminate the BIRT and wage tax,” he said.

DuVono works for Brandywine Real Estate, whose owner has long championed replacing those taxes with an increase in property taxes. But Jon Sgro of Community Legal Services said that approach threatens low-income homeowners.

“Some believe property taxes are a more reliable source of revenue because real estate doesn’t move, but families and long-time homeowners do move when they can no longer afford their bills,” Sgro said.

Parking magnate Robert Zuritsky also argued for a decrease, if not the actual elimination of, the parking tax.

“Philadelphia’s parking industry has seen its taxes increase seven times,” Zuritsky said. “We are at a point where city taxes take between 40 and 70% of everything we collected from our customers before we pay workers, insurance or repairs to our facilities.”

Cutting business taxes without replacing the revenue, though, would mean huge cuts in services, as Stan Shapiro of Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks reminded the commission.

“Magical tax cuts, especially ones that mostly benefit big business, will not pay for those services,” Shapiro said.

Tom Ginsberg of Pew’s Philadelphia Research Center testified that city business taxes are actually pretty progressive, thanks to an exemption on the first \$100,000 in receipts.

“The smaller a business in terms of gross receipts, the lower its tax burden,” Ginsberg said.

The 15-member commission has the summer to sort through all this. It’s expected to make recommendations in the fall.

###

Bridging Philly Q2 April - June 2024

2024 PA Primary & General Election | Alexey Brodovitch: Astonish Me Apr 6, 2024

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Al Schmidt clears up myths and realities of voting, including automatic voter registration, mail-in voting, and protections for voters and election workers.

Then, Barnes Foundation's assistant curator Corrinne Chong leads a tour of the 20th-century artist who inspired commercial art at the exhibit "Alexey Brodovitch: Astonish Me."

Gift of Life Donor Program at 50 | Maple Grove Raceway Apr 13, 2024

For fifty years, Gift of Life Donor Program has helped organ and tissue recipients off the transplant wait list with their growing donation network. Five years after North Philly rapper and hip-hop recording artist Freeway received a kidney, he's raising awareness about routine physicals and organ donation with his music and Freedom Thinkers Academy. (Gift of Life Donor Program is the sponsor of Bridging Philly.)

Then, Shara Dae Howard takes a ride-along at Berks County's Maple Grove Raceway, which hosts national races, monster trucks, car shows and more.

Philly BOLT | The Free Library of Philadelphia's Unusual Collections Apr 20, 2024

2024 KYW GameChanger Hillary Do created the non-profit BOLT (Build Our Lives Together) to support community grassroots organizations with tools, grants and knowledge to bring about change. She introduces us to Cleopatra Robinson of A Home from Shana Foundation, who is working to lower the rate of Black maternal mortality in Philadelphia, and Ron Toles of Ordinary Heroes, who works with BIPOC youth in Hunting Park.

Then, the hidden history behind the Free Library of Philadelphia's Central Branch, which includes Charles Dickens' stuffed pet bird, Grip - widely thought to have inspired Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Raven." The library also has the only handwritten copy of the poem, which is part of its rare book collection.

This episode re-ran on Apr 27, 2024.

Teaching Kids Self-acceptance | “A Great Day in Philly”

May 25, 2024

Author Susanne Munn of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, says her neurodivergent son had a hard time fitting in. She wrote a poem to help him celebrate himself, and 10 years later, she’s releasing that poem as a children’s book with the help of her friend and illustrator, Amy Towers. Susanne and Amy tell us about “The Great Shape Debate”. Plus Kim Wheeler Poitevien, MSW, LCSW, owner of Amel Counseling, joins us to expand on ways to help kids - and adults - stop comparing themselves to others and love who they are.

And on Shara in the City, local musicians re-create the iconic “A Great Day in Harlem” photo, with a Philly twist.

Women Against Abuse | LGBTQ+ exhibit at The Fabric Museum

Jun 1, 2024

More than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the U.S. have experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Women Against Abuse aims to help domestic violence victims of all genders by providing shelters, counseling, legal services, and safety planning. Executive Director Joanna Otero-Cruz joins us along with board member Jamie Colleen Miller, who shares her own story of escaping an abusive relationship with help from Women Against Abuse. If you are facing domestic violence and need help, call their hotline at 1-866-723-3014 or visit their website for more resources.

And on Shara in the City, we kick off Pride Month at The Rose Garden exhibit by local artist John Jarboe at The Fabric Workshop and Museum - an immersive exploration of her gender journey.

A Juneteenth Dance Celebration | The “Love Letter” mural challenge

Jun 8, 2024

A Philadelphia performing arts organization is celebrating Juneteenth with a twist on an old tradition: the house party. Running June 20 - 22, Intercultural Journeys’ “The Re-Emancipation of Social Dance” is an interactive party-performance through five “living rooms”, inviting you to reclaim the freedom of dance. We talk with the show’s curator and former Philadelphia Poet Laureate, Yolanda Wisher, and Intercultural Journeys' Executive Director, Carly Rapaport-Stein, about this performance and how Black Americans throughout history have built community through dance. Learn more, get tickets, and listen to their podcast on the history of social dance at reemancipatedance.org.

And on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard hops on the El to try to catch a glimpse of all 50 murals in Steve Powers' "A Love Letter For You" series in West Philly.

Youth Empowerment Through International Travel | West Philly Birding **Jun 15, 2024**

The experience of traveling to a different part of the world can be life-changing, but many people don't get that opportunity because of the cost. A new initiative called Invest in Human Potential aims to take five young Black men from Philadelphia on a two-week trip to Sardinia, Italy, and empower them with the skills to become social justice warriors over the course of a year-long fellowship. Racquel Williams talks with the director, Amir Joshua Palmer, about what the fellowship will involve and what it will take to get it off the ground. Learn more about how you can support the fellowship at investinhumanpotential.com.

And on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard discovers a hidden sanctuary in West Philly to learn about Black Birding.

Disparities In Cancer Care | Philly break dancing **Jun 22, 2024**

We've seen tremendous progress in diagnosing and treating cancer, but not all people have benefited from that progress equally. The American Association for Cancer Research recently released their 2024 Cancer Disparities Progress Report, which highlights gaps in diagnoses, treatment, and outcomes for people in marginalized groups. What is being done to close those gaps? We talk with Mitch Stoller, Chief Philanthropic Officer and Vice President of Development for the AACR, and Dr. Camille Ragin, a professor and Associate Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Fox Chase Cancer Center and a member of the steering committee for the AACR's report.

And on Shara in the City, we get ready for the first year of Olympic breakdancing by visiting Philly's longest-running hip-hop and breakdancing event, The Gathering at The Rotunda.

A Space For Teens In South Philly | Smith Memorial Playground **Jun 29, 2024**

Pennsylvania's funding for after-school care ends when children turn 13, and many parents are concerned about where their teens can go after school and in the summer. Caring People Alliance runs a teen program and recently opened a new center at their South Philadelphia Boys & Girls Club where teens can go to get a meal, play basketball, make music and art, and have a safe space to talk and learn. We speak with Branon Gilmore, VP of CPA's Boys & Girls Club

Movement, Jewel Felder-James, Director of Teen Programming, and Alphonso Cobbs, a participant in the teen program.

And on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard re-discovers the joy of play at the historic Smith Memorial Playground.

###

I'M LISTENING

2ND QRT 2024

April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024

ISSUE: ENVIRONMENT

1Thing / Audacy Conversations

April / Earth Month

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

ISSUE: HEALTH, VETERANS

Audacy Conversations

April 21, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy's David Glover recently welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) expert and former Air Force member, Alex Silva, in addition to Wounded Warrior Project Clinical Expert, Dr. Erin Fletcher and guest Dan Miller, to discuss the importance of mental health care for Military members and share that the bravest thing many of them can do is ask for help.

ISSUE: HEALTH

I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark

May 5, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Host David O'Leary and Victor Armstrong, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Vice President of Health Equity and Engagement, and Michell Clark; father, husband, entrepreneur, writer and podcaster in the mental wellness space, had an intimate discussion on grief, loss, and suicide.

ISSUE: HEALTH, MINORITY

Talk Away The Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ community

June 2, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

###

**KYW-AM/WIP-HD2 PHILADELPHIA, WPHI-FM JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT**

April, 1, 2024 – June, 30, 2024

Station KYW (AM) provides an all-news radio service to Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area at 1060kHz AM, with simulcasts on the FM dial on WPHI-FM at 103.9 MHz and WIP-FM-HD2 at 94.1 MHz HD2. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.

This report was prepared and placed in the station's public inspection file on **June 28th, 2024.**

The report was prepared and reviewed by Newsroom Operations Manager, Dennis Edward.

Bridging Philly is KYW Newsradio's half-hour public affairs show that airs Saturdays at 9:30p and Sundays at 8:30a

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CHILDREN AND HUMAN SERVICES

April

Federal judge deals major setback to nonprofit hoping to open supervised drug consumption site in Philadelphia

April 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When a federal judge on Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit from Safehouse, which had been seeking permission to operate a medically supervised drug consumption site in Philadelphia, it delivered a serious setback to the nonprofit.

After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit confirmed that Safehouse could be criminally prosecuted if it opened a facility where people with addiction could use drugs under medical supervision, Safehouse counter-sued, claiming a First Amendment right to operate as a matter of religious principle to preserve life.

Judge Gerald McHugh rejected Safehouse’s argument, writing that he is persuaded the nonprofit is not a religious entity, and he dismissed the case.

Safehouse Vice President Ronda Goldfein said she was disappointed.

“We respectfully disagree. We think Safehouse has a right to exercise its religious beliefs by saving the lives of people in need,” Goldfein said.

“We’ve been fighting a lawsuit for five years — and in that time, 6,500 people have died. And we’re trying to provide relief.”

The U.S. Attorney had no comment. The case was brought by her predecessor.

But the decision was good news for City Councilmember Quetcy Lozada, who represents Kensington, where neighbors feared the facility would have been located.

“I am very pleased that the government has made the decision that it made,” she said. “It’s something the residents have been adamantly against, so I think today is a very good day for the residents of Kensington.”

The decision also relieves one headache for Mayor Cherelle Parker, who opposes the sites. She says she believes in harm reduction but doesn't believe it's a complete answer.

"We're going to be focused on prevention, intervention and enforcement, long-term care, treatment and housing," Parker said.

Goldfein says Safehouse is still considering its options, including an appeal to the Third Circuit court.

Free gun-lock program expanding to fight drastic increase in number of kids accidentally shooting themselves and others

April 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The number of kids getting hold of guns and unintentionally shooting either themselves or other kids is drastically increasing. In 2019, two children were involved in unintentional shootings. In 2021, about a dozen kids unintentionally shot themselves or another kid — and about two dozen have every year since.

In March, a 4-year-old boy picked up a gun and shot himself in the stomach. In January, a 5-year-old shot himself in the leg. And on Saturday, 3-year-old Kayden Barnes was shot in the eye and later died. Investigators believe she accidentally shot herself with her father's gun.

Authorities have still not announced whether charges will be filed against her father.

"Kids are naturally curious," says Scott Charles, a trauma outreach manager for Temple University Hospital.

"Small kids as young as 2 can apply enough pressure to a trigger to fire a gun," he said. "And it's often the case that small children will look down the barrel of the gun because they are curious."

"And while they are pulling the trigger, they are not expecting a bullet is going to come out of the barrel. And that is why so many children, as we saw recently here in Philadelphia, unintentionally shoot themselves in the head."

The hospital gives out free gun locks through the Safe Bet program.

"It's imperative that we keep guns out of the reach of children, and the best way to do that is to keep them in a gun safe, but we provide gun locks because sometimes gun safes are beyond the ability of people to buy them," Charles said.

“The purpose of the gun locks [is] to reduce the likelihood that young people — particularly young people — will get their hands on firearms and unintentionally shoot themselves.”

Charles started the program after seeing the need, through social media posts and reaching out to the Philadelphia Police Department to kickstart free gun lock giveaways.

“The cable locks that we use are 15-inch cable locks. They can be used on handguns. They can be used on shotguns. They can be used on rifles.”

So far Safe Bet has given away 10,000 locks. And the program is now expanding, with new grant money from the state.

“We are going to start a campaign where we are going to be conducting workshops in communities where we know there are high rates of gun violence; reaching out to those concerned family members who might have a gun lying around the house, who find it unaffordable to buy a gun safe,” Charles said.

“And we are going to be providing them biometric gun safes so that they can keep those guns safe and secure in their homes.”

To get a gun lock through the Safe Bet program, go to templesafetynet.org for more information.

Law enforcement agencies are holding a free gun lock giveaway on Thursday from noon to 3 p.m. at New Journey Christian Center, 1001 East Cheltenham Ave., in Philadelphia, near where Kayden Barnes was shot.

Philly officials reveal this year’s slate of summer activities for youth

April 10, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Summer is still two months away but Philadelphia officials already have big summer plans for the city’s youth, with an assortment of free and paid activities.

Among activities offered through Parks and Recreation, the Free Library, the School District of Philadelphia, the Department of Human Services, and the summer jobs program, Mayor Cherelle Parker says there’s something for everyone this summer. She believes that offering summer activities for every child in the city is important on many levels.

“We know that keeping young people engaged and active can improve not only their physical health and well-being, but prevent learning loss and to reduce violence,” she said.

Parker says there's no excuse for any young person not to be plugged into some sort of activity, given the array of options, from classes, camps, and clubs to sports and — for teenagers — jobs.

First of all, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Susan Slawson says the city is hiring 400 lifeguards.

“This year, we're bringing back bonuses for our lifeguards. If you sign up by April 15 and you work throughout the summer, you get an additional \$1,000,” Slawson explained.

In addition, there are 8,000 career path summer jobs for teens through a program called C2L — formerly known as WorkReady. At least 2,000 of them will continue into the school year.

New program offers Philly residents a path to first-time home ownership

April 24, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation is trying to keep the dream of home ownership within reach of Philadelphia's working class through a program for first-time buyers.

The city and PHDC are looking for first-time buyers to take advantage of the Turn The Key initiative. They're holding an open house on May 8 at SEPTA headquarters (1234 Market Street) in Center City, to show prospective buyers that a huge down payment or a perfect credit score is not necessary for home ownership in the city.

“Let's be really honest. They're hustling, they're working a full-time job, a part-time job, and you know, they're paying rent and not seeing any wealth creation,” said Angel Rodriguez, executive director of the Philadelphia Land Bank. “And here, we have this opportunity for them to move into a home.”

Turn The Key puts publicly owned vacant land back into productive use while increasing the limited supply of affordable homes available for purchase in the city. For example, for a home that costs \$280,000, qualifying applicants can get as much as \$95,000 in assistance, with an average monthly payment of about \$1,353.

“You're getting the \$1353 monthly, you're getting three bedrooms, two baths, and it's a starter home, it's your home,” Rodriguez said. “You know what you're getting. You know the neighborhood. Plus you're saving so much money monthly, that really changes a family's life.”

He says the criteria for approval is income-based, and that applicants have an average credit score of 600.

“We’ve approved ... over 700 properties,” he said. “Right now we have about 265 in production. I expect by the end of this calendar year to have 359 done. And then we have another 325 that we hope to see done in the calendar year 2025.”

Registration is required to attend the open house.

May

Delco Health Department to host Mindfulness Monday series

May 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — In collaboration with Keystone First, the Delaware County Health Department will be hosting a Mindfulness Monday series beginning May 6.

The series kicks off with two free yoga classes at 10 a.m. and noon at the Wellness Center in Yeadon. Each class is about an hour and a half long and is open to residents of all ages.

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month, the program is aimed at helping people find ways to care for their mind, body, and health, said Aminata Donzo with the health department.

“We really want members to be able to leave just feeling relaxed,” Donzo said. “We understand that things can be really, really busy with work, kids, bills — we just wanted to be like a space to relax and take a time out to be able to breathe and just prioritize yourself and your mental health.”

To register, call 484-276-2100 or email DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us

Philly Abuse Shelter celebrates \$3.6M renovation, adding 33 beds

May 14, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia's Women Against Abuse cut the ribbon on its newly expanded and renovated domestic violence shelter on Tuesday.

Ameya's Place, one of two domestic violence shelters in Philadelphia operated by Women Against Abuse, received \$3.6 million in much needed renovations. The changes include new private bathrooms, flooring, lighting, HVAC system upgrades, windows and roof repair, and security updates.

Those improvements make it a welcomed home away from home for those seeking refuge from intimate partner violence.

"We house about 600 individuals every year who are trying to flee their homes to be safe," said Joanna Otero-Cruz, president and executive director of Women Against Abuse. The organization runs both facilities in Philadelphia, which serve 1,200 women, men, and children fleeing abusive relationships each year.

"Unfortunately, there are times we don't have space. The prevalence of domestic violence is huge in Philadelphia, the 911 calls received are over 110,000 a year."

The expansion will allow the organization to serve 33 more people each year. 88 people were turned away in 2023 due to lack of space.

Jamie Colleen Miller is a domestic violence survivor who fled to Ameya's Place with her daughter in 2014. She now serves on the board.

"Being in an abusive relationship was the darkest time of my life and breaking free felt like I was digging myself out of a grave," she said, "but I wasn't buried, I was determined. I was strong. I was so strong, even on the days when I felt weak and broken."

The facility is named for Ameya Spratley, who was killed by her abusive boyfriend in 2010.

“You never knew my daughter, but you know her name,” said her father, Willie Spratley. “With your help and your support, her name’s gonna help someone. Someone that really needs help can call Ameya, and she’s there.”

Families could face barriers to their children’s care if Medicaid drops CHOP as in-network provider

May 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Leslie Proffitt’s daughter, 14-year-old Lily Ciechoski, has been a patient at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia for most of her life, as she was born with spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Also for most of her life, Proffitt said her daughter has been on the Keystone First health insurance plan. However, Proffitt and other families fear they could lose some of their insurance coverage because Medicaid may no longer keep CHOP as an in-network provider.

CHOP is “currently a participating provider of AmeriHealth Caritas PA and Keystone First,” it said on an information page for affected patients. “However, those contracts will end July 1, 2024, unless a new agreement is signed before that date.”

If contract negotiations fail, CHOP will no longer be considered an in-network Medicaid provider through AmeriHealth Caritas PA and Keystone First.

“If they decide that they’re going to not come to an agreement with CHOP, we’ve got to make the decision to switch insurance plans, which might sound easy but it’s not an instantaneous thing,” said Proffitt. “We see CHOP for a variety of specialists, so that’s going to be a huge issue. The switch for insurance plans like that can take weeks.”

After Proffitt and other affected parents petitioned lawmakers, two dozen Pennsylvania State House Democrats issued an open letter — penned by Chester County state Rep. Paul Friel — that calls on insurers to “find a solution that maintains CHOP’s inclusion in the network.”

Removing CHOP from the networks would create barriers to crucial health care for children with disabilities and from low-income families, they said.

“There’s a lot of things that Keystone First provides that Aetna doesn’t consider medically necessary, like diapers,” Proffitt added. “They don’t find that medically necessary. They won’t pay for it.”

The lawmakers wrote in their letter: “Failure to reach an agreement would result in disrupted care for thousands of young and sick patients. Families who are already navigating the complexities of the medical system would face additional challenges. For children with severe chronic conditions, unique disorders, and special needs, finding an alternative provider with the necessary expertise would be an uphill battle. Moreover, since the affected patients are covered through Medicaid, the consequences are even more pronounced, as fewer practices are available to many of these children due to their parents’ income limitations.”

Keystone First said in a statement that negotiations are active, and it put the onus on CHOP to choose to remain in-network. In another statement, CHOP said it is in contact with potentially affected families, and if no agreement is reached, it will work with those families to avoid disruptions in care.

CHOP is considered in-network with all other Pennsylvania Medicaid plans.

Health officials warn of potential measles exposure in Philly pharmacy, Montco medical facility

May 20, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Health officials are warning of potential measles exposure in Philadelphia and Montgomery County.

They say people may be at risk if they were inside the CVS Pharmacy on 10901C Bustleton Avenue on May 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the Holy Redeemer Hospital Emergency Department on May 16-17 from 11:30 a.m. until midnight; or the Holy Redeemer Hospital Medical-Surgical Unit on May 16-17 from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

As of Monday, May 20, Philadelphia Health Department reported one confirmed case of measles with exposure to residents in Montgomery County. There are no confirmed cases in Montgomery County.

Measles can spread very easily from person to person — especially those not protected against the virus — through air droplets by coughing or sneezing.

Early symptoms include a fever, runny nose, cough, puffy eyes, and a rash. It's contagious four days before to four days after a rash appears and can lead to pneumonia, brain infection, and even death.

Health officials say if you develop symptoms through June 7 and are not immune and may have been exposed, contact your doctor immediately.

June

Agencies working to make New Jersey more age-friendly as senior population grows rapidly

June 3, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — New Jersey, known for its high cost of living, poses challenges for older residents looking to age in place. Making ends meet can be tough, even for seniors who have already paid off their houses. For renters or those with mortgages, the costs oftentimes push them to consider moving to another state.

To combat the rising costs, several New Jersey agencies created an age-friendly guide to make living more affordable. The blueprint identifies several areas of improvement: housing, health, transportation, socialization, employment, and communication and outreach.

“Some of the recommendations that we highlight are about how to make modifications or how to build housing that will remain affordable and accessible for people as they age,” said Kaylee McGuire, New Jersey Department of Human Services deputy commissioner for aging and disability services.

New Jersey's population of people 65 and older is expected to grow from 1.5 million in 2019 to 1.9 million by 2030, according to the department. By the end of this decade, 1 in 5 New Jerseyans will be 65 or older.

McGuire added, “The housing section has a whole host of recommendations that are focused on helping make communities more affordable for our older adults as they age and to also make sure that their homes and their communities are more accessible.”

The department also announced \$5.5 million in available grant funding to implement some of the suggestions.

Margate police say parents, guardians may get a ticket if unsupervised teen is breaking the law

June 17, 2024

MARGATE, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Police in Margate say they’ll be enforcing an ordinance this summer that states a summons can be issued to a parent or guardian of unruly teenagers.

The summer season has only just begun, and already a few towns across the region have had to deal with rowdy crowds. Specifically down the Shore, teenagers have been involved in some isolated incidents. It has elected officials and law enforcement leaders on guard.

Over Memorial Day weekend, a 15-year-old from another town was stabbed in Ocean City and had non-life threatening injuries.

Wildwood Police also had to shut down the boardwalk for a few hours during the holiday weekend, after they got call after call on large gatherings of unsupervised teens.

The Margate City Police Department says, in order to prevent similar situations from happening, they’ll be enforcing a city ordinance that looks to parents and guardians who knowingly leave juveniles unsupervised.

According to a post on Facebook, the Department says between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., if any minor under the age of 17 is unattended and doing something dangerous or unlawful, they’ll be taken to the police station. An adult will be contacted to pick them up and, officials say, a summons will be issued.

Per the ordinance, the first violation could result in a fine of between \$100 and \$1,000 or as many as 90 days of community service.

Philabundance brings back free meal program for second summer

June 19, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With school out of session and cafeterias closed for the summer, many kids have lost access to food assistance.

That's why, for the second year in a row, Philabundance is kicking off the summer with its free Summer Lunchbox program.

Through Aug. 24, Philabundance Community Kitchen will whip up 66,000 fresh lunches and 11,000 breakfast kits for thousands of food-insecure families in the Philadelphia region.

The meals will be distributed by 25 of their community partners in nine surrounding counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Advocare reaches multi-year agreement with Horizon insurance to remain in network

June 28, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — An agreement has been reached between health provider Advocare and a major insurance group in the region days before their contract was set to expire.

Advocare announced on Thursday that it reached a multi-year agreement with Horizon. In the spring, Advocare sent letters to patients informing them that if no deal is reached by June 30, its doctors would no longer be in network with Horizon.

Now that the agreement is settled, Advocare said there will be no disruptions for its patients.

Advocare has 900 providers in more than 150 care centers throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania, serving more than 800,000 patients.

In a statement, Horizon spokesperson Tom Wilson said, "Our members rely on Horizon to ensure they can access doctors they want to see at a fair and reasonable cost. It is a responsibility that we take seriously — medical costs should never prevent someone from getting the care they

need and all of us in New Jersey's healthcare system have a role to play in making it more affordable. We appreciate Advocare's commitment to work with us to reach a fair agreement and are pleased that our members will continue to have in-network access to Advocare practices."

ARTS AND CULTURE

South Philly Street renamed in honor of longtime radio DJ Bob Pantano

April 10, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A South Philadelphia native whose radio show has beamed into homes for decades was honored on Tuesday with a special tribute.

In front of friends, family, entertainers, and adoring fans, Bob Pantano smiled as South Philly's Federal Street, between Sixth and Seventh Streets, was renamed Bob Pantano Way. Long before the Philadelphia radio legend received the accolade, however, his childhood neighborhood helped propel him to radio stardom.

"My career started at my house on Federal Street," Pantano recalled. "I drove up Seventh Street, went over to Camden in 1971 and filled in for the 'Geator' Jerry Blavat, and that's how it started."

Many came to the Tuesday ceremony, from celebrities and elected officials — like Robert "Kool" Bell from Kool & the Gang and Mayor Cherelle Parker — to neighbors and old friends, to show their love for the Temple grad and longtime WOGL DJ. They also enjoyed free cheesesteaks, cannolis, and other South Philly staples.

"I'm just happy to see everybody. I see some of the old neighbors are still living here and I'm happy to see the neighborhood is still very nice," he said.

Among the many attendees was childhood friend Sonny Averona Jr. "I'm honored because Bob Pantano is the people's champion like my dear friend Joe Frazier was. He gives back to everybody," he said.

Pantano received a plaque on the Philadelphia Music Alliance Walk of Fame, on South Broad Street, in 2017. Still, he said the street renaming was especially humbling. "I'm just overwhelmed by everyone who is here," he shared.

Through puppetry, Opera Philadelphia reclaims Asian agency in production of ‘Madame Butterfly’

April 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Opera Philadelphia is adding something new to their next show: puppetry. As Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month begins next week, the opera company presents a reimagined version of Puccini’s “Madame Butterfly,” created by a team of AAPI artists.

“Madame Butterfly” is about a Japanese geisha named Cio Cio San who gets sold to a U.S. Navy lieutenant. In most productions, she’s portrayed as a helpless victim, but Opera Philadelphia wanted to change that stereotype — with the help of a puppet.

“The puppet allows us to separate the stereotype from the human spirit,” said director Ethan Heard. In this version, a singer represents Cio Cio San’s spirit, who takes a different path, while the puppet maintains the traditional role.

“She starts to realize, ‘Oh, I feel trapped in this trope. And I want to be something new. I want to find my agency,’” he said.

The puppet is designed by Philadelphia-based artist Hua Hua Zhang, who studied traditional rod puppetry in China. She began training in the Chinese tradition when she was just 14 years old.

“I have to take dance class, voice class ... we learn Chinese-style acting, which is more dramatic and more unreal,” she said.

Zhang brings that “unreal” quality to the stage, performing with the puppet while soprano Karen Chia-ling Ho sings. Zhang must use her whole body to control the puppet’s movements.

They both portray the same character, but their paths diverge as the show goes on. The puppet is stuck in old, traditional ways, while the singer’s version of the character has the freedom to choose her own story — leading to a new, alternate ending.

“Also, the puppet can fly, the puppet can stand on the table, the puppet can express in a really vivid, imaginative way that a mature soprano can’t do while performing the role vocally,” Heard added.

For him, this production is an opportunity to reclaim a story that has pigeonholed and often misrepresented Asian performers.

“‘Madame Butterfly,’ in the last century or 125 years, has, more often than not, been staged with non-Asian singers in these roles,” he said. “I’m very proud that our production features Asian and Asian American singers in all of the lead Japanese roles.”

“Madame Butterfly” will be performed at the Academy of Music from April 26 to May 5.

Philly artists use World Book Day to share art of tufting with the world through new book April 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — There were a number of events in Philadelphia to mark UNESCO’s World Book Day on Tuesday — but no one celebrated quite like two West Philly entrepreneurs, who dropped a book on their quest to bring the art of tufting to the world.

Every World Book Day when she was a teacher, Debra Gress Jansen would let her students read all day.

“It can teach you something you don’t know, it can take you back in time, it can take you into the future,” said Jansen. “It just helps you use your brain power a little bit more.”

That is why Jansen went into the bookselling business after teaching, opening Booked in Chestnut Hill.

And in the spirit of learning something new — and for World Book Day — she invited artists and entrepreneurs Tim Eads and Tiernan Alexander to the shop to showcase their new book all about tufting, the textile process behind carpet making.

“Tufting is for everybody,” said Alexander. “Tufting is so fun and if you look at it and think: ‘Oh I don’t know if I can do this,’ you can.”

Alexander is one half of the founding partnership of West Philly-based Tuft the World. She and business partner Eads first found the textile process behind carpet making in 2018.

“What we wanted to do was a how-to book, so that people who really like learning from books, that’s the format they prefer, would have a way to start tufting, to see examples,” she said.

“I think our role in this has been just really teaching artists and crafters a craft that’s been around for a long time that no one really knew about,” Eads added, “so it’s really just opening a door to something that’s been there.”

The book, which is named after their business, is also peppered with history notes and highlights fellow tufting artists from around the country.

“Everybody comes to their creativity through a different path, and I really feel like books are a great path to find things you love,” Alexander said.

For Jansen, that’s what World Book Day is all about.

“You’re utilizing everything, your imagination,” she said. “Just all your senses are involved in reading a book. It’s so important.”

Upcoming BalletX Festival looks to make dance more accessible, with local and international talent

April 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Hundreds of local dancers and their families will unite this weekend at the TD Pavilion at the Mann Center for the BalletX Festival, a two-day event on April 26 and 27, featuring live music and special guests.

BalletX founder Christine Cox says the festival is part of a larger effort to invest in Philadelphia’s next generation of dancers. “BalletX is about that idea of creating an incubator in our studios at 19th and Washington and bringing the ideas, perspectives, and imagination back into the community,” she said.

This year, the festival’s lineup includes Emmy Award-winning choreographer Natasha Adorlee with the sultry vocals of Jac Ross, the debut of “Heroes” by choreographer Takehiro Ueyama, “Eros and Psyche” by choreographer and Alvin Ailey veteran Jamar Roberts, and more.

The festival will also feature performances by 11 community dance groups and schools from across Philadelphia. Cox says the festival is meant to celebrate dance, art, and community, and she hopes the event will be one part of a greater push to make dance accessible to all.

“We really believe in the power of creation, and bringing in artists from around the world, inspiring community through dance is really such an honor and a privilege,” said Cox.

May

Philly comic fans unite for Free Comic Book Day

May 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — On Free Comic Book Day, there is rarely a minute of calm at Brave New Worlds in Old City.

People flocked there Saturday to scour one of the shop’s back walls full of free comics, where they were limited to three each.

“Free Comic Book Day is awesome because it’s the day every year we give out free comics to get people psyched on comics they wouldn’t normally read or check out,” said Brian Johnson, one of the managers at Brave New Worlds.

“Hopefully when they come in and get comics, they kind of get that itch, get that bug, and they come back for more.”

University of the Arts student James Valentine got the bug reading “Bitter Root,” a comic about a family of monster hunters during the Harlem Renaissance.

He says comic illustrations are often inspirations for his own work, in which he devises designs for advertising.

“Definitely like bold outlines and dynamic line work ... I take those whole comic book elements outside of their contexts and put them in new contexts,” he said.

Customer John Stillwaggon echoed a similar sentiment, saying the comics motivate him as a filmmaker.

“It’s really inspiring to see all these other works and it really inspires you to make great stuff,” he said.

For him, Free Comic Book Day was all about people feeling included and like they were a part of something.

“Everybody’s here, and everybody’s talking about comics. I’ve just talked to a bunch of people about like, ‘Did you read the new Ultimate Spider-Man?’... You really bond with people and form these connections over these characters and these stories,” he said.

The first Free Comic Book Day was on May 4, 2002. More than 2 million books were given away from over 2,200 retailers worldwide.

Drexel Hill gymnast swings back into town with Cirque du Soleil

May 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Cirque du Soleil’s “Corteo” is coming to Philadelphia for the first time, but it will be a return home for one performer.

Aerialist Jonathan Buese was born in Drexel Hill, where he started doing gymnastics as a kid.

“My dad used to work at Temple,” Buese said, “and that’s actually the arena where we’re going to be playing, which is pretty neat.”

Buese and his family later moved to Florida, and he went on to compete at the NCAA gymnastics championships for the University of Iowa.

Cirque du Soleil, a Canadian entertainment company, recruited him during a competition. He joined their Las Vegas show and then a tour in Europe.

“I never traveled so much before I started touring,” he said. “I still hadn't really left the U.S. besides going to Canada ... and so just jumping around in all these different cities and countries in Europe was amazing ... and I've been touring ever since.”

Cirque du Soleil has a variety of shows, both tours and residencies, that feature dazzling acrobatics and fantastical stories. Beuse joined the “Corteo” tour in 2022.

“Corteo means kind of a procession,” he explained. “The show is about the clown’s dream of his funeral. So it’s the funeral procession that he's dreaming of.”

Buese performs in “Tournik,” an adaptation of a Russian act that involves swinging on and between bars.

“It's a big kind of choreographed number of different swinging and a lot of traffic,” he said. “So the timing has to be really precise, but it's a beautiful piece. A lot of big acrobatics in it.”

Buese says “Corteo” is great for the whole family and features a live band.

The show will be at Temple University’s Liacouras Center from May 30 to June 2. Tickets are available on Cirque du Soleil’s website.

A beach ball drop, a turtle trot and all the ‘Shore Things’ happening Memorial Day weekend

May 22, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Beach season is back and so is “It’s a Shore Thing,” your go-to spot for all things fun at the Jersey Shore!

We’re headed for a hot Memorial Day weekend — and not just because temperatures are in the 80s. The weekend is loaded with fun events along the shore for the whole family. If you need a few ideas, we’ve got you covered.

WILDWOOD FOOD TRUCK AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

There’s something for everyone at the Wildwood Food Truck and Music FEASTival on Sunday starting at noon. More than a dozen food trucks will be parked in Byrne Plaza, offering

everything from cheesesteaks and tacos to seafood, as well as dessert. Vegetarian options will also be available.

There will also be music to go along with your meal, with DJ Louis spinning all day on the wheels of steel. Kids will have plenty to keep them entertained as well, from face painting and miniature golf to a bungee trampoline.

WILDWOODS INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

Described as a “full-blown kite festival on steroids,” the Wildwoods International Kite Festival is aimed at both kite enthusiasts and beginners, running all weekend at the Wildwoods Convention Center and on the beach at Rio Grande Avenue in Wildwood.

It all starts on Friday with the “Unlocking of the Beach” ceremony. Festivities include a welcome social, an illuminated night kite flight and a kite makers’ competition. If you don’t have a kite, there will be a sales tent on hand. There will also be workshops and lessons for beginning flyers.

The festival culminates in the World Indoor Kite Competition on Monday. Even if you’ve never flown a kite before, the event is open and instructors will be on hand. It’s an all-inclusive event organizers say will have everyone on cloud nine.

CAPE MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Classical and jazz music lovers will find much to love at the Cape May Music Festival, kicking off on Sunday and running through June 23.

The Atlantic Brass Band starts things off with a free outdoor performance Sunday night at 7. The lineup throughout the month-long festival includes the New Jersey Chamber Symphony Players, the New York Chamber Ensemble, the Bay Atlantic Symphony, a jazz brunch featuring musicians Mary Lou Newnam and Ray Mallach, and indie pop group BAILEN.

STONE HARBOR TURTLE TROT

If you need help coming out of your shell, you can join the runners taking part in the Stone Harbor Turtle Trot. The 23rd annual event includes a 5K run and 2-mile fun walk.

Organizers say the event, named for the diamondback terrapins crossing Stone Harbor’s roads, has become a Memorial Day weekend tradition for runners, families and beach enthusiasts. A

portion of the event proceeds goes to the Diamondback Terrapin Conservation Program at the Wetlands Institute.

This year, the run is part of the USA Track & Field New Jersey Grand Prix, so USATF runners can earn points toward their 2024 Grand Prix totals. Even if you aren't part of the Grand Prix, organizers promise a shell of a good time.

ATLANTIC CITY BEACH BALL DROP

Do you hear the blues a-calling? If you do, then organizers hope the Atlantic City Beach Ball Drop on Friday will chase them away.

It's part of an entire weekend of events on the Atlantic City boardwalk. There will be live entertainment on the boardwalk from noon until 5 p.m. on Friday, culminating in the Beach Ball Drop, with more than 5,000 beach balls dropped from a giant net for everyone to enjoy. If that isn't enough, "Frasier" star Kelsey Grammer will be on hand for the fun.

Barnes Foundation to host Miami-born Philadelphia artist whose work examines impact of communities

May 28, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Barnes Foundation is starting their summer programming with a bit of Miami heat. The museum will co-host a program featuring a Miami-born artist who has turned his focus to Philadelphia's communities of color.

Mark Thomas Gibson moved to Philly from Miami just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020. While there, his "This Life: Black Life in the Time of Now" exhibit — at the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora — garnered global recognition. Gibson now hopes to bring that same passion to Philly.

"Philadelphia is an amazing city as far as the Black community that exists in Philadelphia and the history of Philadelphia and its Black community," Gibson said. "I'm very proud to be in this space to think and conceive what could a space be like for African American artists."

With his upcoming "Artist Conversation" event at the Barnes on June 4, Gibson invites the public to come explore art's impact on Philly's Black community.

“As we move forward when thinking about 250 years of this country,” he asked, “what does that look like for Philadelphia as it develops?”

He also acknowledges how the voice of the art community can have a broad impact on city development, something he promises to address in his talk. “There’s so much construction and there are so many elements that come into play, financial elements in the city,” he said. “What does that mean?”

One thing Gibson has learned is how Philly’s tight-knit art community and communities of color are woven together.

“I’ve had to learn that this is a city of neighborhoods and sometimes just a city of blocks,” he said. “You don’t actually just get in. In Philadelphia, you have to live here and be in it with people.”

June

Black Music Month celebrations underway in Philadelphia

June 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Black Music Month kicks off this weekend with the Roots Picnic, hosted by Philly’s legendary Roots Crew, but if you didn’t get tickets, you can still keep the celebration going all month long at the African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Kenny Gamble, Ed Wright, and Dyana Williams came up with the idea of setting a month aside to celebrate Black music in 1979. On June 7 of that same year, President Jimmy Carter hosted a reception to “formally recognize the cultural and financial contributions of Black music,” according to the National Museum of African American Music.

Since then, the month has grown from small celebrations to national, with events right here in Philadelphia.

“The Philadelphia sound holds a very, very special place in the narrative of American music. And so we’re very fortunate to be in a city with such a musical history and background,” said Christopher Miller, executive vice president of the African American Museum of Philadelphia.

He says Black music has been at the cornerstone of nearly every music genre — “the origin of the banjo, for example, resides in the hands of those who were enslaved Africans. The original architects of rock ‘n’ roll reside with Black music. Think about jazz, blues, rhythm and blues, soul, funk, bebop, pop, hip hop, gospel and more.”

Miller says Philly’s signature lush, orchestral soul music gives the city a reputation that sets it apart, which you can learn about this month at the African American Museum in Center City, beginning a Rhythms of Liberation series on June 8 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

There, Miller says Black music will be showcased across different genres, helping to represent its wide-ranging characteristics.

“You’re able to have those various touchpoints from struggle to joy. And then also to have a consciousness about the social condition of America through the lens of the Black experience,” he said.

On June 19, there will be a Juneteenth Block Party with music and free admission to the museum. Registration prior to the event is encouraged.

‘Ripped out from under them’: UArts community rallies outside Hamilton Hall on school's last day of operations

June 7, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The University of the Arts is set to shut down on Friday, a week after officials shocked the school community and announced that the 150-year-old institution would close because of financial struggles.

Around 3 p.m. Friday, tears and final embraces came in abundance as students, faculty, and alumni rallied on and around the steps of Hamilton Hall, the main UArts building on South Broad Street.

Brenda Patzer, who was in her fourth year, training to become an actress, spoke at the rally.

“May those responsible for ripping so many futures away never know the gift of a clean conscience,” she said.

Faculty member Melanie Bilenker studied crafts at the university from 1996-2000.

“It just breaks my heart... Some of these kids were getting ready to do their thesis work in their final year and now it’s all ripped out from under them,” Bilenker said.

She says she came to Philly to go to the school and stayed like many others.

“People came, people stayed. They put down roots, they stayed... I did, my husband did, a ton of my friends did, and I worry about not having this as a source of the creative community in Philadelphia.”

Members of the school community said they have been left in the dark since the closure announcement was made on the night of May 31. Their questions were supposed to be addressed at a town hall meeting on Monday, but the university canceled it minutes before it was set to start because officials said they could not adequately answer them.

Since then, students have been camping out on the steps of Hamilton Hall, which is covered in signs and messages written in chalk. Many members of the school community said they first found out about the closure through news reports and social media posts. They then received an email from the university stating that it was in a “fragile financial state, with many years of declining enrollments, declining revenues, and increasing expenses.”

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) said it learned about the closure on May 29, and because UArts did not take the proper steps, it withdrew the university’s accreditation.

In the days after the closure announcement, UArts President Kerry Walk resigned and the board hired a management firm to lead the transition.

Stunned city and state officials want answers too. Philadelphia City Council voted on Thursday to hold hearings to investigate the closure. Co-sponsor of the resolution, Councilmember Isaiah Thomas, said City Council hopes to get the “answers UArts has failed to provide.” He said it is

particularly concerning that the abrupt closure comes just months after faculty and staff ratified union contracts, which took four years to negotiate.

The Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office is also looking into how the situation has been handled. A spokesperson said in a statement, "The Office of Attorney General has oversight authority regarding nonprofits, charitable entities, or institutions. We are very concerned by the sudden closure of University of the Arts, which has impacted students, staff, and the community. We are reviewing the circumstances of the closure and any transfer or loss of assets."

There is also a push to keep the school open. A petition is going around, and UArts alumni and parents committees set up saveuarts.org to share information.

A number of colleges and universities in the city, region, and elsewhere said they would welcome affected students by honoring credits and scholarships and providing counseling services to keep them on a path to graduate on time.

Sensory Coalition creates safe spaces for autistic youth through art

June 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Colleen Ott decided to start The Autistic Art Coalition of Philadelphia back in 2022 when she heard about an individual being bullied because they were autistic.

"I said heck no!" Ott recounted.

The coalition's various art groups incorporate things like drawing, watercolors, and even photography to build motor skills and more for autistic youth.

"I've been able to take all my lived experience and teaching I've done and put it all together and with the help of professionals," said Ott.

Ott said the outlet provided by The Autistic Art Coalition was much needed when it was founded after the worst of COVID in 2022.

“There was no art for individuals who are autistic, neurodivergent or who had intellectual disabilities because the pandemic wiped it all out,” she said.

Now, two years later, the end result is an equally diverse community where non-verbal and autistic youth who once felt like outsiders can now thrive together through expression.

“They can get out how they’re feeling, what is going on in what they’re thinking...communication,” said Ott.

2-Night Gallery at Plays & Players Theatre showcases work of those affected by UArts closure

June 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When Gigi LoVond first heard about the abrupt closure of University of the Arts, she cried over the memories it brought back.

“I was also an arts student — not of UArts, but I was an arts student, and my school also closed,” she said.

LoVond went to the Art Institute of Philadelphia, which shuttered in 2018.

“I understand how this could be just, totally dramatizing, and this was so spur of the moment,” she said. “There’s a lot of people who are very hurt and I felt as though that not only are the UArts students and staff hurt, but also the Philadelphia art community.”

Through that pain came inspiration.

On Friday and Saturday night at Plays & Players Theatre in Center City, some of the students, faculty, and alumni affected by the UArts closure will have a chance to show off their work.

Matt Madrigal, a sophomore film student at the university, is one of those people. On Friday, he showcased two paintings and a still from one of his short films.

“I was just very interested because it would be my first gallery and I would like to have some exposure with my art,” he said.

“The arts around here, I guess it’s just more alive... everybody’s so tight, like a community, and that’s what’s so special... Everyone’s willing to collaborate.”

Dare Oredipe also had work on display at the gallery.

His time at UArts spanned more than a decade, as he studied illustration before managing the school’s print shop.

“I found my way as an artist there at UArts... There’s just something that’s indispensable about being able to sit in a space surrounded by like-minded artists and also artists that have completely different minds to you,” he said.

Seven other artists also had work on display.

LoVond says the event is all about supporting displaced artists and showing them there is a path forward.

“You don’t have to graduate from arts school to be in a gallery or to be in a play,” she said.

EDUCATION

April

Pa. warns of scam soliciting SAT, ACT student prep materials to parents

April 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Parents, be cautious during student testing season. The Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General is seeing more scams related to SAT and ACT prep.

According to Pennsylvania Attorney General Michelle Henry, scammers are contacting parents of kids who are expected to take the PSAT, SAT, or ACT and claiming to be associated with the College Board or another educational organization.

They trick the parent into confirming their student's name, address, school, test details, and other personal information before offering preparation materials. Then, they ask for a cash deposit, which they say will be refunded after the test materials are mailed back.

State prosecutors said they have received several reports of these scams. They urge parents to be cautious of anyone calling and asking for money of any kind, and not to give out personal information.

Prosecutors said the College Board will never ask for bank or credit card information over the phone or by email. Anyone who receives a call like this should report it to the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.

Reports can be submitted by emailing scams@attorneygeneral.gov or calling 1-800-441-2555.

Philadelphia School District to end controversial practice of 'leveling' teachers this fall

April 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia says it will end the controversial practice of transferring teachers based on enrollment after the school year begins.

For years, the district has engaged in a practice known as "leveling" — moving teachers from school to school in October because actual enrollment didn't match up with projections.

Teachers, parents, and students agreed that leveling was disruptive because it took dozens of teachers away from students who just got to know them.

Effective in the fall of 2024, the district will end leveling, Superintendent Tony Watlington announced Tuesday.

“I’m pleased to announce that we will discontinue the process of leveling in the School District of Philadelphia and stop the process of moving teachers after the school year begins,” Watlington said in a YouTube video.

To pay for the additional teachers needed, the district plans to use \$8.8 million from central office cuts and energy savings, Watlington said. The cuts would not involve layoffs of current employees.

The decision to end leveling was made after hearing from students, parents, teachers and elected officials, Watlington said.

Philadelphia Federation of Teachers President Jerry Jordan hailed the move as “a sound one and a very welcome one.” Jordan, in a statement, said, “Every child in every school deserves a highly qualified, certified teacher from the first day of school. ... To know that the District recognizes and appreciates the importance of a stable staff is significant.”

Robin Cooper, president of the principals union, the Commonwealth Association of School Administrators, called the move “encouraging.”

“The key positive impact is that other schools will not be losing any teachers to schools with increasing enrollments, with the end result that all schools will remain or become whole,” she said in a statement.

Report: Camden students rebounding from pandemic learning loss

April 23, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Education experts say learning loss from the pandemic has affected children all over the world, with greater impacts felt in low-income neighborhoods. However, a recent report from a Camden nonprofit says students in the city are rebounding from pandemic learning loss, with improved numbers for the first time in a couple of years.

The Camden Education Fund's report shows a lot of progress for students, with recent state standardized test scores rebounding from post-pandemic levels. Camden schools were found to have narrowed the citywide and state proficiency gap in English language arts by five percentage points since 2015, from 36 to 31 — with a 20% proficiency rate in 2023.

Camden schools also narrowed the math proficiency gap between city and state by two points, with a 10% proficiency rate last year, up from 8% in 2022.

Executive director Giana Campbell says efforts to provide additional tutoring for the students that were the furthest behind has paid off.

“One of the big things we’ve learned since the pandemic is just how important those supports are, not only in the classroom but also outside of the classroom,” said Campbell.

“One of the other things that we’ve supported schools around and heard from schools is making sure that the type of curriculum and instruction that students are working on is rigorous and that we’re setting a high bar for our students.”

Campbell says there's still and will always be hard work ahead, which is why she says one of the most important initiatives moving forward is to ensure Camden can hire and retain the very best teachers.

“We know that the number one indicator for student success is a great teacher,” she said.

According to Campbell, the fund would also like to see more programs and support offered to students outside of the classroom, “whether it be mental health supports, social-emotional learning, recreational opportunities to really nurture the whole child.”

CCP administration leaves bargaining table after students interrupt negotiations with faculty

April 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Students at Community College of Philadelphia interjected themselves into faculty contract negotiations Friday, causing the administration to leave the session.

About two dozen students crowded into CCP's boardroom to support the faculty union's contract proposal that students be given free SEPTA rides to classes. Frank Scales, president-elect of the student government, contended transportation affects student attendance, so it should be part of the teacher contract.

"We wanted to advocate for TransPasses and deal with that," he said. "The administration decided that they were not going to speak with students in the room."

In a statement to KYW Newsradio, the college said the union violated a written agreement for bargaining rules. The college says it has "a good offer on the table, to which the union has refused to respond."

Students plan to take their concerns to City Council and the May 2 CCP Board of Trustees meeting. It's unclear whether they'll continue to demand a seat at the bargaining table.

The AFT Local 2026 contract expires in August.

"One thing that's important to us is getting more funding from the city so that we can get the things that we need for our students to be successful," said AFT Local 2026 Treasurer Jamie Zigarelli. "And one of those things is public transportation. It's a common good issue."

May

New online portal aims to guide people considering careers in teaching

May 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — People considering a career as a teacher in Philadelphia now have a website to demystify the process.

It's another strategy to address the national teacher shortage. The newly-launched TeachPHL.org is a project of the Philadelphia Citywide Talent Coalition, run by the nonprofit Elevate 215.

The campaign is funded by a \$250,000 state grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. David Saenz, Elevate 215's communications director, says the new teacher hub simplifies the process of finding jobs at city district and charter schools.

"There are resources that exist specifically at the state level on how to navigate this process, but it is not necessarily user-friendly. If we help guide them along, then [TeachPHL.org] will hopefully provide the information they need in a digestible way," Saenz told KYW Newsradio.

"In order to make sure that the pipeline can not only be filled with more talented individuals — but also diverse individuals — we have to start thinking about different audiences to try to attract to teaching."

TeachPHL.org leads prospective teachers through their options, such as whether they're already certified in another state or if they want to be paid in a teacher residency program while they're seeking certification. The site aims to define a pathway for people who want to be teachers — whether they're already state-certified, or considering a new vocation.

For example, Saenz says the site provides information on residency programs. "If you're a career changer and you're doing something else and [say], 'Oh, I don't want to go back to school to become a teacher,' well, there are opportunities to be able to transition that without having to have a lapse in income," he said.

75-year-old ‘grandma’ named top building substitute teacher in the region

May 8, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — For some passing by her in the halls, Annie Gadson is a regular substitute teacher. To her students, she’s known affectionately as “grandma.” And now, she’s recognized as the best sub in the region.

The normally unflappable Gadson was floored on Tuesday at a surprise assembly at West Philly’s Paul Robeson High School, where she was honored as the most outstanding substitute teacher in the region.

Gadson is a building sub at Robeson, covering different classes and filling in when teachers aren’t available. She was a district teacher for 40 years and returned as a sub two years ago.

“I am in total shock,” said the 75-year-old. “I have never in my life received any type of award like this, so it’s very gratifying.”

The 2024 Impact Award is given by ESS, the staffing firm that manages substitute teachers. Joe Birmingham, vice president of Philadelphia operations for ESS, also presented Gadson with a prize: a check for \$1,000.

“Her flexibility and willingness to accept any challenge, any assignment — it just set her above any of the other great nominees that we had,” he said.

Filling substitute teacher jobs has been a challenge. Overall, ESS expects to fill 142,000 Philadelphia sub jobs this year — on pace to fill more than half of the total jobs available.

State audit commends Philadelphia School District’s oversight of charter schools but says there’s room for improvement

May 8, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The School District of Philadelphia works in compliance with state law when it comes to authorizing, monitoring, and renewing charter schools, but there is room for improvement, according to a new state audit.

On Tuesday, the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General released its findings of an audit of Philly charter schools. State Auditor General Timothy DeFoor said there was “a lot of good news to share.”

“While the system is working, there are things that can be done better,” he said.

The audit recommends getting an external review of the district’s framework to evaluate charters, putting charter responses in renewal reports to increase transparency, and doing more frequent audits of charter admissions lotteries.

DeFoor said situations, like allegations that Franklin Towne Charter High School rigged its enrollment lottery to exclude minorities, could have been detected sooner.

At a Harrisburg news conference on Tuesday, Peng Chao, head of the district’s Charter Schools Office, said the audit confirms the district has a robust charter evaluation system.

“This system holds all charter schools to the same set of performance standards in order to foster high-quality educational options and improved outcomes for all of our students,” said Chao.

No system is perfect, Chao added, and his office will continue to learn and reassess its practices.

Pennridge School Board in Bucks County votes to institute a bathroom policy based on gender identity

May 14, 2024

PERKASIE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The Pennridge School District in Bucks County on Monday voted to retire its controversial Policy 720, which required students to use bathrooms that correspond to the sex indicated on their birth certificate.

The board had approved the policy just a year ago, but it would violate a revised Title IX regulation that blocks blanket policies preventing transgender students from using the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity.

The school board voted 5-4 to reverse the policy.

Before voting, board members heard from the community. Most people who spoke at the hearing did not want to see Policy 720 changed. Parent Dave Rice was among them.

"If this policy is removed in August, it will open the floodgates to many lawsuits by many district families," Rice said.

Pennridge High School graduate Matthew Carbonaro spoke out before the vote.

"This will be the tip of the iceberg. What's left — gender-neutral sports?"

The meeting was heated at times. Board members had to remind the crowd to stop interrupting when some attendees started heckling people who spoke in support of changing the policy.

A non-binary Class of 2019 graduate told board members there should be more single-use bathrooms, saying most queer and transgender kids prefer them because they're scared of harassment.

"We would just prefer to use the bathroom in peace."

Under the new policy, there will be single-occupancy bathrooms that can be used by all students.

Starting in August, the school district will provide separate bathrooms for students and faculty use depending on gender identity. They will be labeled for faculty only, for biological males, for biological females, for students who identify as male, and for students who identify as female.

June

These are the final days for one Philly charter whose founder decided to retire and close the school

June 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A longtime Philadelphia charter school is closing for good this month, leaving many parents asking why, while they try to find new schools for their children in September.

June 14 is the last day ever for classes at the Mathematics, Civics, and Sciences Charter School of Philadelphia. Since Veronica Joyner announced last October that the first- through 12th-grade school she founded would close when she retires at the end of this year, 900 families have been scrambling.

The School District of Philadelphia has been trying to help, says Peng Chao, who heads up its charter schools office.

"We actually recently — as recently as last week — held an event here, where we had a number of families come in — I think almost 100 families came in — to try to find new options for them, both district and charter."

Chao says many parents at Math, Civics, and Sciences don't know where their children will be going this fall.

"It's impossible to say precisely right now. What we do know is that there are a couple of hundred families that still don't have a definitive placement yet," Chao said.

But Joyner says most parents have secured placements, and she says they've thanked her for providing a charter school option over the years.

"They've been congratulating me for a job well done for 25 years — as a private citizen, seeing a problem and helping to resolve the problem."

But parent Kieyera Williams questions why Joyner sought to close the school, rather than allow someone else to run it. The school board gave the school a one-year, instead of a five-year, charter renewal.

"I think that is just wrong, honestly. I feel like she should at least leave it to somebody she trusted. This is a whole school. People have been going here for years."

Williams still hasn't found a new school for her second grader.

"I'm undecided because I still want him in a charter school and everywhere else is so far and is not giving me enough time to find him a school."

Joyner heads the nonprofit Parents United for Better Schools, which plans to sell the North Broad Street building where the school is housed.

“I think that I should be respected as a private citizen in Philadelphia for the hard work that I’ve done. I’ve provided diplomas to over 2,000 students,” Joyner said.

"I did something to help the community. I'm not obligated as a private citizen to continue a school that I've run very well for 25 years."

NJ Assembly committee advances bill that would prohibit book bans at public schools and libraries

June 7, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — New Jersey’s Assembly Education Committee heard several hours of testimony for and against an amended bill that would allow controversial books to remain on school and public library shelves. It would also prevent legal action against librarians.

Dozens of people shared their thoughts about the Freedom to Read Act, a bill that has undergone several changes since it was first introduced.

Those in favor say diverse voices and subjects shouldn’t be banned, and just because someone doesn’t like a book doesn’t mean they should have the power to prevent others from reading it.

“There are a lot of other books that help children in the LGBTQ community to become who they are, to help them understand they are not alone, that they are not abnormal, and that they have support,” one person testified.

People opposed to the legislation had various concerns, but the most common criticism was about books with obscene and even pornographic images. They argue removing those books isn’t book banning — it’s age-appropriate curation.

“No child, especially those struggling with their identity, should be led to explore sex and kink as a means for finding themselves,” said another individual.

Another controversial aspect of the bill is legal immunity for librarians and staff. Advocates say they shouldn't be targeted or punished for providing literature. Opponents argue nobody should be above the law.

One librarian urged lawmakers to vote for the bill because library staff should not face harassment for doing their jobs. "The harassment faced by myself and many in our profession have had severe mental and emotional repercussions."

The bill advanced committee 7-1. It is still far from becoming law, as legislators say there are more changes and amendments to debate at future hearings.

C-SPAN honors Philly students for short documentary on public school funding

June 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A six-minute video by three Science Leadership Academy students has earned an honorable mention in C-SPAN's 20th annual StudentCam documentary competition.

History teacher Michael Clapper says the entry, "Funding Our Future," from juniors El Palmer, Violet Brenner, and Clarisa Lanzas, examines inequities in public school funding from a student perspective.

"It's not just sort of the larger things that we read about — but trying to give the student experience of that," Clapper said.

Zach Lowe, a C-SPAN education resource specialist, visited SLA on Monday to honor the students for their work.

"They're going to be the next generation of leaders, the next generation of consumers of news and public affairs," Lowe said. "So we offered this opportunity called StudentCam to them to create documentaries and get through some of these very hot-button, very difficult topics."

SLA student Anna Berman also took third place for her video about disposable fashions: "Fast Fashion: A Race to the Bottom."

"Funding Our Future" presents images of run-down bathrooms in city schools juxtaposed with photos of bright, well-maintained hallways in the suburbs.

"We got a lot of footage from friends in suburban public schools. So we had an interesting experience of having our experience in an urban school versus a suburban school," said Brenner. "I think that having a public school kid's perspective on this is very important."

Palmer said making the video taught students to follow the money. "Because of the way that neighborhoods are taxed and things like that, I think we kind of just learned so much about all of the kind of money aspects that we didn't really know about before," Palmer told KYW Newsradio.

"We kind of learned how the history tied in. It was always imbalanced between suburban and urban public schools," Lanzas said. "I hope that getting the word out there and seeing people that can help us, it'll inspire them to make change."

More winners

Kaitlyn Hess and Charlize Ko, 11th graders from Conestoga High School in Berwyn, scored an honorable mention for their documentary "Change in America — The Public Education System."

And a trio of students from Central Bucks South High School were honored for their documentary.

Mayor Parker outlines extended-day program for 25 district, charter schools

June 27, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City officials have officially announced a pilot for year-round extended-day programs at 25 district and charter schools.

At first, the School District of Philadelphia said it would launch extended-day programs at 20 area schools. But Mayor Cherelle Parker announced at City Hall Thursday, that five charters were added to the list, bringing the total to 25.

Starting this fall, those schools – all elementary-level – would be open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with academics, arts, and activities before and after the school day. Schools in the pilot would also be open during the spring and winter breaks and for six weeks in the summer.

But Mayor Parker wants to make it clear – while it may be her vision for the future, this does not mean classes will be in session literally all year round.

“It is not mandatory for students to participate,” she said. “We are not asking anything more of our incredibly hard-working educators.”

In a statement to KYW Newsradio, President-elect of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers Arthur Steinberg says its members were not consulted about this pilot, saying in part:

We have requested more information about the pilot and its potential impact on our members from Superintendent Watlington's administration. As we await communication from the District, we intend to have more information to share with our members in the very near future.

The mayor's education secretary said the program would not require changes to the teachers' contract. Superintendent Tony Watlington says the district is working with its unions.

“We are not going to burn out or overburden our hard-working, well-supported teachers,” he said.

Parker wouldn't get specific about the future of the program but assures the pilot is just phase one.

List of participating School District of Philadelphia Schools:

Vare-Washington Elementary School

Southwark Elementary School

Thomas G. Morton Elementary School

George Childs Elementary School

Add B Anderson Elementary School

Alain Locke Elementary School

Samuel Gompers Elementary School

Overbrook Educational Center

Richard R. Wright Elementary School
Edward Gideon Elementary School
Solomon Solis-Cohen Elementary School
John H. Webster Elementary School
Juniata Park Academy
William Cramp Elementary School
Thomas M. Peirce Elementary School
Joseph Pennell Elementary School
Franklin S. Edmonds Elementary School
Laura Carnell Elementary School
Louis Farrell Elementary School
Joseph Greenberg Elementary School

List of participating Charter Schools:

Belmont Charter School
Northwood Charter School
Pan American Charter School
Mastery Pickett (6-8 only)
Universal Creighton Charter School

ELECTIONS & POLITICS

April

City officials unveil first of 10 satellite election offices across Philadelphia

April 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A former Philadelphia election official who was the target of Donald Trump’s 2020 election campaign over false claims of voter fraud returned to Philadelphia Tuesday morning alongside other officials to welcome the city’s first permanent election site ahead of November’s general election.

The permanent satellite election office near North 40th and Market Streets in West Philadelphia is the first of 10 new sites. Mayor Cherelle Parker applauded the office at the grand opening on Tuesday. Officials said it will make voting more accessible, allowing residents to register to vote and request a mail-in ballot in person, receive it, complete it, and return it — all in one place.

Al Schmidt, former Philadelphia city commissioner and current secretary of the commonwealth, called it a big improvement to voter access. In 2020, Schmidt, a Republican, was the target of harassment by Trump supporters as he helped oversee the recount efforts in Philadelphia.

Trump called out Schmidt by name on Twitter at the time, falsely accusing him of voter fraud. As a result, Schmidt, his family, and his staff received death threats from Trump supporters.

No evidence of widespread voter fraud was ever discovered in Philadelphia.

Schmidt said the new permanent satellite offices offer a convenience for voters.

“You don’t have to go to City Hall if you want to apply in person for a mail-in ballot,” he said, “or if you want to register in person and you need that voter registration right away.”

Also during the 2020 election, two armed men were arrested outside the Pennsylvania Convention Center, where the ballot count was underway. District Attorney Larry Krasner said efforts to interfere with the 2024 election will not be tolerated.

“We are not putting up with people who think democracy is something for them to step on,” he said.

City officials have not yet revealed where the remaining election offices will be located.

Philadelphia House Delegation urges Pa. Senate to pass 3 gun laws

April 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — State representatives from Philadelphia gathered at City Hall Thursday to celebrate the passage of gun safety bills in the state House. The bills are likely to die in the state Senate, but even getting the bills through the House is something that hasn’t happened in years.

The chairman of the Philadelphia House Delegation, Morgan Cephas, boasted that the House had passed three gun safety bills: a red flag bill that would temporarily disarm people in crisis; background checks for all gun sale venues, including gun shows; and, last Friday, a bill outlawing ghost guns.

“We are all standing here together to call on the Pennsylvania Senate to take up the gun bills that we have sent to their chamber,” Cephas said.

That is a long shot, at best, but Cephas considers even getting this far as progress.

“It is a very historic moment to be able to do this because it has been decades — decades — since we have even been able to get a hearing about the way the guns that are flooding our communities need to be further regulated,” she said.

House Speaker Joanna McClinton said the lawmakers haven’t heard from Republicans, who control the Senate, but House Democrats will keep trying to work with them.

“That is to protect our law enforcement, that is to protect our children getting out of school, that is to change the narrative that politicians do nothing,” she added.

The Republican Senate majority leader has not said if the chamber would take up the bills but has said the state has “robust” gun laws on the books, which must be enforced.

Pa. GOP lawmakers call on Gov. Shapiro to return to zero-based budget plan he used as Montgomery County commissioner

April 10, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Republican leaders in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives called on Gov. Josh Shapiro to implement a budgeting plan he used while he was a Montgomery County commissioner — by praising him for doing such a good job with it.

York County Republican state Rep. Dawn Keefer said she introduced a zero-based budgeting bill for each of the past three legislative sessions. She noted that when she joined the state House in 2017, the budget was about \$32 billion, while this year's proposed budget would be around \$48 billion.

Keefer said zero-based budgeting requires every state agency to start from zero, then explain why they need each dollar they're asking for, rather than just asking for an increase in funding.

"The agencies determine what their core purpose and mission is," she said, "and then the agencies have to align each action with those core missions, assess what their needs are, their costs, and the efficacy of each program that they have."

Shapiro implemented zero-based budgeting while chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, according to Keefer.

"He started the budget year with a \$10 million hole that he had to cover and a \$49 million structural deficit. When he was done with his zero-based budgeting that he had implemented, he had a \$1.6 million reserve," she said.

Zero-based budgeting at the state level could be much more challenging, she said, especially in the current political environment. She said she understands why the governor didn't push for zero-based budgeting after he took office last year.

"This is a heavy lift, zero-based budgeting for somebody just starting out in the administration," said Keefer.

“But we're 14 months in and there's still been no action. In fact, there's just been the complete opposite. It's more spending, more growth — one of the greatest levels of spending growth that we've seen.”

Keefer's legislation is part of a package of GOP budget bills that Republican lawmakers have called “back to basics.”

Highlights from KYW's Democratic debate for Pa. attorney general

April 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The five candidates seeking the Democratic nomination in the Pennsylvania attorney general race met at KYW Newsradio's studios Wednesday for a live debate ahead of the primary election on Tuesday, April 23.

THE CANDIDATES

Joe Khan

Former US Attorney and Bucks County solicitor Joe Khan says he would use the “unique powers of the attorney general's office to create a housing justice unit.

“We all know that the housing crisis impacts every community in Pennsylvania, rural, urban, and suburban, and it requires someone that wants to be held accountable for what they do or don't do.”

Eugene DePasquale

Former Pennsylvania State Rep. and Auditor General Eugene DePasquale says, in addition to protecting voters' rights, he will “protect abortion rights, take on the crooks trying to scam our seniors every single day, and also be the environmental attorney general.

Jared Solomon

Northeast Philadelphia State Rep. Jared Solomon says he wants to get back to the roots of the Democratic party and “really take on those big corporations that are not trying to help people in our communities.”

Kier Bradford-Grey

Former head of the Philadelphia and Montgomery County public defenders offices Kier Bradford-Grey says she'll "give children a fighting chance to thrive."

"We're going to make sure that families have financial protections, and we're going to make sure that families have the opportunity to have health care access, whether that is physical health or mental health."

Jack Stollsteimer

The Delaware County District Attorney says he'll continue the work he's done in his current job.

"The most important fights I've made that I've got to be passionate about are wage theft and the work I've done in the City of Chester to stop the gun violence. I'm going to do that for every community in Pennsylvania."

KYW's Suburban Bureau Chief Jim Melwert and Community Impact reporter Racquel Williams hosted the debate, asking the candidates how they would address many issues in the state, including one of the most pressing ones: gun violence.

TACKLING GUN VIOLENCE

Each year 1,600 Pennsylvanians die from gun violence, and 3,000 more are injured, according to CeaseFirePA.

Williams asked the candidates what they would do to tackle this issue.

Stollsteimer reflected on his work as district attorney and federal prosecutor in Philadelphia, and a strategy called "focused deterrents."

"Bringing the community and police together, we focus on the one percent of people who commit 75 to 80% of the shootings and we offer them a carrot and a stick. They've taken us up on it — we've reduced the number of shootings by 72% over the last four years."

Solomon says he'll do what he's done in Northeast Philly.

“Protection from special interest driving money to the gun violence task force to get illegal ghost guns off of our street.”

He says an expanded view of safety is what Pennsylvania needs.

Khan said he would take the same approach he used 17 years ago as a federal prosecutor.

“By working with the community, we brought agencies together, we brought team members together, we intervened with arrest, and then we worked our way up the system to solve unsolved homicides and to shut down gun trafficking that was happening in the community.”

DePasquale wants to crack down on illegal gun dealers.

“We need to hold them punishable to the fullest extent of the law, but we also need to focus on suicide. Two-thirds of all firearm deaths in Pennsylvania are the result of suicide.”

Bradford-Grey, also wants to tackle illegal guns, saying they’re accessible by people who should not have them.

“I know what that looks like, and I know how to target that appropriately, so I will ensure that all of the sales will be legal and will follow the common sense gun laws on the books.”

SEPTA SAFETY

In December, Pennsylvania passed a law that gives a special prosecutor jurisdiction over crime on SEPTA. The Attorney General is tasked with appointing that position — the acting attorney general hasn't done so yet.

Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner contends the law is unconstitutional. He says it subverts the will of voters in the city.

Melwert asked the candidates if they think this law should be implemented. And, if so, will they appoint and oversee this position?

Khan feels this is a terrible policy.

“This was pushed by the same people that I pleaded with to let Philadelphia and other cities pass common sense gun laws. These are the same folks who refuse to provide SEPTA the funding it needs to have more police officers and to keep riders and workers safe, and it makes me outraged as someone who grew up in the city, who still has family in the city, to see the tragedies unfolding on SEPTA being used as political theater, and what I see as a stunt that does nothing to keep Philadelphia or anywhere else more safe.”

DePasquale thinks how the legislature approached it was wrong.

“I think there could have been a significantly better approach to someone that rode public transportation to go to school as a kid, it's important to me that we have public safety there. But there could have been a better approach. Having said that, if the courts say it is constitutional, I'll work with the district attorney and others to implement it as effectively as possible to make sure people riding SEPTA are protected and safe.”

Bradford-Grey says she wants real public safety in the city.

“I live in this city, and I don't want a facade of public safety. And I do agree that this is a facade — to have one special prosecutor come in and cherry-pick cases is not going to solve our problems here in Philadelphia. We need to make sure that police have the resources they need and make sure that the district attorney has the resources that they need and any attorney general that has resources to help improve the quality of investigations so that the convictions are final. That's where we need to be. And I'll work with any district attorney to bring resources to their investigation so that we can make sure that our decisions are credible.”

Solomon says he voted against Act 40 and feels this is a continuation of the effort to impeach the district attorney.

“That was unconstitutional. My caucus chose me to stand against that constant unconstitutional move. This is along the same lines. This is simply an attempt to silence the voices, the voters in Philadelphia. What we need to be doing is moving forward on the approach I'm taking in Northeast Philadelphia, and common sense gun reforms.”

Stollsteimer says SEPTA is critical to the economic health of our region and they need to do everything they can to keep people safe on it, including the workers.

“My dad was a SEPTA bus driver. So, for me, this is personal. I spent most of my childhood on that system. I don't think this is the smartest approach. If the legislature asked me my opinion, I would have said put more money to transit police — have a police officer on buses, platforms, and trains. But I will use the powers whatever the tools they give us in the toolbox to save SEPTA and to protect the people who ride that system.”

Despite several recent homicides, SEPTA says serious crime is down by 45% compared to the first quarter of 2023.

The candidates were also asked about their approaches to combating mass incarceration and the opioid crisis. Take a listen in the player below to hear their responses:

Attempts to organize a debate between the two candidates seeking the Republican nomination — York County District Attorney Dave Sunday and former federal prosecutor and Delaware County State Rep. Craig Williams —were unsuccessful. Sunday declined the invitation to participate.

May

Bill aimed at putting brakes on dangerous pop-up car rallies sails through Pa. Senate, with broad bipartisan support

May 1, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A bill that supporters say is aimed at “putting the brakes on illegal street racing” is on its way to the Pennsylvania House, after passing the State Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Bucks County Republican State Sen. Frank Farry’s bill would increase fines, impound participants’ vehicles, and punish organizers.

“People are organizing what they're calling ‘meetups’ in intersections and in parking lots and essentially taking them over, doing what older folks may call ‘donuts,’ which is now referred to as ‘drifting,’” Farry said.

“The organizers are taking to social media and announcing that these events will be taking place. And you know, but for the organization of them, these men and women would not be showing up with their fancy cars and doing what they're doing.”

Farry's bill would up the fine for a first offense to \$500. Repeat offenders could face a \$2,000 fine, prison time, and the impound of their cars.

"Numerous police officers have been injured in the process, being struck by vehicles. One of the drivers was actually shot and killed in Philadelphia after striking some troopers. They were injured in the process. So these dangerous precedents need some addressing statutorily."

Last June 18-year-old Anthony Allegrini Jr. was shot and killed by Pennsylvania State Police in Philadelphia after, officers say, he hit two law enforcement officials as he was fleeing a meet-up on I-95 near Penn's Landing. In 2022, two people were killed by a man fleeing a rally in Wildwood. That same year, there was a serious car crash by a driver who police say was trying to get away from a meet-up at the Willow Grove Mall.

The bill passed the Senate 49-1 with Philadelphia Democrat Nikil Saval the only vote against. It now heads to the Pennsylvania House.

Pennsylvania House passes bill to prevent stalking using remote devices

May 2, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a bill this week that would make it a crime to use remote tracking devices to stalk someone without their knowledge.

The legislation would amend Pennsylvania's stalking laws to include the use of devices like Apple AirTags to secretly follow someone.

AirTags are small, inexpensive transmitters designed to keep track of often misplaced items. In recent years, Apple has come under fire over the devices, including a class-action lawsuit filed in December. The suit alleges the tech company hasn't done enough to prevent stalkers from secretly using them. In March, a judge denied a motion from Apple to dismiss the litigation.

The bill comes from Allegheny County Democratic state Rep. Lindsay Powell.

“We need to stay vigilant about how new devices can be exploited by bad actors with criminal motives,” she said. “Too often, government is playing catchup when it comes to developing policies to minimize harm that new technologies can cause when applied beyond their intended use.”

Powell says 7.5 million Americans are victimized by stalking each year, with 80% of those victims being tracked by technology. Under her bill, it would be a third-degree misdemeanor to track someone without their knowledge, with some exceptions like parents or legal guardians and law enforcement.

“What is particularly striking about this report is that, on average, the fear that cyberstalking victims experience is often higher than it is for in person victims of stalking,” she said.

The bill passed the Pennsylvania House 199-1. It now heads to the state Senate, where there is a similar bill that carries harsher penalties. It’s not clear which one the Senate will choose to take up.

Pennsylvania to ban cell phone use while driving and require police to collect traffic stop data

May 10, 2024

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania will join the majority of states that ban motorists from handling a cell phone for almost any purpose while driving, as backers of the legislation hope to reduce distracted driving accidents and deaths after nearly two decades of pressing the measure.

Gov. Josh Shapiro's office said Thursday that the Democrat will sign the bill, 18 years after he first introduced a similar bill when he served in the state House of Representatives. The ban will take effect a year after he signs it, which is expected in the coming days.

The bill also includes a provision long-sought by the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus as a bulwark against racial profiling. That provision requires bigger police departments, as well as the Pennsylvania State Police, to collect and publicly report data on traffic stops, including a driver's race.

The bill passed both chambers of the state Legislature this week and will bring Pennsylvania into alignment with the law on motorists' cell phone use in every one of its neighboring states. Currently, Pennsylvania's restriction on cell phone use while driving applies only to texting.

Sen. Rosemary Brown, R-Monroe, had pushed for more than a decade to toughen Pennsylvania's restriction on cell phone use while driving. Its passage is a “monumental victory” for Pennsylvania that will protect drivers, prevent crashes, and save lives, Brown said in a statement.

Under the bill, police can ticket a driver who is handling their phone for almost any reason. Drivers can still use their phone to make phone calls or for other functions, such as listening to music, if they are using it hands-free with technology such as a docking station, Bluetooth, or speakers.

The ban applies to motorists sitting in traffic or stopped at a traffic light, but does not include a driver who has parked on the side of the road or another place where the vehicle can remain stopped safely.

Other exceptions include for navigational use or alerting emergency responders. A first offense is punishable by a \$50 fine and offenders who cause serious accidents could get more time in prison.

Shapiro called the bill “common sense.”

“I’ve met too many families that have an empty seat at the dinner table because of distracted driving. I’ve met too many people with injuries that they’re going to live with for the rest of their lives because they were hit by a distracted motorist,” Shapiro told WILK-FM radio in Pittston during an interview last month.

Crashes where a distracted driver was a contributing factor are down in Pennsylvania in the past decade, as crashes overall have declined, according to state data.

In some years, it was the second-leading cause of accidents. In 2022, it was the third-leading cause. That was behind the speed and improper turning, but ahead of drinking alcohol, careless passing, and tailgating.

Twenty-eight states already ban cell phone use while driving, according to information from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Meanwhile, at least 23 states have laws on collecting data on traffic stops, the group said.

Rep. Napoleon Nelson, D-Montgomery, the chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, said caucus members were concerned that police could abuse a broad new power to pull over motorists and target racial minorities.

Collecting traffic stop data is important for accountability, Nelson said.

“I think this will be a significant win for transparency and help to continue building trust between community members and those who are sworn to serve and protect,” Nelson said in an interview.

Rep. Donna Bullock, D-Philadelphia, who worked for several years to get the provision into law, called it a “big step for Pennsylvania.” The Pennsylvania State Police recently began voluntarily collecting and reporting traffic stop data and some municipal police departments do as well, Bullock said.

But the methods of individual departments aren't uniform, like they will be under the new law, Bullock said.

Data released last year by the state police and analyzed by the National Policing Institute showed no disparities between racial and ethnic groups for warnings, citations, or arrests. But troopers were more than twice more likely to search Black and Hispanic drivers than white drivers, the report showed.

Under the forthcoming law, data that police must report includes the reason for the stop, details from a search of the vehicle, and the race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the driver who was stopped. Police forces that serve municipalities under 5,000 people are exempt from the requirement.

The data collection requirement takes effect in a year and a half. After the cell phone ban takes effect, drivers get a grace period of another year in which they only receive a written warning for violating it.

Where do older Pennsylvania voters stand ahead of the 2024 election?

May 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A recent poll from AARP Pennsylvania identified some of the core issues driving the decisions of voters 50 and older at the polls in 2024, and they're all economic concerns.

As a community that lives mostly on a fixed income, Bill Johnston Walsh, state director of AARP said top concerns revolved around preserving social security, taxes, and Medicare access.

“They have been about the bread and butter issues of utilities, you know, can I pay for my water, my electricity, my heat? Can I put food on the table? Can I afford my prescription drugs?” he said.

By the numbers, 80% of those surveyed said social security preservation was top of mind, and 73% said some sort of healthcare concern like Medicare access and affordability of prescription drugs, doctor's visits and hospitalizations were vital.

Housing was also a priority.

“They've raised their families in their homes, they want to be able to stay there,” said Johnston Walsh. “And they really want to see some policies out there, to be able to afford their taxes to stay in their home, or the upkeep of their home.”

As the voter group that statistically turns out the most for elections, they will have a big say in who gets Pennsylvania's electoral votes. And given the state's swing status, they could go a long way in determining who wins the White House.

June

Andy Kim destroyed the county line ballot, but Tuesday's primary results showed it wasn't everything

June 5, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — This primary election, at least on the Democratic side, was thought by some to be a referendum on the much-maligned county line ballot structure.

A lot of the headlines leading up to this primary focused on Andy Kim's legal battle against party organizations in the state, who were backing Tammy Murphy until she dropped out. There were many progressives who were thrilled about that federal ruling, but it didn't translate to success at the polls for them against Democratic machine candidates.

Micah Rasmussen from Rider University's Rebovich Institute said party-backed candidates won all over the state, including Herb Conaway in the 3rd Congressional District by a two-to-one margin.

Conaway, like other candidates in other parts of the state, had name recognition in his community along with the money and resources to win handily. Rasmussen said all three will continue to be big factors in determining who will win elections in the state with or without the county line.

"Parties want to win elections, and they've gotten good at figuring out, they know their districts best. They know their blocks by blocks best. And it turns out they have a pretty good idea of who's going to sell and who's not going to sell," he said. "They didn't miss a beat. They figured out what they had to do in place of the county line."

Turnout for the primary was around 15% statewide, with about half of those votes coming from mail-in ballots and early in-person voting.

City Council passes over 100 bills and resolutions, gives final approval to \$6.37B budget June 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City Council gave final approval to next year's city budget Thursday and passed more than 100 bills and resolutions.

The \$6.37 billion budget takes effect July 1. It includes money to hire 400 new police officers, conduct citywide street cleaning, and pilot twice-a-week trash collection, among other initiatives.

Council President Kenyatta Johnson says it was a win for both Mayor Cherelle Parker and City Council.

“My colleagues all voted unanimously to pass the budget because it was a budget that also prioritized issues and concerns of City Council, so I believe it was a good negotiation process,” he said.

Among the scores of other bills, council approved speed cameras on Broad Street, curfews in several commercial corridors, standards for electric vehicle chargers, zoning for two new public health centers, and new training requirements for eviction officers.

One controversial measure will prohibit city departments from entering into emergency contracts rather than asking for bids when services are needed immediately. Several council members expressed reservations but only two voted no.

There was also a cut in funding for the city’s Labor Department, which enforces worker protections. A large contingent of public speakers denounced this.

“Whatever kind of political stuff happens in this building, to leave these women on the cutting room floor is absolutely unacceptable and disgraceful. These women deserve so much more respect than the budget you’re about to pass,” said Nicole Kligerman who helped found the Domestic Workers Alliance.

Council won’t meet again until September.

Parker signs 3 public safety bills into law

June 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Mayor Cherelle Parker signed three bills into law Tuesday that she says are widely different, but will improve safety in the city.

“All of these bills, in their own ways, Philadelphia, work to do what I committed to doing for you, and that is making your public health and safety our number one priority,” she said.

One bill bans the production, sale, transfer, or possession of bump stocks, used to increase the amount of bullets a gun can fire.

“Back in March, do you remember this shooting where we had eight young people shot? Guess what was attached to that glock,” Public Safety Director Adam Geer said.

A recent Supreme Court ruling overturned the federal ban on bump stocks, but officials said it would not apply to this bill, as it was passed by a legislative body.

A second bill authorizes speed cameras on Broad Street to reduce crashes. It's an expansion of the bill that allowed speed cameras on Roosevelt Boulevard in 2020.

Executive Director Rich Lazer is studying where the cameras will go.

"This is governed by the data," Lazer said. "We look at the data, we look at the crash data, and we make the decisions on where we will save people's lives and that's what these cameras do."

Data from the Bicycle Coalition found that four of the six highest crash intersections in the city are on Broad Street — 90% of crashes involve a speeding driver.

The third bill puts new training requirements on people who carry out evictions. It's named for Angel Davis, who was critically injured last year when a contractor shot her during an eviction. A few months later, a Port Richmond woman was shot in the leg by a contractor appointed by the court to evict her.

Davis was present for the bill signing Tuesday but said the real victory will come when the city starts enforcing it.

"I need it to really take place for real great change, not just for show," Davis said.

A closer look at what's in New Jersey's proposed \$56.6 billion budget, from taxes to spending

June 28, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey lawmakers are poised to send a \$56.6 billion fiscal year 2025 budget to Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy this week, hiking taxes on high-earning businesses and funding for many state services and programs.

The annual spending plan is expected to get enough votes in the Democrat-led Legislature on Friday to reach Murphy's desk. The state constitution requires a balanced budget to be enacted by July 1.

Here's a closer look at what's in the budget, which would spend 4.2% more than the plan Murphy signed last year.

ARE THERE ANY NEW TAXES?

Yes. The budget calls for increasing the state's corporation business tax on companies that make more than \$10 million a year. The current 9% rate would climb to 11.5%. Business groups say that would give New Jersey the nation's highest tax rate and punish the state's best corporate citizens.

WHY ARE TAXES GOING UP?

The higher rate was first proposed by Murphy as part of his budget proposal early this year to help New Jersey Transit. He's billing the levy as a corporate transit fee to help the beleaguered agency, which has regularly had to use capital funds to help finance projects.

Critics note that the revenue won't go to transit until next year. The current budget keeps it in the general fund, so when the money goes to transit next year, whatever is being paid for now out of the general would need to be replenished or cut, those critics say.

ARE THERE OTHER TAX CHANGES?

Yes. The budget calls for ending a sales tax holiday on school supplies that had gone into effect around the start of the academic year. That cut was first introduced in 2022 when the Democrats who control state government aimed to show voters they were making the state more affordable. Lawmakers didn't explain this cut when they unveiled the budget Wednesday, but the additional revenue could help balance the budget.

WHAT ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES?

New Jersey has among the nation's highest property taxes, levied by local governments to finance services and schools. The state dedicates some income tax revenue to fund local governments, which helps keep property tax rates from growing even higher. This budget calls for increasing state K-12 funding to fully implement an aid formula ratified by the state Supreme Court, raising such aid to more than \$11 billion, up nearly \$1 billion from the current fiscal year. The budget also has about \$2.5 billion for direct property tax relief, and continuing programs

introduced in 2022 and 2023 to help residents, renters, and seniors. The average property tax amount in 2022, which is the most recently available information, is about \$9,500, according to the state.

WHAT ELSE IS IN THE BUDGET?

Quite a bit, given it funds all aspects of state government, from the executive departments to public colleges and universities, to the Legislature itself, which this year passed a 67% pay raise for lawmakers, their first since 2002, which goes into effect in 2026. Overall, spending is up just over 4% compared with the current fiscal year budget.

It includes a number of expenditures — sometimes referred to as Christmas tree line items because they're viewed as gifts for specific constituencies. They include funding for ending homelessness, helping people re-enter society from prison, fire departments, arts programs, and one city's effort to teach life skills through tennis.

Republican lawmakers said they barely had time to review the budget and lamented that they weren't sure what all was in it. Even Democratic Senate Budget Committee Chairman Paul Sarlo said the document is too vast to read line by line, but he supports it overall.

"I could not take a test and be quizzed on every line item because it would take hours and hours and days and months," Sarlo said. "I try to look at it in totality and that's where I think we're at."

GUN CRIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

April

Shots fired near a mass gathering of juveniles off of Temple's campus, police say April 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police chased after two suspects and are still looking for a third after gunshots were fired near Temple University's main campus Sunday night, blocks away from where dozens of young people had gathered on the street.

The shooting occurred in the area of 16th and Sydenham streets around 7 p.m., police said. No one was hurt. Temple police arrested one of the suspects at 1700 Liacouras Walk and the other at 12th and Jefferson Streets, according to the Temple University Police Association.

Investigators recovered one gun. Officers are trying to locate a third suspected shooter who was wearing a pink hooded sweatshirt and a skullcap, the police union said.

Simultaneously, police were monitoring a large crowd of about 60 juveniles at the corner of Broad Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue. The police union said these types of large gatherings are happening more and more often, and not enough is being done to address the problem.

On March 26, the university issued an alert telling students to stay away from 1400 North Broad Street because of a gathering of 100 to 200 "unruly juveniles." As police closed down the nearby intersection to traffic and tried to disperse the crowd, a juvenile threw a brick toward Philly police, Temple officials said.

There were several arrests. No one was injured.

Lawsuit settled: 2 top US gun parts makers agree to temporarily halt sales in Philadelphia April 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (AP/ KYW Newsradio) — Two of America's leading gun parts manufacturers have agreed to temporarily halt sales of their products in Philadelphia and elsewhere in

Pennsylvania, city officials said Thursday, announcing a settlement of their lawsuit against the companies.

Philadelphia filed suit against Polymer80 and JSD Supply in July, accusing the manufacturers of perpetuating gun violence in the city by manufacturing and selling untraceable, self-manufactured weapons commonly known as “ghost guns.” The suit came under a broader legal effort to restrict where manufacturers can market their assemble-at-home guns.

David Pucino, legal director of Giffords Law Center, which represented the city, accused Polymer80 and JSD Supply of “reckless business practices ... that threatened public safety.”

“The gun industry must be held accountable when it breaks the law and endangers Americans,” he said in a statement.

Under the settlement, JSD Supply, based in Butler, Pennsylvania, agreed it would no longer sell its products in the state for four years, city officials said. JSD-owned Eagle Shows, which bills itself as Pennsylvania's largest gun show, will be required to prohibit vendors from selling such gun parts for two years.

Dayton, Nevada-based Polymer80 agreed to a four-year ban on sales to customers in Philadelphia and the nearby counties of Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton, which include the cities of Allentown, Easton, Reading and Lancaster. Additionally, Polymer80 agreed to pay \$1.3 million, which Philadelphia officials said will fund efforts to address gun violence.

The settlement was expected to be filed with the court on Friday. Messages were left at both companies seeking comment on the agreement.

“In general, we’re going to be talking about a period of years where these companies are not going to be able to sell these dangerous products in ways that are going to affect Philadelphians,” said Pucino.

“These weapons have ended up in the hands of our youth and individuals who are not otherwise permitted to possess a firearm, and the consequences in our communities have been devastating,” Renee Garcia, Philadelphia's city solicitor, added in a statement.

Ghost guns, which can be purchased without a background check and assembled at home, have become the weapon of choice for children, criminals, and others who cannot lawfully own a gun, according to city officials.

They have been used in a staggering number of shootings in recent years. Between 2019 and 2022, police recorded a fourfold increase in the number of ghost guns that had been used to commit crimes, according to the city's lawsuit. In 2022, city police seized 575 of the guns.

Last July, a gunman armed with an AR-15-style weapon and a handgun — both self-manufactured — went on a shooting spree that killed five people in Kingessing.

Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker, announcing the settlement at a news conference to discuss her first 100 days in office, said Polymer80 and JSD produced 90% of the ghost guns recovered in the city,

“We needed to find a way to hold them accountable for their role in supplying the crime gun market, and perpetuating gun violence,” she said.

In February, Polymer80 agreed to stop selling its firearms to Maryland residents under a settlement with the city of Baltimore.

Last month, a federal judge permanently banned a Florida gun retailer from selling or delivering certain gun parts in New York that officials say could be used to assemble untraceable ghost guns and sold without background checks.

18-year-old fatally shot on Delaware State University’s campus

April 21, 2024

DOVER, Del. (KYW Newsradio) — Police are investigating a shooting on the campus of Delaware State University that left an 18-year-old woman dead. She was not a student at the school, officials said. In response to the incident, the university closed the campus for visitors on Sunday and canceled classes on Monday.

Dover police were called to the campus around 2 a.m. Sunday in the area of one of the residential buildings, Warren-Franklin Hall. The victim had been shot in the upper body, police said. She was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

The victim was later identified as Camay Mitchell DeSilva, of Wilmington. Officials said she was visiting the school.

“Although she was not one of our students, she was a daughter, a beloved family member, and a friend; and, senselessly, her life was cut short. We should pray for better days and pray for the safety and well-being of our campus as a whole,” Dr. Tony Allen, Delaware State University president, said in a message to the school community.

Police and university officials have not gone into detail about the circumstances leading up to the shooting. It’s not exactly clear who was involved. Allen, in his statement, said the “assailants fled,” and he asked that students, staff and anyone who may have information about the incident call police.

“An event that affects the safety of one of us affects all of us,” Allen stated. “That means each of us is responsible for holding one another accountable, saying so when something does not seem, sound, or look right, and denying wrongdoing in all its forms, no matter the person or the circumstance.”

Monday classes have been canceled. Counseling services are available for students.

Allen said the university would share any available updates at a scheduled forum on Tuesday for students, parents, and faculty.

76-year-old arrested, facing charges for fatally shooting wife and daughter inside Chester County home

April 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A 76-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection to the fatal shooting of his wife and daughter inside their Chester County home Thursday night.

Police say around 6:15 p.m. troopers were dispatched to the 200 block of Wiltshire Drive following a report of a shooting. Inside, they found Roger Hanks’ wife and daughter unresponsive on the ground with gunshot wounds.

“The defendant senselessly shot and killed his family because of a basic dispute,” said District Attorney Christopher L. de Barrena-Sarobe. “It is unfathomable that anyone would react this way.”

Hanks is being held at Chester County Prison without bail. He’s charged with two counts of first-degree murder and other related charges.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for May 8.

May

Philadelphia man charged with straw purchasing 31 guns, soliciting a failed murder-for-hire plot

May 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A Philadelphia man is facing charges after he allegedly made nearly three dozen illegal gun transactions and solicited a failed murder-for-hire plot, the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General said.

Richard Taylor, 31, was charged with making at least 31 straw purchases, as well as criminal solicitation of homicide, among related offenses.

Officials said at least 12 of the 31 guns were recovered by Philadelphia police officers — nine of them during different arrests. Fourteen guns purchased by Taylor remain unaccounted for.

Taylor purchased the firearms at gun shops and online, prosecutors said, and he bragged to others that he could buy them as many firearms as they wanted, as he did not have a criminal record. A straw purchase is the act of buying a gun for someone who is legally prohibited from possessing one.

Then last month, investigators said Taylor tried to hire a person to kill someone. He offered the hitman \$200 and a Glock handgun. The plot was foiled, though, and the intended target was not harmed.

Taylor was arrested on April 26 after a straw purchase at Frank’s Gun Shop in Philadelphia.

His bail is set at 10% of \$5 million.

Gov. Shapiro proposes \$37.5M increase to state program aimed at curbing gun violence
May 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Standing on a soccer field in West Kensington Friday, Jim Hardy said there were times when being a Philadelphia teacher broke his heart.

"The summer of 2009, one of my students, Eric Dixon, was killed by another one of my students," he said.

He then started the Kensington Soccer Club to give young people a productive outlet.

"When it comes down to it, we all know what our youth desperately need. Our youth are dying for guidance," he said.

Last year, the club received a \$400,000 grant from the state's Violence Intervention and Prevention program. Gov. Josh Shapiro said that with a \$14 billion surplus, the state can afford to spend more on efforts like the VIP program. He joined Hardy and elected officials Friday in promoting a \$37.5 million increase in the program as part of his budget proposal.

He said reducing gun violence requires more than investing in law enforcement.

"It is an important part, but it is not enough. We have to make sure that our young people have hope in their lives," Shapiro said.

"This is a moment in our community where we have to think about budgets not just as dollars and cents, but as statements of our priorities and principles."

1 juvenile dead, another injured in Collingdale shooting
May 18, 2024

COLLINGDALE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — Two juveniles were shot late Friday afternoon in Delaware County — one, fatally.

Collingdale police were dispatched to the 100 block of Lafayette Avenue just before 4:30 p.m.

When they arrived at the scene, they found one juvenile suffering from a gunshot wound to the stomach and another suffering from a gunshot wound to the foot.

Both were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. Officials say the juvenile who was shot in the stomach later died.

What led to the shooting is not yet known but an investigation is underway.

Police ask if you have any information on this incident to call 610-586-0502.

Man robbed, fired gunshots at off-duty Philly cop, police say

May 31, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia police are looking for a man who robbed an off-duty police officer in Kensington early Thursday morning and fired gunshots at him.

The officer only suffered minor injuries — possibly a graze wound to the shin — and was treated and released from the hospital, officials said.

It happened around 5 a.m. on East Westmoreland Street, near Frankford Avenue.

Police said the off-duty cop was standing by his white Tesla when a man with a gun approached him. The officer gave up his belongings and ran west toward Amber Street. Police said the robber ran after him and fired a few shots, so the cop took his gun out and shot back.

The officer is with the 16th District and is a seven-year veteran of the police force. Because he used his weapon, the officer has been moved to administrative duty while officials investigate the incident, as is police protocol.

Police are not sure if the robber was hit. They said he fled in a gray Chrysler 300 south on Collins Avenue, toward Allegheny Avenue.

Anyone with information is asked to call police. To submit a tip, call or text 215-686-8477, or submit a tip anonymously online.

June

String of weekend shootings in Philadelphia leads to at least 2 dead, several critically injured

June 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police are investigating a series of shootings on Saturday that led to at least two deaths and left several people in critical condition.

Hunting Park

A double shooting in the early hours of Saturday in Hunting Park put two men, ages 20 and 31, in the hospital in critical condition. It happened on Bristol Street near its intersection with Seventh Street, four blocks from Hunting Park Avenue.

The 20-year-old was shot throughout the body, and the 31-year-old was shot once in the left hip. Both were transported to Temple University Hospital.

No arrests have been made, and no weapons were recovered at this time.

Powelton

In another double shooting, around 1 a.m. in the West Philadelphia neighborhood of Powelton, a woman was shot in the head and a 26-year-old man was shot in the right ankle. The woman's age was not disclosed.

It happened on North Preston Street, between Wallace Street and Haverford Avenue.

Both were rushed to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, where the woman is in critical condition and the man is in stable condition.

No arrests have been made and no weapons are recovered at this time.

Cobbs Creek

Four people were shot, one of them killed, at 58th Street and Baltimore Avenue in Southwest Philadelphia, just after 10:30 p.m., according to police.

Two men and two women were taken to the hospital. A 23-year-old man was pronounced dead less than an hour later. Authorities say the others were shot in their extremities and are expected to recover.

"There is a crime scene in front of a store at 58th and Baltimore, where apparently some of the gunshot victims attempted to run into for help after they were shot," said Inspector D.F. Pace. "And we did find at least five spent shell casings on the 900 block of South 58th Street."

None of the victims has been identified yet, but officials believe they were all in their early 20s.

No arrests have been made, and police have not said if they know what motivated the shooting.

Elmwood Park

An apparent road rage incident in Southwest Philadelphia about a half-hour later led to three people being shot, one of them fatally.

Police say it happened shortly after 11 p.m. at 62nd Street and Grays Avenue.

A 21-year-old man was pronounced dead soon after the shooting. A 22-year-old victim is fighting for his life in the hospital. The third victim, also 22, is listed in stable condition.

"Appears a blue SUV, a Ford SUV, struck a white Jeep SUV and, rather than exchanging information, civilly, it appears that the parties in both vehicles began arguing with each other," said Inspector D.F. Pace. "Arguing turned into threats. And it appears that parties from both vehicles were in possession of guns. And at some point, at least one of those people began firing at others."

One person involved in the shooting went to police headquarters to report what happened and is now in custody. Officials are investigating to determine who was the instigator and what exactly caused them to fire the shots.

Philadelphia police tout reduction in crime ahead of summer, when gun violence is often notably high

June 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel is cautiously optimistic as crime trends down across the city. So far this year, crime has drastically dropped — with the biggest drop in homicides and shootings since the pandemic’s all-time highs.

Shootings are down 40% and homicides are down about 38%.

“Our rapes are down significantly. Our robberies are down significantly. Our auto thefts are down almost 37%,” Bethel said.

He credits some of the initiatives that were implemented under former interim commissioner and now Deputy Commissioner John Stanford, such as increased patrols in violent areas like the 22nd District, which makes up the core of North Philadelphia.

He said there has been a significant level of crime reduction in that area: 64% down in violent crime and 40% down in shootings.

“We are happy with the direction we are going, but it is very, very early in the process,” Bethel noted. “We are only six months [in]. The summer has not started yet. We still have a long way to go in turning the tide.”

The warmer months historically bring more gun violence. The police department is working on more strategies, but for now, officials are concentrating on violence that typically trends higher.

“You will start to see some additional foot beats,” Bethel added. “We have an academy class graduating very shortly and so we’re going to continue to press.”

Hatboro barbershop owner shot, killed upstairs neighbor amid ongoing dispute, police say
June 10, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A barbershop owner shot and killed a man who lived above his business in Hatboro, Montgomery County, police said.

It happened around 6 p.m. Saturday outside Razor Reese's Salon and Spa on North York Road, near Summit Avenue.

Police said the salon owner, 41-year-old Maurice Byrd, called 911 to report that a man who lived above the salon, 37-year-old Stephen Strassburg, was harassing him. The 911 dispatcher then heard five gunshots, a pause, and two more gunshots.

Police arrived and found Strassburg in the parking lot with multiple gunshot wounds. They found a handgun registered to Byrd, who has a permit to carry. Investigators said Strassburg did not have a weapon.

Officials said there was an ongoing dispute between the two men.

Police arrested Byrd. He is charged with first-degree murder.

PA pediatricians hold webinar on child gun safety after gun violence declared a public health emergency
June 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With the U.S. Surgeon General declaring gun violence a public health crisis this week, the Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics hosted an online community forum on strategies to prevent child firearm injury and suicide.

The CDC says hundreds of young children in the U.S. have been killed while playing with guns over the last two decades. The majority of the deaths are due to guns being kept unlocked and loaded.

Doctors with the Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics stressed the importance of gun locks, gun ownership training, and how to become an advocate for public policy to prevent unintentional injury and suicide by firearm among children.

Dr. Vivek Ashok, a pediatrician at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, said education must be paired with proper preventative safety measures.

"Children are curious, they are impulsive, they are in a stage of development, in which education needs to be supplemented by prevention of access through secure firearm storage and other lethal means of safety," he said.

Ashok went on to say that just like discussing the importance of bicycle helmets or vaccines with patients and their families, gun safety is also brought up.

"The goal of a harm reduction approach is really to ally with the family and patients to identify an achievable action against firearm related harm, but considering patient concerns, preferences, structural inequities, and other relevant factors," he said.

The Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics routinely holds webinars to educate parents, professionals, legislators, media, and the public about the needs of children, families, and communities.

ECONOMY

April

Made in America Music Festival calls off 2024 edition

April 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — For the second consecutive year, there will be no Made in America music festival in Philadelphia.

In a statement on the event website, organizers say they're "reimagining a live music experience that affirms our love and dedication to music and the work we do."

The annual festival was founded in 2012 by rapper and entrepreneur Shawn "Jay Z" Carter and usually takes place during Labor Day weekend on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Last year's festival was canceled just weeks beforehand. While no cause was given, speculation from fans ranged from controversy surrounding headliner Lizzo to high ticket prices and low sales. Organizers, however, say their efforts to make the event accessible included affordable ticket pricing.

No artists were announced for this year's event before it was called off. In its statement, the Made in America team promised "an exciting return to the festival." A date for that return was not given.

How much can Philly wrestle from Mania Week wallets? Temple economist smacks down promise of windfall

April 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — WrestleMania is coming to Philadelphia for the first time in a quarter-century, but an economic expert does not expect the event to bring in much stone-cold cash for the city.

When Mania Week's main-event matches light up Lincoln Financial Field in South Philadelphia this weekend, the entertainment value to fans will be over-the-top, but the monetary value to the host city will be ... more subtle, says Dr. Michael Leeds, who studies applied microeconomics at Temple University.

WrestleMania: Everything you need to know this week

“You have to take into consideration only the new money that is spent — money that is spent by people in Philadelphia that would not have been spent in Philadelphia had this not taken place,” Leeds said.

He calls WrestleMania “a once-every-couple-of-decades event that’s basically going to have zero lasting impact on tourism in the city.”

Reports from WWE estimating that WrestleMania generated hundreds of millions of dollars for cities like Los Angeles and Dallas are overstated, Leeds says.

“You have to make some fairly strong assumptions to get the dollar figure they are talking about.”

Leeds says the Dallas study assumed each fan who went to WrestleMania or a related or supplemental event spent \$1,300 restaurants and lodging.

“If people are going, from the city, that \$1,300 gets reduced to zero,” he said. “If they’re coming from the surrounding counties, that number gets reduced — maybe not to zero, but to a much smaller number.”

He says most WrestleMania visitors are focused on official WWE events: “You’re going to see them going to the WrestleMania events — not going to the Liberty Bell, not going to the zoo.”

Leeds says even though he doesn’t expect the event to drive economic growth, some things can’t be measured.

“If it makes people in Philadelphia feel better about themselves and feel happy — that’s great — but we don’t have to pretend that it’s going to be a driver of economic growth in the city.”

Philly to be 'Open for Business' under Parker's new executive order

April 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — When Irene Grant decided to open a small business on Girard Avenue, she was flummoxed by the various permit, license, and clearance requirements.

“I had to run here to get that, I had to run there to get that, then I had to go back to the same man that told me to go over there. It was crazy,” she said.

Mayor Cherelle Parker hopes to eliminate that sort of run-around with the Open for Business Executive Order she signed Monday. It creates a “one-stop shop” for opening, operating, and expanding a business in Philadelphia.

Commerce Director Alba Martinez says their office analyzed what it takes to open a business in Philadelphia and inventoried 96 permits, licenses, certifications, and registrations that the city requires for 53 different business types.

She says large restaurants must go through 26 steps just to open and operate.

Martinez says the mayor’s Business Action Team — formerly the Office of Business Services, renamed and refocused in Monday’s executive order — is assessing how to reduce steps, accelerate those that remain, improve payment systems, and provide assistance for businesses. Reducing red tape for food businesses is the first project.

“When businesses succeed, we succeed, and we want to be here every step to assist,” Martinez said.

Parker says they are committed to “elevating efficient government services that are streamlined, user friendly, and accessible.”

It will be a busy summer at the Jersey Shore, but there are rentals still available

April 18, 2024

SEA ISLE CITY, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Many points at the Jersey Shore are expecting another busy summer this year. Katherine Custer, Sea Isle City director of community services, said it could be even busier than last year.

"There's a little lull between Memorial Day and when school lets out. But after that mid-mark in June, when colleges and high schools and grammar schools are all out, and people are starting to take their summer vacations. That's when we really see things ramp up," she said.

Ahead of the busy season, rentals are still available at all shore points. Sea Isle properties range from about \$2,000 to \$12,000 per week. How much visitors pay depends on where they stay. The condominiums usually run cheaper than the luxury beachfront properties.

If a summer trip is not in the cards, Custer said going in the spring and fall are also good times to go.

"The weather is ideal," she said. "It's not as hot, it's not as crowded."

The largest attraction of the year in Sea Isle is over Father's Day weekend when a vendor's market comes to town followed by an antique auto show.

May

Construction along Route 70 in Camden County continues to pose a challenge for local businesses

May 6, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Linda's Bras and Swimwear has been in business for more than 30 years, with a location along Route 70 in Camden County for about two and a half years.

This is her busiest time of year, but with detours, lane shifts, and road closures making it difficult to navigate the area, customers are less inclined to come in.

To get to Linda's Bras and Swimwear, drivers have to pull off the roadway and onto dirt before slowly pulling into her parking lot.

“It's hard. A lot of people tell me they want to come in, but they don't want to come down Route 70,” said owner Linda Becker.

Crews have been repairing stretches of Route 70 since 2021. It's part of a \$153 million corridor safety and improvement project that will improve gas and water mains, upgrade traffic signals, replace or install Dynamic Message Signs, improve drainage and sidewalks, and resurface nine miles of Route 70 between Route 38 in Cherry Hill and Cooper Avenue in Evesham. The project is expected to be completed in 2027.

Construction is taking place simultaneously within six work zones:

- Work Zone 3 – MP 0.00 to 2.31, Route 38 to Haddonfield Road
- Work Zone 1 – MP 2.31 to 3.66, Haddonfield Road to Kings Highway
- Work Zone 2 – MP 3.66 to 5.00, Kings Highway to I-295
- I-295 Work Zone – MP 5.00 to 5.20
- Work Zone 4/Route 70 Milling Work Zone – MP 5.20 to 7.67, I-295 to Cropwell Road
- Work Zone 5 – MP 7.68 to 8.70, Cropwell Road to Cooper Avenue

Currently, there is construction on Route 70 westbound between Haddonfield Road to Kings Highway (Work Zone 1).

Cherry Hill Mayor David Fleisher says the project continues to be a challenge for neighborhoods and businesses.

“NJDOT needs to do better with communication, signage and advance notice of lane shifts and road closures,” he said. “We have them on ‘speed dial’ and contact them regularly advocating for our residents and small businesses. Our residents deserve better.”

Becker says she realizes things need to be repaired, but feels like “it's not moving fast enough.”

Joseph Croce, owner of Croce Pasta, says the construction and roadwork have hurt his business a lot.

“Especially at lunchtime because my parking lot is in the back of my building and they closed the road right at Route 70 — people couldn't get into my store.”

He said the side of Route 70 he's located on has been better since crews moved across the street, but they're still hurting.

"Not even the [Corona] virus hurt me like it, you know."

An NJDOT spokesperson said they understand the community's concerns and have been responsive to any issues brought to their attention and will continue to do so.

"We provide regular updates to town officials, including biweekly progress meetings. We are committed to continued communication with local officials, businesses, and residents," the spokesperson said.

Area Sam Ash employees react to closing announcement: 'Nothing's promised' May 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Fire sales are happening at Sam Ash locations as the one-time music instrument retail giant closes down all of its stores.

The chain was founded 100 years ago in Brooklyn, New York by musician Sam Ash, and remained within the Ash family ever since. It operates three stores in our area: in King of Prussia, Cherry Hill, and at the Philadelphia Mills Mall.

The company announced on May 2 it would close all of its locations nationwide. Employees were told the King of Prussia store would remain open until May 29, but some told KYW Newsradio they wouldn't be surprised if the company locked the doors before that date.

"Nothing's promised. I mean, they could lock the doors tomorrow," said an employee who asked to be identified as "John," who worked at the King of Prussia location for two years. He says the company failed to tell employees just how bad the situation had become.

"The one guy, he's telling people, 'Oh, your job's going to be okay. These stores are protected,' and then via email, [he] just sends out, 'Actually, all locations are going to be closing.'"

John says he has never gotten a raise or increase in paid time off during his time there. He says his next job will not be related to music. Instead, he'll sell vacation packages."

"Hopefully that company is a little more honest, a little more loyal to me," he said, "and values their employees more than the Ashes did."

Christian used to work in the store's drum department but now has students of his own.

"This store — and any music store in general — has a place in my heart because I'm still a musician and gig musician, always was," he said, "and now I'm a music teacher. So this is a good resource, or was a good resource."

While shopping for a computer microphone, longtime customer Gerry Herbison said young musicians may have an easier experience shopping online but are going to miss out on getting in-person advice.

"I had to self-teach with the guitar, so I bought all of the basic guitar books. And everybody knew what they were talking about here," Herbison said.

CEO David Ash originally told the Wall Street Journal the company was considering a restructure, but he did not say what that might look like. The company has since filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

With Philly's oldest comic shop closing next week, longtime fans stop through for some final memories

May 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Fat Jack's Comicropt, the city's oldest comic book store, is closing next week on Wednesday, and longtime fans flocked to the Center City shop for a final weekend.

"We're running a sale right now, 70% off everything in the store, except the new books so ... it's just been super, super busy, super slammed," said store manager Olias. "But customers are making less stuff for us to move so that's nice."

Olias first joined Fat Jack's as a manager a little more than a year ago. He came from the music world, but comics are a close second among his passions.

"The best part about working here has definitely been the customers," he says.

Fat Jack's, at 20th and Sansom Streets, has been a part of John Melbourne's life for 40 years.

"I would just come in every week, asking for a job, and eventually they gave in," Melbourne said. "That manager said, 'Well, I can only pay you in comic books.' And I said, 'That's what I'd spend all my money on anyway.'"

After graduating from high school, Melbourne was hired at Fat Jack's City Avenue location and would eventually become the general manager of its five locations in the city.

"Fat Jack's has been here before superheroes were cool. It was kind of the heart of geek culture. There was this, there was the roleplaying Dungeons and Dragons shop that was around the corner. It's kind of like when Tower Records closed on South Street, it's an icon that's gone."

Across town, Brian Johnson, manager of Brave New Worlds on North Second Street in Old City, says Fat Jack's has been an institution.

"It's a very unique and classic kind of space," Johnson said. "Everyone has sort of built on that and done something a little bit different to set a different identity to their store and their space. But these guys started it all."

With the Center City location closing, the only Fat Jack's location left is in Oaklyn, New Jersey. Olias encourages people to go there to still get their comic fix but said the Center City closure may only be temporary.

"For now, we are. But there are plans to relocate somewhere nearby in Center City. We have a couple places we're looking at."

June

Philadelphia City Council passes \$6.4B budget that includes most of what the mayor asked for

June 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Council worked until 1 a.m. Thursday to hammer out a \$6.4 billion budget for the next fiscal year, approving Mayor Cherelle Parker's first budget with only a few adjustments.

City Council added more money for street cleaning, a home repair program, rental assistance, and tree planting. The budget also includes funding to increase the city workforce through programs such as a city workers' school at the Community College of Philadelphia and money to add more police officers to neighborhood bike and foot patrols.

Council President Kenyatta Johnson said the budget is very similar to what the mayor proposed in March.

"A lot of her goals and a lot of council members' goals are in alignment and, most importantly, will allow us to move the city of Philadelphia forward," he said.

Overall, the budget grew by \$80 million through negotiations with City Council. It includes not only new money but also a new approach, Parker said.

“This budget is a huge step to making good on that promise to make Philadelphia the safest, cleanest, greenest big city in the country,” she said, boasting that it’s being done with no new taxes.

In fact, this budget provides new property tax relief, with an increase in the Homestead Exemption for owner-occupied homes and a new low-income tax freeze, sponsored by Councilmember Jamie Gauthier.

“This property tax freeze is not a handout,” she said. “It’s an investment in home ownership in our city. By making sure our neediest homeowners can afford their tax bills, we invest in their ability to remain in our neighborhoods.”

The Homestead Exemption for owner-occupied homes will go up to \$100,000, which Johnson estimates will produce an additional \$240 in tax savings for homeowners.

The capital budget increased by \$40 million as council members won additional spending on rec centers and libraries in their districts. It includes the entire \$100 million the mayor requested for so-called “wellness centers,” an effort to address the city’s addiction epidemic.

Parker thanked City Council in a statement and promised that “residents will be able to see, touch, and feel the positive impacts of this budget in their neighborhoods.”

Mayor Parker’s new roundtables hope to make Philly more friendly to business June 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — On Wednesday, Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker was joined at City Hall by the leaders of dozens of companies, unions, and trade associations to announce a new initiative to finally put Philly’s unfriendly-to-business reputation to rest.

Parker called the initiative her “business roundtable,” and said it would be “a vehicle for change” when it comes to businesses interacting with city government.

“This is a new approach to governance where the voice of the business community will be captured via policy and legislation,” said Parker.

The mayor announced 10 subcommittees, each focused on some industry or some aspect of doing business, and set out a schedule of meetings to provide feedback and advise the city on growth and more.

“We are going to remove the red tape and streamline processes by listening to the people who have the real-life experiences of making the payroll and running the businesses that keep our city afloat,” said Parker.

Greg Segall, chairman and CEO of Versa Capital, is a co-chair of the new ‘roundtable,’ seemed happy to be a part of the new effort, and said its ultimate goal is economic revitalization for the city.

“The mayor’s business roundtable can’t wave a magic wand and perfect the gears of commerce overnight but the city also has enormous assets and opportunities,” said Segall.

One of those enormous assets Parker pointed out at the announcement press conference was Philly’s burgeoning life sciences industry — second in growth only to Boston.

“We have to work and be intentional and proactive so that the policies we pursue are the right ones for these sectors,” she said.

Ryan Boyer, business manager for the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council, is another co-chair, and said he wants workers to be ready for the jobs of the future, but also leaned into the spirit of competition between Boston and Philly mentioned by Parker.

“We want to compete at the highest level,” he said. “I don’t want to be second to anybody for anything and the first city I don’t want to be second to is those green clowns from Boston.”

Car dealerships disrupted by multi-day outage after cyberattacks on software supplier June 21, 2024

NEW YORK (AP) — Car dealerships across North America have faced major disruptions this week.

CDK Global, a company that provides software for thousands of auto dealers in the U.S. and Canada, was hit by back-to-back cyberattacks on Wednesday. That led to an outage that continued to impact many of their operations on Friday.

For prospective car buyers, that may mean delays at dealerships or vehicle orders written up by hand, with no immediate end in sight.

Problems started for Prestige Subaru and Volkswagen in Turnersville, New Jersey Wednesday morning.

General Manager Brett Harrington says when the services team arrived that day, they couldn't log into any of their systems that manage repair orders for customers.

Harrington says that was just the tip of the iceberg.

"For service, it's easy. They can handwrite a repair order and get it back to the shop and start working on a customer's car," he said. "For the sales side, we're kind of handcuffed because we use CDK to work the numbers for the customer, print the contracts. A lot of the contracts these days are electronic."

He says it's been a lot of sitting and waiting, as they aren't being told much of what's going on

"... We're doing what everyone else is doing and that's turning to the news and Googling it, trying to figure out what exactly is going on," he said.

What is CDK Global?

CDK Global is a major player in the auto sales industry. The company, based just outside of Chicago in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, provides software technology to dealers that helps with day-to-day operations — like facilitating vehicle sales, financing, insurance, and repairs.

CDK serves more than 15,000 retail locations across North America, according to the company. Whether all of these locations were impacted by this week's cyberattacks was not immediately clear.

What happened this week?

CDK is "actively investigating a cyber incident" and the company shut down all of its systems out of an abundance of caution, spokesperson Lisa Finney said Wednesday.

CDK "executed extensive testing," consulted third-party experts, and restored its core DMS and Digital Retailing solutions by the afternoon, Finney said in a prepared statement.

CDK experienced another "cyber incident" Wednesday evening, Finney said in an update the following day. "We remain vigilant in our efforts to reinstate our services and get our dealers back to business as usual as quickly as possible," she said.

When that will be is still unknown. As of Friday morning, a recorded message from CDK on a hotline detailing updates for its customers said "We do not have an estimated time frame for

resolution — and therefore our dealer systems will not be available, likely for several days.” Customer care support channels also remain unavailable, it said.

The message added that the company was aware of “bad actors” posing as members or affiliates of CDK to try to obtain system access by contacting customers. It urged employers to be cautious of any attempted phishing.

Are impacted dealerships still selling cars?

Several major auto companies — including Stellantis, Ford, and BMW — confirmed to The Associated Press Friday that the CDK outage had impacted some of their dealers, but that sales operations continue.

In light of the ongoing situation, a spokesperson for Stellantis said that many dealerships had switched to manual processes to serve customers. That includes writing up orders by hand.

A Ford spokesperson said that the outage may cause “some delays and inconveniences at some dealers and for some customers.” However, many Ford and Lincoln customers are still getting sales and service support through alternative routes being used at dealerships.

With many details of the cyberattacks still unknown, customer privacy is also at top of mind — especially with little known about what information may have been compromised this week.

In a statement sent to the AP on Friday, Mike Stanton, president and CEO of the National Automobile Dealers Association said that “dealers are very committed to protecting their customer information and are actively seeking information from CDK to determine the nature and scope of the cyber incident so they can respond appropriately.”

Philly business community pushes for decrease in wage and business taxes

June 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia’s revived Tax Reform Commission held its first public hearing last week, where businessmen turned out in force, urging cuts to business taxes.

Jeff DuVuono told the commission that through his decades in local real estate, he’s seen suburban office space almost double while Philadelphia’s has stagnated. The reason, he said, is that the combination of the Business Income Receipts Tax (BIRT), the use and occupancy tax, and wage tax doubles the cost of office space in the city.

“If the city wants to continue to see a decline in its population, workforce, and economic vitality, leave the BIRT and wage tax unchanged, but if it wants to increase the number of people living, working, and growing within its borders, it must decrease or, better yet, eliminate the BIRT and wage tax,” he said.

DuVono works for Brandywine Real Estate, whose owner has long championed replacing those taxes with an increase in property taxes. But Jon Sgro of Community Legal Services said that approach threatens low-income homeowners.

“Some believe property taxes are a more reliable source of revenue because real estate doesn’t move, but families and long-time homeowners do move when they can no longer afford their bills,” Sgro said.

Parking magnate Robert Zuritsky also argued for a decrease, if not the actual elimination of, the parking tax.

“Philadelphia’s parking industry has seen its taxes increase seven times,” Zuritsky said. “We are at a point where city taxes take between 40 and 70% of everything we collected from our customers before we pay workers, insurance or repairs to our facilities.”

Cutting business taxes without replacing the revenue, though, would mean huge cuts in services, as Stan Shapiro of Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks reminded the commission.

“Magical tax cuts, especially ones that mostly benefit big business, will not pay for those services,” Shapiro said.

Tom Ginsberg of Pew’s Philadelphia Research Center testified that city business taxes are actually pretty progressive, thanks to an exemption on the first \$100,000 in receipts.

“The smaller a business in terms of gross receipts, the lower its tax burden,” Ginsberg said.

The 15-member commission has the summer to sort through all this. It’s expected to make recommendations in the fall.

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Bridging Philly Q2 April - June 2024

2024 PA Primary & General Election | Alexey Brodovitch: Astonish Me Apr 6, 2024

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Al Schmidt clears up myths and realities of voting, including automatic voter registration, mail-in voting, and protections for voters and election workers.

Then, Barnes Foundation's assistant curator Corrinne Chong leads a tour of the 20th-century artist who inspired commercial art at the exhibit "Alexey Brodovitch: Astonish Me."

Gift of Life Donor Program at 50 | Maple Grove Raceway Apr 13, 2024

For fifty years, Gift of Life Donor Program has helped organ and tissue recipients off the transplant wait list with their growing donation network. Five years after North Philly rapper and hip-hop recording artist Freeway received a kidney, he's raising awareness about routine physicals and organ donation with his music and Freedom Thinkers Academy. (Gift of Life Donor Program is the sponsor of Bridging Philly.)

Then, Shara Dae Howard takes a ride-along at Berks County's Maple Grove Raceway, which hosts national races, monster trucks, car shows and more.

Philly BOLT | The Free Library of Philadelphia's Unusual Collections Apr 20, 2024

2024 KYW GameChanger Hillary Do created the non-profit BOLT (Build Our Lives Together) to support community grassroots organizations with tools, grants and knowledge to bring about change. She introduces us to Cleopatra Robinson of A Home from Shana Foundation, who is working to lower the rate of Black maternal mortality in Philadelphia, and Ron Toles of Ordinary Heroes, who works with BIPOC youth in Hunting Park.

Then, the hidden history behind the Free Library of Philadelphia's Central Branch, which includes Charles Dickens' stuffed pet bird, Grip - widely thought to have inspired Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Raven." The library also has the only handwritten copy of the poem, which is part of its rare book collection.

This episode re-ran on Apr 27, 2024.

Teaching Kids Self-acceptance | “A Great Day in Philly”

May 25, 2024

Author Susanne Munn of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, says her neurodivergent son had a hard time fitting in. She wrote a poem to help him celebrate himself, and 10 years later, she’s releasing that poem as a children’s book with the help of her friend and illustrator, Amy Towers. Susanne and Amy tell us about “The Great Shape Debate”. Plus Kim Wheeler Poitevien, MSW, LCSW, owner of Amel Counseling, joins us to expand on ways to help kids - and adults - stop comparing themselves to others and love who they are.

And on Shara in the City, local musicians re-create the iconic “A Great Day in Harlem” photo, with a Philly twist.

Women Against Abuse | LGBTQ+ exhibit at The Fabric Museum

Jun 1, 2024

More than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the U.S. have experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Women Against Abuse aims to help domestic violence victims of all genders by providing shelters, counseling, legal services, and safety planning. Executive Director Joanna Otero-Cruz joins us along with board member Jamie Colleen Miller, who shares her own story of escaping an abusive relationship with help from Women Against Abuse. If you are facing domestic violence and need help, call their hotline at 1-866-723-3014 or visit their website for more resources.

And on Shara in the City, we kick off Pride Month at The Rose Garden exhibit by local artist John Jarboe at The Fabric Workshop and Museum - an immersive exploration of her gender journey.

A Juneteenth Dance Celebration | The “Love Letter” mural challenge

Jun 8, 2024

A Philadelphia performing arts organization is celebrating Juneteenth with a twist on an old tradition: the house party. Running June 20 - 22, Intercultural Journeys’ “The Re-Emancipation of Social Dance” is an interactive party-performance through five “living rooms”, inviting you to reclaim the freedom of dance. We talk with the show’s curator and former Philadelphia Poet Laureate, Yolanda Wisher, and Intercultural Journeys' Executive Director, Carly Rapaport-Stein, about this performance and how Black Americans throughout history have built community through dance. Learn more, get tickets, and listen to their podcast on the history of social dance at reemancipatedance.org.

And on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard hops on the El to try to catch a glimpse of all 50 murals in Steve Powers' "A Love Letter For You" series in West Philly.

Youth Empowerment Through International Travel | West Philly Birding **Jun 15, 2024**

The experience of traveling to a different part of the world can be life-changing, but many people don't get that opportunity because of the cost. A new initiative called Invest in Human Potential aims to take five young Black men from Philadelphia on a two-week trip to Sardinia, Italy, and empower them with the skills to become social justice warriors over the course of a year-long fellowship. Racquel Williams talks with the director, Amir Joshua Palmer, about what the fellowship will involve and what it will take to get it off the ground. Learn more about how you can support the fellowship at investinhumanpotential.com.

And on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard discovers a hidden sanctuary in West Philly to learn about Black Birding.

Disparities In Cancer Care | Philly break dancing **Jun 22, 2024**

We've seen tremendous progress in diagnosing and treating cancer, but not all people have benefited from that progress equally. The American Association for Cancer Research recently released their 2024 Cancer Disparities Progress Report, which highlights gaps in diagnoses, treatment, and outcomes for people in marginalized groups. What is being done to close those gaps? We talk with Mitch Stoller, Chief Philanthropic Officer and Vice President of Development for the AACR, and Dr. Camille Ragin, a professor and Associate Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Fox Chase Cancer Center and a member of the steering committee for the AACR's report.

And on Shara in the City, we get ready for the first year of Olympic breakdancing by visiting Philly's longest-running hip-hop and breakdancing event, The Gathering at The Rotunda.

A Space For Teens In South Philly | Smith Memorial Playground **Jun 29, 2024**

Pennsylvania's funding for after-school care ends when children turn 13, and many parents are concerned about where their teens can go after school and in the summer. Caring People Alliance runs a teen program and recently opened a new center at their South Philadelphia Boys & Girls Club where teens can go to get a meal, play basketball, make music and art, and have a safe space to talk and learn. We speak with Branon Gilmore, VP of CPA's Boys & Girls Club

Movement, Jewel Felder-James, Director of Teen Programming, and Alphonso Cobbs, a participant in the teen program.

And on Shara in the City, Shara Dae Howard re-discovers the joy of play at the historic Smith Memorial Playground.

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I'M LISTENING

2ND QRT 2024

April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024

ISSUE: ENVIRONMENT

1Thing / Audacy Conversations

April / Earth Month

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy discusses The State of the Environment. The special broadcast covered what's driving weather events across the country, automobile energy efficiency, what we learned from April's solar eclipse, and more. It also featured a special segment with Audacy's Corinna Delgado, who sat down for a very important Earth Day conversation with The Nature Conservancy CEO Jennifer Morris and Program Coordinator Morgan Foster to talk about the importance of conservation and investment in nature.

ISSUE: HEALTH, VETERANS

Audacy Conversations

April 21, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy's David Glover recently welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) expert and former Air Force member, Alex Silva, in addition to Wounded Warrior Project Clinical Expert, Dr. Erin Fletcher and guest Dan Miller, to discuss the importance of mental health care for Military members and share that the bravest thing many of them can do is ask for help.

ISSUE: HEALTH

I'm Listening: Talk Away the Dark

May 5, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Host David O'Leary and Victor Armstrong, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Vice President of Health Equity and Engagement, and Michell Clark; father, husband, entrepreneur, writer and podcaster in the mental wellness space, had an intimate discussion on grief, loss, and suicide.

ISSUE: HEALTH, MINORITY

Talk Away The Dark: Mental Health in the LGBTQ+ community

June 2, 2024

30-Minute Special Program

Audacy and CHANNEL Q's Corey Crockett welcomed American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Moutier and longtime volunteer, Bradley Balandis, for a candid conversation discussing the importance of mental health care within the LGBTQIA+ community.

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Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

AUDACY-DC PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
1st Quarter
(1/01/24 – 3/31/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Education/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jimmie Williams, WLC president and CEO

Title: Adults with Literacy concerns in D.C.

Washington Literacy Center has a new program called, “Jumpstart to Success.” It offers participants career-skills betterment and enhancement. In addition, the program’s Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) exams provide an opportunity for WLC to have conversations with students about the value of improved reading and math skills. These conversations then result in low-level readers taking part in enrichment classes. In addition, WLC’s Digital Literacy allows for its educators to connect reading skills to students’ desire to learn about computers and technology. It’s also accomplished this, in part, with support from Capitol Hill employees who volunteer with low-level readers and English learners.

Issues: Government/Economy/Culture/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Yadavan Mahendraraj, Head of US & Canada Merchant Operations at Uber

Title: Grants for Business

Uber and Visa announced Grants for Growth, a program administered by Local Initiatives Support Corporate (LISC). They will provide \$1M in grant funding to small businesses currently active on Uber Eats across the United States. Focused on restaurant recovery and entrepreneurship, the program was created to support merchants when they need it most. Merchants active on Uber Eats since January 1, 2022, in various cities to include D.C. are eligible to apply for the program. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive search process by LISC. LISC will give preference to veteran, minority, women, and LGBTQIA+ business owners. Through Grants for Growth, 100 merchants will receive grants of \$10,000, which can be used toward immediate needs like meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, upgrading technology infrastructure, and other immediate operational costs. In addition to financial support, merchants will receive placement in the Uber Eats app and disaster recovery and resiliency guides from Uber and LISC.

Issues: Community News/Education

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Brad Pfiher, Executive Director of the Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Title: Proper Training of a Dog for Safety and Awareness

The CCPDT is the leading certification body for the dog training profession. For National Train Your Dog Month, they offer some tips for the many dog parents whose pups bark, jump, beg, and otherwise could benefit from a few lessons in good manners and safe behavior. It is important to receive training from a certified trainer.

Issues: Culture/Youth/Education/Community News/

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leslie Boissiere, VP of External Affairs at Annie E. Casey Foundation

Title: Race for Results

2024 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, unveils a stark reality: over half of Black, American Indian, and Latino children live below the poverty line. The United States is failing its children in several areas, especially kids of color. The report standardizes scores across 12 indicators representing well-being milestones from cradle to career.

Issues: Political/Culture/Government

Date: 1/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Allen Buchanan, PhD

Title: “A Divided America: Tribal Conflicts and the New America”

Is tribalism the political and cultural divisions between Us and Them—an inherent part of our basic moral psychology? Many scientists link tribalism and morality, arguing that the evolved “moral mind” is tribalistic. Any escape from tribalism, according to this thinking, would be partial and fragile, because it goes against the grain of our nature. In this book, Allen Buchanan offers a counterargument: the moral mind is highly flexible, capable of both tribalism and deeply inclusive moralities, depending on the social environment in which the moral mind operates.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Women/Community News/Political

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Phylicia Woods, Chair Commissioner, Providence District, Virginia

Title: Women Making a Difference

The Fairfax County Commission for Women advises the Board of Supervisors on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County. Established in 1971, the Commission has been an active voice for women in areas such as domestic violence, educational equality, and progress in the workplace. The Commission is part of a national network of state and local Commissions for Women.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Human service/Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Scott Adzick, Fetal Surgeon, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Title: Understanding Birth Defects and Hopeful Solutions

January's Birth Defects Awareness Month prompts an urgent conversation: 1 in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect, yet awareness remains limited. Dr. Scott Adzick, a pioneering fetal surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will offer insights on tackling the stigma surrounding birth defects, shedding light on available treatments and crucial considerations for parents-to-be

Issues: Human Service

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Host David O'Leary with Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Title: Mental Health (Segment 1 & 2) Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones.

We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Julie Gralow, Chief Medical Officer at American Society of Clinical Oncology

Title: Ground Breaking Cancer Care

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) symposia will focus on pioneering GI and and Genitourinary oncology research and care. The GI Cancers Symposium is leading global forum for the latest high-impact science and solution-focused strategies in the GI cancers field and expected to garner 4,000 attendees. Research results will include pioneering research on

circulating tumor DNA and immunotherapy, with highlights including six studies on new GI cancer treatments and groundbreaking research on prostate and kidney cancers.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kerry O'Brien, Regional Representative, Federal Trade Commission

Title: Identity Prevention Week

The FTC is the federal government's one-stop resource that helps people learn how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft and other scams. The agency manages IdentityTheft.gov, a free resource to help people who experience identity theft start their recovery. Each year, the FTC gets more than a million reports of identity theft, but the fact is only a fraction of people who experience identity theft, report it.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Government/Political

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jules Christian, Chaplain, Volunteers of America

Title: More than Thoughts and Prayers

Volunteers of America will be hosting a spiritual colloquium in Washington D.C. to discuss gun violence in the city, specifically Wards 7&8. The colloquium will also provide a platform for community leaders and citizens to derive solutions that benefit families and the community as a whole.

Issues: Political/Government/Culture

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome USA

Title: Legal Entry into the United States via the Department of State

Representing one of the boldest innovations to U.S. refugee resettlement in 40 years, the State Department launched the Welcome Corps in 2023 to create new ways for Americans to play a direct role in resettling refugees. In groups of five or more adults, Americans take on essential tasks and help refugees during their first 90 days in the United States. This includes securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugees at the airport, helping adults find employment, enrolling children in school, and serving as local guides to enable refugees to forge ties in their new communities.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Laura Cheever

Title: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase awareness of HIV care and treatment services for Black/African Americans facing stigma and HIV-related health disparities. The day also encourages those who are undiagnosed to get tested for HIV and, if they test positive, to get appropriate care and medication. More than 13,000 people are living with HIV in Washington D.C. according to recent data (aidsvu.org).

Issues: Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Reasa Currier, Director Animal Sheltering

Title: Chief vs Chief

The Fairfax County Police Chief, Kevin Davis has challenged Fairfax County Fire Chief, John Butler to raise funds and awareness to animals in need. All proceeds go to the Fairfax County Virginia animal shelter. The shelter has two locations; the newest one in the southern end of the county recently opened its doors. The shelters can house between 4,000 and 5,000 animals throughout the year.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Education

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leandris Liburd, Acting Director for CDC’s Office of Health Equity (OHE) and Tara Robinson, Founder/CEO of the Black Heart Association

Title: Black Women: Bearing the Brunt of Heart Disease

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in this country, and the odds of dying from it are even higher if you’re an African American woman. Ways to reduce the risks and support are provided by the collaboration of the OHE and the Black Heart Association.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Economy

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Jason Porter, Thoracic Medical Oncologist at West Cancer Center and Janet Freeman-Daily, Survivor/Co-founder/President of The ROS1ders

Title: New Therapy May Bring Hope for Specific Lung Cancer Patients

There may be new hope for those with a tough-to-treat form of lung cancer. The disease is called *ROS1*-positive (*ROS1+*) a non-small cell lung cancer; and it tends to be aggressive and can often spread to the brain. The FDA recently approved a new medication specific to this cancer.

Issues: Human Service

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Hosts (KNX) Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson with Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA.

Title: “Audacy Conversations: State of the Entertainment Industry” (Segment 1&2)

Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

(Audacy, Inc. “I’m Listening Series”)

Issues: Environment/Youth/Education/Culture

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director, Seed Your Future.

Title: Green Careers

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, STEM, design are a few career paths that are available to candidates that may not want to attend a traditional university.

Issues: Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Tammuella Chrisentery-Singleton, Chief Science Officer for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network

Title:

More than 30,000 U.S. adults are estimated to be living with severe hemophilia A, a genetic condition where blood does not clot properly. Those living with the condition face a lifelong burden involving frequent infusions and a high risk of health complications, including uncontrolled bleeding and irreversible joint damage. To help, there is a new gene therapy to provide a new option for patients that may grant them freedom from regular preventative injections and painful bleeding incidents.

Issues: Human Service/Education/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone - Katrin Werner-Perez, Health Programs Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Title: Heart Valve Disease Awareness

As many as 11 million Americans are affected by heart valve disease (HVD), yet an awareness survey found that three out of four adults know little to nothing about it. HVD involves damage to one or more of the heart's four valves, and while some types are not serious, others can lead to major complications, including more than 25,000 deaths attributed to HVD in the U.S. each year. HVD can be successfully treated in patients of all ages if detected and treated in time. The most common risk factor is age.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Community News/Economy

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rebecca Kinney, Director of the Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at the Administration for ☐ Community ☐ Living

Title: Medicare Help

Medicare can be incredibly confusing, but the good news is that there are people available to help. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has counselors in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SHIP provides unbiased,

one-on-one, confidential Medicare benefits counseling and assistance and their services are free. The counselors have been trained and certified as Medicare experts and many are Medicare beneficiaries themselves.

Issues: Youth/Education/Political

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jill Murphy, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Distribution at Common Sense Media

Title: Mobile Phone Safety for Kids with Tech-Savvy Parents

Most parents discuss phone safety with their kids several times a week, but experts say blind spots persist. A new survey from Cox Mobile found nearly one in three parents (31%) said their children have been contacted by a stranger on their phone, and 1 in 4 (28%) said the stranger referenced their child's location. The survey also found parents extremely worried about cyberbullying, one of the top three things keeping them up at night. Parents are most concerned about their child encountering predatory or inappropriate behavior (39%) and content (23%) on their phones.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Economy/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – U.S. Air Force Veteran, Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Associate National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis

Title: Female Veterans in Crisis

In the last decade, our nation has asked a lot of our service members and, as a result, many are coming back with visible and invisible wounds of war. One nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is working hard to support America's disabled veterans in positive, life-changing ways by helping them access benefits they earned, like health care, education and disability, and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. With nearly 1,300 chapters across the country, DAV provides a national support network for veterans and their families; particularly women veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Elizabeth Ann Bridgwaters, Living Legend (Women's History Month)

Title: Making a Difference in Lives and Supporting a Community

Elizabeth Bridgwaters was recently designated as a Living Legend in Bloomington, Indiana. Her contributions as an African American historian, has given citizens the opportunity to learn of not only their ancestry, but of those who helped shape the future of their community.

Issues: Youth/Education/Culture/Community News

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jodi Rubin, reading is Fundamental Senior VP, Marketing and Partnerships

Title: Reading is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's leading children's literacy non-profit. As I shared this past fall, we launched the third year of our annual six-month reading campaign called Rally to Read 100 offering free monthly themes with read-alouds from popular authors and fun and engaging reading activities for elementary school aged children all available at RallytoRead.org.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Education/Culture

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Lisa C. Richardson, Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Title: Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Routine colorectal cancer screening can mean cancer prevention. Because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its recommendation in 2021 that adults 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. In the last few years, many adults missed or delayed screenings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When screenings are delayed, or people wait until they have symptoms to be checked, this can lead to more advanced and harder-to-treat colorectal cancer.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Economy/Human Service/Government

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Theodore Caputi, MPH, Public Health Research Consultant

Title: Are All CBD Products Safe?

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has released new research that reveals the various tactics cannabidiol (CBD) companies use to thwart the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process and make misleading statements that their therapeutic claims are backed by science. The research illustrates the need for stronger FDA oversight and guidance to address the risks to consumers and patients alike when companies exploit research for marketing purposes. The findings reveal nearly 1,000 health claims touting CBD's ability to mitigate symptoms or treat mental health, autism, pain, sexual health, AIDS, cancer, COVID-19, and more, providing just a snapshot of the current, unregulated market and shady tactics companies use to mislead the public. There is only one CBD product that has been approved by the federal government.

Issues: Community News/Education/Youth/Economy

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sue Mairena, Board President Annandale Christian Community for Action & Isabel Ballivian, Executive Director/Program Director for the Child Development Center

Title: Sustaining a Community and Educating the Children

Annandale Christian Community for Action is a non-profit providing early childhood education since 1965. Later the organization found there was a great need to service the entire community. They provide a multitude of services to include: financial assistance, short term housing, food and clothing. Since the pandemic, they have seen the need for services grow exponentially.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Education

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Laura Mayer, Program Director, Crisis Link

Title: Help is a Call or Text Away

PRS, a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises, has received two major grants to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's hotline and chat line from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). PRS has operated Northern Virginia's hotline and text line through its CrisisLink program for years and is now part of the subnetwork of crisis centers answering overflow calls and chats from around the nation.

Issues: Community News/Economy/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jim Link, the Chief HR Officer of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Title: Workplace Behavior Under Scrutiny

SHRM believes we'll see a significant increase in incivility in the workplace this year as we near a highly divisive election, but SHRM also believes that honest and civil conversations can bridge divides, build understanding, and shape better workplaces and a better world. But, the need is now. Embracing Diversity, Encourage Empathy, Active Listening, and mitigating abusive conduct are key factors to getting the workplace back to civility.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Sara Kinsman is the Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Title: Poison Prevention Week

Most poisonings are unintentional and happen at home. They usually do not require a trip to the hospital and can be treated with a call to poison control. In fact, more than 4 out of 5 (83%) of poison exposures are nontoxic or minimally toxic and do not require 911 or an ambulance. If a child or adult is alert, acting normally and breathing well, calling Poison Help and reaching your local poison center is the best first step and can give you advice right away.

Issues: Community News/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Tina Johnson, President, Loudoun First Responder Foundation

Title: Supporting Those Who Support the Community

Firefighters in Loudoun County recently experienced a tragedy that took the life of a firefighter while combating a fire. Another firefighter sustained injuries that require attention and the road to recovery will be long. Loudoun First Responder Foundation is a non-profit organization that focuses all of its energy to supporting those firefighters and family members. 97% of donations go directly to those who are in need.

Issues: Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Major Kathleen (Kate) Rubins, an Astronaut and Innovation Officer, U.S. Army Reserve

Title: Herstory (Women's History Month)

Major Rubins is one of nine people selected to attend the 20th NASA astronaut class in July 2009 and has since become the 60th woman ever to fly in space and the first person to sequence DNA in space. To date, she has completed two missions to space. Major Rubins wanted to be an astronaut since she was a child but first started pursuing a career in molecular biology and infectious disease and worked as a microbiologist in the Army Reserve as a Microbiologist.

Issues: Transportation/Environment/Economy

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Morgan Dean, Manager, Public & Government Affairs, AAA

Title: Spring Break Travel and Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy

Detours are now up after the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. AAA is urging Spring Break travelers who have plans to travel to or through the Baltimore area to double check their plans. The tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has shut down a vital artery for travelers getting around and through the Baltimore metro area. According to Maryland Department Transportation Authority (MDTA), more than 30,000 vehicles used that bridge every day. Those drivers will now be looking for alternate routes. Maryland Transportation officials urge drivers to use I-95 and I-895 as alternate routes. Spring Break travelers going both north and south along the corridor could find more backups than normal as commuter, holiday traffic, and trucking/freight traffic shift to the alternate routes.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores and Partner with American Heart Association

Title: National Walking Day April 3, 2024

Physical activity is one of the best ways to improve overall health and manage stress. Yet, 1 in 4 U.S. adults are sedentary for more than eight hours each day, which can have negative consequences on physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day.

Issues: Community News/Environment

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Daniel Paden, Vice President of Evidence Analysis for PETA

Title: Safe Animal Blood Transfusions

Animals that need blood transfusions are often very ill or injured, and their owners are led to believe the blood they will receive is healthy and uncontaminated. But blood purchased from animal blood banks may have been taken from sick, injured or medicated animals, putting

animals on both sides at further risk. A groundbreaking PETA investigation into captive animal blood banks reveals dogs and cats that are confined to barren kennels and crowded pens, where they are forced to spend their lives as living blood bags even when they are ill or suffering from infections or cancer.

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

AUDACY-DC PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
1st Quarter
(1/01/24 – 3/31/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Education/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jimmie Williams, WLC president and CEO

Title: Adults with Literacy concerns in D.C.

Washington Literacy Center has a new program called, “Jumpstart to Success.” It offers participants career-skills betterment and enhancement. In addition, the program’s Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) exams provide an opportunity for WLC to have conversations with students about the value of improved reading and math skills. These conversations then result in low-level readers taking part in enrichment classes. In addition, WLC’s Digital Literacy allows for its educators to connect reading skills to students’ desire to learn about computers and technology. It’s also accomplished this, in part, with support from Capitol Hill employees who volunteer with low-level readers and English learners.

Issues: Government/Economy/Culture/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Yadavan Mahendraraj, Head of US & Canada Merchant Operations at Uber

Title: Grants for Business

Uber and Visa announced Grants for Growth, a program administered by Local Initiatives Support Corporate (LISC). They will provide \$1M in grant funding to small businesses currently active on Uber Eats across the United States. Focused on restaurant recovery and entrepreneurship, the program was created to support merchants when they need it most. Merchants active on Uber Eats since January 1, 2022, in various cities to include D.C. are eligible to apply for the program. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive search process by LISC. LISC will give preference to veteran, minority, women, and LGBTQIA+ business owners. Through Grants for Growth, 100 merchants will receive grants of \$10,000, which can be used toward immediate needs like meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, upgrading technology infrastructure, and other immediate operational costs. In addition to financial support, merchants will receive placement in the Uber Eats app and disaster recovery and resiliency guides from Uber and LISC.

Issues: Community News/Education

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Brad Pfiher, Executive Director of the Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Title: Proper Training of a Dog for Safety and Awareness

The CCPDT is the leading certification body for the dog training profession. For National Train Your Dog Month, they offer some tips for the many dog parents whose pups bark, jump, beg, and otherwise could benefit from a few lessons in good manners and safe behavior. It is important to receive training from a certified trainer.

Issues: Culture/Youth/Education/Community News/

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leslie Boissiere, VP of External Affairs at Annie E. Casey Foundation

Title: Race for Results

2024 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, unveils a stark reality: over half of Black, American Indian, and Latino children live below the poverty line. The United States is failing its children in several areas, especially kids of color. The report standardizes scores across 12 indicators representing well-being milestones from cradle to career.

Issues: Political/Culture/Government

Date: 1/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Allen Buchanan, PhD

Title: “A Divided America: Tribal Conflicts and the New America”

Is tribalism the political and cultural divisions between Us and Them—an inherent part of our basic moral psychology? Many scientists link tribalism and morality, arguing that the evolved “moral mind” is tribalistic. Any escape from tribalism, according to this thinking, would be partial and fragile, because it goes against the grain of our nature. In this book, Allen Buchanan offers a counterargument: the moral mind is highly flexible, capable of both tribalism and deeply inclusive moralities, depending on the social environment in which the moral mind operates.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Women/Community News/Political

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Phylicia Woods, Chair Commissioner, Providence District, Virginia

Title: Women Making a Difference

The Fairfax County Commission for Women advises the Board of Supervisors on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County. Established in 1971, the Commission has been an active voice for women in areas such as domestic violence, educational equality, and progress in the workplace. The Commission is part of a national network of state and local Commissions for Women.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

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Issues: Human service/Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Scott Adzick, Fetal Surgeon, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Title: Understanding Birth Defects and Hopeful Solutions

January's Birth Defects Awareness Month prompts an urgent conversation: 1 in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect, yet awareness remains limited. Dr. Scott Adzick, a pioneering fetal surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will offer insights on tackling the stigma surrounding birth defects, shedding light on available treatments and crucial considerations for parents-to-be

Issues: Human Service

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Host David O'Leary with Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Title: Mental Health (Segment 1 & 2) Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones.

We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Julie Gralow, Chief Medical Officer at American Society of Clinical Oncology

Title: Ground Breaking Cancer Care

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) symposia will focus on pioneering GI and and Genitourinary oncology research and care. The GI Cancers Symposium is leading global forum for the latest high-impact science and solution-focused strategies in the GI cancers field and expected to garner 4,000 attendees. Research results will include pioneering research on

circulating tumor DNA and immunotherapy, with highlights including six studies on new GI cancer treatments and groundbreaking research on prostate and kidney cancers.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kerry O'Brien, Regional Representative, Federal Trade Commission

Title: Identity Prevention Week

The FTC is the federal government's one-stop resource that helps people learn how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft and other scams. The agency manages IdentityTheft.gov, a free resource to help people who experience identity theft start their recovery. Each year, the FTC gets more than a million reports of identity theft, but the fact is only a fraction of people who experience identity theft, report it.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Government/Political

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jules Christian, Chaplain, Volunteers of America

Title: More than Thoughts and Prayers

Volunteers of America will be hosting a spiritual colloquium in Washington D.C. to discuss gun violence in the city, specifically Wards 7&8. The colloquium will also provide a platform for community leaders and citizens to derive solutions that benefit families and the community as a whole.

Issues: Political/Government/Culture

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome USA

Title: Legal Entry into the United States via the Department of State

Representing one of the boldest innovations to U.S. refugee resettlement in 40 years, the State Department launched the Welcome Corps in 2023 to create new ways for Americans to play a direct role in resettling refugees. In groups of five or more adults, Americans take on essential tasks and help refugees during their first 90 days in the United States. This includes securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugees at the airport, helping adults find employment, enrolling children in school, and serving as local guides to enable refugees to forge ties in their new communities.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Laura Cheever

Title: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase awareness of HIV care and treatment services for Black/African Americans facing stigma and HIV-related health disparities. The day also encourages those who are undiagnosed to get tested for HIV and, if they test positive, to get appropriate care and medication. More than 13,000 people are living with HIV in Washington D.C. according to recent data (aidsvu.org).

Issues: Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Reasa Currier, Director Animal Sheltering

Title: Chief vs Chief

The Fairfax County Police Chief, Kevin Davis has challenged Fairfax County Fire Chief, John Butler to raise funds and awareness to animals in need. All proceeds go to the Fairfax County Virginia animal shelter. The shelter has two locations; the newest one in the southern end of the county recently opened its doors. The shelters can house between 4,000 and 5,000 animals throughout the year.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Education

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leandris Liburd, Acting Director for CDC's Office of Health Equity (OHE) and Tara Robinson, Founder/CEO of the Black Heart Association

Title: Black Women: Bearing the Brunt of Heart Disease

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in this country, and the odds of dying from it are even higher if you're an African American woman. Ways to reduce the risks and support are provided by the collaboration of the OHE and the Black Heart Association.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Economy

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Jason Porter, Thoracic Medical Oncologist at West Cancer Center and Janet Freeman-Daily, Survivor/Co-founder/President of The ROS1ders

Title: New Therapy May Bring Hope for Specific Lung Cancer Patients

There may be new hope for those with a tough-to-treat form of lung cancer. The disease is called *ROS1*-positive (*ROS1+*) a non-small cell lung cancer; and it tends to be aggressive and can often spread to the brain. The FDA recently approved a new medication specific to this cancer.

Issues: Human Service

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Hosts (KNX) Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson with Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA.

Title: "Audacy Conversations: State of the Entertainment Industry" (Segment 1&2)

Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

(Audacy, Inc. "I'm Listening Series")

Issues: Environment/Youth/Education/Culture

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director, Seed Your Future.

Title: Green Careers

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, STEM, design are a few career paths that are available to candidates that may not want to attend a traditional university.

Issues: Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Tammuella Chrisentery-Singleton, Chief Science Officer for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network

Title:

More than 30,000 U.S. adults are estimated to be living with severe hemophilia A, a genetic condition where blood does not clot properly. Those living with the condition face a lifelong burden involving frequent infusions and a high risk of health complications, including uncontrolled bleeding and irreversible joint damage. To help, there is a new gene therapy to provide a new option for patients that may grant them freedom from regular preventative injections and painful bleeding incidents.

Issues: Human Service/Education/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone - Katrin Werner-Perez, Health Programs Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Title: Heart Valve Disease Awareness

As many as 11 million Americans are affected by heart valve disease (HVD), yet an awareness survey found that three out of four adults know little to nothing about it. HVD involves damage to one or more of the heart's four valves, and while some types are not serious, others can lead to major complications, including more than 25,000 deaths attributed to HVD in the U.S. each year. HVD can be successfully treated in patients of all ages if detected and treated in time. The most common risk factor is age.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Community News/Economy

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rebecca Kinney, Director of the Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at the Administration for ☐ Community ☐ Living

Title: Medicare Help

Medicare can be incredibly confusing, but the good news is that there are people available to help. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has counselors in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SHIP provides unbiased,

one-on-one, confidential Medicare benefits counseling and assistance and their services are free. The counselors have been trained and certified as Medicare experts and many are Medicare beneficiaries themselves.

Issues: Youth/Education/Political

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jill Murphy, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Distribution at Common Sense Media

Title: Mobile Phone Safety for Kids with Tech-Savvy Parents

Most parents discuss phone safety with their kids several times a week, but experts say blind spots persist. A new survey from Cox Mobile found nearly one in three parents (31%) said their children have been contacted by a stranger on their phone, and 1 in 4 (28%) said the stranger referenced their child's location. The survey also found parents extremely worried about cyberbullying, one of the top three things keeping them up at night. Parents are most concerned about their child encountering predatory or inappropriate behavior (39%) and content (23%) on their phones.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Economy/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – U.S. Air Force Veteran, Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Associate National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis

Title: Female Veterans in Crisis

In the last decade, our nation has asked a lot of our service members and, as a result, many are coming back with visible and invisible wounds of war. One nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is working hard to support America's disabled veterans in positive, life-changing ways by helping them access benefits they earned, like health care, education and disability, and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. With nearly 1,300 chapters across the country, DAV provides a national support network for veterans and their families; particularly women veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Elizabeth Ann Bridgwaters, Living Legend (Women's History Month)

Title: Making a Difference in Lives and Supporting a Community

Elizabeth Bridgwaters was recently designated as a Living Legend in Bloomington, Indiana. Her contributions as an African American historian, has given citizens the opportunity to learn of not only their ancestry, but of those who helped shape the future of their community.

Issues: Youth/Education/Culture/Community News

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jodi Rubin, reading is Fundamental Senior VP, Marketing and Partnerships

Title: Reading is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's leading children's literacy non-profit. As I shared this past fall, we launched the third year of our annual six-month reading campaign called Rally to Read 100 offering free monthly themes with read-alouds from popular authors and fun and engaging reading activities for elementary school aged children all available at RallytoRead.org.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Education/Culture

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Lisa C. Richardson, Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Title: Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Routine colorectal cancer screening can mean cancer prevention. Because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its recommendation in 2021 that adults 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. In the last few years, many adults missed or delayed screenings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When screenings are delayed, or people wait until they have symptoms to be checked, this can lead to more advanced and harder-to-treat colorectal cancer.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Economy/Human Service/Government

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Theodore Caputi, MPH, Public Health Research Consultant

Title: Are All CBD Products Safe?

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has released new research that reveals the various tactics cannabidiol (CBD) companies use to thwart the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process and make misleading statements that their therapeutic claims are backed by science. The research illustrates the need for stronger FDA oversight and guidance to address the risks to consumers and patients alike when companies exploit research for marketing purposes. The findings reveal nearly 1,000 health claims touting CBD's ability to mitigate symptoms or treat mental health, autism, pain, sexual health, AIDS, cancer, COVID-19, and more, providing just a snapshot of the current, unregulated market and shady tactics companies use to mislead the public. There is only one CBD product that has been approved by the federal government.

Issues: Community News/Education/Youth/Economy

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sue Mairena, Board President Annandale Christian Community for Action & Isabel Ballivian, Executive Director/Program Director for the Child Development Center

Title: Sustaining a Community and Educating the Children

Annandale Christian Community for Action is a non-profit providing early childhood education since 1965. Later the organization found there was a great need to service the entire community. They provide a multitude of services to include: financial assistance, short term housing, food and clothing. Since the pandemic, they have seen the need for services grow exponentially.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Education

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Laura Mayer, Program Director, Crisis Link

Title: Help is a Call or Text Away

PRS, a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises, has received two major grants to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's hotline and chat line from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). PRS has operated Northern Virginia's hotline and text line through its CrisisLink program for years and is now part of the subnetwork of crisis centers answering overflow calls and chats from around the nation.

Issues: Community News/Economy/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jim Link, the Chief HR Officer of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Title: Workplace Behavior Under Scrutiny

SHRM believes we'll see a significant increase in incivility in the workplace this year as we near a highly divisive election, but SHRM also believes that honest and civil conversations can bridge divides, build understanding, and shape better workplaces and a better world. But, the need is now. Embracing Diversity, Encourage Empathy, Active Listening, and mitigating abusive conduct are key factors to getting the workplace back to civility.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Sara Kinsman is the Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Title: Poison Prevention Week

Most poisonings are unintentional and happen at home. They usually do not require a trip to the hospital and can be treated with a call to poison control. In fact, more than 4 out of 5 (83%) of poison exposures are nontoxic or minimally toxic and do not require 911 or an ambulance. If a child or adult is alert, acting normally and breathing well, calling Poison Help and reaching your local poison center is the best first step and can give you advice right away.

Issues: Community News/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Tina Johnson, President, Loudoun First Responder Foundation

Title: Supporting Those Who Support the Community

Firefighters in Loudoun County recently experienced a tragedy that took the life of a firefighter while combating a fire. Another firefighter sustained injuries that require attention and the road to recovery will be long. Loudoun First Responder Foundation is a non-profit organization that focuses all of its energy to supporting those firefighters and family members. 97% of donations go directly to those who are in need.

Issues: Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Major Kathleen (Kate) Rubins, an Astronaut and Innovation Officer, U.S. Army Reserve

Title: Herstory (Women's History Month)

Major Rubins is one of nine people selected to attend the 20th NASA astronaut class in July 2009 and has since become the 60th woman ever to fly in space and the first person to sequence DNA in space. To date, she has completed two missions to space. Major Rubins wanted to be an astronaut since she was a child but first started pursuing a career in molecular biology and infectious disease and worked as a microbiologist in the Army Reserve as a Microbiologist.

Issues: Transportation/Environment/Economy

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Morgan Dean, Manager, Public & Government Affairs, AAA

Title: Spring Break Travel and Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy

Detours are now up after the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. AAA is urging Spring Break travelers who have plans to travel to or through the Baltimore area to double check their plans. The tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has shut down a vital artery for travelers getting around and through the Baltimore metro area. According to Maryland Department Transportation Authority (MDTA), more than 30,000 vehicles used that bridge every day. Those drivers will now be looking for alternate routes. Maryland Transportation officials urge drivers to use I-95 and I-895 as alternate routes. Spring Break travelers going both north and south along the corridor could find more backups than normal as commuter, holiday traffic, and trucking/freight traffic shift to the alternate routes.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores and Partner with American Heart Association

Title: National Walking Day April 3, 2024

Physical activity is one of the best ways to improve overall health and manage stress. Yet, 1 in 4 U.S. adults are sedentary for more than eight hours each day, which can have negative consequences on physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day.

Issues: Community News/Environment

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Daniel Paden, Vice President of Evidence Analysis for PETA

Title: Safe Animal Blood Transfusions

Animals that need blood transfusions are often very ill or injured, and their owners are led to believe the blood they will receive is healthy and uncontaminated. But blood purchased from animal blood banks may have been taken from sick, injured or medicated animals, putting

animals on both sides at further risk. A groundbreaking PETA investigation into captive animal blood banks reveals dogs and cats that are confined to barren kennels and crowded pens, where they are forced to spend their lives as living blood bags even when they are ill or suffering from infections or cancer.



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

WCBS-AM

(WCBS-AM provides full simulcast on WCBS-FM HD2)

1st Quarter, 2024
(JAN 1st- MAR 31st 2024)

Prepared by:

Ray Martel – Executive Producer of Programming and Operations

Issues of Concern to New York City Addressed in Responsive Programming in the Quarter

Public Safety

- BEEFED UP SECURITY FOR REVELERS IN TIMES SQUARE AS THE WORLD RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR
- SUFFOLK COUNTY IS PUSHING FOR THE STATE TO ENACT TOUGHER LAWS AGAINST THOSE BEHIND OPIOID DEATHS...
- A 14-YEAR-OLD BOY IS KILLED SUBWAY SURFING ON AN F TRAIN IN BROOKLYN
- THE BRUTAL COLD HAS NEW YORK CITY ISSUING A CODE BLUE WEATHER EMERGENCY TO MAKE SURE THE HOMELESS ARE HOUSED, WITH WIND CHILLS DROPPING TO DANGEROUS LEVELS
- CONNECTICUT LAWMAKERS WANT TO LOWER THE THRESHOLD FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING CHARGES AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO MAKE ROADS SAFER...
- A CONVOY OF NYPD VANS HIT THE STREETS OF HARLEM AND THE BRONX AS MAYOR ADAMS AND COUNCILMEMBERS DID A RIDE-ALONG AHEAD OF A PLANNED VETO OVERRIDE VOTE ON THE HOW MANY STOPS ACT
- 70 NYCHA EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ON BRIBERY CHARGES
- THE CITY IS IMPOSING A CURFEW ON 20 MIGRANT RELIEF CENTERS AMID PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS...
- TWO DOZEN ALLEGED GANG MEMBERS ARE ARRESTED ON LONG ISLAND, LINKED TO SEVERAL SHOOTINGS, INCLUDING ONE THAT KILLED A BRONX TEACHER...

CRIME

- A POLICE CHASE ENDS IN A FIERY CRASH ON STATEN ISLAND... LEAVING TWO COPS SERIOUSLY HURT
- A RETIRED NYPD CAPTAIN SHOT A MAN IN THE LEG IN A POSSIBLE ROAD RAGE INCIDENT IN BROOKLYN

- AN ASYLUM SEEKER IS ACCUSED OF FATALLY STABBING ANOTHER MIGRANT OUTSIDE A MIGRANT SHELTER ON RANDALL'S ISLAND
- CAR THIEVES ON LONG ISLAND ARE DOING SOMETHING THAT MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND THOSE STOLEN VEHICLES...
- THE GILGO BEACH SUSPECT HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH A FOURTH MURDER...
- JFK CUSTOMS CATCHES A MAN TRYING TO SMUGGLE COCAINE INTO THE COUNTRY IN BAGS OF SHRIMP
- SEVEN BROTHELS MASQUERADING AS MASSAGE PARLORS ARE SHUT DOWN IN QUEENS...
- A 19-YEAR-OLD MAN IS THE VICTIM OF AN UNPROVOKED STABBING WITH A BOX CUTTER, EARLY THIS MORNING IN BROOKLYN
- A FORMER BOARD MEMBER IS CHARGED WITH STEALING 70-THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE DIX HILLS SOCCER CLUB...
- A QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF DESIGNER MERCHANDISE IS STOLEN FROM A STORE IN SOHO...
- A LONG ISLAND PEST CONTROL WORKER IS ACCUSED OF SECRETLY RECORDING A WOMAN IN HER OWN HOME
- MAYOR ADAMS SUGGESTS METAL DETECTORS, AND MORE BAG CHECKS, TO TACKLE THE RISE IN SUBWAY CRIME
- FOUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED... IN CONNECTION WITH BODY PARTS FOUND IN SUFFOLK COUNTY
- THE WOMAN ARRESTED FOR ATTACKING A SUBWAY MUSICIAN...THEN FREED ON BAIL...HAS BEEN ARRESTED AGAIN, THIS TIME FOR THEFT
- POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR A MAN WHO ATTACKED AN MTA CONDUCTOR ON THE FOUR TRAIN...
- A WOMAN WHO JUMPED BAIL AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO RUNNING PROSTITUTES ON LONG ISLAND IS ARRESTED AT JFK
- COPS SHOT DEAD A QUEENS MAN WHO CHARGED THEM WITH A KNIFE AFTER STABBING HIS WIFE IN REGO PARK

- A WOMAN LOSES BOTH OF HER FEET AFTER COPS SAY HER BOYFRIEND PUSHED HER ONTO THE SUBWAY TRACKS IN LOWER MANHATTAN...
- COPS HAVE NOW ID'ED THE WOMAN WHOSE BODY WAS CHOPPED UP ALONG WITH A MAN'S AND SCATTERED AROUND LONG ISLAND

Economy/Jobs

- IT'S THE FIRST DAY THE CITY IS ENFORCING A BAN ON VENDORS NOT JUST ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE, BUT ALL BRIDGES IN NEW YORK CITY
- GOOGLE IS CUTTING THE RIBBON ON ITS NEW HEADQUARTERS IN HUDSON SQUARE...
- GOVERNOR MURPHY WANTS TO REVIVE THE NATION'S HIGHEST CORPORATE TAX TO HELP FIX NEW JERSEY TRANSIT'S MONEY PROBLEMS...
- A CITY COUNCIL REPORT FINDS MAYOR'S BUDGET OFFICE UNDER-ESTIMATED THE AMOUNT OF TAX MONEY COMING IN, WHICH FREES UP MORE FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Transportation

- A SIGNAL PROBLEM EARLY THIS MORNING ON AMTRAK SUSPENDS SERVICE FOR A FEW HOURS ON NEW JERSEY TRANSIT TRAINS TO PENN STATION. IT'S BACK NOW
- IF YOU'RE HEADING TO JFK OR LAGUARDIA, ALLOW A LOT OF EXTRA TIME. PRO-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATIONS ARE FLOODING THE DEPARTURES ARE
- THE 1, 2 AND 3 SUBWAY LINES ARE STILL DEALING WITH SUSPENSIONS, CHANGES AND DELAYS FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S DERAILMENT NEAR 96TH STREET...
- THE GOVERNORS OF ALL THREE STATES IN AREA SAY ROAD CREWS ARE READY BUT WARN PEOPLE TO STAY OFF THE ROADS SO PLOWS CAN KEEP THEM CLEAR...
- ALL BRIDGES AND TUNNELS BETWEEN NY AND NJ NOW COST 63 CENTS MORE

- THE MTA SAYS SERVICE IS FULLY RESTORED AFTER LAST WEEK'S SUBWAY COLLISION AND DERAILMENT
- STATE POLICE IN NEW YORK SAY THEY ISSUED FIVE THOUSAND TICKETS DURING A HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN TO GET PEOPLE IN WESTCHESTER TO DRIVE SOBER...
- THE MTA HAS INSTALLED PLATFORM BARRIERS AT A SUBWAY STATION IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM FALLING ON THE TRACKS...
- PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPT TO SHUT DOWN J-F-K
- GOVERNOR HOCHUL GOES FOR A RIDE ON ONE OF THE MTA'S NEW SUBWAY CARS, JUST AHEAD OF HEARINGS ON CONGESTION PRICING...
- THE PORT AUTHORITY UNVEILS AN EIGHT-YEAR, 10-BILLION DOLLAR PLAN TO MODERNIZE ITS BUS TERMINAL
- NEW DATA FINDS TRAFFIC-RELATED DEATHS HAVE DROPPED 16 PERCENT IN THE TEN YEARS SINCE THE CITY ROLLED OUT IT'S VISION ZERO INITIATIVE
- THE NYPD EXPANDS TRANSIT PATROLS IN RESPONSE TO A RISE IN SUBWAY CRIME
- GRAND CENTRAL MADISON MARKS ONE FULL YEAR OF SERVICE, WITH PLENTY OF UPS AND DOWNS...
- NJ TRANSIT HOLDS TWO MORE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ITS PROPOSED FARE HIKE, THIS TIME IN PATERSON AND HACKENSACK...

Health

- NURSES AT MONTEFIORE HOSPITALS IN MOUNT VERNON AND NEW ROCHELLE HAVE RATIFIED NEW THREE-YEAR CONTRACTS
- A STATEN ISLAND TASK FORCE URGES GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY OVER THE OPIOID CRISIS
- STEW LEONARD'S AND A LONG ISLAND COOKIE MAKER RESPOND TO THE RECALL OF A COOKIE WITH PEANUTS BLAMED FOR ONE DEATH...

- ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION LAWS IN CONNECTICUT MAY BE CHANGING...

Environment

- THE US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONFIRMS A 1.7 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE NEAR ASTORIA THIS MORNING. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF DAMAGES OR INJURIES
- THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IS ASKED TO EXPEDITE ITS REVIEW OF DAMAGE TO FIRE ISLAND SO IT CAN GET SOME HELP...
- SENATOR SCHUMER IS CALLING ON THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO STEP IN AND HELP LONG ISLAND DEAL WITH COASTAL FLOODING.
- THERE'S A NEW PROPOSAL IN SUFFOLK COUNTY TO EXPAND ITS SEWERS AND WATER TREATMENT PLANTS...
- FAIRFIELD MOVES TO BAN CANNABIS SALES IN TOWN INDEFINITELY...
- SOME STATE OFFICIALS ARE CALLING ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO "PUMP THE BRAKES" ON NEW YORK'S "EMISSION-FREE SCHOOL BUS" MANDATE
- THE CITY COUNCIL PASSES A BILL THAT REQUIRES CRUISE SHIPS PARKED AT NEW YORK'S PORTS...TO SHUT OFF THEIR ENGINES, AND PLUG INTO THE ELECTRICAL GRID

Immigration

- BUSES FILLED WITH MIGRANTS ARE NOW DROPPING THEM OFF IN NEW JERSEY, TO CIRCUMVENT NEW RULES IN NEW YORK CITY
- MORE THAN A THOUSAND MIGRANTS HAVE NOW BEEN DROPPED OFF IN NEW JERSEY SINCE SUNDAY...

Sports

- THE 2026 WORLD CUP FINAL WILL BE HELD AT METLIFE STADIUM IN EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY

- DOWN 5-3 WITH FOUR MINUTES TO PLAY, THE RANGERS STORM BACK TO BEAT THE ISLANDERS IN OVERTIME AT METLIFE STADIUM..

Politics

- NEW JERSEY SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ IS FACING A NEW ACCUSATION, AFTER BEING CHARGED WITH USING HIS POWER TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR
- NASSAU COUNTY POLICE INVESTIGATE A SWATTING INCIDENT AT THE HOME OF THE JUDGE IN DONALD TRUMP'S CIVIL FRAUD CASE...
- TURNOUT WILL BE THE KEY TOMORROW IN BRIDGEPORT, FOR A DO-OVER OF THE MAYORAL PRIMARY...
- JOE GANIM CLAIMS VICTORY IN THE DO-OVER MAYORAL PRIMARY IN BRIDGEPORT...
- DONALD TRUMP MUTTERS, "THIS IS NOT AMERICA," AFTER SPENDING JUST THREE MINUTES ON THE STAND AT HIS CIVIL DEFAMATION TRIAL IN MANHATTAN
- A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REPORT FINDS FORMER GOVERNOR CUOMO FOSTERED A HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT. CUOMO'S LAWYER CALLS IT POLITICAL
- EARLY VOTING BEGINS TOMORROW IN THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANT HOUSE SEAT ONCE HELD BY GEORGE SANTOS...
- GOVERNOR HOCHUL SENDS A LETTER TO NEW YORK'S HOUSE REPUBLICANS TELLING THEM TO TAKE ACTION NOW ON A BORDER DEAL
- PRESIDENT BIDEN WILL BE IN NEW YORK CITY TODAY, AND THAT'S EXPECTED TO CAUSE SOME TRAFFIC TIE-UPS AND FROZEN ZONES...
- IT'S DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN FOR VOTERS IN BRIDGEPORT, HEADED TO THE POLLS ONCE AGAIN TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE THEIR MAYOR...
- IN THE RACE TO REPLACE SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ, CONGRESSMAN ANDY KIM EASILY DEFEATED NEW JERSEY FIRST LADY TAMMY MURPHY AT THE MONMOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

- MAYOR ADAMS TRIES TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE CITY COUNCIL WITH AN N-Y-P-D RIDE-ALONG, BUT THE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY CHAIR DECLINES AFTER BEING SUBJECTED TO A TRAFFIC STOP IN HARLEM
- TOM SUOZZI SCORES A BIG WIN FOR DEMOCRATS, BEATING MAZI PILIP IN A SPECIAL ELECTION FOR THE HOUSE SEAT PREVIOUSLY HELD BY GEORGE SANTOS...
- NIKKI HALEY WILL ANNOUNCES THAT SHE IS SUSPENDING HER CAMPAIGN, AFTER WINNING JUST VERMONT ON SUPER TUESDAY..
- PRESIDENT BIDEN DELIVERS A FIERY STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS THAT HAD ALL THE MAKINGS OF A CAMPAIGN SPEECH...
- GEORGE SANTOS IS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS AGAIN, THIS TIME IN A DISTRICT IN SUFFOLK COUNTY THAT LEANS MORE REPUBLICAN...

Terrorism

- A HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACH HAS BEEN DISMISSED FOLLOWING AN ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENT DURING A GAME IN YONKERS...
- THE YONKERS NAACP FINDS NO EVIDENCE OF ANTISEMITISM AT A HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME INVOLVING A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL FROM HARTSDALE...
- A DRONE ATTACK BY IRANIAN-BACKED MILITIA HAS KILLED THREE U-S TROOPS IN JORDAN AND WOUNDED MORE THAN 30 OTHERS
- A 15 YEAR OLD AT WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL ON LONG ISLAND IS UNDER ARREST... ACCUSED OF MAKING A THREAT ON SNAPCHAT
- POLICE FIND HOMEMADE EXPLOSIVES, GUNS, AND A HIT LIST IN A QUEENS HOME... AND ARREST TWO BROTHERS
- SWASTIKAS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN FOUND IN A BOY'S BATHROOM AT WEBER MIDDLE SCHOOL IN PORT WASHINGTON
- POLICE IN GLEN ROCK, NEW JERSEY SAY THE VANDALIZING OF A STARBUCKS SIGN WITH PRO-PALESTINIAN MESSAGES WAS A BIAS INCIDENT...

- SEVERAL PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS ARE ARRESTED FOR BLOCKING POLICE TRYING TO RESPOND TO A BOMB THREAT CALL IN TIMES SQUARE

Justice

- A TRIAL BEGINS TODAY IN THE DISAPPEARANCE OF NEW CANAAN MOM JENNIFER DULOS...
- THE FEDS ANNOUNCE THEY WILL SEEK THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THE GUNMAN WHO SHOT AND KILLED TEN BLACK SHOPPERS AT A BUFFALO SUPERMARKET IN 2022
- SENTENCING DAY FOR A LONG ISLAND DOCTOR WHO PLEADED GUILTY TO PRESCRIBING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OPIOID PILLS...
- A MEDFORD LONG ISLAND WOMAN IS SENTENCED TO SPEND 20-YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR KILLING HER TWIN DAUGHTERS
- PROSECUTORS HAND OVER MORE THAN 3-THOUSAND POLICE TIPS TO THE SUSPECTED GILGO BEACH SERIAL KILLER'S LEGAL TEAM
- A NEW YORK JUDGE RULES THAT JURY SELECTION IN DONALD TRUMP'S HUSH MONEY CASE WILL BEGIN MARCH 25TH...
- JENNIFER DULOS' MOM TAKES THE STAND TODAY AS THE PROSECUTION PREPARES TO REST ITS CASE AGAINST MICHELLE TROCONIS...
- A LONG ISLAND WOMAN IS SENTENCED 27 YEARS IN A FATAL HIT AND RUN THAT TOOK THE LIFE OF AN NYPD DETECTIVE...

Education

- ANGRY PARENTS SAY THE CITY IS PRIORITIZING MIGRANTS OVER THEIR KIDS EDUCATION, AFTER TEMPORARILY RELOCATING ASYLUM SEEKERS TO A SCHOOL IN BROOKLYN...
- AN AUDIT FROM THE CITY COMPTROLLER SHOWS THAT THE CITY'S PLAN TO HELP SEVERELY MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE LIVING ON THE STREETS IS INEFFECTIVE...

- ENROLLMENT AT LONG ISLAND SCHOOLS IS DOWN SEVEN PERCENT OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS...
- A FORMER PROFESSOR AT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE DONATES A BILLION DOLLARS TO THE SCHOOL, TO COVER TUITION FOR ALL STUDENTS IN PERPETUITY...

Weather

- THE TRI-STATE IS PREPARING FOR A SNOW STORM THIS WEEKEND, BUT HOW MUCH SNOW YOU SEE HAS A LOT TO DO WITH YOUR LOCATION...
- NEW JERSEY IS EXPECTED TO SEE UP TO FOUR INCHES OF RAIN AND GOVERNOR MURPHY HAS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY...
- SNOW IS BACK IN THE FORECAST THIS WEEK AS WE ENJOY SPRING-LIKE WEATHER AGAIN TODAY
- UP TO A FOOT OF SNOW IS ON THE GROUND IN PARTS OF NEW JERSEY... THE REST OF THE TRI-STATE AREA IS EXPECTED TO GET ONE TO SIX INCHES

Housing/Homelessness/

- THE CITY IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTING A 60 DAY SHELTER LIMIT THIS WEEK, THAT WOULD RESULT IN THE EVICTION OF THOUSANDS OF ASYLUM SEEKERS...
- NEW YORK CITY WILL IMPOSE AN 11-PM TO SIX A-M CURFEW AT FOUR MIGRANT CENTERS IN QUEENS, MANHATTAN AND BROOKLYN...
- REGO PARK RESIDENTS VOICE OPPOSITION TO PLANS TO TURN A HOTEL INTO A HOMELESS SHELTER FOR MEN...

**WCBS AM Programs That Address Community Issues
(Regularly Scheduled Public Affairs Programs)**

	<u>Public Affairs Program</u>	<u>Schedule and Description</u>
	The Opening Bell Report	Weekday mornings at 930am, a full half hour of business news focused on consumer issues
	CBS 60 Minutes	Simulcast of CBS News Program Sunday nights at 7pm
	Health and Well Being	Daily feature focusing on a wide variety of medical topics including medicine, diet, mental health, and proper eating
	The Small Business Report with Joe Connolly	Daily Small Business minutes providing tips and tools for business owners and operators.
	Eye On Travel	Peter Greenberg discusses travel issues and navigating through the post pandemic world. Updates on restrictions and procedures
	Eye on Veterans	Daily Report focusing on stories about and important to United States Military Veterans
	All Well and Good	Daily Report focusing on health and ways to improve your daily attitude, energy and well being.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: WCBS Small Business Reports DATE OF BROADCAST: Daily TIME OF BROADCAST: VARIES DAILY DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 1 minute
	PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Business Reporter Joe Connolly delivers a daily report on a small business trend or personality on recovery, survival, and resilience. https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/podcasts/small-business-report-with-joe-connolly-196

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Business/Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: Small Business Spotlight DATE OF BROADCAST: Wednesday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple airing across the day and online DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: Audio/Video PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Weekly series highlighting the inspiring stories of individual business owners and entrepreneurs focused tightly in the past year to helping inspire the pandemic recovery https://wcbs880.radio.com/categories/small-business-spotlight

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Community Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Difference Makers DATE OF BROADCAST: Monday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple times across the day DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 2 minute features
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: News stories focused on members of the community doing something to contribute to the greater good during the pandemic https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/difference-makers	

ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Weekend Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Sunday's TIME OF BROADCAST: 5am DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Locally produced, weekly public affairs show focusing on local issues, Veterans issues, health and well being and issues that affect the local broadcast area as well as national stories of local interest and importance https://www.audacy.com/seattlewolf/hosts/conversations	

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ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Audacy Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Quertery TIME OF BROADCAST: 7pm, Second Thursday of Feb DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Nationally produced public affairs "Town Hall" format program focusing on topics that affect everyone. From Downtowns, Youth Sports, Entertainment & Public Tolling, Audacy Conversations brings experts and public officials together to talk about issues affecting the post pandemic world. https://www.audacy.com/kywnewsradio/topic/the-state-of-entertainment	

Public Service Announcements

Throughout the quarter, the station aired weekly/periodic PSAs providing information on a variety of local community activities and issues. Representative examples of such PSAs include the following:

Audacy 1 Thing
Emergency Prep
Fatherhood Involvement
Vaccinate Your Family
Alzheimers Awareness
US DOH
Animal Adoption
FDA Drug Disposal
Ending Hunger
Drugged Driving
Distracted Driving
Type 2 Diabetes
Supporting Pets
American Psychiatric Assoc.
Love Has No Labels
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
NJ Dept. Human Svcs/CBVI
NYSBA
Valerie Fund

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

AUDACY-DC PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
1st Quarter
(1/01/24 – 3/31/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Education/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jimmie Williams, WLC president and CEO

Title: Adults with Literacy concerns in D.C.

Washington Literacy Center has a new program called, “Jumpstart to Success.” It offers participants career-skills betterment and enhancement. In addition, the program’s Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) exams provide an opportunity for WLC to have conversations with students about the value of improved reading and math skills. These conversations then result in low-level readers taking part in enrichment classes. In addition, WLC’s Digital Literacy allows for its educators to connect reading skills to students’ desire to learn about computers and technology. It’s also accomplished this, in part, with support from Capitol Hill employees who volunteer with low-level readers and English learners.

Issues: Government/Economy/Culture/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Yadavan Mahendraraj, Head of US & Canada Merchant Operations at Uber

Title: Grants for Business

Uber and Visa announced Grants for Growth, a program administered by Local Initiatives Support Corporate (LISC). They will provide \$1M in grant funding to small businesses currently active on Uber Eats across the United States. Focused on restaurant recovery and entrepreneurship, the program was created to support merchants when they need it most. Merchants active on Uber Eats since January 1, 2022, in various cities to include D.C. are eligible to apply for the program. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive search process by LISC. LISC will give preference to veteran, minority, women, and LGBTQIA+ business owners. Through Grants for Growth, 100 merchants will receive grants of \$10,000, which can be used toward immediate needs like meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, upgrading technology infrastructure, and other immediate operational costs. In addition to financial support, merchants will receive placement in the Uber Eats app and disaster recovery and resiliency guides from Uber and LISC.

Issues: Community News/Education

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Brad Pfiher, Executive Director of the Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Title: Proper Training of a Dog for Safety and Awareness

The CCPDT is the leading certification body for the dog training profession. For National Train Your Dog Month, they offer some tips for the many dog parents whose pups bark, jump, beg, and otherwise could benefit from a few lessons in good manners and safe behavior. It is important to receive training from a certified trainer.

Issues: Culture/Youth/Education/Community News/

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leslie Boissiere, VP of External Affairs at Annie E. Casey Foundation

Title: Race for Results

2024 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, unveils a stark reality: over half of Black, American Indian, and Latino children live below the poverty line. The United States is failing its children in several areas, especially kids of color. The report standardizes scores across 12 indicators representing well-being milestones from cradle to career.

Issues: Political/Culture/Government

Date: 1/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Allen Buchanan, PhD

Title: “A Divided America: Tribal Conflicts and the New America”

Is tribalism the political and cultural divisions between Us and Them—an inherent part of our basic moral psychology? Many scientists link tribalism and morality, arguing that the evolved “moral mind” is tribalistic. Any escape from tribalism, according to this thinking, would be partial and fragile, because it goes against the grain of our nature. In this book, Allen Buchanan offers a counterargument: the moral mind is highly flexible, capable of both tribalism and deeply inclusive moralities, depending on the social environment in which the moral mind operates.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Women/Community News/Political

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Phylicia Woods, Chair Commissioner, Providence District, Virginia

Title: Women Making a Difference

The Fairfax County Commission for Women advises the Board of Supervisors on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County. Established in 1971, the Commission has been an active voice for women in areas such as domestic violence, educational equality, and progress in the workplace. The Commission is part of a national network of state and local Commissions for Women.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

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Issues: Human service/Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Scott Adzick, Fetal Surgeon, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Title: Understanding Birth Defects and Hopeful Solutions

January's Birth Defects Awareness Month prompts an urgent conversation: 1 in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect, yet awareness remains limited. Dr. Scott Adzick, a pioneering fetal surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will offer insights on tackling the stigma surrounding birth defects, shedding light on available treatments and crucial considerations for parents-to-be

Issues: Human Service

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Host David O'Leary with Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Title: Mental Health (Segment 1 & 2) Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones.

We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Julie Gralow, Chief Medical Officer at American Society of Clinical Oncology

Title: Ground Breaking Cancer Care

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) symposia will focus on pioneering GI and and Genitourinary oncology research and care. The GI Cancers Symposium is leading global forum for the latest high-impact science and solution-focused strategies in the GI cancers field and expected to garner 4,000 attendees. Research results will include pioneering research on

circulating tumor DNA and immunotherapy, with highlights including six studies on new GI cancer treatments and groundbreaking research on prostate and kidney cancers.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kerry O'Brien, Regional Representative, Federal Trade Commission

Title: Identity Prevention Week

The FTC is the federal government's one-stop resource that helps people learn how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft and other scams. The agency manages IdentityTheft.gov, a free resource to help people who experience identity theft start their recovery. Each year, the FTC gets more than a million reports of identity theft, but the fact is only a fraction of people who experience identity theft, report it.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Government/Political

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jules Christian, Chaplain, Volunteers of America

Title: More than Thoughts and Prayers

Volunteers of America will be hosting a spiritual colloquium in Washington D.C. to discuss gun violence in the city, specifically Wards 7&8. The colloquium will also provide a platform for community leaders and citizens to derive solutions that benefit families and the community as a whole.

Issues: Political/Government/Culture

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome USA

Title: Legal Entry into the United States via the Department of State

Representing one of the boldest innovations to U.S. refugee resettlement in 40 years, the State Department launched the Welcome Corps in 2023 to create new ways for Americans to play a direct role in resettling refugees. In groups of five or more adults, Americans take on essential tasks and help refugees during their first 90 days in the United States. This includes securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugees at the airport, helping adults find employment, enrolling children in school, and serving as local guides to enable refugees to forge ties in their new communities.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Laura Cheever

Title: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase awareness of HIV care and treatment services for Black/African Americans facing stigma and HIV-related health disparities. The day also encourages those who are undiagnosed to get tested for HIV and, if they test positive, to get appropriate care and medication. More than 13,000 people of living with HIV in Washington D.C. according to recent data (aidsvu.org).

Issues: Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Reasa Currier, Director Animal Sheltering

Title: Chief vs Chief

The Fairfax County Police Chief, Kevin Davis has challenged Fairfax County Fire Chief, John Butler to raise funds and awareness to animals in need. All proceeds go to the Fairfax County Virginia animal shelter. The shelter has two locations; the newest one in the southern end of the county recently opened its doors. The shelters can house between 4,000 and 5,000 animals throughout the year.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Education

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leandris Liburd, Acting Director for CDC’s Office of Health Equity (OHE) and Tara Robinson, Founder/CEO of the Black Heart Association

Title: Black Women: Bearing the Brunt of Heart Disease

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in this country, and the odds of dying from it are even higher if you’re an African American woman. Ways to reduce the risks and support are provided by the collaboration of the OHE and the Black Heart Association.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Economy

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Jason Porter, Thoracic Medical Oncologist at West Cancer Center and Janet Freeman-Daily, Survivor/Co-founder/President of The ROS1ders

Title: New Therapy May Bring Hope for Specific Lung Cancer Patients

There may be new hope for those with a tough-to-treat form of lung cancer. The disease is called *ROS1*-positive (*ROS1+*) a non-small cell lung cancer; and it tends to be aggressive and can often spread to the brain. The FDA recently approved a new medication specific to this cancer.

Issues: Human Service

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Hosts (KNX) Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson with Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA.

Title: “Audacy Conversations: State of the Entertainment Industry” (Segment 1&2)

Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

(Audacy, Inc. “I’m Listening Series”)

Issues: Environment/Youth/Education/Culture

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director, Seed Your Future.

Title: Green Careers

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, STEM, design are a few career paths that are available to candidates that may not want to attend a traditional university.

Issues: Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Tammuella Chrisentery-Singleton, Chief Science Officer for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network

Title:

More than 30,000 U.S. adults are estimated to be living with severe hemophilia A, a genetic condition where blood does not clot properly. Those living with the condition face a lifelong burden involving frequent infusions and a high risk of health complications, including uncontrolled bleeding and irreversible joint damage. To help, there is a new gene therapy to provide a new option for patients that may grant them freedom from regular preventative injections and painful bleeding incidents.

Issues: Human Service/Education/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone - Katrin Werner-Perez, Health Programs Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Title: Heart Valve Disease Awareness

As many as 11 million Americans are affected by heart valve disease (HVD), yet an awareness survey found that three out of four adults know little to nothing about it. HVD involves damage to one or more of the heart's four valves, and while some types are not serious, others can lead to major complications, including more than 25,000 deaths attributed to HVD in the U.S. each year. HVD can be successfully treated in patients of all ages if detected and treated in time. The most common risk factor is age.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Community News/Economy

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rebecca Kinney, Director of the Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at the Administration for ☐ Community ☐ Living

Title: Medicare Help

Medicare can be incredibly confusing, but the good news is that there are people available to help. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has counselors in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SHIP provides unbiased,

one-on-one, confidential Medicare benefits counseling and assistance and their services are free. The counselors have been trained and certified as Medicare experts and many are Medicare beneficiaries themselves.

Issues: Youth/Education/Political

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jill Murphy, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Distribution at Common Sense Media

Title: Mobile Phone Safety for Kids with Tech-Savvy Parents

Most parents discuss phone safety with their kids several times a week, but experts say blind spots persist. A new survey from Cox Mobile found nearly one in three parents (31%) said their children have been contacted by a stranger on their phone, and 1 in 4 (28%) said the stranger referenced their child's location. The survey also found parents extremely worried about cyberbullying, one of the top three things keeping them up at night. Parents are most concerned about their child encountering predatory or inappropriate behavior (39%) and content (23%) on their phones.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Economy/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – U.S. Air Force Veteran, Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Associate National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis

Title: Female Veterans in Crisis

In the last decade, our nation has asked a lot of our service members and, as a result, many are coming back with visible and invisible wounds of war. One nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is working hard to support America's disabled veterans in positive, life-changing ways by helping them access benefits they earned, like health care, education and disability, and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. With nearly 1,300 chapters across the country, DAV provides a national support network for veterans and their families; particularly women veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Elizabeth Ann Bridgwaters, Living Legend (Women's History Month)

Title: Making a Difference in Lives and Supporting a Community

Elizabeth Bridgwaters was recently designated as a Living Legend in Bloomington, Indiana. Her contributions as an African American historian, has given citizens the opportunity to learn of not only their ancestry, but of those who helped shape the future of their community.

Issues: Youth/Education/Culture/Community News

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jodi Rubin, reading is Fundamental Senior VP, Marketing and Partnerships

Title: Reading is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's leading children's literacy non-profit. As I shared this past fall, we launched the third year of our annual six-month reading campaign called Rally to Read 100 offering free monthly themes with read-alouds from popular authors and fun and engaging reading activities for elementary school aged children all available at RallytoRead.org.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Education/Culture

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Lisa C. Richardson, Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Title: Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Routine colorectal cancer screening can mean cancer prevention. Because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its recommendation in 2021 that adults 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. In the last few years, many adults missed or delayed screenings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When screenings are delayed, or people wait until they have symptoms to be checked, this can lead to more advanced and harder-to-treat colorectal cancer.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Economy/Human Service/Government

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Theodore Caputi, MPH, Public Health Research Consultant

Title: Are All CBD Products Safe?

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has released new research that reveals the various tactics cannabidiol (CBD) companies use to thwart the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process and make misleading statements that their therapeutic claims are backed by science. The research illustrates the need for stronger FDA oversight and guidance to address the risks to consumers and patients alike when companies exploit research for marketing purposes. The findings reveal nearly 1,000 health claims touting CBD's ability to mitigate symptoms or treat mental health, autism, pain, sexual health, AIDS, cancer, COVID-19, and more, providing just a snapshot of the current, unregulated market and shady tactics companies use to mislead the public. There is only one CBD product that has been approved by the federal government.

Issues: Community News/Education/Youth/Economy

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sue Mairena, Board President Annandale Christian Community for Action & Isabel Ballivian, Executive Director/Program Director for the Child Development Center

Title: Sustaining a Community and Educating the Children

Annandale Christian Community for Action is a non-profit providing early childhood education since 1965. Later the organization found there was a great need to service the entire community. They provide a multitude of services to include: financial assistance, short term housing, food and clothing. Since the pandemic, they have seen the need for services grow exponentially.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Education

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Laura Mayer, Program Director, Crisis Link

Title: Help is a Call or Text Away

PRS, a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises, has received two major grants to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's hotline and chat line from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). PRS has operated Northern Virginia's hotline and text line through its CrisisLink program for years and is now part of the subnetwork of crisis centers answering overflow calls and chats from around the nation.

Issues: Community News/Economy/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jim Link, the Chief HR Officer of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Title: Workplace Behavior Under Scrutiny

SHRM believes we'll see a significant increase in incivility in the workplace this year as we near a highly divisive election, but SHRM also believes that honest and civil conversations can bridge divides, build understanding, and shape better workplaces and a better world. But, the need is now. Embracing Diversity, Encourage Empathy, Active Listening, and mitigating abusive conduct are key factors to getting the workplace back to civility.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Sara Kinsman is the Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Title: Poison Prevention Week

Most poisonings are unintentional and happen at home. They usually do not require a trip to the hospital and can be treated with a call to poison control. In fact, more than 4 out of 5 (83%) of poison exposures are nontoxic or minimally toxic and do not require 911 or an ambulance. If a child or adult is alert, acting normally and breathing well, calling Poison Help and reaching your local poison center is the best first step and can give you advice right away.

Issues: Community News/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Tina Johnson, President, Loudoun First Responder Foundation

Title: Supporting Those Who Support the Community

Firefighters in Loudoun County recently experienced a tragedy that took the life of a firefighter while combating a fire. Another firefighter sustained injuries that require attention and the road to recovery will be long. Loudoun First Responder Foundation is a non-profit organization that focuses all of its energy to supporting those firefighters and family members. 97% of donations go directly to those who are in need.

Issues: Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Major Kathleen (Kate) Rubins, an Astronaut and Innovation Officer, U.S. Army Reserve

Title: Herstory (Women's History Month)

Major Rubins is one of nine people selected to attend the 20th NASA astronaut class in July 2009 and has since become the 60th woman ever to fly in space and the first person to sequence DNA in space. To date, she has completed two missions to space. Major Rubins wanted to be an astronaut since she was a child but first started pursuing a career in molecular biology and infectious disease and worked as a microbiologist in the Army Reserve as a Microbiologist.

Issues: Transportation/Environment/Economy

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Morgan Dean, Manager, Public & Government Affairs, AAA

Title: Spring Break Travel and Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy

Detours are now up after the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. AAA is urging Spring Break travelers who have plans to travel to or through the Baltimore area to double check their plans. The tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has shut down a vital artery for travelers getting around and through the Baltimore metro area. According to Maryland Department Transportation Authority (MDTA), more than 30,000 vehicles used that bridge every day. Those drivers will now be looking for alternate routes. Maryland Transportation officials urge drivers to use I-95 and I-895 as alternate routes. Spring Break travelers going both north and south along the corridor could find more backups than normal as commuter, holiday traffic, and trucking/freight traffic shift to the alternate routes.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores and Partner with American Heart Association

Title: National Walking Day April 3, 2024

Physical activity is one of the best ways to improve overall health and manage stress. Yet, 1 in 4 U.S. adults are sedentary for more than eight hours each day, which can have negative consequences on physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day.

Issues: Community News/Environment

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Daniel Paden, Vice President of Evidence Analysis for PETA

Title: Safe Animal Blood Transfusions

Animals that need blood transfusions are often very ill or injured, and their owners are led to believe the blood they will receive is healthy and uncontaminated. But blood purchased from animal blood banks may have been taken from sick, injured or medicated animals, putting

animals on both sides at further risk. A groundbreaking PETA investigation into captive animal blood banks reveals dogs and cats that are confined to barren kennels and crowded pens, where they are forced to spend their lives as living blood bags even when they are ill or suffering from infections or cancer.

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

AUDACY-DC PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
1st Quarter
(1/01/24 – 3/31/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Education/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jimmie Williams, WLC president and CEO

Title: Adults with Literacy concerns in D.C.

Washington Literacy Center has a new program called, “Jumpstart to Success.” It offers participants career-skills betterment and enhancement. In addition, the program’s Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) exams provide an opportunity for WLC to have conversations with students about the value of improved reading and math skills. These conversations then result in low-level readers taking part in enrichment classes. In addition, WLC’s Digital Literacy allows for its educators to connect reading skills to students’ desire to learn about computers and technology. It’s also accomplished this, in part, with support from Capitol Hill employees who volunteer with low-level readers and English learners.

Issues: Government/Economy/Culture/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Yadavan Mahendraraj, Head of US & Canada Merchant Operations at Uber

Title: Grants for Business

Uber and Visa announced Grants for Growth, a program administered by Local Initiatives Support Corporate (LISC). They will provide \$1M in grant funding to small businesses currently active on Uber Eats across the United States. Focused on restaurant recovery and entrepreneurship, the program was created to support merchants when they need it most. Merchants active on Uber Eats since January 1, 2022, in various cities to include D.C. are eligible to apply for the program. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive search process by LISC. LISC will give preference to veteran, minority, women, and LGBTQIA+ business owners. Through Grants for Growth, 100 merchants will receive grants of \$10,000, which can be used toward immediate needs like meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, upgrading technology infrastructure, and other immediate operational costs. In addition to financial support, merchants will receive placement in the Uber Eats app and disaster recovery and resiliency guides from Uber and LISC.

Issues: Community News/Education

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Brad Pfiher, Executive Director of the Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Title: Proper Training of a Dog for Safety and Awareness

The CCPDT is the leading certification body for the dog training profession. For National Train Your Dog Month, they offer some tips for the many dog parents whose pups bark, jump, beg, and otherwise could benefit from a few lessons in good manners and safe behavior. It is important to receive training from a certified trainer.

Issues: Culture/Youth/Education/Community News/

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leslie Boissiere, VP of External Affairs at Annie E. Casey Foundation

Title: Race for Results

2024 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, unveils a stark reality: over half of Black, American Indian, and Latino children live below the poverty line. The United States is failing its children in several areas, especially kids of color. The report standardizes scores across 12 indicators representing well-being milestones from cradle to career.

Issues: Political/Culture/Government

Date: 1/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Allen Buchanan, PhD

Title: “A Divided America: Tribal Conflicts and the New America”

Is tribalism the political and cultural divisions between Us and Them—an inherent part of our basic moral psychology? Many scientists link tribalism and morality, arguing that the evolved “moral mind” is tribalistic. Any escape from tribalism, according to this thinking, would be partial and fragile, because it goes against the grain of our nature. In this book, Allen Buchanan offers a counterargument: the moral mind is highly flexible, capable of both tribalism and deeply inclusive moralities, depending on the social environment in which the moral mind operates.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Women/Community News/Political

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Phylicia Woods, Chair Commissioner, Providence District, Virginia

Title: Women Making a Difference

The Fairfax County Commission for Women advises the Board of Supervisors on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County. Established in 1971, the Commission has been an active voice for women in areas such as domestic violence, educational equality, and progress in the workplace. The Commission is part of a national network of state and local Commissions for Women.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

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Issues: Human service/Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Scott Adzick, Fetal Surgeon, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Title: Understanding Birth Defects and Hopeful Solutions

January's Birth Defects Awareness Month prompts an urgent conversation: 1 in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect, yet awareness remains limited. Dr. Scott Adzick, a pioneering fetal surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will offer insights on tackling the stigma surrounding birth defects, shedding light on available treatments and crucial considerations for parents-to-be

Issues: Human Service

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Host David O'Leary with Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Title: Mental Health (Segment 1 & 2) Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones.

We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Julie Gralow, Chief Medical Officer at American Society of Clinical Oncology

Title: Ground Breaking Cancer Care

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) symposia will focus on pioneering GI and and Genitourinary oncology research and care. The GI Cancers Symposium is leading global forum for the latest high-impact science and solution-focused strategies in the GI cancers field and expected to garner 4,000 attendees. Research results will include pioneering research on

circulating tumor DNA and immunotherapy, with highlights including six studies on new GI cancer treatments and groundbreaking research on prostate and kidney cancers.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kerry O'Brien, Regional Representative, Federal Trade Commission

Title: Identity Prevention Week

The FTC is the federal government's one-stop resource that helps people learn how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft and other scams. The agency manages IdentityTheft.gov, a free resource to help people who experience identity theft start their recovery. Each year, the FTC gets more than a million reports of identity theft, but the fact is only a fraction of people who experience identity theft, report it.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Government/Political

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jules Christian, Chaplain, Volunteers of America

Title: More than Thoughts and Prayers

Volunteers of America will be hosting a spiritual colloquium in Washington D.C. to discuss gun violence in the city, specifically Wards 7&8. The colloquium will also provide a platform for community leaders and citizens to derive solutions that benefit families and the community as a whole.

Issues: Political/Government/Culture

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome USA

Title: Legal Entry into the United States via the Department of State

Representing one of the boldest innovations to U.S. refugee resettlement in 40 years, the State Department launched the Welcome Corps in 2023 to create new ways for Americans to play a direct role in resettling refugees. In groups of five or more adults, Americans take on essential tasks and help refugees during their first 90 days in the United States. This includes securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugees at the airport, helping adults find employment, enrolling children in school, and serving as local guides to enable refugees to forge ties in their new communities.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Laura Cheever

Title: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase awareness of HIV care and treatment services for Black/African Americans facing stigma and HIV-related health disparities. The day also encourages those who are undiagnosed to get tested for HIV and, if they test positive, to get appropriate care and medication. More than 13,000 people of living with HIV in Washington D.C. according to recent data (aidsvu.org).

Issues: Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Reasa Currier, Director Animal Sheltering

Title: Chief vs Chief

The Fairfax County Police Chief, Kevin Davis has challenged Fairfax County Fire Chief, John Butler to raise funds and awareness to animals in need. All proceeds go to the Fairfax County Virginia animal shelter. The shelter has two locations; the newest one in the southern end of the county recently opened its doors. The shelters can house between 4,000 and 5,000 animals throughout the year.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Education

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leandris Liburd, Acting Director for CDC's Office of Health Equity (OHE) and Tara Robinson, Founder/CEO of the Black Heart Association

Title: Black Women: Bearing the Brunt of Heart Disease

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in this country, and the odds of dying from it are even higher if you're an African American woman. Ways to reduce the risks and support are provided by the collaboration of the OHE and the Black Heart Association.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Economy

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Jason Porter, Thoracic Medical Oncologist at West Cancer Center and Janet Freeman-Daily, Survivor/Co-founder/President of The ROS1ders

Title: New Therapy May Bring Hope for Specific Lung Cancer Patients

There may be new hope for those with a tough-to-treat form of lung cancer. The disease is called *ROS1*-positive (*ROS1*+) a non-small cell lung cancer; and it tends to be aggressive and can often spread to the brain. The FDA recently approved a new medication specific to this cancer.

Issues: Human Service

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Hosts (KNX) Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson with Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA.

Title: "Audacy Conversations: State of the Entertainment Industry" (Segment 1&2)

Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

(Audacy, Inc. "I'm Listening Series")

Issues: Environment/Youth/Education/Culture

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director, Seed Your Future.

Title: Green Careers

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, STEM, design are a few career paths that are available to candidates that may not want to attend a traditional university.

Issues: Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Tammuella Chrisentery-Singleton, Chief Science Officer for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network

Title:

More than 30,000 U.S. adults are estimated to be living with severe hemophilia A, a genetic condition where blood does not clot properly. Those living with the condition face a lifelong burden involving frequent infusions and a high risk of health complications, including uncontrolled bleeding and irreversible joint damage. To help, there is a new gene therapy to provide a new option for patients that may grant them freedom from regular preventative injections and painful bleeding incidents.

Issues: Human Service/Education/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone - Katrin Werner-Perez, Health Programs Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Title: Heart Valve Disease Awareness

As many as 11 million Americans are affected by heart valve disease (HVD), yet an awareness survey found that three out of four adults know little to nothing about it. HVD involves damage to one or more of the heart's four valves, and while some types are not serious, others can lead to major complications, including more than 25,000 deaths attributed to HVD in the U.S. each year. HVD can be successfully treated in patients of all ages if detected and treated in time. The most common risk factor is age.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Community News/Economy

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rebecca Kinney, Director of the Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at the Administration for ☐Community ☐Living

Title: Medicare Help

Medicare can be incredibly confusing, but the good news is that there are people available to help. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has counselors in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SHIP provides unbiased,

one-on-one, confidential Medicare benefits counseling and assistance and their services are free. The counselors have been trained and certified as Medicare experts and many are Medicare beneficiaries themselves.

Issues: Youth/Education/Political

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jill Murphy, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Distribution at Common Sense Media

Title: Mobile Phone Safety for Kids with Tech-Savvy Parents

Most parents discuss phone safety with their kids several times a week, but experts say blind spots persist. A new survey from Cox Mobile found nearly one in three parents (31%) said their children have been contacted by a stranger on their phone, and 1 in 4 (28%) said the stranger referenced their child's location. The survey also found parents extremely worried about cyberbullying, one of the top three things keeping them up at night. Parents are most concerned about their child encountering predatory or inappropriate behavior (39%) and content (23%) on their phones.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Economy/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – U.S. Air Force Veteran, Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Associate National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis

Title: Female Veterans in Crisis

In the last decade, our nation has asked a lot of our service members and, as a result, many are coming back with visible and invisible wounds of war. One nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is working hard to support America's disabled veterans in positive, life-changing ways by helping them access benefits they earned, like health care, education and disability, and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. With nearly 1,300 chapters across the country, DAV provides a national support network for veterans and their families; particularly women veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Elizabeth Ann Bridgwaters, Living Legend (Women's History Month)

Title: Making a Difference in Lives and Supporting a Community

Elizabeth Bridgwaters was recently designated as a Living Legend in Bloomington, Indiana. Her contributions as an African American historian, has given citizens the opportunity to learn of not only their ancestry, but of those who helped shape the future of their community.

Issues: Youth/Education/Culture/Community News

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jodi Rubin, reading is Fundamental Senior VP, Marketing and Partnerships

Title: Reading is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's leading children's literacy non-profit. As I shared this past fall, we launched the third year of our annual six-month reading campaign called Rally to Read 100 offering free monthly themes with read-alouds from popular authors and fun and engaging reading activities for elementary school aged children all available at RallytoRead.org.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Education/Culture

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Lisa C. Richardson, Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Title: Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Routine colorectal cancer screening can mean cancer prevention. Because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its recommendation in 2021 that adults 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. In the last few years, many adults missed or delayed screenings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When screenings are delayed, or people wait until they have symptoms to be checked, this can lead to more advanced and harder-to-treat colorectal cancer.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Economy/Human Service/Government

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Theodore Caputi, MPH, Public Health Research Consultant

Title: Are All CBD Products Safe?

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has released new research that reveals the various tactics cannabidiol (CBD) companies use to thwart the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process and make misleading statements that their therapeutic claims are backed by science. The research illustrates the need for stronger FDA oversight and guidance to address the risks to consumers and patients alike when companies exploit research for marketing purposes. The findings reveal nearly 1,000 health claims touting CBD's ability to mitigate symptoms or treat mental health, autism, pain, sexual health, AIDS, cancer, COVID-19, and more, providing just a snapshot of the current, unregulated market and shady tactics companies use to mislead the public. There is only one CBD product that has been approved by the federal government.

Issues: Community News/Education/Youth/Economy

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sue Mairena, Board President Annandale Christian Community for Action & Isabel Ballivian, Executive Director/Program Director for the Child Development Center

Title: Sustaining a Community and Educating the Children

Annandale Christian Community for Action is a non-profit providing early childhood education since 1965. Later the organization found there was a great need to service the entire community. They provide a multitude of services to include: financial assistance, short term housing, food and clothing. Since the pandemic, they have seen the need for services grow exponentially.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Education

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Laura Mayer, Program Director, Crisis Link

Title: Help is a Call or Text Away

PRS, a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises, has received two major grants to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's hotline and chat line from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). PRS has operated Northern Virginia's hotline and text line through its CrisisLink program for years and is now part of the subnetwork of crisis centers answering overflow calls and chats from around the nation.

Issues: Community News/Economy/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jim Link, the Chief HR Officer of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Title: Workplace Behavior Under Scrutiny

SHRM believes we'll see a significant increase in incivility in the workplace this year as we near a highly divisive election, but SHRM also believes that honest and civil conversations can bridge divides, build understanding, and shape better workplaces and a better world. But, the need is now. Embracing Diversity, Encourage Empathy, Active Listening, and mitigating abusive conduct are key factors to getting the workplace back to civility.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Sara Kinsman is the Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Title: Poison Prevention Week

Most poisonings are unintentional and happen at home. They usually do not require a trip to the hospital and can be treated with a call to poison control. In fact, more than 4 out of 5 (83%) of poison exposures are nontoxic or minimally toxic and do not require 911 or an ambulance. If a child or adult is alert, acting normally and breathing well, calling Poison Help and reaching your local poison center is the best first step and can give you advice right away.

Issues: Community News/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Tina Johnson, President, Loudoun First Responder Foundation

Title: Supporting Those Who Support the Community

Firefighters in Loudoun County recently experienced a tragedy that took the life of a firefighter while combating a fire. Another firefighter sustained injuries that require attention and the road to recovery will be long. Loudoun First Responder Foundation is a non-profit organization that focuses all of its energy to supporting those firefighters and family members. 97% of donations go directly to those who are in need.

Issues: Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Major Kathleen (Kate) Rubins, an Astronaut and Innovation Officer, U.S. Army Reserve

Title: Herstory (Women's History Month)

Major Rubins is one of nine people selected to attend the 20th NASA astronaut class in July 2009 and has since become the 60th woman ever to fly in space and the first person to sequence DNA in space. To date, she has completed two missions to space. Major Rubins wanted to be an astronaut since she was a child but first started pursuing a career in molecular biology and infectious disease and worked as a microbiologist in the Army Reserve as a Microbiologist.

Issues: Transportation/Environment/Economy

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Morgan Dean, Manager, Public & Government Affairs, AAA

Title: Spring Break Travel and Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy

Detours are now up after the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. AAA is urging Spring Break travelers who have plans to travel to or through the Baltimore area to double check their plans. The tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has shut down a vital artery for travelers getting around and through the Baltimore metro area. According to Maryland Department Transportation Authority (MDTA), more than 30,000 vehicles used that bridge every day. Those drivers will now be looking for alternate routes. Maryland Transportation officials urge drivers to use I-95 and I-895 as alternate routes. Spring Break travelers going both north and south along the corridor could find more backups than normal as commuter, holiday traffic, and trucking/freight traffic shift to the alternate routes.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores and Partner with American Heart Association

Title: National Walking Day April 3, 2024

Physical activity is one of the best ways to improve overall health and manage stress. Yet, 1 in 4 U.S. adults are sedentary for more than eight hours each day, which can have negative consequences on physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day.

Issues: Community News/Environment

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Daniel Paden, Vice President of Evidence Analysis for PETA

Title: Safe Animal Blood Transfusions

Animals that need blood transfusions are often very ill or injured, and their owners are led to believe the blood they will receive is healthy and uncontaminated. But blood purchased from animal blood banks may have been taken from sick, injured or medicated animals, putting

animals on both sides at further risk. A groundbreaking PETA investigation into captive animal blood banks reveals dogs and cats that are confined to barren kennels and crowded pens, where they are forced to spend their lives as living blood bags even when they are ill or suffering from infections or cancer.

1ST QUARTER 2024 ISSUES AND PROGRAMS – WXBK-FM NEW YORK CITY (94.7)

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

1.3.24 Air Date: 1.7.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Marsha Coleman Jr.- Financial Expert

In the New Year of 2024, we are taking an intentional look at best practices to set a consistent foundation for our finances. This includes understanding how to recognize when you have a lot of debt and how to create a plan to address it. The importance of building your credit score and being reasonable about the time to do so, and the critical nature of preparing for your retirement through savings, and employer 401K and 403B plans.

Without access to good financial advice, you will continue to repeat past mistakes. You must create a relationship with you and money that builds, grows, and expands with others.

Earning additional income aka “side hustle” is not a bad idea. There are quite a few opportunities that could be beneficial to your income. It requires you to research. One listed was [hotbreadkitchen.com](https://www.hotbreadkitchen.com).

Here are some additional tips:

Live within your means.

Ask yourself if your spending habits are putting you in a difficult position financially. Living within your means can be achieved by creating and sticking to a budget and understanding how debt can impact you.

Start saving and investing.

Start tracking how much you save each year and aim to save 10% to 15% of your income as an “investment” in yourself.

Retirement savings - being proactive in preparation for our golden years (know your limits for 2024). This includes taking advantage of your 401k or 403B Plan. In addition to Social Security, which should not be a standalone option for your retirement, you must build a plan to secure your retirement future.

Building financial stability and wealth can be challenging — especially for many Black Americans, who also face the aftereffects of decades of inequality.

But to close the wealth gap, we must participate in positioning ourselves for success.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy

Recorded: 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.14.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute

Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Ayanna Horsford- Afro Latina- STEM Medical Field

Ayanna is a proud Afro-Latina pursuing a career in the healthcare profession and completed my B.S. in Biology with a minor in chemistry at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y. Passionate about the sciences, she has been able to experience both wet-lab and clinical research. At Manhattan College, and able to further develop her research skills such as lab safety, pipetting, mastering concentration conversation to make samples, qPCR, in situ-hybridizations, etc.

Now, at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, she works in a clinical research setting. Interacting with patients and improving health conditions through her current role has truly impacted her ambition towards a career in medicine. Familiarity in both areas of research has allowed her to grow fonder of medicine and become aware of the several steps involved in developing healthcare. Ayanna now works with uninsured populations at NYU Langone, where she is responsible for recruiting and enrolling patients with hypertension to participate in a cardiology research study.

Here are some STEM Education Statistics for Black Women:

- While women make up half of the U.S. population and dominate undergraduate enrollment, they still are only little more than a third of those employed in STEM. occupations.
- And while Black and white students enter STEM majors at the same rate, Black students leave those majors at a rate of 40%, compared with 29% percent of white students.
- Only 5.7% of U.S. doctors are Black, with Black women accounting for half of that population.
- Black workers make up 9-10% of the total STEM workforce, with Hispanic workers representing 15%.

Health Disparities Statistics :(sources: CDC, Health, United States, 2020-21, KFF).

- In the first quarter of 2023, 1 in 4 Hispanic adults ages 18-24 lacked health insurance, a greater percentage than Black, non-Hispanic adults (10.1%), White, non-Hispanic adults (6.9%), and Asian, non-Hispanic adults (2.7%).

- Non-Hispanic Black people are more likely than people in other racial and ethnic groups to die of heart disease.
- At birth, AIAN and Black people had a shorter life expectancy (65.2 and 70.8 years, respectively) compared to White people (76.4) as of 2021, and AIAN, Hispanic, and Black people experienced larger declines in life expectancy than White people between 2019 and 2021.
- Black infants were more than two times as likely to die as White infants (10.4 vs. 4.4 per 1,000), and AIAN infants were nearly twice as likely to die as White infants (7.7 vs. 4.4 per 1,000) as of 2021. Black and AIAN women also had the highest rates of pregnancy-related mortality.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:
 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.21.24
 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
 Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Georey Roehm - Executive Director – Runway Green Education Collective

Floyd Bennett Field was the site of NYC’s first municipal airport. For the last 50 years, these 1,300 acres of ecologically rich National Park Service land have gone mostly unused. A nonprofit organization called Runway Green Education Collective—in partnership with the National Park Service—is developing a 7-acre experiential education campus at Floyd Bennett Field.

Runway Green will support 50,000 students, in grades K-12, from hundreds of NYC public schools each year with world-class resources and opportunities to learn skills and mindsets focused on sustainability, to solve real-world problems, and to earn job credentials in the careers of the future. This once-in-generation project was conceived to help advance solutions to major challenges—including educational inequity, economic injustice, and climate change—by empowering young people from under-served communities to forge pathways to careers in which they will attain economic freedom and build a better world.

The campus is envisioned as a “learning ecosystem” – a community-based approach to education that offers deeply personalized opportunities to all students, with learning taking place at a nurturing home base, at learning hubs, and at real-world field sites—versus set in singular school buildings.

Georey Roehm recently gave a presentation about learning ecosystems at a conference hosted by Education Reimagined. Nothing like this exists in New

York City. Open year-round, the campus will provide students opportunities to learn, work, and intern with an ecosystem of partner nonprofit organizations. Facilities and nonprofit partnerships include:

- A solar panel workshop, where students will earn job credentials while building sustainable energy sources to operate the net zero campus with Solar One.
- A three-acre farm, where students will gain skills for careers in sustainable agriculture and feed our neighbors with

The Campaign Against Hunger.

- World-class science labs built and operated by NY Sun Works, preparing students for careers in local agriculture and hydroponic farming.
- A ropes course and campsites, where students will build self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills with NYC Outward Bound Schools.
- Access to Jamaica Bay where students will learn skills to save our oceans and prepare for careers in marine biology and advocacy with Billion Oyster Project.

A partnership with Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy with whom students will become environmental stewards, engaging in advocacy to preserve and improve the surrounding shorelines and parklands.

- A partnership with the City University of New York's Science + Resilience Institute, with which students will conduct hands-on research about coastal resiliency and the impacts of climate change.
- An amphitheater where students will experience performing arts, including the history, movement, and beauty of African Diasporic culture with Asase Yaa.

Additionally, the campus will feature a new 240-student high school operated by Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School that will be built through a gut renovation of Floyd Bennett Field's Building 272. Runway Green, in partnership with the eco-friendly transit provider Circuit, is committed to sustainable forms of transportation to and from Floyd Bennett Field, ensuring accessibility for all. The Collective views the 7-acre campus as just the first phase in an even larger reimagining of Floyd Bennett Field as the preeminent hub of education, research, innovation, and workforce development. Floyd Bennett Field (1,300 acres) is more than twice the combined size of Brooklyn Navy Yard (300 acres), Governor's Island (175 acres), and Industry City (35 acres). The Collective recently brought on board three high-profile advisors with extensive connections and experience on big projects: Kathy Wylde, President, and CEO of the Partnership for New York; Stephen Cockrell, CEO of the Fund for Public Schools; and Carl Weisbrod, former Chairman of the New York City Planning Commission and Director of the New York City Department of Planning. The design of Runway Green has been developed by three renowned firms: SCAPE, ARO, and Colloqate.

Their work on this project has been informed by extensive input from Brooklyn community members. Funding and timeline Runway Green Education Collective has a fully negotiated lease with the National Park Service to develop and construct the 7-acre campus and is currently conducting a capital fundraising campaign to finalize the financing. Thus far, the Collective has secured \$27 million in funding for the campus from the City, State, and Federal governments, banks, foundations, and individual donors. The City of New York's September 2023 lease with the National Park Service to build a migrant shelter at Floyd Bennett Field included language requiring the construction of the campus and giving the project \$2.5 million. The Collective plans to finish its capital campaign in 2024 and begin construction, starting with the renovation of Building 272, in the first quarter of 2025. The first part of the campus—including the high school, farm, and ropes course—will open in 2026. The campus will be completed by 2028.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.18.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to
9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host:
Patricia Robinson

Guest: Michael T. Pugh- President & CEO LISC

Michael has worked for the most local to the largest financial institutions, which makes him well-qualified to discuss financial mobility. He also praises the role of good financial advice and forecasts how AI can create alternative methods for building credit.

Community organizations and resident leaders have the resources they need to actualize changes envisioned by the community. They can build on their strengths and have strong and diverse networks to maximize their capacity and achieve greater impact.

In this equitable journey, Michael works to preserve and develop affordable housing as part of neighborhood revitalization plans, to protect residents from displacement and meet community needs for affordable, equitable, and mixed-use housing options. We offer project-based technical assistance, recoverable grants, financing, and equity to help

community partners innovate, solve problems, and build capacity to achieve their housing goals.

CDFIs have an opportunity because of the connection to the community, and the lived experience that allows them to connect with members of the community. Cdfi's are more understanding, and acknowledging, of the issues present in BIPOC communities and the importance of connecting small businesses to capital.

Compound interest is a fundamental tenet of finance that greatly facilitates your ability to accumulate wealth, especially by leaning into the 401k pretax opportunities in the workplace.

Financial Education should start early in any home, as a foundation to train young people in the understanding of what they need vs what they want and to support incentives on how they earn those opportunities.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.25.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Andrey Yancey- Assistant Brand Manager – 94.7 FM The Block

Transformational leadership in unique workspaces requires a special skillset.

Transformational leaders are full of energy, passion, and drive. It is not a surprise that these qualities can be the things that can make or break an organization.

When you have a lot of people who are looking to enter the industry, the importance on navigating that advice on how they show up to present themselves is important. It should reflect a connection to purpose first versus, a look at what the industry can do for you.

Coaching talent in the industry takes on different spheres of life and experiences but being able to support talent who have been through

many different work experiences in different spaces , some trauma associated, and helping them to feel included and safe allows them to exercise their best potential.

Continual communication is needed in the media space, because it is where you get your feedback and one should not expect that it is always unfavorable, but a redirecon or an assessment to get talent in alignment with staons repertoire.

A transformaonal leadership style can only be successful if you maintain open lines of communicaon with team members to transfer the vision of a task.

Continual communication is needed in this industry because transformational leadership style can only be successful if you maintain open lines of communication with team members to transfer the vision of a task.

Have the humility to know that there's much you do not know about others' experiences. Getting comfortable with discomfort and embracing risk are key to successful inclusive leadership.

Taking care of yourself, a healthy diet, resting, will help you to avoid burnout, and set realistic expectations for yourself.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

2.27.24 Air Date: 3.3.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Leah Rambo- President- Non-Traditional Employment for Women

Leah Rambo has been named the President of Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW]. The pioneering nonprofit prepares, trains, and places women in careers in the skilled construction, utility, and maintenance trades, helping women build meaningful careers, and achieve economic independence and a secure future for themselves and their families. NEW also provides a pipeline of qualified workers to industries that build, move, power, green, and maintain New York.

NEW was founded in 1978 and has since increased the number of women participating in trade careers from two percent to seven percent.

The organization runs two flagship programs out of its Manhattan (Chelsea) and Brooklyn (Industry City) locations, preparing about 350 women annually to work as carpenters, electricians, ironworkers, laborers, plumbers, and operating engineers, and more. Graduates earn starting hourly wages of over \$19/hour and typically receive comprehensive benefits through their employer.

“This role presents an opportunity for me to advance my commitment to drive gender diversity and equality in the construction trades. It is an honor to be named president of NEW, an organization I have long admired for its leadership and network of opportunity for women. I’m looking forward to furthering the organization’s legacy in partnership with staff, the Board of Directors, unions and other workforce development leaders.

Leah’s interest in the building trades dates to her adolescence, when, at the age of 10, she asked for a tool set, rather than a doll, for a present. She attended high school at Brooklyn Tech and then launched a 35-year career in the labor movement. In addition to her role at the Women’s Bureau and several roles at Local 28, she also served on the Sheet Metal Air Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) International’s Women’s Committee, Recruitment and Retention Council, and was an instructor for the International Training Institute, where she trained sheet metal instructors from across the country. She is also a certified OSHA Outreach Instructor. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Labor Education from the National Labor College.

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Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Marsha Coleman Jr. -Founder MCJ Dynasty – Financial Expert

Building a financially secure retirement is a challenge for many Americans, but it's especially steep if you are Black.

The numbers paint a glaring picture. Black workers ages 51 to 64 are the least likely among all racial and ethnic groups to have a retirement account, according to a July 2023 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Income is one of the most important factors affecting how much money people can save for retirement, and Black workers in the U.S. earn less than their white counterparts. African Americans who are aging now, the boomer generation, a lot of them didn't seek that financial advice.

However, Marsha suggests that you need to participate in your 401k/403b plan, and when and if you receive a raise-allocate a portion of that raise to your retirement plan.

Some tips include:

Make sure you evaluate your withdrawal rate with your financial professional at least annually to ensure that you are not drawing too much or too little and are taking life changes into account.

Look for financial wellness counseling, either from work or the community. Some companies offer employees counseling for debt management, budgeting, and emergency savings.

Some of the benefits of a retirement plan are :

- It allows you to invest now for financial security when you retire. • It provides tax advantages and incentives for you and your employees (if applicable).
- It reduces your stress and gives you peace of mind before and during retirement.
- It helps you make informed decisions and get on the same page with your spouse or partner.
 - It offers returns on investment and cost savings over time.
 - It protects you from emergencies and inflation.
 - It gives you a source of income if you have no pension.
 - It enables you to leave a legacy for your loved ones.

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Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30
Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia
Robinson

Guest: Sean Ebony Cole- Founder & Executive Director- Destination
Tomorrow

Destination Tomorrow, a Black Trans-led LGBTQ+ center in Atlanta, is a grant recipient of the City of Atlanta's largest investment in the Transgender community.

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens announced \$55,000 in funding to be allocated to three on-the ground community organizations. With the ongoing attacks on the Transgender community, specifically seen in the recent murders of Trans Black women in Atlanta, there is an urgent need for governing leaders to be held accountable for implementing safeguards for the community.

Sean Ebony Coleman, the center's founder, and executive director and the only Black Trans Grantmaker nationally, will be using these funds to open a new LGBTQ+ mentoring pilot program to provide critical support for Transgender individuals who are notoriously underrepresented in the region.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman announced a lawsuit Wednesday against New York Attorney General Letitia James. It comes after James issued a cease-and-desist order against Blakeman over Nassau County's ban affecting transgender athletes. Blakeman issued an executive order on Feb. 22 banning sports organizations from county run athletic facilities if they allow transgender girls and women to compete on female teams.

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The order, which went into effect immediately, impacts more than 100 sites, from ballfields to basketball and tennis courts, swimming pools and ice rinks across the suburban New York City region, which is located just east of Queens and is the state's wealthiest county. This is not precluding anybody from participating in sports," said Blakeman.

"What it is, it's identifying that there are women and girls who spend a tremendous amount of time and effort to excel and compete in their sports that are women's sports.... And it is an unfair advantage for someone who is a biological male to compete against a biological female."

Sean recognizes the harm being done by this executive order and will continue to build his scale of advocates to support equal and fair rights for the transgender community. He states that education should begin with understanding the terminology of the LGBTQ+ community, recognizing their humanity, and understanding the issues that they face. While some progress is being made in this direction Transgender individuals still face a greater risk of violence when using public spaces due to their gender identity, including being verbally harassed, physically assaulted, or sexually assaulted. This is unacceptable.

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3.11.24 Air Date: 3.24.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Dr. Oadinma McGeachy- Board Certified Physician

Research shows that most health outcomes for black patients are better when they are treated by black doctors. That research is critical given that African Americans in the United States experience poorer health outcomes across a variety of diseases and conditions. — regardless of income level.

Dr. Ogadinma McGeachy is a board-certified Family Medicine Physician with over 15 years of experience. She serves as an adjunct professor at Molloy University, LIU, and NYU School of Nursing. She has worked in Brooklyn and Queens for over a decade and now has a private practice (GOAL Family Medical) in Lynbrook NY.

The practice's mission is to provide the highest quality medical service by offering comprehensive and compassionate care. Their vision includes working with the community to achieve the best health possible. This is accomplished through educating people about safe and healthy lifestyles, preventive medicine, screening/early detection of illnesses, and prompt management of diseases when they do occur. They are inclusive and take pride in caring for people from all levels of society.

It is important to do a self-check annually to make sure you are identifying silent illnesses, and you are ahead of any health problems. Black women often are in the mode of being “superwoman” and with that comes self-care neglect. It is encouraged

that you find time to balance yourself, so you are well-abled to continue being great in your field.

As a Black physician, discrimination still exists even at this level. Dr. McGeachy experiences exclusion in the medical facility in which her practice exists. She is not respected as a physician even in the space where she has committed to care for the community. She recognizes this and pushes forward with positive momentum and discernment about referrals to those who exhibit discriminatory behaviors.

All stakeholders with an interest in advancing medicine and research must commit to prioritizing health equity.

1ST QUARTER 2024 ISSUES AND PROGRAMS – WXBK-FM NEW YORK CITY (94.7)

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

1.3.24 Air Date: 1.7.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Marsha Coleman Jr.- Financial Expert

In the New Year of 2024, we are taking an intentional look at best practices to set a consistent foundation for our finances. This includes understanding how to recognize when you have a lot of debt and how to create a plan to address it. The importance of building your credit score and being reasonable about the time to do so, and the critical nature of preparing for your retirement through savings, and employer 401K and 403B plans.

Without access to good financial advice, you will continue to repeat past mistakes. You must create a relationship with you and money that builds, grows, and expands with others.

Earning additional income aka “side hustle” is not a bad idea. There are quite a few opportunities that could be beneficial to your income. It requires you to research. One listed was hotbreadkitchen.com.

Here are some additional tips:

Live within your means.

Ask yourself if your spending habits are putting you in a difficult position financially. Living within your means can be achieved by creating and sticking to a budget and understanding how debt can impact you.

Start saving and investing.

Start tracking how much you save each year and aim to save 10% to 15% of your income as an “investment” in yourself.

Retirement savings - being proactive in preparation for our golden years (know your limits for 2024). This includes taking advantage of your 401k or 403B Plan. In addition to Social Security, which should not be a standalone option for your retirement, you must build a plan to secure your retirement future.

Building financial stability and wealth can be challenging — especially for many Black Americans, who also face the aftereffects of decades of inequality.

But to close the wealth gap, we must participate in positioning ourselves for success.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy

Recorded: 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.14.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute

Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Ayanna Horsford- Afro Latina- STEM Medical Field

Ayanna is a proud Afro-Latina pursuing a career in the healthcare profession and completed my B.S. in Biology with a minor in chemistry at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y. Passionate about the sciences, she has been able to experience both wet-lab and clinical research. At Manhattan College, and able to further develop her research skills such as lab safety, pipetting, mastering concentration conversation to make samples, qPCR, in situ-hybridizations, etc.

Now, at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, she works in a clinical research setting. Interacting with patients and improving health conditions through her current role has truly impacted her ambition towards a career in medicine. Familiarity in both areas of research has allowed her to grow fonder of medicine and become aware of the several steps involved in developing healthcare. Ayanna now works with uninsured populations at NYU Langone, where she is responsible for recruiting and enrolling patients with hypertension to participate in a cardiology research study.

Here are some STEM Education Statistics for Black Women:

- While women make up half of the U.S. population and dominate undergraduate enrollment, they still are only little more than a third of those employed in STEM. occupations.
- And while Black and white students enter STEM majors at the same rate, Black students leave those majors at a rate of 40%, compared with 29% percent of white students.
- Only 5.7% of U.S. doctors are Black, with Black women accounting for half of that population.
- Black workers make up 9-10% of the total STEM workforce, with Hispanic workers representing 15%.

Health Disparities Statistics :(sources: CDC, Health, United States, 2020-21, KFF).

- In the first quarter of 2023, 1 in 4 Hispanic adults ages 18-24 lacked health insurance, a greater percentage than Black, non-Hispanic adults (10.1%), White, non-Hispanic adults (6.9%), and Asian, non-Hispanic adults (2.7%).

- Non-Hispanic Black people are more likely than people in other racial and ethnic groups to die of heart disease.
- At birth, AIAN and Black people had a shorter life expectancy (65.2 and 70.8 years, respectively) compared to White people (76.4) as of 2021, and AIAN, Hispanic, and Black people experienced larger declines in life expectancy than White people between 2019 and 2021.
- Black infants were more than two times as likely to die as White infants (10.4 vs. 4.4 per 1,000), and AIAN infants were nearly twice as likely to die as White infants (7.7 vs. 4.4 per 1,000) as of 2021. Black and AIAN women also had the highest rates of pregnancy-related mortality.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:
 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.21.24
 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
 Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Georey Roehm - Executive Director – Runway Green Education Collective

Floyd Bennett Field was the site of NYC’s first municipal airport. For the last 50 years, these 1,300 acres of ecologically rich National Park Service land have gone mostly unused. A nonprofit organization called Runway Green Education Collective—in partnership with the National Park Service—is developing a 7-acre experiential education campus at Floyd Bennett Field.

Runway Green will support 50,000 students, in grades K-12, from hundreds of NYC public schools each year with world-class resources and opportunities to learn skills and mindsets focused on sustainability, to solve real-world problems, and to earn job credentials in the careers of the future. This once-in-generation project was conceived to help advance solutions to major challenges—including educational inequity, economic injustice, and climate change—by empowering young people from under-served communities to forge pathways to careers in which they will attain economic freedom and build a better world.

The campus is envisioned as a “learning ecosystem” – a community-based approach to education that offers deeply personalized opportunities to all students, with learning taking place at a nurturing home base, at learning hubs, and at real-world field sites—versus set in singular school buildings.

Georey Roehm recently gave a presentation about learning ecosystems at a conference hosted by Education Reimagined. Nothing like this exists in New

York City. Open year-round, the campus will provide students opportunities to learn, work, and intern with an ecosystem of partner nonprofit organizations. Facilities and nonprofit partnerships include: • A solar panel workshop, where students will earn job credentials while building sustainable energy sources to operate the net zero campus with Solar One. • A three-acre farm, where students will gain skills for careers in sustainable agriculture and feed our neighbors with

The Campaign Against Hunger. • World-class science labs built and operated by NY Sun Works, preparing students for careers in local agriculture and hydroponic farming. • A ropes course and campsites, where students will build self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills with NYC Outward Bound Schools. • Access to Jamaica Bay where students will learn skills to save our oceans and prepare for careers in marine biology and advocacy with Billion Oyster Project.

A partnership with Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy with whom students will become environmental stewards, engaging in advocacy to preserve and improve the surrounding shorelines and parklands. • A partnership with the City University of New York's Science + Resilience Institute, with which students will conduct hands-on research about coastal resiliency and the impacts of climate change. • An amphitheater where students will experience performing arts, including the history, movement, and beauty of African Diasporic culture with Asase Yaa.

Additionally, the campus will feature a new 240-student high school operated by Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School that will be built through a gut renovation of Floyd Bennett Field's Building 272. Runway Green, in partnership with the eco-friendly transit provider Circuit, is committed to sustainable forms of transportation to and from Floyd Bennett Field, ensuring accessibility for all. The Collective views the 7-acre campus as just the first phase in an even larger reimagining of Floyd Bennett Field as the preeminent hub of education, research, innovation, and workforce development. Floyd Bennett Field (1,300 acres) is more than twice the combined size of Brooklyn Navy Yard (300 acres), Governor's Island (175 acres), and Industry City (35 acres). The Collective recently brought on board three high-profile advisors with extensive connections and experience on big projects: Kathy Wylde, President, and CEO of the Partnership for New York; Stephen Cockrell, CEO of the Fund for Public Schools; and Carl Weisbrod, former Chairman of the New York City Planning Commission and Director of the New York City Department of Planning. The design of Runway Green has been developed by three renowned firms: SCAPE, ARO, and Colloqate.

Their work on this project has been informed by extensive input from Brooklyn community members. Funding and timeline Runway Green Education Collective has a fully negotiated lease with the National Park Service to develop and construct the 7-acre campus and is currently conducting a capital fundraising campaign to finalize the financing. Thus far, the Collective has secured \$27 million in funding for the campus from the City, State, and Federal governments, banks, foundations, and individual donors. The City of New York's September 2023 lease with the National Park Service to build a migrant shelter at Floyd Bennett Field included language requiring the construction of the campus and giving the project \$2.5 million. The Collective plans to finish its capital campaign in 2024 and begin construction, starting with the renovation of Building 272, in the first quarter of 2025. The first part of the campus—including the high school, farm, and ropes course—will open in 2026. The campus will be completed by 2028.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.18.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to
9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host:
Patricia Robinson

Guest: Michael T. Pugh- President & CEO LISC

Michael has worked for the most local to the largest financial institutions, which makes him well-qualified to discuss financial mobility. He also praises the role of good financial advice and forecasts how AI can create alternative methods for building credit.

Community organizations and resident leaders have the resources they need to actualize changes envisioned by the community. They can build on their strengths and have strong and diverse networks to maximize their capacity and achieve greater impact.

In this equitable journey, Michael works to preserve and develop affordable housing as part of neighborhood revitalization plans, to protect residents from displacement and meet community needs for affordable, equitable, and mixed-use housing options. We offer project-based technical assistance, recoverable grants, financing, and equity to help

community partners innovate, solve problems, and build capacity to achieve their housing goals.

CDFIs have an opportunity because of the connection to the community, and the lived experience that allows them to connect with members of the community. Cdfi's are more understanding, and acknowledging, of the issues present in BIPOC communities and the importance of connecting small businesses to capital.

Compound interest is a fundamental tenet of finance that greatly facilitates your ability to accumulate wealth, especially by leaning into the 401k pretax opportunities in the workplace.

Financial Education should start early in any home, as a foundation to train young people in the understanding of what they need vs what they want and to support incentives on how they earn those opportunities.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.25.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Andrey Yancey- Assistant Brand Manager – 94.7 FM The Block

Transformational leadership in unique workspaces requires a special skillset.

Transformational leaders are full of energy, passion, and drive. It is not a surprise that these qualities can be the things that can make or break an organization.

When you have a lot of people who are looking to enter the industry, the importance on navigating that advice on how they show up to present themselves is important. It should reflect a connection to purpose first versus, a look at what the industry can do for you.

Coaching talent in the industry takes on different spheres of life and experiences but being able to support talent who have been through

many different work experiences in different spaces , some trauma associated, and helping them to feel included and safe allows them to exercise their best potential.

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FIRST QUARTER 2024

(JANUARY 1, 2024 – MARCH 31, 2024)

Prepared by: Patty McMahon, On-Air/News Editor

Jared Andrea, Programming Coordinator, KNX

**Issues of Concern to Los Angeles, CA
Addressed in Responsive Programming in the
1st Quarter, 2024**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Description of Issue of Concern</u>
1. Health	Information regarding the latest breakthroughs in health care is needed, including new discoveries, programs and services. Disaster preparedness to preserve one's health.
2. Economy	Our local economy has been slow to recover from the recent recession. Information on services to assist the public is needed.
3. Education & Child Care	Whether being abused, needing special education, fighting truancy or needing college prep, children & parents need assistance.
4. Local Community Services	Mentioned are free or low-cost community services available to the public to assist with spousal abuse, child abuse, animal abuse or even the arts. Information on free programs is featured.
5. Crime & Drugs	Crime and drug abuse remain a key issue in our area.
6. Public Safety	The safety of the public is priority and information on how to prevent danger and maintain caution.
7. Animals & Wildlife	As wildlife is constantly affected by the perils of man and nature, OpenLine helps to provide the means of animal protection and adoption information needed to sustain the ecosystem and its diverse chain of useful inhabitants.
8. Politics	Highlighting propositions, political issues, and presidential candidates during this year's Elections.
9. Environment	From our coastal areas to our forests, the environment needs our help to preserve and restore it.

**KRTH-FM HD2 (Channel Q) Programs That Address Community Issues
(Regularly Scheduled Public Affairs Programs)
1st Quarter, 2024**

<u>Public Affairs Program</u>	<u>Schedule and Description</u>
1. Open Line	Sundays, 6-7am. Hosted by Tami Heide, this program features interviews with experts on community issues, along with comments from the listeners.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
1st Quarter, 2024
(Jan 1st - Mar 31st)

ISSUE:	Health
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Open Line

Date: 1/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. William Schaffner

Are people downplaying COVID now? KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman goes in depth into the high number of COVID, flu, and RSV infections this Winter and whether people are downplaying COVID now. Back with us is Dr. William Schaffner, professor of preventative medicine and infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Open Line

Date: 1/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Doctor Anne Rimoin

L.A. County reinstates masks in health care facilities. On KNX News: UCLA professor of epidemiology, Doctor Anne Rimoin discusses the masking requirement.

Open Line

Date: 1/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Diana Lev

What is causing my lingering cough? KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman goes in depth into why some people and kids are developing lingering coughs this Winter. Dr. Diana Lev is a family physician with Dignity Health Family Practice in Northridge.

ISSUE: Health (continued)

Open Line

Date: 1/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Caroline Apovian

Drugmaker warns of weight loss drugs for cosmetic use. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman goes in depth into how drugmaker Eli Lilly is warning that people shouldn't use its diabetes and obesity drugs, Mounjaro and Zepbound, for "cosmetic" weight loss. Dr. Caroline Apovian is the co-director of the Center for Weight Management and Wellness at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Open Line

Date: 1/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Tracy Zaslów

Most kids quit sports by age 13. A new report from the American Academy of Pediatrics says 70 percent of kids drop out of sports by the time they're 13. Burnout is a big reason. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman talks to Dr. Tracy Zaslów, pediatric sports medicine specialist at Kerlan-Jobe Institute in LA. She's also the team doctor for Angel City Football Club and the LA Galaxy.

Open Line

Date: 2/25/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jessica Altman

Covered California's record-breaking start to 2024. Covered California had a record open enrollment period for Californians signing up for health insurance. Just shy of 1.8 million people in the state have enrolled in a health insurance plan under Covered California ... including over 300,000 new members. That represents a new record for the state-subsidized health plan. KNX's Larry Perel speaks with Jessica Altman, who is the executive director of Covered California.

ISSUE: Health (continued)

Open Line

Date: 3/10/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Peter Katona

CDC relaxes guidelines for COVID+ people. The Centers for Disease Control announced today a significant relaxing of its COVID isolation guidance. Gone are the days when people who tested positive for COVID were recommended to isolate for weeks at a time. Now, you can just isolate until your fever breaks. There seems to be some division among public health officials and doctors over this changed guidance ... which seems to signal that the government is done treating COVID as a unique threat. Dr. Peter Katona is a Clinical Professor of Medicine & Public Health at UCLA ... he used to work at the CDC.

Open Line

Date: 3/10/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. William Schaffner

CDC recommends those 65+ get another COVID booster. If you are above the age of 65 and you rolled up your sleeve back in the Fall months to get the updated COVID vaccine booster shot, the CDC applauds you! They'd also like you to do it again. While the CDC is recommending another COVID booster ... there was a good amount of debate over that recommendation among their advisory panel. Dr. William Schaffner is a professor of preventive medicine & infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; he formally worked as an epidemic intelligence officer at the CDC.

Open Line

Date: 3/17/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Victor Armstrong and Steve Siple

Audacy's I'm Listening team, along with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, present the limited series Talk Away The Dark, straight talk with men, regarding their thoughts, emotions, and potential suicide ideation.

ISSUE: Health (continued)

Open Line

Date: 3/17/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Alex Silva, Dan Miller, and Dr. Aaron Fletcher

Audacy's I'm Listening team, along with AFSP and Wounded Warrior Project experts discuss Mental Health and the military.

Open Line

Date: 3/17/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Eileen Anderson

COVID-19 four years later, how has society changed? KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman goes in depth into how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed us as a society. Eileen Anderson is a medical and psychological anthropologist at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland

Open Line

Date: 3/24/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. John Carethers

A new blood test for colon cancer could help avoid colonoscopy. Let's be honest: no one enjoys getting a colonoscopy. And yet when early detection is the key to treating colon cancer before it becomes fatal ... that unpleasant procedure is just one of two options you have for screening. The other one involves a fecal test, which is also fairly unpleasant. But a game changing colon cancer screening tool could soon become widely available. No intrusive exams, no handling of your own waste this new tool is a simple blood test. Dr. John Carethers is a gastroenterologist and vice chancellor for Health Sciences at U-C San Diego

ISSUE: Health (continued)

Open Line

Date: 3/31/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 7 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Chiquita Brooks-LaSure

14th anniversary of ACA, once polarizing, now popular. The Affordable Care Act is celebrating its 14th year in existence this week. The health insurance overhaul, signed into law by President Barack Obama, has had a bumpy road toward its 14th anniversary ... and yet the program is as popular as ever, with a record 7 million Californians enrolling in a health insurance plan through the ACA this year. Jonathan Serviss talked with Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and asked her about the biggest changes in health care brought on by the ACA. Brooks-LaSure said there's still work to be done to improve the program. Over 40-million Americans, in total, are enrolled in health insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
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ISSUE: Economy

Open Line

Date: 1/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Harvey Rosenfield

Consumer advocates say California homeowner insurance rates are about greed. State Farm will raise homeowner insurance policies in California by 20 percent... after the state's insurance department cleared the way. Insurance companies say being allowed to charge you more is *good* for everyone because it will bring more competition that will lead to lower prices. Harvey Rosenfield is the founder of the advocacy group Consumer Watchdog.

Open Line

Date: 1/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Tricia La Belle

Popular bakery closure, is California too expensive?
KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman goes in depth into the recent closure of Sweet Lady Jane bakeries in LA and whether it's too tough to run a business in California. Tricia La Belle is President of The Greater Los Angeles Hospitality Association.

Open Line

Date: 1/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Brian Contreras

L.A. TIMES journalists argue they are worth saving, go on strike
About 400 LA TIMES newsroom staffers walked off their jobs ... In protest of what looks to be devastating layoffs. That's the first time that's happened in the paper's history. The owner says the Times was on track to lose at least 40 million dollars last year, and that simple economics are forcing cutbacks. Brian Contreras covers artificial intelligence and tech for the LA Times ... he also sits on the L.A. Times Guild Unit Council.

ISSUE: Economy (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 1/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Brian Contreras

L.A. TIMES laid-off writer call cuts "devastating". The L.A. Times announced that it is laying off 115 staffers, which is about 20 percent of their newsroom. One of those writers joined L.A.'s Afternoon News. Brian Contreras covered Artificial Intelligence for the Times.

Open Line

Date: 1/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Brian Stelter

Sports Illustrated lays off news staff. A brutal couple of months for the journalism industry continues to get worse. As the LA Times newsroom walked out today for a one-day-strike ... the first in the paper's founding in 1881 ... Sports Illustrated announced that it's laying off just about its entire newsroom staff. Slumping advertising, sagging ratings, and the social media boom have proved to be a toxic combination for journalists everywhere. Brian Stelter is a special correspondent for Vanity Fair ... and author of the book "Network of Lies."

Open Line

Date: 2/4/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Karla Dennis

Tax season begins, does it have to be difficult? You can start filing your taxes today. That's if you can figure them out. They can be quite complicated. But should doing taxes be this difficult? Karla Dennis is an enrolled tax agent based in La Palma.

Open Line

Date: 2/11/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Mike Wall

Expert says JPL could see more job cuts. Mike Wall of Space.com joins KNX News to break down the news announced Tuesday that JPL is laying off 8% of its workforce.

ISSUE: Economy

Open Line

Date: 2/25/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Rick Caruso

Why Rick Caruso turned down graffiti towers. L.A.'s Afternoon News spoke to billionaire developer Rick Caruso about what went wrong with the downtown mega-development that turned into a dangerous eyesore, and he revealed that he had the chance to buy the property.

Open Line

Date: 2/25/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Sean McNulty

Actors and writers are frustrated due to the lack of gigs. After the SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes were settled in the Fall, there were excited expectations that Hollywood film and television productions would immediately spring back to life ... and the jobs for actors and writers would be plentiful.

Turns out that studios and production companies have not been especially eager to start spending again. There have been big budget cutbacks, lots of show cancellations ... and a lot of frustrated actors and writers. Sean McNulty covers the entertainment industry business for The Ankler ... he is also a former producer at HBO.

Open Line

Date: 3/3/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jessica Ramirez

Macy's closing 150 stores nationwide. Department store giant Macy's announced today that they're closing down 150 stores nationwide. One casualty is the company's northern California flagship location in San Francisco's Union Square, an iconic location. Macy's has been struggling for a while now, facing competition from the likes of Walmart, Target, H&M and many more. Department stores in general are facing slow but steady declines. Jessica Ramírez is the senior retail research analyst at Jane Hali & Associates

ISSUE: Economy

Open Line

Date: 3/3/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Todd Holmes

Paramount rating could be downgraded. So what's the future look like for all the major streaming companies? L.A.'s Afternoon News talked to Todd Holmes, a professor of Media Management at Cal State Northridge.

Open Line

Date: 3/3/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Colleen Bell

Why the new Star Wars movie to be filmed in California? The head of the California Film Commission Colleen Bell talks on LA's Afternoon News with Rob and Karen.

Open Line

Date: 3/3/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dan Schnur

Panera Bread exemption. Most fast food chains will have to start paying their workers \$20 an hour this year. But Panera Bread is exempt. Bloomberg is reporting it's related to the fact that a billionaire who owns several locations is a friend and a donor to Governor Newsom. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman went in Depth with political analyst Dan Schnur.

Open Line

Date: 3/10/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Andy La Pointe

Cryptocurrency out of shadows and in politics. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman goes in depth into how the cryptocurrency world is dabbling in politics now. Andy La Pointe is a financial and cryptocurrency expert with CryptoWisdom.com.

ISSUE: Economy

Open Line

Date: 3/31/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Don Maier

Bridge collapse may bring supply chain issues. University of Tennessee Professor Dr. Don Maier talks to Mike Simpson and Vicky Moore about the potential impact on the supply chain due to the bridge collapse in Baltimore.

Open Line

Date: 3/31/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 7 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Keith Miller

One week from California's \$20 minimum wage hike. With the April 1st deadline to pay their workers a \$20/hour minimum wage, California's fast food franchises are shifting into cost cutting mode--with layoffs and hours cutbacks for workers. Keith Miller at the American Association of Franchisees and Dealers -- himself the owner of three Subway franchises in California -- tells Jonathan Serviss that some cutbacks at most fast food restaurants are inevitable as owners adjust to the higher labor costs.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
1st Quarter, 2024
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ISSUE:	Education & Child Care
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Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
1st Quarter, 2024
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ISSUE:	Local & Community Services
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Open Line

Date: 1/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 23 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Juliana Serrano

Tami has a California conversation and catches up with Juliana Serrano, Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Advocates Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley. Find out the latest real life consequences of trying to navigate abortion and reproductive health care in the restrictive post-Roe vs. Wade world we live in. More info at www.plannedparenthood.org, including their comedy fundraiser Sunday, March 24th at the Lodge Room in Highland Park.

Open Line

Date: 1/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 12 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Cassandra Bailey

Tami has a California conversation with Dr. Cassandra Bailey, Founder and CEO of Ignited Light, about the Day of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event is Saturday, January 13th at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza from 10am-2pm. Some of the free services include expungements, legal services, medical, dental, housing, employment services, food distribution, and a children's corner. More info at www.ignitedlight.org, and event info at www.adayon.org

Open Line

Date: 1/14/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 22 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Eric J. Chambers

Tami has a California conversation with Dr. Eric J. Chambers, founder and president of the Tubman Till Foundation. They are having the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Harvest of the Dream Celebration on Monday 1/15 at 6pm at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda. This event will serve as a fundraiser for the opening of the Tubman Till Museum and Media Center. You can take a virtual tour of Dr. Chamber's vision at

www.TubmanTillFoundation.org. You can also purchase tickets there, and find more info on those being honored at the event, and their stories that are integral to the civil rights struggle.

ISSUE: Local & Community Services (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 1/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 19 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Rachel Norton

Tami has a California conversation with Rachel Norton, Executive Director of California State Parks Foundation, about the state of the state parks for 2024. California's state parks comprise the largest and most diverse natural and cultural heritage holdings of any state in the nation. They include beaches, underwater refuges, native Californian cultural preserves, museums, lighthouses, ghost towns, recreation areas, and wilderness areas. State parks' peaks, deserts, redwoods, and coastlines are some of the most immediately recognizable natural features in the world. For 52 years, the California State Parks Foundation has been the leading statewide voice in advocating for a sustainably funded state park system, access to parks for all, and enduring park protection. A park pass can get you into 200 of the 280 state parks in California. Find the right park for you that's near you at www.parks.CA.gov, donate and get more info at www.calparks.org

Open Line

Date: 1/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 13 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier and Paul Augustyniak.

Audacy's David O'Leary in partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention hosts an installment of I'm Listening- Talk Away The Dark. He speaks with Dr. Christine Moutier, chief medical officer with AFSP, and chair of the Tennessee chapter of AFSP Paul Augustyniak.

Open Line

Date: 1/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 13 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier and Paul Augustyniak

Part 2 of the I'm Listening, Talk Away The Dark campaign, with Audacy's David O'Leary, Dr. Christine Moutier, and Paul Augustyniak of the AFSP.

ISSUE: Local & Community Services (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 2/4/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 19 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ayuko Babu

Tami has a California Conversation with Ayuko Babu, Executive Director of the Pan African Film and Arts Festival, coming up February 6-19th at the Cinemark Baldwin Hills XD and Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza. About 200 new films will be shown at this 12-day fest that is a global phenom, drawing visitors from all over the globe to celebrate stories rooted in African and African American experiences. The 32nd Pan African Film & Arts Festival presents a broad spectrum of Black creative works that reinforce positive images and dispel negative stereotypes. More info, schedule of films, and ticket info all at www.PAFF.org.

Open Line

Date: 2/25/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 18 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Rosemary Allison

Tami has a California conversation with Rosemary Allison, board member of For The Troops. She is co-chairing their annual fundraising event, a dinner and military tribute gala honoring Iraq war era veterans, and recognizing all veterans, on Saturday 3/2 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley. For The Troops is an all-volunteer run 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing members of the American military with 'We Care' packages containing basic necessities, goodies, games and—most of all—a show of support. You can volunteer your time, donate things for the We Care packages, donate money, and purchase tickets to the gala at www.forthetroops.org

Open Line

Date: 3/3/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 17 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Ilan Shapiro and Lizette Escobedo

Tami has a California conversation with Dr. Ilan Shapiro and Lizette Escobedo from AltaMed about their My Vote My Health campaign. My Vote My Health creates an awareness in the community that where you live and vote can affect your health. Latino and other underrepresented communities can play a role as defenders of their own health by voting.

MVMH seeks to improve access to quality healthcare through voting. More info is at www.myvotemyhealth.org

ISSUE: Local & Community Services (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 3/3/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 13 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dean Logan

Tami has a California conversation with L.A. County Registrar Recorder County Clerk Dean Logan about the election on Tuesday, March 5th, the new Ballot Processing Center in the City of Industry, voting by mail and in person, ballot tracking, election integrity, security and transparency, same day registration and voting, available languages and more. www.LAvote.gov has all the information

Open Line

Date: 3/10/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 26 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Susan Partovi

Tami has a California conversation with Dr. Susan Partovi, Renegade M.D. Dr. Partovi is the author of Renegade M.D., a Doctor's Stories From the Street. She is the medical director at Homeless Healthcare L.A. and has a passion for working with the homeless, poor, and uninsured. She practices street medicine, bringing medical care and treatment to the streets of Skid Row and elsewhere. It started when she was in High School and joined a church group that went to Tijuana to build houses. She continued that work in college, and in 2009 started bringing her services to Haiti to help alleviate the effects of severe poverty and malnutrition there. Actress Marcia Gay Harden played Dr. Partovi in the movie Tell It Like A Woman. Partovi wrote her book so others could understand the importance of advocating for our fellow humans with Compassion, Caring, Conscientiousness, and Acceptance. More info about the work she does is here at: <https://therenegademd.com/>

Open Line

Date: 3/17/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 16 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Juliana Serrano

Tami has a California conversation with Juliana Serrano, executive director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley, about their March 24th benefit, Stand Up! It's a comedy fundraiser that helps benefit the fight for sexual and reproductive rights

and health care. More info and tickets at
<https://www.weareplannedparenthoodaction.org/a/stand-up-for-ppadvocates>

ISSUE: Local & Community Services (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 3/24/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Daniel Acuna

Tami has a California conversation with Daniel Acuna, Jersey Mike's franchisee and California spokesman, about Jersey Mike's Month of Giving. This is the 4th year the company has chosen Cancer for College as the charity, and the 14th year doing this fundraiser. The campaign culminates on the Day of Giving, Wednesday, March 27th, where SoCal Jersey Mike's stores will give 100% of the day's sales, not just profits, to Cancer for College. Cancer for College provides cancer survivors with need-based college scholarships, educational experiences, and medical debt. For more info, visit www.jerseymikes.com

Open Line

Date: 3/31/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 26 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Beth Pratt

Tami has a California conversation with Beth Pratt, environmental leader and California Regional Executive Director for the National Wildlife Federation. She brings us up to date on the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, the official documentary of that project, mountain lions in Los Angeles, Pika in the Sierra Nevada, her Africa trip, urban wildlife conservation, coexistence strategies, and what we can learn from wildlife. More info at www.bethpratt.com and www.nwf.org

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
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ISSUE: Crime & Drugs
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Open Line

Date: 3/10/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Samantha Maloney

New report on sex abuse in music industry. Rob and Karen spoke on LA's Afternoon News with former Hole and Motley Crue drummer Samantha Maloney

Open Line

Date: 3/24/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Darren Rovell

Ohtani's private life may not do him favors in scandal. The long-time interpreter of Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani has been fired by the team ... and is accused by Ohtani's lawyers of stealing millions of dollars to pay off gambling debts. This has all come out because of a long-running federal investigation into a Southern California bookie. While Ohtani himself isn't implicated in anything illegal ... yet ... there is not a lot of clarity on the story. Darren Rovell is a veteran reporter on the business of sports, he talked with KNX News about the evolving scandal

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
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ISSUE: Public Safety

Open Line

Date: 1/7/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Anthony Levey

Threats have synagogues beefing up security. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman discusses the recent threats against synagogues in LA and across California. It turns out many synagogues across the country are taking action to protect themselves. Anthony Levey is the founder of the nonprofit Synagogue Security Initiative which helps synagogues across the country handle security. He's also a former federal law enforcement official and former LAPD officer.

Open Line

Date: 1/7/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Sean Kennedy

L.A. County civilian oversight looks into Villanueva. 2024 is guaranteed to get off to an interesting start for the LA County Civilian Oversight Commission. The administrative body tasked with acting as a monitor and watchdog of the LA County Sheriff Department will finally get their shot to question an elusive target: former Sheriff Alex Villanueva. The ex-Sheriff, who was voted out of office in 2022, had been dodging a subpoena to testify on deputy gangs in the department since 2020. On January 12th, Villanueva will finally go before the commission. Sean Kennedy is chair of the Civilian Oversight Commission.

KNX has reached out to Alex Villanueva with a request to talk with us about his upcoming testimony ... but so far haven't heard anything back.

Open Line

Date: 1/14/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Charles Jasper

More Jewish businesses increase security. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman discusses the rise of anti-Semitic incidents in the LA area and how more Jewish business owners are asking about how to increase security to protect themselves, customers and their stores from damage. Charles Jasper is Director of Protective Intelligence with AEGIS Security & Investigations in Culver City.

Open Line

Date: 1/21/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 11 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Michel Moore

LAPD Chief Moore is retiring. In a surprise announcement at L.A. City Hall, police chief Michel Moore announced he plans to retire at the end of February. He joined KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman on L.A.'s Afternoon news to talk about it.

Open Line

Date: 1/21/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Connie Rice

Civil rights lawyer says good time for Moore to retire. Civil rights attorney Connie Rice has followed the LAPD for decades. She joined L.A.'s Afternoon News to react to the news that Chief Michel Moore is retiring at the end of February.

Open Line

Date: 1/21/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Mehran Rahmani

Northridge quake 30 years after, changes in structure of buildings. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman looks back at the Northridge Earthquake which was 30 years ago today. Changes have been made to building codes and designs to prevent buildings from collapsing in the next big earthquake. With us now is structural and earthquake engineer Mehran Rahmani, who's also a professor at Cal State Long Beach.

Open Line

Date: 1/28/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Joe Linton

L.A. had more traffic deaths than homicides. 2023 marked the first time in nine years that more people died in traffic accidents than in homicides in Los Angeles. KNX News Chief

Correspondent went in-depth with Joe Linton, the editor of Streets Blog LA, on L.A.'s Afternoon News.

ISSUE: Public Safety

Open Line

Date: 2/11/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Michel Moore

Retiring LAPD Chief praises replacement. Charles Feldman speaking with Police Chief Michel Moore on LA's Afternoon News about the appointment of Dominic Choi as interim chief.

Open Line

Date: 2/25/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 9 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dominic Choi

LAPD incoming interim chief. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman talks to incoming interim LAPD Chief Dominic Choi on taking over the department, what he hopes to accomplish as interim chief, and whether he'd consider taking the job permanently.

Open Line

Date: 2/25/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Aaron Rafferty

Big tech promises crackdown on deepfakes. LA's Afternoon News with Rob Archer and Karen Adams talks about a big commitment from tech companies to crack down on political deepfakes this election season. Aaron Rafferty is a behavioral scientist, tech expert, and CEO of Standard DAO, a tech startup company.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
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ISSUE: Animals

Open Line

Date: 1/14/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Madeline Bernstein

Housing and money issues equal full animal shelters. KNX News' Chris Sedens discusses how full animal shelters could be an indication of housing and money problems in a community. Madeline Bernstein, president of SPCA LA.

Open Line

Date: 1/14/24

Time: 6:00 AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Justin Dellinger

California has fewer mountain lions than thought. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman discusses how there are apparently fewer mountain lions in California than previously believed. Justin Dellinger is a large carnivore biologist with Wyoming Game and Fish. He's also the leader of the California Mountain Lion Project.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
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ISSUE: Politics

Open Line

Date: 1/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 3 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: J. Christopher Hamilton

More people canceling streaming services. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman goes in depth into how more and more people are canceling streaming services. J. Christopher Hamilton is an entertainment attorney and TV, Radio, and Film professor at Syracuse University.

Open Line

Date: 1/7/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Mara Reinstein

Hollywood looks to bounce back. The actors and writers strike effectively shut down Hollywood for much of 2023 ... and in the process led to the delayed release of several big movies. Now in 2024 audiences will get a chance to see the likes of Dune 2 and Deadpool 3, casualties of the strikes. But there's a lot more coming to theaters in what promises to be a busy year. Mara Reinstein is the Chief Film Critic for US Weekly.

Open Line

Date: 1/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Jack Pitney

Why governor killed youth football bill. Charles Feldman goes in depth on LA's Afternoon News with political analyst Jack Pitney of Claremont McKenna College.

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 1/28/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Brian Steinberg

Jon Stewart returns to Daily Show. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman goes in depth into the return of Jon Stewart to The Daily Show on Comedy Central. With Charles is Brian Steinberg, Variety's Senior TV Editor.

Open Line

Date: 2/4/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 19 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee profile with Charles Feldman. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman sat down with Barbara Lee to discuss her campaign and what her policy priorities are if she is elected to replace Dianne Feinstein as California's next senator.

Open Line

Date: 2/4/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Stanley Rosen

China is losing interest in Hollywood movies. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman looks into why China is losing interest in Hollywood movies suddenly. Stanley Rosen is a Professor of Political Science and International Relations at USC. He studies Chinese politics and the film industry.

Open Line

Date: 2/11/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 22 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Steve Garvey

Senate candidate Steve Garvey profile. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman sat down with Steve Garvey to discuss his campaign and what his policy priorities are if he is elected to replace Dianne Feinstein as California's next senator.

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 2/11/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 22 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Katie Porter

Senate candidate Katie Porter profile. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman sat down with Katie Porter to discuss her campaign and what her policy priorities are if she is elected to replace Dianne Feinstein as California's next senator.

Open Line

Date: 2/18/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Town Hall Format

Part 1 of Audacity Conversations, the KNX Town Hall about The State of the Entertainment Industry with Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson. Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

Open Line

Date: 2/18/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 15 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Town Hall Format

Part 2 of Audacity's Conversations from the KNX Town Hall about The State of the Entertainment Industry.

Open Line

Date: 2/18/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Barak Lurie

California getting a bad reputation. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman takes us in depth into a new LA Times poll that finds half of the people in the U.S. believe California is in decline. Nearly half of Republicans say California is "not really American." Back with us is conservative political analyst Barak Lurie, author of *Keeping the Kids All Right: How to make sure your kids never fall for the leftist agenda*. He moved from LA to Las Vegas recently.

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 2/18/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 18 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Adam Schiff

Adam Schiff profile with Charles Feldman. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman sat down with Adam Schiff to discuss his campaign and what his policy priorities are if he is elected to replace Dianne Feinstein as California's next senator.

Open Line

Date: 2/25/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Clayton Davis

"AND THE OSCAR..." NEW CATEGORY FOR OSCARS

Charles Feldman goes in depth on LA's Afternoon News with Clayton Davis of Variety about the Academy creating a new Oscar for Best Casting.

Open Line

Date: 2/25/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Melissa Ruggieri

Beyoncé breaks new ground. Queen Bey has conquered another realm. Beyoncé, with her new song "Texas Hold 'Em" became the first ever Black female artist to have a song on top of the country music charts. And keep in mind that it was only a few weeks ago that several country western radio stations were refusing to even play Beyonce's new song, arguing that "Texas Hold 'Em" wasn't a true country tune. Melissa Ruggieri covers all things music for USA Today.

Open Line

Date: 3/3/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Scott Mantz

Possible drama on Oscar night. LA movie critic Scott Mantz gave Rob and Karen the latest Oscars buzz on LA's Afternoon News, two weeks before the 96th Academy Awards.

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 3/3/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Sam Blum

MLB's new uniforms too revealing. One of the biggest problems is that the pants are see-through. L.A.'s Afternoon News connected with Sam Blum, who covers The Angels for The Athletic.

Open Line

Date: 3/10/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Adam Schiff

Adam Schiff thrilled about race against Garvey. KNX News projects that Burbank Congressman Adam Schiff and Stave Garvey will advance to November in the race for the late Dianne Feinstein's senate seat. Congressman Schiff joined L.A.'s Morning News to discuss the runoff.

Open Line

Date: 3/24/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Molly Knight

Expectations for dodgers could not be higher. We've been talking a lot about the sports betting scandal now surrounding Shohei Ohtani's interpreter. He's been fired after millions of dollars were sent from Ohtani's bank account to an illegal bookie. But what about the team on the field? The team kicked off their season with a 5-to-2 win over the Padres in South Korea. They lost their 2nd regular season game against San Diego, in Seoul, before returning to the U.S. to play three more pre-season games. Molly Knight wrote the book on the Dodgers called "The Best Team Money Can Buy" ... she tells KNX the strange start was worth it. She says the pressure has never been higher for these Dodgers to win it all. According to the odds-makers, the Dodgers are far and away the favorites to win the World Series this year.

ISSUE: Politics (cont.)

Open Line

Date: 3/24/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ysabel Jurado

Ysabel Jurado vs. de Leon 14th district race. While it's still too close to call, the race for the Los Angeles City Council seat in the city's 14th District is about as competitive as it gets. That seat is currently held by Kevin de Leon, who's been engulfed in scandal for about a year-and-a-half now from the city hall racism controversy. But right now de Leon is in second place. That's Ysabel Jurado, a tenant rights lawyer and community activist who overcame a big money deficit with an aggressive canvassing operation in the 14th District

Open Line

Date: 3/24/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 6 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Nathan Hochman

Nathan Hochman on George Gascon. KNX News is projecting that former United States Assistant Attorney General Nathan Hochman will face off against incumbent L.A. County District Attorney George Gascon in November. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman connected with Hochman during L.A.'s Afternoon News.

Open Line

Date: 3/24/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 8 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Karen Bass

Mayor Bass discusses trip to Paris. KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman talks to LA Mayor Karen Bass about her trip to Paris to study preparations for the Olympics as LA will host in 2028.

Open Line

Date: 3/31/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Art Caplan

Abortion pill argument also challenges FDA authority. We've been telling you about the oral arguments today in front of the Supreme Court over "mifepristone," the abortion pill ... and how that could impact abortion access across the country.

But there's another angle to this story: a legal challenge to the Food and Drug Administration's authority to approve medications, which is also in the crosshairs of this case.

KNX talked with Dr. Art Caplan, founding head of the division of Medical Ethics at NYU ... and asked him about the potentially huge implications of this case.

Open Line

Date: 3/31/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Catherine Cohen

Legal access to abortion pill hangs in balance. Access to the nationally-available abortion pill, called mifepristone, was on the line this morning when lawyers argued over a challenge to its access in front of U.S. Supreme Court Justices. That includes here in California ... where abortion is legal ... but the abortion pill would become unavailable if the Court rules in favor of the plaintiffs. KNX chief correspondent Charles Feldman asked Catherine Cohen, staff attorney at UCLA's Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy ... about how the abortion pill is currently used.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming
1st Quarter, 2024
(Jan 1st - Mar 31st)

ISSUE: Environment

Open Line

Date: 1/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: John Vidale

Northridge quake 30 years later, what have we learned? KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman talks to seismologist and Earth Sciences professor at USC, John Vidale, on what we've all learned about earthquakes and preparedness in the 30 years after the Northridge quake.

Open Line

Date: 1/21/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Dr. Lucy Jones

Dr. Lucy Jones on Northridge quake: World-renowned seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones joins L.A.'s Morning News to reflect on the 30th anniversary of the Northridge earthquake.

Open Line

Date: 2/4/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ilya Neyman

Are we overhyping storms in California? KNX News Chief Correspondent Charles Feldman goes in depth into whether people are buying into weather alarmism. Why are usual Winter storms being hyped so much? With us to explain is meteorologist Ilya Neyman, professor at Cal State LA and former TV weather broadcaster.

Open Line

Date: 2/25/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Janice Hahn

Supervisor said RPV land movement looks Jurassic Park. Supervisor Janice Hahn tells L.A.'s Afternoon News that it's hard to comprehend until you see it in person. She wants Governor Newsom to see it for himself, and to declare a state of emergency.

Open Line

Date: 3/10/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 4 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Ivan Drury

The greenest car in U.S. may surprise you. A new report found that a plug-in hybrid is actually more environmentally friendly than all the EVs on the market. Ivan Drury, the Director of Insights at Edmunds, joined L.A.'s Afternoon News.

Open Line

Date: 3/24/24

Time: 6:00AM

Duration: 5 minutes of a 60-minute program

Guest: Loretta Lynch

Why doesn't L.A. bury its power lines to protect from Santa Ana winds? The hurricane-force Santa Ana winds that blew through town yesterday were a good reminder that, even with our last couple of wet winters, wind storms are still some of California's biggest weather events. And with all of the power outages reported across the region over the last 24 hours ... it got us thinking again about the long-running debate over burying power lines. Not only would underground power lines be wind-proof, but they could alleviate a lot of fire dangers as well. Loretta Lynch was formally chair of the California Public Utilities Commission ... she's now a regulatory attorney.

###

Bridging Philly Q1 January, February & March 2024

January 06, 2024

Benefits of Dry January | The Philly Goat Project

Dry January has become an annual international event inspiring all kinds of drinkers to leave the bottles on the shelf for 31 days. The market for mocktails, non-alcohol spirits, wines, and beer is growing, and there are "safe spaces" for those who choose not to drink, but still want to be social. We learn about the benefits of temporary abstaining and the resources people can use to

help them overcome their habit. Guests are Erin Goodhart, Executive Director of Core Programming, Pennsylvania at Caron Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centers; Fergie Carey, proprietor of several bars and restaurants in Philadelphia; and Drew Davis, co-founder of Pitman New Jersey's no-alcohol bottle shop and pop-up bar, Gem Life + Bar.

Then, an introduction to the only city-based multi-service goat program: Germantown's Philly Goat Project, which has programs including education, community wellness, animal-assisted therapy, and teen job training with the help of trained goats. Shara in the City talks to Karen Krivit, Director, and Kelly Corrigan, Therapy and Wellness Director of The Philly Goat Project.

January 13, 2024

Urban Navigation | MLK's legacy of social justice

Co-founders Don Jackson and Hameen Diggins describe their community organization Urban Navigation as a GPS for urban youth that points the next generation of non-shooters towards gun education and technician training in the inner city and Philadelphia suburbs. Then, this year is the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and Global Citizen's Founder and President Todd Bernstein describes the many opportunities in which to embrace MLK's legacy of social justice at the 29th Annual Great Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service at Girard College.

January 20, 2024

Pa. House Speaker Joanna McCClinton | Youth America Grand Prix

Pa. Speaker of the House Joanna McCClinton looks back on the successes and challenges of her first year as the first woman and the first person of color to hold the gavel. With a razor-thin majority, Speaker McCClinton negotiated tax credits for working families' daycare expenses, violence reduction programs, and a public defender fund. Then, Philly hosts the Youth America Grand Prix, an international student ballet competition that draws about 20,000 dancers whose finalists are selected to win cash prizes and scholarships at top schools and companies.

January 27, 2024

NJ's doula access law | The Lullaby Project

Tammy Murphy, First Lady of New and U.S. Senate candidate, describes the new state law that protects a mother's right to a doula throughout pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. Then, creating a deeper bond between parents and young children through music with the Philadelphia Lullaby Project.

February 03, 2024

Cecil B. Moore Freedom Fighters | The Colored Girl Museum lives on

Philadelphia's civil rights movement included the Cecil B. Moore Freedom Fighters, the "young militants" who protested and helped desegregate Girard College, which was a school intended for "poor, white male orphans." We hear stories of police harassment and songs of freedom from the former teenagers who followed their leader and Philadelphia NAACP branch's president's words: "If you stand together, you can make a difference." Then, Vashti DuBois shares good news about the future of The Colored Girl Museum, which has received a zoning variance to continue living in the Germantown house that is her home and museum.

February 10, 2024

Are you ready for love? | Little Free(dom) Library

Is everyone ready for love? A relationship coach and a social worker discuss the humility, inspiration, and personal growth it takes to make heterosexual, same-sex, and non-traditional couples last. Then, taking and leaving banned books by Black authors at Visit Philly's 13 Little Free(dom) Libraries.

February 17, 2024

Art for all

Fine art should be experienced by all people, according to philanthropic Philadelphia art collector Albert C. Barnes. The Barnes Foundation's Martha Lucy leads a tour of modern art and African masks, demonstrating the founder's legacy of accessible and diverse arts education. Lucy has edited a new book, "The Barnes Then and Now: Dialogues on Education, Installation and Social Justice."

February 24, 2024

Young Chances Foundation | Preserving Mother Bethel AME Church

South Philly's Tyrique Glasgow shares his story about owning his South Philly neighborhood drug corner at 12 to founding the Young Chances Foundation, which provides a clothing bank, educational and feeding programs, and school supplies.

Then, Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler describes how a \$90,000 National Trust for Historic Preservation grant to help preserve Richard Allen's Mother Bethel AME Church, a beacon of hope and inspiration for those resisting white supremacy. The church is still growing in 39 countries and five continents.

March 02, 2024

PA Youth Vote | Legacy Reclaimed: A 7th Ward Tribute

PA Youth Votes' Angelique Hinton, Kamryn Davis, and a high school senior explain how they engage future leaders with education and events programming to connect the dots between the issues they care about, voting, and holding elected officials accountable. Then, artists and

curators lead a tour of the collective public art initiative, “Legacy Reclaimed: A 7th Ward Tribute,” encompassing the blocks between 6th and 23rd Streets and Spruce and South Streets, whose residents once included Richard Allen, Octavius Catto, and W.E.B. Du Bois.

March 09, 2024

Marian Anderson Hall | Restoring Marian Anderson's home

Marian Anderson Hall will soon be the home of the Philadelphia Orchestra. President and CEO of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Matias Tarnopolsky, explains how updating the Kimmel Center’s Verizon Hall should reflect the diversity and demographics of Philadelphia. Then, a tour of the repair and restoration of the Marian Anderson Museum and Historical Society with its CEO, Jillian Patricia Pirtle. She has been working to put the museum back together after a flood to keep Marian Anderson's music and contributions to the Civil Rights Movement alive.

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Evoluer House | Girls Auto Clinic

Former fashion editor Cheryl Ann Wadlington has been mentoring urban girls to rise above their circumstances to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty for 20 years at Evoluer House with workforce, professional, and personal development programs. Then, engineer Patrice Banks leads a tour of her Girls Auto Clinic in Upper Darby – an auto repair service - that caters to women where she can get a manicure and car maintenance tips while waiting for her car.

March 23, 2024

PA School funding | Uncle Bobbie's Coffee & Books

How can Pennsylvania public school students who live in a lower-income school district receive an equitable and adequate education like their affluent counterparts? Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Hughes and education advocate Priyanka Reyes-Kaura discuss how state legislators must work with Governor Shapiro and his budget proposal to invest in our communities. Then, we hear why regulars and new guests at Germantown's home-grown, black-owned Uncle Bobbie’s Coffee and Books come for the vibe, books, coffee, and stay for music and community.

March 30, 2024

As childcare wait lists grow many busy families are opening their homes to a young person from another country as an affordable care alternative. Cultural Care Au Pair’s Natalie Jordan describes their multi-step screening process and cultural exchange benefits. Then, as roller skating returns across the nation, Great On Skates’ co-founder India Bernadino creates accessible and affordable “Dope Skate Classes In Philadelphia” at three locations for all skill levels.

###

Issues and Programs Report
For
WBEB-FM / WBEB-FM HD2/ BetQL-WBEB-FM HD3



FIRST QUARTER 2024
(JANUARY 01, 2024 through MARCH 31, 2024)

Prepared by: Patty McMahon, KYW On-Air/News Editor

Bridging Philly Q1 (January, February & March) 2024

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###

I'm Listening / January / Mental Health Seg 1

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Contact: David O'Leary, Host

Airdate: January 28, 2024

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones. We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation

for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

I'm Listening / January / Mental Health Seg 2

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Contact: David O'Leary, Host

Airdate: January 28, 2024

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Audacy Conversations-State of the Entertainment Industry / February / Seg 1

Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA

Contact: KNX Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson-Hosts

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Audacy Conversations-State of the Entertainment Industry / February / Seg 2

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I'm Listening / March / Mental Health Seg 1

Guest: Victor Armstrong-AFSP, Steve Siple-AFSP Contributor

Contact: David Glover, Host

Airdate: March 17, 2024

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Men. Men are less likely to talk about their mental health struggles than women, which is why it's so important to break down stigma and open the door for these conversations. Community and friendships are huge protective factors against suicide. We seek to emphasize the critical role that asking someone directly about suicide plays in suicide prevention and demonstrate how to have supportive conversations with loved ones about mental health and suicide prevention.

I'm Listening / March / Mental Health Seg 2

Guest: **Alex Silva-AFSP, Dan Miller-Wounder Warrior Project and Dr. Erin Fletcher-Wounded Warrior Project**

Contact: David Glover, Host

Airdate: March 17, 2024

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Military and Veterans. Veteran populations face difficulties transitioning from military life and have higher rates of suicide compared to the civilian population. We seek to understand how Veteran and military culture contributes to existing stigmas is essential to being open about mental health challenges and encouraging those who need it to seek help. Support and resources are available for Veterans that can make a major difference to save lives.

###



QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

WCBS-AM 7/1-8/25

(WCBS-AM/WHISQ-AM provides full simulcast on WCBS-FM HD2)

3rd Quarter, 2024
(July 1st- August 25th 2024)

****WCBS-AM 880 BECAME WHISQ-AM 880 AT 12:01 AM ON 8/26/24**

Prepared by:

Ray Martel – Executive Producer of Programming and Operations

**Issues of Concern to New York City
Addressed in Responsive Programming in the Quarter
WCBS 880**

Public Safety

- SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE HURT IN FIREWORKS ACCIDENTS ON LONG ISLAND...
- MAYOR ADAMS SAYS THE CITY WILL NOT EXTEND LIFEGUARD HOURS, AFTER FOUR RECENT DROWNINGS...
- TWO CHILDREN IN OUR AREA DIED HOURS APART AFTER BEING LEFT INSIDE HOT CARS DURING THE HEAT WAVE...
- A MAN WHO JUMPED IN THE WATER YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO SAVE TWO CHILDREN FROM DROWNING, HAS DIED...
- OFFICIALS IN CLIFTON SAY THE DRINKING WATER IS SAFE FOLLOWING A DEADLY TRUCK FIRE AND EXPLOSION ON ROUTE 3...
- POLICE START TESTING WEAPONS SCANNERS AT SUBWAY STATIONS THIS AFTERNOON
- STOP SIGN CAMERAS ARE KEEPING DRIVERS IN CHECK IN A NASSAU COUNTY VILLAGE
- SCARSDALE POLICE WARN RESIDENTS ABOUT A NATIONWIDE TREND OF CAMERAS BEING FOUND HIDDEN IN SHRUBBERY OUTSIDE HOMES...
- THIS IS LAURA KAVANAGH'S FINAL DAY AS FDNY COMMISSIONER...
- NEW YORK CITY BUSINESSMAN ROBERT TUCKER IS REPORTEDLY GOING TO BE NAMED THE NEW FDNY COMMISSIONER...
- THE FIRST IN THE NATION BAN ON FACE COVERINGS WILL BE SIGNED INTO LAW TODAY IN NASSAU...
- THE NYPD WILL DEPLOY MORE OFFICERS TO CENTRAL PARK AT NIGHT, FOLLOWING A SURGE IN ROBBERIES THERE...
- HIGH RISK OF RIP CURRENTS AT THE BEACHES FROM THE JERSEY SHORE TO LONG ISLAND BECAUSE OF HURRICANE ERNESTO

- WESTCHESTER APPROVES A NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT PATTERN AT THE SITE WHERE A MOM AND HER SON WERE STRUCK AND KILLED BY A MINIBUS BACK IN JUNE
- THE NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY AUTHORITY IS SUING THE BUILDER OF THE CUOMO/ TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE CLAIMING PIPES USED TO CONNECT THE BRIDGE'S CABLES TO THE MAIN STRUCTURE ARE NOT UP TO STANDARDS

Crime

- A 20 YEAR OLD MAN IS RECOVERING AFTER BEING SHOT NEAR WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK...
- HAVERSTRAW POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING A FATAL SHOOTING -- THE FOURTH HOMICIDE IN ROCKLAND SO FAR THIS YEAR..
- A HOMELESS MAN ACCUSED OF TRYING TO RAPE A SUNBATHER IN CENTRAL PARK PLEADS NOT GUILTY...
- AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOY IS STABBED TO DEATH IN JAMAICA ... HIS PRESUMED ATTACKER IS KILLED BY POLICE
- LONG ISLAND POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR WHOEVER STOLE SOME PRICEY PIECES OF ART FROM A STORAGE FACILITY...
- THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE IS INVESTIGATING HOW A GUNMAN ARMED WITH AN AR-STYLE RIFLE WAS ABLE TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHOOT AND INJURE THE FORMER PRESIDENT...
- A QUEENS MAN ACCUSED OF POSING AS A PRIEST TO GET INTO CHURCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY SO HE COULD BURGLARIZE THEM, BACK IN NEW YORK TO FACE CHARGES...
- 4 PEOPLE INCLUDING 2 CHILDREN ARE DEAD AFTER A STABBING SPREE IN BROOKLYN. POLICE SAY ONE MAN IS IN CUSTODY...
- NEW JERSEY SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ WILL RESIGN ON AUGUST 20TH...AFTER HIS CONVICTION ON BRIBERY CHARGES
- CONNECTICUT CONSUMERS ARE BEING WARNED ABOUT A NEW WAY HACKERS ARE USING TO STEAL YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION AT STORES...
- A WOMAN IS DEAD AND TWO MEN ARE WOUNDED AFTER A TRIPLE SHOOTING NEAR A MIGRANT SHELTER ON RANDALL'S ISLAND...

- TWO GANGS DESCRIBED AS THE WORST BAD GUYS IN THE BRONX HAVE BEEN TAKEN DOWN BY POLICE
- A MAN BARRICADES HIMSELF IN A BROOKLYN BUILDING, BEFORE SETTING IT ON FIRE
- POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR TWO SUSPECTS IN YET ANOTHER ROBBERY AT CENTRAL PARK...
- THE NYPD IS LOOKING FOR TWO WOMEN WHO RAN OFF BAREFOOTED MONDAY NIGHT IN QUEENS AFTER A CRASH DURING WHICH A MAN WALKING WAS HIT AND KILLED

Economy/Jobs

- SCARSDALE AND RYE HAVE JUST BEEN NAMED THE WEALTHIEST SUBURBS IN THE NATION...
- A GLOBAL TECH OUTAGE DISRUPTS AIR TRAVEL, BANKS AND OTHER COMPANIES AROUND THE WORLD... MAYOR ADAMS SAYS THE CITY'S 911 AND 311 SYSTEMS WERE NOT IMPACTED... MTA TRAINS, BUSES AND COMMUTER RAILS ARE ALSO RUNNING NORMALLY... THOUSANDS OF FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN DELAYED OR CANCELED.
- THE DOW IS DOWN MORE THAN 900 POINTS AFTER THIS MONTH'S JOBS REPORT SPARKED FEARS OF A RECESSION...
- NOW ONTO LOBBYING NEW YORK STATE OFFICIALS FOR A PERMIT TO BUILD... AFTER THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE VOTED MONDAY NIGHT TO APPROVE A 42-YEAR LEASE FOR THE NASSAU COLISEUM TO GO TO LAS VEGAS SANDS... WITH THE GOAL OF BUILDING A CASINO...

Transportation

- STARTING TODAY, JULY 1, YOU HAVE TO PAY 15 PERCENT MORE TO RIDE N-J TRANSIT...
- CONNECTICUT OFFICIALS ARE URGING DRIVERS TO SLOW DOWN AND BE SAFE ON THE ROADS, FOLLOWING THE DEATHS OF A STATE TROOPER AND A D-O-T
- TSA IS NAVIGATING ONE OF ITS BUSIEST DAYS OF THE YEAR AS FOLKS HEAD BACK FROM HOLIDAY WEEKEND...

- THE HEAT IS ALSO CAUSING DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS ON NJ TRANSIT...SOME SUBWAY LINES ARE HAVING ISSUES BECAUSE OF A LOSS OF POWER AT DELANCEY STREET...
- A STATE JUDGE HAS ORDERED THE M-T-A TO STOP CUTTING BUS SERVICE IN RESPONSE TO THE CONGESTION PRICING PAUSE...
- THOUSANDS OF AIRLINE PASSENGERS REMAIN STRANDED AT AIRPORTS AS DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS CONTINUE AFTER YESTERDAY'S GLOBAL I-T SYSTEM CRASH
- IT'S STILL UP IN THE AIR IF THE CITY COUNCIL WILL LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE OF SAMMY 'S LAW
- PRESIDENT BIDEN STEPS IN TO HELP RESOLVE A LABOR DISPUTE AND AVERT A NEW JERSEY TRANSIT RAIL STRIKE...
- THE CONGESTION PRICING SAGA CONTINUES TODAY WITH TWO NEW LAWSUITS FILED TO RESTART THE PLAN STALLED IN JUNE BY GOVERNOR HOCHUL...
- THE MTA MAY END EXPANDED BUS SERVICE IN QUEENS, BROOKLYN AND STATEN ISLAND BECAUSE CONGESTION PRICING IS ON HOLD
- AN LIRR TRAIN SLAMS INTO A TAXI AT A CROSSING IN MANORVILLE, INJURING TWO PEOPLE IN THE CAR
- FLIGHTS ARE BEING IMPACTED BY THE WEATHER
- DEBBY HAS LED TO THOUSANDS OF FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS AND DELAYS
- THE FINAL PHASE OF THE G-TRAIN SHUTDOWN BEGINS TOMORROW
- A NEW JERSEY CONGRESSMAN IS PROPOSING A RAIL PASSENGER'S BILL OF RIGHTS THAT WOULD REIMBURSE RIDERS WHOSE TRAINS ARE LATE OR CANCELED
- A FEDERAL REPORT FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S DEATH OF A TRANSIT WORKER CALLS ON THE MTA TO IMPROVE SAFETY OR ELSE, RISK LOSE FUNDING...
- NEW YORK'S GOVERNOR IS REPORTEDLY THINKING OF BRINGING BACK CONGESTION PRICING WITH A LOWER TOLL- AND MAYBE EXEMPT CITY WORKERS AND TEACHERS
- LONG ISLAND OFFICIALS ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE RUMORED RETURN OF CONGESTION PRICING

Health

- SEVERAL PASSENGERS ARE SICKENED AFTER EATING SPOILED FOOD ON A DELTA FLIGHT TO AMSTERDAM THAT WAS FORCED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT JFK THIS MORNING...
- THE CDC ISSUES A DENGUE WARNING AFTER NEARLY 200 CASES ARE REPORTED IN NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY AND CONNECTICUT...
- AT LEAST 28 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SICKENED MOST IN NEW YORK BY A LISTERIA OUTBREAK THAT'S BLAMED FOR TWO DEATHS, ONE IN NEW JERSEY

Environment

- THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY IN FLATBUSH IS COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR HURRICANE BERYL VICTIMS...
- AN AIR QUALITY ALERT IS IN EFFECT FOR OUR AREA UNTIL 11 O'CLOCK JULY 5TH
- AN AIR QUALITY ALERT IS IN EFFECT WITH TEMPERATURES EXPECTED TO HIT 90 DEGREES FOR THE THIRD DAY IN A ROW...
- SOME WESTCHESTER AND PUTNAM BEACHES ARE CLOSED BECAUSE OF HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS IN SWIM AREAS...
- NY IN A STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO TROPICAL STORM DEBBY
- LAWMAKERS IN CONNECTICUT ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO TACKLE A SPIKE IN ELECTRIC BILLS...
- GAS BILLS WILL ALSO GO UP ON LONG ISLAND OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS...

Sports

- THE WEIGH IN CEREMONY FOR NATHAN'S HOT DOG EATING CONTEST TAKES PLACE THIS MORNING...
- THE METS ARE BACK OVER 500 AFTER BEATING THE NATIONALS 7-2 IN EXTRA INNINGS...

- THE YANKEES AND TIGERS WILL BE WILLIAMSPORT, PA PLAYING TONIGHT'S GAME WHERE THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES IS HAPPENING...
- THE STATEN ISLAND SOUTH SHORE TEAM MADE IT THROUGH ANOTHER ELIMINATION GAME AT THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES...

Politics

- AT LEAST 9 HOUSE DEMOCRATS ARE CALLING FOR PRESIDENT BIDEN TO REEVALUATE THE VIABILITY OF HIS REELECTION CAMPAIGN...
- FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP IS SAFE, AFTER SHOTS WERE FIRED AT HIS RALLY TODAY IN BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA. HE'S BEEN TREATED FOR INJURIES TO HIS FACE AND EAR. THE SUSPECTED GUNMAN AND ONE PERSON ATTENDING THE RALLY ARE DEAD. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS SAY IT'S BEING INVESTIGATED AS AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.
- THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION GAVELS INTO SESSION -- WITH SECURITY TIGHT...
- JD VANCE FORMALLY ACCEPTS THE NOMINATION TO BE THE REPUBLICAN VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE THIS NOVEMBER...
- PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN HAS DROPPED OUT OF THE RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE... AND THROWN HIS SUPPORT BEHIND VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS...
- DEMOCRATS BEGIN LINING UP BEHIND VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS, ENDORSING HER CANDIDACY NOW THAT PRESIDENT BIDEN HAS DECIDED NOT TO SEEK RE-ELECTION...
- VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS BECOMES THE DEMOCRATIC PRESUMPTIVE NOMINEE, WITH A MAJORITY OF PLEDGED DELEGATES ENDORSING HER BID FOR PRESIDENT...
- PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR. SAYS HE LEFT A DEAD BEAR IN CENTRAL PARK A DECADE AGO AS A PRANK
- KAMALA HARRIS PICKS MINNESOTA GOVERNOR TIM WALZ AS HER RUNNING MATE
- FORMER CONGRESSMAN GEORGE SANTOS WANTS PROSPECTIVE JURORS IN HIS UPCOMING CASE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY THINK OF HIM...

- A JUDGE RULES THAT INDEPENDENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.'S NAME SHOULD NOT APPEAR ON NEW YORK'S BALLOT, BECAUSE HIS NOMINATING PETITION FALSELY CLAIMED HE LIVED IN NEW YORK...

Terrorism

- THERE'S A COURT HEARING TODAY WHERE SAUDI ARABIA WILL TRY TO DISMISS A LAWSUIT ALLEGING IT WAS INVOLVED IN THE 9-11 ATTACKS...
- THE ACCUSED MASTERMIND OF THE 9-11 ATTACKS AND TWO ACCOMPLICES HAVE AGREED TO PLEAD GUILTY AND AVOID THE DEATH PENALTY...
- A LONG ISLANDER AND HER DAUGHTER HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING TAYLOR SWIFT IN VIENNA UNTIL A TERROR PLOT CANCELED HER SHOWS THERE...

Justice

- SENTENCING FOR DONALD TRUMP IN HIS CRIMINAL TRIAL HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 18TH AFTER THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON PRESIDENTIAL IMMUNITY
- FORMER TRUMP ATTORNEY RUDY GIULIANI WAS DISBARRED TODAY, HE'S NO LONGER ALLOWED TO PRACTICE LAW IN NEW YORK.
- AFTER NEARLY TWO MONTHS OF TESTIMONY IN THE CASE, JURORS WILL HEAR CLOSING ARGUMENTS TODAY IN SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ'S BRIBERY CASE...
- LONG ISLAND NATIVE ACTOR ALEC BALDWIN IS FREE...THE JUDGE IN HIS NEW MEXICO 'RUST' INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER TRIAL TOSSED THE CASE
- A JUDGE SCHEDULES HARVEY WEINSTEIN'S NEW YORK RAPE TRIAL FOR NOVEMBER...WHILE HIS LAWYERS ASK HE BE MOVED OUT OF RIKERS
- A MAN ACCUSED OF MURDER IN ROCKLAND COUNTY HAS BEEN CAUGHT A MONTH LATER IN SOUTH CAROLINA...
- FORMER CONGRESSMAN GEORGE SANTOS IS EXPECTED TO PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL FRAUD CHARGES ON MONDAY
- REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE DONALD TRUMP IS ASKING A MANHATTAN JUDGE TO NOT SENTENCE HIM UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION- AND THE PROSECUTOR DID NOT FIGHT AGAINST THAT

- FORMER LONG ISLAND AND QUEENS CONGRESSMAN GEORGE SANTOS FACES A CHANCE AT PRISON TIME AND HAVING TO PAY BACK OVER 370-THOUSAND DOLLARS AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO FRAUD CHARGES

Education

- A CAMPUS LOCKDOWN THAT DELAYED THE START OF CLASSES THIS MORNING AT MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY HAS JUST BEEN LIFTED...
- THE PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IS LEAVING HER POST, MONTHS AFTER PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTS ROILED HER CAMPUS...

-

Weather

- THERE'S A FLOOD WATCH FOR THE TRI-STATE AREA AND A FLOOD WARNING IN FIVE NEW JERSEY COUNTIES...
- WITH THE COMBINATION OF HEAT AND HUMIDITY MAKING IT FEEL LIKE IT'S MORE THAN A HUNDRED... CON ED IS URGING PEOPLE TO CONSERVE POWER...
- ONE PERSON IS DEAD AFTER TORNADOES RIPPED THROUGH UPSTATE NEW YORK
- AN EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING IS IN EFFECT UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT...
- A HEAT ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT UNTIL SEVEN TONIGHT IN THE CITY, LONG ISLAND, WESTCHESTER AND ROCKLAND; AN AIR QUALITY ADVISORY WILL RUN FROM 11 TO 11
- THE HURRICANE CENTER SAYS DEBBY IS EXPECTED TO MAKE LANDFALL IN FLORIDA AROUND MIDDAY TODAY, BRINGING POTENTIAL RECORD-BREAKING RAIN AND LIFE THREATENING STORM SURGE...
- PARTS OF NEW JERSEY ARE UNDER WATER WITH MORE RAIN ON THE WAY FROM TROPICAL STORM DEBBY...
- DRIVERS ACROSS NEW YORK CITY HAD TO BE RESCUED LAST NIGHT BECAUSE OF SEVERE FLOODING...
- TROPICAL STORM DEBBY MAKES LANDFALL AGAIN, CROSSING INTO THE CAROLINAS BEFORE SETTING HER SIGHTS ON OUR AREA TOMORROW... WITH

THE NEXT ROUND OF HEAVY RAIN ON THE WAY, THERE IS A FLOOD PREPAREDNESS EVENT IN THE BRONX TONIGHT...

Housing/Homelessness/Immigration

- NEW YORK CITY ANIMAL SHELTERS ARE OVERCROWDED WITH DOGS, BECAUSE FEWER PEOPLE ARE ADOPTING PETS
- A HOMELESS ADVOCACY GROUP MAKES PROGRESS GETTING NEW YORKERS TO VOLUNTARILY GET OFF THE STREETS
- HOTEL GIANT MARRIOTT IS SUING A QUEENS FRANCHISEE FOR TURNING A HOTEL INTO A MIGRANT SHELTER

**WCBS AM Programs That Address Community Issues
(Regularly Scheduled Public Affairs Programs)**

	<u>Public Affairs Program</u>	<u>Schedule and Description</u>
	The Opening Bell Report	Weekday mornings at 930am, a full half hour of business news focused on consumer issues
	CBS 60 Minutes	Simulcast of CBS News Program Sunday nights at 7pm
	Health and Well Being	Daily feature focusing on a wide variety of medical topics including medicine, diet, mental health, and proper eating
	The Small Business Report with Ed Walsh	Daily Small Business minutes providing tips and tools for business owners and operators.
	Eye On Travel	Peter Greenberg discusses travel issues and navigating through the post pandemic world. Updates on restrictions and procedures
	Eye on Veterans	Daily Report focusing on stories about and important to United States Military Veterans
	All Well and Good	Daily Report focusing on health and ways to improve your daily attitude, energy and well being.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: WCBS Small Business Reports DATE OF BROADCAST: Daily TIME OF BROADCAST: VARIES DAILY DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 1 minute
	PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Business Reporter Ed Walsh delivers a daily report on a small business trend or personality on recovery, survival, and resilience. https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/podcasts/small-business-report-with-joe-connolly-196

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Business/Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: Small Business Spotlight DATE OF BROADCAST: Wednesday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple airing across the day and online DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: Audio/Video PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Weekly series highlighting the inspiring stories of individual business owners and entrepreneurs focused tightly in the past year to helping inspire the pandemic recovery https://wcbs880.radio.com/categories/small-business-spotlight

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Community Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Difference Makers DATE OF BROADCAST: Monday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple times across the day DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 2 minute features
	PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: News stories focused on members of the community doing something to contribute to the greater good during the pandemic https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/difference-makers

ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Weekend Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Sunday's TIME OF BROADCAST: 5am DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
	PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Locally produced, weekly public affairs show focusing on local issues, Veterans issues, health and well being and issues that affect the local broadcast area as well as national stories of local interest and importance https://www.audacy.com/seattlewolf/hosts/conversations

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ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Audacy Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Quertery TIME OF BROADCAST: 7pm, Second Thursday of Feb DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Nationally produced public affairs "Town Hall" format program focusing on topics that affect everyone. From Downtowns, Youth Sports, Entertainment & Public Tolling, Audacy Conversations brings experts and public officials together to talk about issues affecting the post pandemic world. https://www.audacy.com/kywnnewsradio/topic/the-state-of-entertainment	

Public Service Announcements

Throughout the quarter, the station aired weekly/periodic PSAs providing information on a variety of local community activities and issues. Representative examples of such PSAs include the following:

Audacy 1 Thing
Emergency Prep
Fatherhood Involvement
Vaccinate Your Family
Alzheimers Awareness
US DOH
Animal Adoption
FDA Drug Disposal
Ending Hunger
Drugged Driving
Distracted Driving
Type 2 Diabetes
Supporting Pets
American Psychiatric Assoc.
Love Has No Labels
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
NJ Dept. Human Svcs/CBVI
NYSBA
Valerie Fund

**KYW-AM/WIP-HD2 PHILADELPHIA, WPHI-FM JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT**

January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

Station KYW (AM) provides an all-news radio service to Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area at 1060kHz AM, with simulcasts on the FM dial on WPHI-FM at 103.9 MHz and WIP-FM-HD2 at 94.1 MHz HD2. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.

This report was prepared and placed in the station's public inspection file on **March, 27th, 2024.**

The report was prepared and reviewed by Newsroom Operations Manager, Dennis Edward.

Bridging Philly is KYW Newsradio's half-hour public affairs show that airs Saturdays at 9:30p and Sundays at 8:30a

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Gun Crimes and Public Safety - Page 67

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CHILDREN AND HUMAN SERVICES

JANUARY

With the holidays over, COVID-19, RSV and flu cases on the rise

January 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, RSV, and the flu have been on the rise, and health officials expect them to shoot up even more now that holiday gatherings have wrapped up.

Most states have “moderate” to “very high” levels of respiratory illnesses, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. New Jersey is at the “very high” level, while Pennsylvania is “high.” Delaware is one of the handful of states that is “low.”

COVID-19 hospitalizations were up — close to 17% — and deaths were up 10% in the week ending on Dec. 23, according to the CDC.

Health experts are urging people to take precautions to protect themselves and those around them.

“If you can work from home if you’re feeling a little bit sick, that’s a great thing to do,” said Dr. John Russell, chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Jefferson Abington Hospital. “I think people should consider putting masks on again. Not forever and ever, but I think in a time when we’re having so much of this respiratory illness going around, especially if you are vulnerable, wearing a mask in public is not a bad thing.”

At least five states in other parts of the country currently have mask requirements at healthcare facilities. There are no such mandates in the greater Philadelphia area, but in western Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center has one in effect, as of Dec. 20.

Health officials are also urging people to get vaccinated. The CDC released a health advisory in December saying not enough people were getting their shots.

“Low vaccination rates, coupled with ongoing increases in national and international respiratory disease activity caused by multiple pathogens, including influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2 (the

virus that causes COVID-19), and RSV, could lead to more severe disease and increased healthcare capacity strain in the coming weeks,” the advisory says.

Less than 20% of Americans received the updated COVID-19 vaccine, according to the latest figures released by the CDC. That number is on par with the RSV vaccine, which the CDC recommends for adults 60 and older.

An estimated 42% of U.S. adults received the flu shot. Russell said there is still time to get one.

“The majority of flu activity over the last 35 years in the United States has been around February, so it’s not too late,” he assured. “So your doctor, I’m sure, still has the flu vaccine in the refrigerators.”

Record 410,000 Pa. residents have health coverage through Pennie — but some 700,000 don't, and time is running out

January 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — An estimated 700,000 Pennsylvanians currently have no health insurance, and there are just 10 days left to get affordable coverage through the state’s online health insurance marketplace, known as Pennie.

The Jan. 19 deadline for Pennie health plans is actually an extension. Normally, the final deadline is Jan. 15, but that’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day, so state officials added four extra days to give people until next week Friday.

Announcing the extension at Beckett Life Center, a North Philadelphia community center, Pennie Executive Director Devon Trolley pushed back on the three most common reasons people give for not signing up.

First, to those who think they don’t need insurance because they’re young and healthy: Accidents happen, she says. “Think about health insurance as protection against what you can’t control and can’t see coming.”

Second, for those who think they can't afford insurance: There are a variety of plans available, and the cost will never be more than 8.5% of your income. "What you pay for Pennie is based on your income — so, if you make less, you pay less."

She notes some plans cost \$0 a month.

Third, for those who are simply overwhelmed by the process and the options: Help is available, she says. "We have call center representatives that are both English- and Spanish-speaking, and we even have in-person help throughout the commonwealth."

Carol Zachary Smith, Beckett's executive director, says she used to pay \$1,100 per month for a family insurance plan. Now she enrolls through Pennie and gets the same coverage for free.

"It can be a little challenging, but they know a lot," she said. "So I implore you, once you give them the information that they need, they can help you through it."

On the upside, Trolley says, a record 410,000 Pennsylvanians have health coverage for 2024 through Pennie.

All plans cover essentials, including primary care visits, hospitalizations, immunizations, and mental health treatment.

Deptford Mall enforces policy requiring chaperone for teens on weekends

January 17, 2024

DEPTFORD, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Teens must now be accompanied by an adult chaperone on weekend evenings at the Deptford Mall.

A robust retail shopping scene is the lifeblood of Deptford's local economy, and Mayor Paul Medany said he wants to be proactive in preventing theft and any other kind of nuisance behavior.

"We know people are stealing, regretfully, but we want them to know: You come to Deptford, you're going to get caught and you're going to get punished," he said.

Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 25 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, starting at 5 p.m. The over-25 adult can supervise up to four minors.

There will also be more police on patrol at the mall.

Medany said there wasn't a specific incident that prompted the strict policy, but after a meeting with police and mall security, they all decided a curfew would be the best way to avoid potential problems moving forward.

"I want to be proactive," he said. "I don't want any issues or problems. I don't want to wait until something happens and then we react to it."

Medany noted there haven't been any arrests either. "We stemmed any issues. We go up to the kids and tell them 'Listen, you're misbehaving and you have to leave.'"

Other malls, including Cherry Hill Mall and the Fashion District in Philadelphia, have used similar policies off and on in the past.

The whole country is dealing with a rise in retail theft and social media meetups that sometimes get out of hand, Medany added, which he finds unacceptable. He said he wants the township and local businesses to know that they will "aggressively" work to curb retail theft.

"Don't come to the Deptford Mall and do something stupid," he warned.

New law requires NJ schools to issue reports on students' mental health January 24, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Gov. Phil Murphy has signed a new bill into law that requires schools to report on child mental health, as the state is seeing an uptick in teen mental illness and suicide.

The law's sponsor, Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, says it is essential to better understand what kids are going through and why there has been an increase in depression and other mental health disorders in young people.

The goal is to save lives by learning about the best ways of preventing suicide. She said it “focuses on trying to capture what each one of our school districts are actually doing in the schools as it pertains to suicide prevention.”

She says they want to identify some of the best practices being used by schools and find ways to share that with others to hopefully save lives.

“It really helps to formulate what can you do, what’s in our control to do. And these are the things that are definitely in our control, that we can act upon to minimize the negativity around mental health,” Lampitt said.

“We need to increase opportunities for people to find mental health providers.”

According to national statistics, the suicide rate among children ages 12 to 17 increased 16% between 2008 and 2020.

FEBRUARY

New teen center in South Philly offers youth a safe space to gather

February 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A teen center is officially open in South Philadelphia, a place where organizers say kids can be engaged and safe.

Downstairs at the Caring People Alliance, located at 15th and West Porter streets, the South Philadelphia Boys and Girls Club space now has a fresh coat of paint and tables full of activities, ready to welcome local teenagers.

“It’s exciting,” said Jewel Felder-James, director of teen programming. “I just can’t wait to see it fully functioning, seeing kids having fun, and music playing and kids just doing what they want to do.”

She said when she was a teen, she got involved in activities of her own, and they stuck with her years later. “I started caring,” she recalled. “I started wanting to get up in the morning. I wanted to get up and go do those things.”

At Wednesday afternoon’s ribbon-cutting, speakers reminded the audience that the space needed a major clean-up. The 3,350-square-foot, multi-level teen center has new areas for them to hang out and activities ranging from art, technology, podcasting, and more.

“It is a needed place. It helps the kids grow,” said 19-year-old Shakeem Smith, who has participated in the program in North Philly since he was 14. He has since been hired as a mentor for kids coming into the program.

“It gives kids the opportunities to experience what they really want to be in life,” he said. “They can stay away from outside drama, the drugs, the shootings, and everything out there. And also to have a place to experience their talents and become a better person.”

Local parent Teresa Jack helped get support and backing for the space. She said there's a void citywide for teen programming, as well as space to accommodate youth in the city — especially as they age out of activities.

“Having a space where teenagers want to come and be here and be with their peers, be with trusted adults,” she said, “it’s critical, but as a parent, it’s really heartwarming.”

The free center will be open until 8 p.m. every school night.

The space is done, but officials need some help filling it. Caring People Alliance is fundraising to get more equipment and other supplies on its wish list.

Delco’s newest state-of-the-art support center caters to young victims of sexual assault

February 7, 2024

MEDIA, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A new state-of-the-art support center in Delaware County is helping young sexual assault victims get the help they need, while also helping put sex offenders behind bars.

The Family Support Line provides a crucial resource for court cases involving children, especially those who are sexual abuse victims, according to their executive director Sarah Gibbons. She says their new 13,000-square-foot space in Chester Heights, equipped with bright lights, plush seats, and comforting toys, allows them to better serve some of the county’s most vulnerable residents.

“We provide 360 comprehensive child sexual abuse education, prevention education, therapy, and also advocacy,” she said.

Their new children’s advocacy center is critical for their forensic interviewers who are tasked with sitting with children and speaking with them about what trauma they might have experienced. Many of those interviews are used in court to help convict sex offenders.

Gibbons says having a safe, comfortable space is crucial to helping those young witnesses who otherwise might be too intimidated to talk.

“A child having to go to a courthouse or a law enforcement office to testify around what has happened to them is very trauma intensive,” she said.

According to Gibbons, in the last fiscal year, the support line provided more than 400 forensic interviews and saw over 700 kids in the county. So far this year, they’re on pace to see even more in their new space.

Gibbons says they’re using a \$100,000 grant to create a room that provides medical exams, so families don’t have to go to various places and relive their trauma.

Philly Dems raise awareness of new child care tax credit amid filing season

February 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Members of the Pennsylvania House Delegation visited the Early Learning Literacy Academy in Philadelphia Thursday to discuss the expansion of one of Pennsylvania’s tax credit programs.

Pennsylvania’s Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit was created to help ease the costs for working families. Eligible families can claim the credit when they file tax returns.

And now, since the state's credit is the same as the federal credit, Pennsylvania will provide a 100% match to the tax credit. It was previously 30%.

Households with two or more children will see a state credit of up to \$2,100 — and households with one child, up to \$1,050. According to the Department of Revenue, the credit cap phases down as income levels increase.

State Representative Morgan Cephass says childcare plays a pivotal role in the lives of working parents.

“For millions of families across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, particularly here in the City of Philadelphia when we are dealing with a startling 25% poverty rate, access to reliable and affordable childcare is not just a convenience, it's a lifeline,” Cephass said.

Latoya Monroe, owner and director of the Early Learning Literacy Academy, says working just to be able to afford childcare is no way to live.

“The tireless effort that the Pennsylvania House delegation put in to increase this child tax credit will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for many families.”

More than 27,000 working Philadelphians will see their tax credit triple for daycare costs when they file their taxes this year.

Philadelphia City Councilmember goes to battle for better health outcomes for Black women in pregnancy

February 29, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City Council Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson has awarded a foundation of \$250,000 to address the crises of maternal mortality and homelessness among Black women in Philadelphia.

Richardson had her own scare in 2016 while giving birth to her son, she explains. She was in the worst pain of her life, knew something was wrong, and she demanded a caesarian section as she advocated for herself.

“Little did I know at that time, my uterus had ruptured while I was in labor, and if it had been any longer, things may not have ended well,” she said.

Hers is just one of many horror stories Black women experience when they face life-threatening problems during the birthing process.

The \$250,000 will go to the A Home From Shana Foundation, which honors the life and legacy of LaShana Gilmore, who died in 2019 at age 34, while giving birth to her second child.

“I never had the opportunity to know her,” Richardson said of Gilmore. “And I remember hearing about her story. And I said we cannot let her story go, because it happens to too many of us. And I said when I have the opportunity to do something about this issue, we are going to do just that.”

They will establish the first and only maternity safe haven in the United States, called LaborLiveLove, staffed with birth doulas.

“Being pregnant, and giving birth, while Black can possibly be one of the most traumatic experiences that one would ever endure,” said founder Cleopatra Robinson. “As of today, we are still being sent home with chest pain, high fever, excessive bleeding, incisions that show no sign of healing, bad headaches, trouble breathing.”

Robinson was Shana’s best friend and is now, herself, a doula. Statistics show Black women are about four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

“A lot of people are scared. A lot of people don't know resources, and a lot of people don't know where to begin to ask for help. Some people are scared to ask for help,” said Nina Winfield, a Philadelphia mother who was previously unhoused. “I wasn't and I hope that nobody else will be either.”

Winfield received help from A Home From Shana Foundation.

State Rep. Gina Curry, co-founder of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, says they plan to introduce the Pennsylvania Momnibus on March 18. The bill package covers maternal health community funds, commercial insurance coverage for blood pressure cuffs, and commercial insurance coverage for doula services, among other necessities.

MARCH

Former director of the Office of Homeless Services welcomes investigations into overspending under her leadership

March 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Liz Hersh, the former director of Philadelphia’s Office of Homeless Services (OHS), said she welcomes an outside audit and an inspector general’s investigation of cost overruns while she was in charge.

Hersh ran OHS for nearly eight years, from 2016 to October 2023, and faced unprecedented challenges — the opioid crisis, the pandemic, the Parkway encampment — and she’s proud of her record.

“I make no apologies for prioritizing life-saving services throughout my administration and especially throughout the pandemic, the opioid crisis,” she told KYW Newsradio in an interview this week. “Unlike cities across the country, where they stopped providing those life-giving services [during the pandemic], we never closed our doors and we bucked national odds. In Philadelphia, homelessness went down by 22 % between 2018 and 2022.”

City officials say cost overruns began during the 2020 pandemic and accumulated until they totaled \$14 million over four years.

Hersh attributes them to new funding streams that confounded the city’s financial system: federal money the city had never received before, new state grants, all with different rules and timetables, she said.

Overruns are not uncommon. The Philadelphia Fire Department went over budget by \$14 million in one year, in 2023. Fleet services went \$17 million over and subsidies to the Community College of Philadelphia were \$16 million higher than budgeted that year alone.

OHS, though, also postponed payments to providers for months at a time. Hersh says she worked with the providers so they always had what they needed even as she grappled with accounting issues brought on by the pandemic.

“We would all get on the phone sometimes every day, every week, every month, whatever it took to resolve the issues,” Hersh said.

That's why she said she welcomes the scrutiny of her spending.

“I hope it will accelerate the city’s ability to respond to these emergencies when they arise so that the next time the people who are charged with saving lives have the tools that they need,” Hersh said.

City Council is conducting its own investigation. Council member Katherine Gilmore Richardson has even proposed a charter change to create an ombudsman just for OHS.

That is not on Hersh’s list of what the office needs.

“What the Office of Homeless Services needs is enough money to house every single person who is experiencing homelessness, and enough money to pay the providers so their employees aren’t making just \$15 an hour and they can recruit and retain qualified people,” she said. “What I think the Office of Homeless Services needs is a modern financial infrastructure and staffing that supports the kind of complex funding situation we have in getting grants from local, state, and federal dollars.

“And what I think the Office of Homeless Services needs is to be supported in investing in the men, women, and children who are experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia — 70% of whom, in 2022, had never been homeless before. Let’s keep our eye on the ball.”

Federal budget dispute over LIHEAP is putting low-income families in Pa. at risk of utility shutoff

March 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With three weeks remaining for low-income families to get help with utility bills through a well-known utility assistance program, Pennsylvania is running out of money because Congress is withholding any remaining funds.

Some states contribute to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP which helps low-income households pay heating bills and restore service. Since hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians depend on it, the hold-up in releasing the funds would impact the most vulnerable residents.

But Pennsylvania runs its entire program on federal funds so the budget dispute in Washington means a \$2 million shortfall.

Department of Human Services Secretary Val Arkoosh has announced the state is pausing cash grants till the situation is resolved but will not shorten the season and will continue to issue crisis payments for those in imminent danger of a heat shut-off.

Lydia Gottesfeld, Managing Attorney of Community Legal Services Health and Independence Unit, says although she's pleased the state is continuing applications and crisis grants, the situation shows the need for the state to put money into the program.

"We've pushed Pennsylvania to expand our LIHEAP programs so we cover not only heating season but cooling season and to put state funds in the program," she said. "Having state funds in the program would mitigate this crisis that we're dealing with right now."

Gottesfeld expects the budget dispute to be resolved before LIHEAP closes on April 5th.

As child care waitlists balloon, some parents turn to au pairs

March 18, 2024

LAWNDALE (KYW Newsradio) — In 2023, it was reported that more than 35,000 children in Pennsylvania are on waiting lists for day care centers. It's the product of COVID-19 staffing shortages that are still impacting child care services across the country, and it's forced some parents to find other options.

Caroline Bright is one of those parents. She lives in the Lawndale section of Philadelphia, is a flight attendant and is also pursuing her master's degree in Divinity. Her husband is a JAG officer in the Army National Guard and also works for the City of Philadelphia.

They're two parents with very hectic schedules, and when their first child was 18 months old, her husband suggested an au pair.

Bright wasn't buying her husband's proposal at first.

"And I said, No, no, there's no way we can afford that. It's way too expensive. That is not something that we have no way like our house is too small," she said.

The notion that au pairs are only for wealthy families is a common misconception. Au pairs are young people between the ages of 18 and 26 from foreign countries that arrive in the U.S. on J-1 visas to stay with American families and care for their children.

The State Department oversees the program that welcomes au pairs to the U.S. It began as a cultural exchange visa program in 1986. Regulations require au pairs to receive a weekly stipend, room and board, and three meals a day. For Bright, that's a weekly cost of just over \$400.

After some persuading, Bright caved, and now she and her husband are on their second au pair, Issy from the U.K., who they welcomed in October 2022.

"I am not exaggerating when I say that Issy is truly the little sister I never had," said Bright. "And in fact my daughter is very possessive of Issy, and it's really special but we've had so many adventures with Issy."

She said Issy also allows her to have the flexibility that daycare wouldn't allow her. Bright's sentiment was echoed by Natalie Jordan, senior vice president of Cultural Care Au Pair, a designated sponsor of the federal au pair program.

"The au pair program offers an alternative option where families can have accessible care that they can have flexibility to be able to create a schedule that works well for them and for the au pair," she said.

But Jordan did warn that parents must be willing to share space, culture, and traditions with the au pair for it to be successful. Parents that only want someone to take care of their kids should stay away.

"If you're willing to fully embrace a young person coming into your home, and learning some things that might really be brand new to them," said Jordan, citing the metric system or driving on the other side of the road as examples. "These are small things that we might take for granted, but are differences that need patience and time to work through."

According to the State Department, there are approximately 29,000 au pairs currently working in the U.S.

Child advocates already seeking changes to mayor's budget, including more money for schools and pre-K

March 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's budget was not even a week old when advocates began lobbying City Council for changes to her \$6.3 billion spending plan.

The child advocacy organization Children First went office to office last week asking council members to back four changes in the budget: more money for schools, pre-schools, out-of-school time, and diversion programs to keep kids out of the criminal justice system.

Parker did propose an increase in the percentage of city taxes that go to schools, from 55% to 56%, but parent Jazmin Banks said it should be 58%.

“We cannot afford any cuts to the school district budget so that the gains the district has made these last few years are not lost, because the district is facing a fiscal cliff,” she said.

Parker’s budget holds the number of free pre-K seats steady, but parent Savon Almodovar said that number should grow.

“We want 250 more PHL pre-K seats. My child is in one of them, and I thank God for it,” Almodovar said. “Our district is facing a fiscal cliff and our kids cannot afford to move backward.”

Council members say they are open to the advocates’ requests and will keep them in mind as they rework the budget over the next few months. Councilmembers Jaime Gauthier and Rue Landau welcomed the proposals.

“These are things that I support and I’m just looking into the budget to see how the proposal relates to these requests,” Gauthier said.

“Anything we can do to support young people in schools, after-school programs, and in any way in our city, I’m all for it,” Landau added.

ARTS AND CULTURE

JANUARY

**Philly Loves Bowie Week is back — alongside a new exhibit on music’s ability to bring change
January 6, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Nobody gets David Bowie like Philly, especially in early January. It’s the time of year when the city comes together for a week of Bowie-inspired celebrations.

Philly Loves Bowie Week is an annual festival honoring the rock icon, who died of liver cancer on Jan. 10, 2016, just two days after his 69th birthday. There are tribute performances, dance parties, gallery exhibitions, and even a Bowie-focused karaoke night.

Everyone has a story of how they found Bowie, but few have a story like Patti Brett.

“I discovered him when I was 17 years old,” I saw him live in December of ‘72, and seeing that show changed my life.”

Later, Brett was one of the “Sigma Kids” standing outside Sigma Sound Studios as Bowie recorded his legendary album “Young Americans” in Philadelphia. He invited them in to hear the unedited tracks, inspired heavily by the Philly soul sound he’d fallen in love with during his “Diamond Dogs” tour.

Bowie’s bond with the city would grow deeper over the years, not only through regular touring appearances but also a pair of live albums — “David Live,” recorded at the Tower Theater and “Stage,” recorded in part at the Spectrum. Notably, Bowie also narrated a 1978 recording of “Peter and the Wolf,” performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In 2017, Brett, a bartender at Doobies in South Philly, found other Bowie lovers to inaugurate a week of Bowie celebrations in the city. This year, the annual Philly Loves Bowie Week runs now through Jan. 13.

On Friday night, The National Liberty Museum kicked off the festivities with its fourth annual Bowie Bash.

“Oh, who isn’t a Bowie fan?” asked museum CEO Alaine Arnott. The event this year comes alongside the opening of the museum’s “Amplified” exhibit, which showcases the power of art and music to spur social change.

“A lot of people come and they expect it to be about protest music or big events and what we really found is that it’s really most important to talk about the personal connections,” said Aaron Billheimer, the museum’s director of exhibitions.

“The nostalgia the people have, the way they’re moved by the music, that’s what actually empowers them to cause the social movements.”

For Billheimer, the late singer-songwriter evokes both nostalgia — but also empowerment, through his ever-shifting styles and personas. “He was a person who was fluid and kind of traveled through different social norms and sort of represents all of us,” he said, alluding to how the singer elided the boundaries of gender during the 1970s.

Brett, for her part, couldn’t be happier to pair the Bowie Week kickoff with the “Amplified” exhibit, which runs through April 8. “I think it’s a perfect match ... I think he would be blown away by it,” she said.

“He’s been so influential to so many people with, you know, being who you are, don’t care about what people think, do what you want to do.”

Or as Bowie himself — as Ziggy Stardust — summed it up, “Let all the children boogie.”

Rowan University to build healing arts center thanks to \$1M donation

January 6, 2024

GLASSBORO, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Rowan University will be the site of a new healing arts center, thanks to a donor who says painting helped change his outlook on life after he was paralyzed.

A \$1 million gift from Dr. James George will fund the creation of the healing arts center in his name. George worked for decades as an emergency medicine physician, until a fall paralyzed him. He says painting became a passion during his recovery at Magee Rehabilitation Center in Philadelphia.

“When I was in Magee rehab hospital, just barely beginning to recover some movement on my left side, I could just put marks on paper. And then after a couple of weeks of that, I discovered color, and I ended up painting every day when I was at Magee,” he said.

“That, for me, has been a miraculous gift of art in my life after my accident.”

George says he’s right-handed but gained function in his left side first, and he found joy and inspiration in learning something new. He says this turned into the passion that helped push his limits of mental and physical recovery.

He now hopes to share this experience with others through the creation of the new center, “which would collaborate with a wider and wider network of healthcare institutions, community groups, Rowan students, and other folks,” he explained.

“It gave and gives me great personal satisfaction and it keeps me active,” George said, “so all of those things are reasons why I decided to do this.”

Rowan’s Creative Arts and Communications Dean Sanford Tweedie says the Dr. James George & Family Healing Arts Center will be available to patients, their families, students, and just about anyone else they can help.

“He hasn’t used this phrase yet but he’s said it before: he sees this opportunity for the healing arts as a weapon of mass improvement,” Tweedie shared.

Rowan President Dr. Ali Houshmand says George is a longtime member of the Rowan community who leads by example — and helping to unlock the healing power of creativity may be the greatest gift of all.

Philly Art Commission gives final, unanimous approval to Harriet Tubman statue project January 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia’s new Harriet Tubman statue is one step closer to taking its place outside of City Hall, as officials gave final approval to the project.

The Philadelphia Art Commission unanimously approved the commission at a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, allowing the city to begin the contracting process with artist Alvin Pettit. The Jersey City-based Pettit was chosen last October to create the statue after an open call to artists was narrowed down to five finalists.

All five finalists were presented to the public in an online survey that received nearly 3,000 responses. Pettit’s design scored the highest in every category, including likeness, essence, and emotional and educational qualities.

The statue will be titled “A Higher Power: The Call of a Freedom Fighter,” and will stand on the northeast apron of City Hall upon its completion. According to the city’s Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, it is inspired by Tubman’s Civil War heroism, including an 1863 battle where she led 150 Black Union soldiers and rescued more than 700 enslaved people. Tubman was the first woman to lead an armed military operation in the U.S.

“As the first ever woman mayor of Philadelphia, I am thrilled that the first piece of public art to be approved under this administration will be this statue of a Black woman who fought for freedom here in Philadelphia,” said Mayor Cherelle Parker.

OCT. 30, 2023

Pettit says the statue, which depicts Tubman with a rifle across her arm and her hands clasped in prayer, is also inspired by a 1975 painting of George Washington at Valley Forge. “Since [George Washington] is considered by most to be the primary founding father of our nation, I

feel it is only fitting to reimagine this famous image with Harriet as the founding mother of freedom,” said the artist.

A permanent Tubman statue has been in the works since 2022 after a traveling statue of the abolitionist received positive feedback from Philadelphians. The Kenney administration commissioned that statue’s creator, Wesley Wofford, to create the permanent work.

However, the choice of Wofford, a white sculptor from North Carolina, received pushback from many Black artists from the area, who were upset that the city automatically chose to move forward with Wofford rather than offer local artists, including those of color, the opportunity to submit their own designs.

Curtain up! Ensemble Arts Philly takes center stage as presenting brand for former Kimmel Cultural Campus

January 14, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — What’s in a name? Ask the Kimmel Cultural Campus, which has changed its name to Ensemble Arts Philly.

The Kimmel Cultural Campus may have been known as the centerpiece of performance on the Avenue of the Arts, but the name was difficult to distinguish from the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, which is a single venue within the campus.

“What we were finding was that people were showing up with a ticket to the Academy of Music at the beautiful Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts,” said President and CEO Matías Tarnopolsky.

The organization is hoping to clear that up by making Ensemble Arts Philly the presenting brand for shows at the Kimmel Center, Miller Theater, Academy of Music, and Forrest Theater. The newly named Ensemble Arts Philly will present just about every performance that would play before on the Kimmel Cultural Campus.

The musical “Ain’t Too Proud” currently running at the Academy of Music, “Girl From the North Country” coming to the Forrest Theatre, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra coming to Verizon Hall inside the Kimmel Center, are all Ensemble Arts Philly shows.

Ensemble Arts Philly will also present “Hamilton” in 2024 and “MJ the Musical” in 2025.

The Philadelphia Orchestra, which performs at the Kimmel Center, will maintain its own brand and website, but tickets will also be available on the Ensemble Arts Philly website.

“For the first time ever, you could buy a ticket for a Broadway show and a Philadelphia Orchestra performance in the same shopping cart,” Tarnopolsky said.

Tarnopolsky says the new name is all about bringing people together.

“Ensemble is a warm embrace. It's a unifying concept. Ensemble Arts Philly is about bringing the audiences, the communities, of Philadelphia together with the great artists and performances of our day in our beautiful venues.”

FEBRUARY

Black cinema classics take center stage this weekend at Philadelphia Film Center February 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Classics of Black cinema, as well as movies that flew under the radar are on display this weekend at the Philadelphia Film Center in Center City.

The five-night Black Cinema Weekend series kicked off Black History Month on Thursday with a screening of Zeinabu Irene Davis’ 1991 romantic drama “A Powerful Thang.” The Philadelphia Film Society, which operates the Film Center, followed that on Friday with that same year’s seminal coming-of-age story “Boyz N the Hood.”

The Film Center also has a series of events scheduled over the weekend before the films, including everything from a celebration of Black women filmmakers to a family-fun trivia night. Black Cinema Weekend runs through Sunday.

“What I love about film in particular is that it has a power to spark conversation, show you something, and have you grapple with it as a community,” said Joshua Campbell, director of education for PFS. He worked alongside education and programming coordinator Yace Sula to assemble the lineup.

“What I love about this program specifically, it’s a plethora of varying narratives of Blackness that aren’t necessarily explicitly about Blackness,” shared Sula. “It’s just about being a person in this world and navigating the things you navigate in life, but you can’t separate Blackness from that.”

The selected films also honor the achievements of their creators, like “Boyz N the Hood” director John Singleton. Singleton made the movie right out of film school and received Oscar nominations for Best Original Screenplay and Best Director — becoming not only the youngest, but also the first Black director to be nominated.

“The best way to honor the likes of a John Singleton is to continue that work, and to continue uplifting Black filmmakers and filmmakers of color, and giving them the opportunity to continue the work that he did,” said Sula.

The movie’s themes of gun violence, police brutality, and family are just a few that some of the other films this weekend will grapple with while showcasing the complexity of Blackness. “It’s asking us, in this moment, ‘Have we really grown, have we really learned, have we really evolved if this thing is still happening?’” said Campbell.

Several dozen Black creatives gathered Friday evening for a cocktail hour before entering the theater to see the Singleton classic. Jae Rich was the mind behind the cocktails, and she has a whole slate of them to go with every movie being shown across Black Cinema Weekend.

“We called it Sweet Cinematics, and that was infusing flavor with film, and I decided to theme all of the drinks around the movies,” said Rich, who called Friday’s drink “Concrete Jungle.”

“We came up with these amazing ideas,” she added. “How can we help people experience all of the amazing things that the Philadelphia Film Society has?’ Just movies, but they also have an amazing bar experience here.”

Six other movies will be showcased this weekend, including “Sweet Sweetback’s Baadasssss Song,” credited with kicking off the Blaxplotation wave of the ‘70s, and 1982’s “Losing Ground,” the first movie directed by a Black woman since the 1920s.

Also on the schedule are the supernatural drama “Eve’s Bayou,” starring Samuel L. Jackson, and the boxing biopic “Big George Foreman.”

Camden County College unveils exhibition highlighting legacy of Black baseball figures

February 5, 2024

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — A new exhibition now open at Camden County College showcases the impact Black athletes had on baseball.

The exhibition, “A League Apart,” focuses on the importance of breaking barriers with a series of historic photos and stories about Philadelphia Negro League baseball, as well as five Black individuals whose impact on the game is immeasurable.

Camden County Commissioner Jon Young says this is a great way to teach Black kids about the Black heroes of baseball.

“I think these stories and these types of exhibits really highlight baseball at a time where baseball is kind of teetering a little bit and trying to find some new identity,” Young said.

Visitors will find Octavius Catto in the exhibit. “He founded the second Black baseball team in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Pythons,” Young said.

South Philadelphia Little League phenom Mo’ne Davis is also there. “Everyone knows that great story and how she broke some boundaries,” Young said.

Also on the roster are Ed Bolden, Pop Lloyd, and Phillies legend Dick Allen.

“Dick Allen belongs in the Hall of Fame. We all know that. The guy was a hell of a slugger,” Young said.

Admission to the exhibit is free at Camden County College’s Cherry Hill campus, and it will be open until May 20.

Banned books by Black authors get new life in Little Free(dom) Libraries

February 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Visit Philadelphia has launched a new initiative for Black History Month to make hundreds of banned books by Black authors available to readers.

The Little Free(dom) Library project is aimed at encouraging Philadelphians to explore Black history. Together with the Free Library of Philadelphia and Little Free Library, Visit Philadelphia placed boxes in 13 visitor hubs across the city. More than 1,500 books by Black authors are distributed through those boxes.

According to free speech nonprofit PEN America, more than 30 states have banned certain books by Black authors. As Visit Philadelphia's CEO Angela Val says, the Little Free(dom) Library initiative demonstrates Philadelphia's commitment to making these stories accessible to both visitors and residents.

“We understand that our history in America can be complex but we celebrate it here in Philadelphia,” said Val, “and we do that by also telling Black stories — which are also American history stories.”

Loraine Carter and her two daughters spent the weekend visiting Philly museums, historic houses, and the Little Free(dom) Libraries. She calls the project outstanding but warns the books are going fast.

“We took books and when we came back ... many were already taken. They were gone,” she said.

The Little Free(dom) Libraries can be found throughout the city at the following locations:

1. Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street
2. Columbia North YMCA, 1400 N. Broad Street
3. Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, 2027 Fairmount Avenue
4. Faheem's Hands of Precision, 2100 S. 20th Street
5. Frankford Community Development Corporation, 4667 Paul Street
6. Franklin Square, 200 N. 6th Street

7. Historic Germantown, 5501 Germantown Avenue
8. Johnson House Historic Site, 6306 Germantown Avenue
9. Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, 419 S. 6th Street
10. Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
11. The Independence Visitor Center, 599 Market Street
12. The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 300 S. Broad Street
13. South Street Off Center, 407 South Street

Marian Anderson Museum and historic church to present one-day pop-up exhibit, 'Faith, Music and Community'

February 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Marian Anderson Museum is partnering with the historic Tindley Temple United Methodist Church on Broad Street for a Black History Month event honoring two very special people in the singer's life.

Jillian Patricia Pirtle, a National Marian Anderson Scholar artist with the museum, says faith, music, and community are at the heart of the pop-up exhibit experience: "Faith Music & Community."

"They are important because they foster the story of the Black community in Philadelphia," said Pirtle.

The exhibit examines the lives of Rev. Charles A. Tindley and opera singer Marian Anderson — both connected to Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Center City.

"The reason why this is so significant is because Marian Anderson's mother was a lifetime member of the church. And because of that, Marian Anderson had several meaningful concerts there during her lifetime and career in honor of her mother."

Tindley headed the church during the civil rights movement of the 20th century. Both Anderson and Tindley were integral in the church's involvement in civil rights and in lifting up the Black community.

“It’s a brand-new experience. Philadelphia has never seen it before. An exhibition that features Rev. Charles Tindley and everything he did to build a bridge of faith for the Black community in the 1800s into the 20th century — and Marian Anderson’s significant role with that and her family.”

Pirtle says the one-day event — Sunday, Feb. 25, at 1 p.m. — will include recordings and live performances.

On display, visitors will find photos, artifacts, and sheet music from Marian Anderson and the church’s historic collections, showcasing the essential roles faith, music, and community played in American history.

“These things are a rich part of the story of what makes Black Philadelphia the experience it has been since 1663.”

MARCH

After decades in the dark, historic Lansdowne Theater set to reopen as a concert venue this fall

March 14, 2024

LANSDOWNE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The last time the Lansdowne Theater hosted guests was Independence Day 1987 for a showing of “Beverly Hills Cop II.” An electrical fire damaged the theater and the owner walked away, leaving it untouched for more than 35 years.

Now, tickets are available at the historic Delaware County theater, but not for movies on the silver screen. It is being converted into a live music venue.

Construction started in August 2023 and is expected to be completed by the fall of this year. The Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation used grant money and donations from the community to transform the former movie theater into a state-of-the-art concert hall.

“The borough forgave some of the building permits, so that saved us money. The county has made a significant financial investment in the building, as has the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government,” said Matt Schultz, executive director of the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation.

The building, which opened in 1927, has old but strong bones, Schultz said. He is in charge of preserving its character, and he's doing so by keeping some pieces intact, like the projection booth equipment.

"This is how they controlled all the lights in the theater, through this board," he described. "It's disconnected. We're just going to keep it as a relic of the days that movies were shown here."

Concertgoers can expect new seating that resembles the theater's original chairs, a cash bar, and a stage that can support bands and their equipment.

"We're going to extend the stage overtop of what was the orchestra pit," he said. "When movies would be delivered to the theaters, sheet music would be delivered [too], so the organ would play along. We're not sure how frequently they did it, but there would be a pit orchestra here of maybe four or five people playing along with the organ."

The theater tested out the stage with a performance by a capella group Straight No Chaser. Schultz said the size of the venue made it an intimate show.

"I got to introduce them," he said, "and when I stepped out on the stage and looked at this big auditorium, I felt like I was standing in my living room. Because when you have that many people, it just makes it tiny, which makes it a great place to see a show."

The theater's first official acts will be Hot Tuna, Don McLean, Will Downing, and Southside Johnny in December.

Concertgoers can see the venue's progress for themselves on April 13 at an open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the theater's old ticket booth for \$20.

Ensemble Arts promises big hits and even bigger names in 2024-25 Broadway season

March 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Ensemble Arts, the new presenting brand of The Philadelphia Orchestra and The Kimmel Cultural Campus, announced its 2024-25 Broadway season full of current and past hits that have captivated audiences.

As Francis Egler with Ensemble Arts highlighted, among heavy hitters like “Les Miserables” (which kicks off the season on Aug. 27) and “Hamilton” (beginning on Oct. 29) is a Philly classic.

“We’re really excited to showcase the amazing new revival of ‘The Wiz’ and [it] has everything from home and [a] brand new day, so many songs that we haven’t had a chance to present on stage in Philly,” she said.

“The Wiz” began its pre-Broadway tour in Philly at the Forrest Theatre in 1974. It would hit Broadway in 1975.

On the whole, the season will feature 12 shows and run between Aug. 27, 2024 and July 27, 2025. The caper in July of next year is “Life of Pi.” During the holiday season there’s also a variety of exclusive touring productions and children’s favorites like “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

Philly’s Jewish history museum could become part of the Smithsonian

March 21, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Bipartisan-backed legislation was introduced in Congress to try to make Philadelphia’s Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History a part of the Smithsonian Institution.

Lawmakers want to establish a commission of nine people to “study the feasibility of transferring” the Weitzman to the Smithsonian, a press release from the Jewish museum says.

If integrated, the Weitzman would become the 22nd museum under the Smithsonian but would remain in Philadelphia.

“Our museum’s location here on Independence Mall, here in Philadelphia is very intentional,” said Chief Public Engagement Officer Emily August. “A lot of people have asked us over the years, ‘Why aren’t you in D.C.? Why aren’t you in New York?’ And the answer seems so clear to us.

“When you come to a museum and explore American Jewish stories in that location and look out the windows across at the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall and Independence Hall, it’s a really powerful feeling.”

After the commission process, another round of legislation would be needed to officially make the transfer. August said it would be an exponential opportunity for the Weitzman to tell American Jewish stories on the Smithsonian’s level.

The legislation was introduced in the House by U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and backed by several other lawmakers, including Pennsylvania Rep. Brendan Boyle and Sens. Bob Casey and John Fetterman.

‘We are all Jonathan Larson’ — In ‘Rent’ composer’s ‘other show,’ a tribute to Philly’s creative community

March 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Theatre Horizon’s production of the rock concert-style musical “Tick, Tick... Boom!” in April is an exercise in autobiography on a couple of levels.

The musical, written by the late Jonathan Larson — who later won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for “Rent” — is about a composer who’s about to turn 30 and struggling to get a show produced.

Robi Hager, who directs and stars in Theatre Horizon’s production, is a lyricist and composer himself. He has performed on Broadway, but he always returns home to Philadelphia, where he says he has found a strong theater community.

“I think there’s a sense of community here, that everybody is in on the same plane, that we all collaborate together to make art. And that’s been really, really exciting,” Hager said. And he says his aim with this production is to use Larson’s story to pay homage to the people of that community.

“And as many, many, many composers — even here in Philadelphia, that I know, that are friends of mine — that part of what I want to do with this show in this version is to represent them as well — as what it takes for young composers to step away from being a ‘young promising composer’ [to become] a composer that is making a living off of it.”

Hager says the echoes of Philadelphia’s creative community show up in more concrete ways on the stage, as well.

“We decided to add a little bit of that touch in our set — of other composers that have inspired me, and composers who are still on the rise who are friends of mine. We have some of their sheet music put in decoupage, on the wall in the back to be like: We all are, in some way, a version of Jonathan Larson.”

In “Tick, Tick... Boom!” the main character, Jon, sees his friend succeeding at a corporate job and has to decide if he wants to keep struggling and pursuing his art, or turn to something more lucrative but less fulfilling.

“I’m excited to do the show, because I’m kind of hitting that wall a little bit. You know, the arts is the first thing to go when it comes to funding. So that’s the thing — like, I love doing this so much. I love performing. I love writing,” Hager says.

“But how much longer do I have it in me when I see other people stepping away from that art form and getting that house, getting that car, getting all these things? Not that it’s a material thing that I’m looking for, but it’s stability.”

Hager wrote a musical in 2021 called “Little Duende,” which had a reading in New York City but was not picked up by any producers. He’s now working on another musical, “Siluetas,” that will be produced in Philadelphia by Power Street Theatre.

“Tick, Tick... Boom!” is co-directed by Steve Pacek and also stars Angel Sigala and Montgomery County native Elena Camp. It opens April 4 and runs through April 14. Tickets are available on Theatre Horizon’s website.

EDUCATION

JANUARY

Education advocates say boosting Pa. school funding by billions would meet the Commonwealth Court mandate

January 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As Gov. Josh Shapiro prepares his budget proposal, education advocates are recommending how Pennsylvania should fund K-12 schools in a way that would meet last year's court mandate.

Last year, the Commonwealth Court ruled that Pennsylvania's system of funding education was unconstitutionally inadequate and inequitable. A coalition of groups called PA Schools Work has released a recommendation on how to satisfy the court.

Dan Urevick-Ackelsberg, senior attorney with the Public Interest Law Center, said adding \$6.2 billion to the state's education budget over the next five years — with a \$2 billion increase in the first year — would meet the court's directive.

"They have to fill this \$6.2 billion adequacy gap within five years. It's a big number," he said. "We don't pretend that it's not a big number, but it's also an urgent problem."

Donna Cooper, executive director of the nonprofit Children First, said Shapiro should step up when he delivers his budget address next month.

"We know and hope that he agrees with us that this is the right time, this year, to right the unconstitutional wrong," she said.

A bipartisan panel called the Basic Education Funding Commission is expected to present its school funding recommendations to the governor and state Legislature next week.

New PA legislation to require mandatory financial literacy course for high school graduation

January 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Pennsylvania high school students will soon be required to take a personal finance course in order to graduate.

“While it’s important to understand biology and history, they’re not going to be using them in their day-to-day living,” said Cindy Axelrod, a finance professor at Temple University’s Fox School of Business.

She says teaching financial literacy at a young age will set students up for success.

“When you graduate high school you’re 18 years old and you’re suddenly thrust out into the world and you don’t have the financial tool to be able to succeed financially. Suddenly, you have bills to pay, you have independence.”

The new graduation requirement will be implemented in the 2026-2027 school year.

According to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, a school entity or nonpublic school must provide a mandatory course in personal financial literacy worth at least half of a credit.

Students will have to complete the course once during their high school career. Ed Nelling, head of the finance department at Drexel University’s LeBow College of Business, says it’s been considered taboo to talk about money in the past, but sharing financial successes and failures with your children can help them in the future.

Pennsylvania is one of 25 states to pass legislation requiring financial literacy courses for high schoolers.

Murphy calls for Camden School Board president to resign amid sexual assault allegations

January 19, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Camden’s School Board president has taken a leave of absence amid allegations of sexual assault of a student in the 1990s. New Jersey’s governor is asking for him to resign immediately.

Wasim Muhammad was a social studies teacher at Cooper B. Hatch Middle School in Camden when the victim, in eighth grade at the time, says he began calling her beautiful and grooming her for a sexual relationship.

Her attorney, Jeff Fritz, says Muhammad had sexual encounters with her for years — in classrooms, at motels, and at his home, which is near the school. Fritz says he claimed her as one of his multiple wives when she turned 18 in 1997.

“Mr. Muhammad is claiming that she was a wife of his, a spiritual wife, through the Islamic faith. She denies that,” Fritz said.

Camden School District is also named as a defendant in the civil suit. Fritz says there’s reason to believe administrators knew about this relationship.

“She was unable to come forward for years, in fact, decades, due to embarrassment, humiliation, and a fear that she wouldn’t be believed.”

A spokesperson for the district says their top priority continues to be the safety and well-being of students.

Gov. Phil Murphy says the allegations are heinous and believes Muhammad should resign.

Muhammad’s attorney has not responded to a request for comment.

Expected \$400M budget shortfall has Philly district delaying year-round schools pilot
January 31, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With a big budget deficit looming, the School District of Philadelphia is taking a more cautious approach to its pilot program for year-round schools.

Superintendent Tony Watlington has made a pilot of up to 10 year-round schools part of his five-year “Accelerate Philly” plan, with a projected cost of about \$25 million. However, with a projected budget shortfall of \$400 million next year, Watlington tells KYW Newsradio that the district is backing off of the accelerator.

“We want to make sure that we have the resources not just to do this, but to do this well,” Watlington said, “so we’ve delayed a communication about next steps until we see what the budget looks like.”

Mayor Cherelle Parker — who talked about her desire for year-round schools during her campaign — clarified her position on Tuesday, at Watlington’s “State of the Schools” address.

“Some people refer to it as out of school time. I called it year-round school during the campaign,” she said. “You can call it whatever you want to call it, but I want our young people to have access to those opportunities year-round.”

Watlington says he’ll have a more complete picture of any year-round school pilot later this semester.

FEBRUARY

Philadelphia School District hires administrator to help reduce dropout rate

February 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Thousands of Philadelphia public school students drop off the rolls each year, with no explanation. A new administrator is joining the Philadelphia School District with the sole focus of preventing dropouts.

At the end of last school year, 3,600 students had disappeared from the district's attendance rolls, with no information about why they weren't in school anymore.

As of December 2023, the district listed more than 1,900 dropouts for the current school year. That's about 900 fewer than December 2022, but Superintendent Tony Watlington said it's still too many.

So, he's hiring someone to tackle the issue.

"We're going to bring aboard a new assistant superintendent who will focus exclusively on coordinating our dropout efforts across the school district," Watlington said.

Dr. Melvin Marshall, a former high school principal in Guilford County, North Carolina, will become the district's latest assistant superintendent. Marshall was an assistant principal at Dudley High School in Greensboro — the same school where Watlington served as principal two decades ago.

"It's a school where we had a significant improvement in student achievement and significant decreases in the dropout rate," Watlington said. "He has experience significantly improving student outcomes, including for children of color, and for significantly reducing the dropout numbers and increasing the four-year graduation rates."

Watlington said Marshall will work with the city, the Philadelphia Housing Authority, and other agencies to keep students in school.

"We have a very tightly coordinated intergovernmental strategy, and we won't stop until we get the dropout numbers down to zero," he pledged.

Watlington pointed to a study that determined every dropout costs the city \$405,000. Because students who drop out generally don't have good life outcomes, he said keeping students in school is a moral issue for the district.

Marshall comes to Philadelphia from North Carolina, but Watlington noted that he has promoted several assistant superintendents from within the Philadelphia School District in recent months.

Community College of Philadelphia scholarship offers financial boost to LGBTQ, under-represented minority students

February 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A historic nonprofit and the Community College of Philadelphia are working together to give LGBTQ students a financial boost for higher education.

“We love our community and we want to make sure that all of our community get the opportunities that everyone else has,” says Christopher Cirillo, with the nonprofit Philly AIDS Thrift at Giovanni's Room.

The goal is to help bridge a gap in resources for LGBTQ students.

“They're discriminated against — not always just by their peers but also their families — so they don't always have the opportunities that a lot of other people have,” Cirillo said.

The Ed Hermance Scholarship was established to create opportunities for LGBTQ and under-represented minority students pursuing higher education at the Community College of Philadelphia.

“Last year was our 50th anniversary, and we decided one of the best ways to celebrate was to honor one of the longest-standing managers of Giovanni's Room itself — that's Ed Hermance. So they decided to start a scholarship in his name.”

Annually the scholarship fund will offer \$1,000 to 50 incoming and current full- and part-time students in good standing at the Community College of Philadelphia, Cirillo said. Applications for the scholarship are being accepted now. The deadline is June 30.

Philly AIDS Thrift at Giovanni's Room supports organizations fighting against HIV and AIDS. Giovanni's Room is the oldest LGBTQ and feminist bookstore in the country.

Study: Philly schools outpacing other urban districts in pandemic recovery
February 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A recent study shows Philadelphia schools are outpacing other urban districts in recovering from the pandemic.

The report by Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research and the Educational Opportunity Project said, compared to other large and poor urban districts, Philadelphia's math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress tests have recovered from the pandemic the fastest, and its reading scores showed more post-COVID growth than only Chicago.

Schools Superintendent Tony Watlington touted the Harvard study at the school board's Goals and Guardrails meeting Thursday night.

"Anytime the School District of Philadelphia can get in first place in terms of rebound and improvement, we should celebrate and applaud our students and staff," he said.

Overall, of the urban districts that took the tests, Philadelphia ranked near the bottom. Watlington, though, told the board that it's important to recognize growth.

"It validates that we're on the right track. We're making some significant progress, and yet, we have a long way to go and a lot of work to do," he said.

"We should not immediately say, 'Well, the test scores are too low anyway.'"

He says they need to let teachers and students know that success begets more success.

“We've got to start looking at the glass as half full and not just always half empty.”

One way to address the teacher shortage: Pay student-teachers for their time, lawmaker suggests

February 27, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Pennsylvania State Sen. Vincent Hughes, union leaders and administrators gathered at Science Leadership Academy at Beeber Monday to discuss ways to ease the state’s teacher shortage.

The Philadelphia School District started the current year short of more than 200 teachers. Superintendent Tony Watlington says it’s a reflection of the fact that between 2011 and 2022, there’s been a huge drop — about 71% — in people seeking teaching careers.

Recognizing the decline, Science Leadership Academy started a course for students seeking teaching careers.

“The pipeline program is doing what it has set out to do: To spark that interest,” said Instructor Njemele Anderson.

But beyond interest there are financial obstacles, said Melody Dorsainvil, a Temple University senior majoring in early childhood education.

“From tuition to books to transportation, there were very few days where I wasn’t anxious about how I’d be able to keep going,” she said. “During a majority of my college career, I’ve had to work two or three jobs to try and stay afloat.”

One strategy promoted by Hughes is to pay student-teachers for their time. Pennsylvania State Education Association President Aaron Chapin endorsed the idea.

“Paying our student-teachers a modest stipend will remove a significant barrier in becoming an educator and help ease the staff shortages in the years ahead,” he said.

Last year, lawmakers approved \$10 million to pay student-teachers up to \$10,000 each. Gov. Josh Shapiro is looking to expand the program in his current budget proposal.

MARCH

Philadelphia School Board VP resigns ahead of new board nominations

March 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As Mayor Cherelle Parker prepares to pick a new Philadelphia School Board, one influential member is taking her name out of the running.

School Board Vice President Mallory Fix-Lopez had applied to be considered by Parker for reappointment, but she has since withdrawn her name and announced her resignation, effective April 18.

Her decision to step down isn't political, she said. It's personal. With two young children in school and a medical procedure coming up, she said she couldn't commit to a new four-year term.

"When I started this, I had one child that was 3 years old. Now I have two that are 8 and 4. Both of them will be in school this fall and I really want to be deeply committed to their school and engaged," she said. "When I really thought about that much more deeply, over the past couple of weeks in particular, I had to be honest with myself that I don't have four more full years."

Fix-Lopez, who teaches at the Community College of Philadelphia, has been a member of the school board since 2018 when the district returned to local control.

"We had to build this board from scratch. I think just helping it have a structure, have governance policies is huge," she said.

Among her accomplishments, Fix-Lopez lists the expansion of multilingual services, a renewed board focus on academic achievement, and a policy supporting trans and nonbinary students. The latter led to mandatory training across the district and the creation of gender-neutral bathrooms in schools — something "the policy called for, but never existed," she said.

"I feel like I really helped set things in motion for the next board to carry through and to bring their own ideas and new lenses to it," Fix-Lopez added. "But it's my time to go to focus on my family."

Board President Reginald Streater has said he would like to continue on the board. The Educational Nominating Panel on March 12 is expected to give the mayor 27 names, from whom she can pick nine to serve on the new school board.

**Gov. Shapiro discusses his higher education ‘blueprint’ at West Chester University
March 7, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Gov. Josh Shapiro on Thursday shared his vision for the future of higher education in the commonwealth. Speaking at West Chester University, he proposed significant tuition drops for lots of students.

According to Shapiro, Pennsylvania ranks 49th in the U.S. in state investment in higher education, and 48th for affordability. He said he wants to change those numbers.

With a placard on the podium in front of him reading “Freedom to chart your own choice,” the governor delivered his new “blueprint for higher education,” focusing on competition and workforce development, as well as access and affordability.

“My plan builds a strong pipeline between our community colleges and our [Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education] universities and invests in the future of our students and our colleges,” Shapiro said.

The governor unveiled his plan in January, ahead of last month’s budget address. Under the initiative, state system universities and community colleges will unite under a new governance system, and Pennsylvanians making up to the median income will pay no more than \$1,000 in tuition and fees per semester at those schools.

“We need to make sure that they have a low-cost, high-quality higher education at any one of our Pennsylvania colleges or universities,” he said.

Shapiro told lawmakers that his plan, if passed, would take Pennsylvania from 49th in the nation in higher education investment to 22nd place.

He also encouraged lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to give their input on his blueprint. “We put forth a thoughtful plan that we are now giving to lawmakers and others,” said Shapiro, “to allow them to help inform that plan so that we can get it done together.”

Republican lawmakers were cool to his plan, however. Pa. Rep. Seth Grove, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said the plan lacked key details, particularly on financing. He also claimed it would open families and businesses to significant future tax hikes, and that it funds institutions over students.

Bipartisan legislators call for overhaul of New Jersey’s school funding formula

March 19, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are calling for an overhaul of New Jersey’s school funding formula, as they say it is too unpredictable year to year and leaves many school districts caught off guard.

School funding will increase by \$900 million, totaling \$11.7 billion for the next budget year. Despite this massive increase, more than 130 districts are seeing reductions in state aid.

Democratic state Sen. Vin Gopal, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said one of the schools in his district lost \$10 million from last year’s aid total.

“We need to make sure there is at least three- to five-year budgeting so a district is not on the hook all of a sudden, like Long Branch, where they’re down \$10 million and they got three weeks to figure out how to cut \$10 million from their budget,” he said. “That’s layoffs. That’s real people.”

Year to year, districts often don’t know what to expect from the state, with millions of dollars in fluctuations. Over the last several years, Gopal said increased transportation and special education costs have put districts in a tough spot.

This is the last year for the current funding formula. Republican state Sen. Owen Henry agrees with the need for multi-year budgeting.

“And now we have the opportunity to fix this,” he said. “Some districts need relief now. We need to do some short-term solutions, but at the end of the day, long-term solutions. These districts need to be stabilized.”

Both senators also believe that the state isn’t doing enough to support students with special needs. Currently, the state funds about 70% of special education, but there is no headcount of the total special needs students in each district. Instead, funding is estimated by a census formula based on population.

“It has to be tiered,” Henry suggested. “What are the needs for every individual special needs [student]? Is it a tier one? Is it a tier five, where that student needs to be placed out of district?”

Special education advocate John Mulholland said magnet schools do the best job with special education under the current system, adding to a district’s costs.

“If you create fair funding that actually supports students where they are, it doesn’t disincentivize districts from trying to do the right thing,” he added.

Principal at Edison High uses award money to open e-sports room for students

March 19, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Students at Philadelphia’s Edison High School who behave well and get good grades can earn time in the school’s new e-gaming room.

Principal Lillian Izzard used the \$20,000 she received last year as a Lindback award winner to outfit a little-used school room with flat screens, arcade games, furniture, and a colorful mural with a comic book vibe. She made the decision after speaking to her students.

“When I was awarded the \$20,000, this would have been the best thing for them – to have a place for them to be able to gather,” Izzard told KYW Newsradio.

There’s only room for 15 students or so, in a school of nearly 1,000 students. So they earn game time by having good attendance, performing well academically and staying out of trouble. Senior Kevon Cottle says he spends about a half hour each week in the room. “Since I’m a senior, it’s like really stressful now. And the fact that I get to play some games inside school makes it fun.”

Students are rewarded with time in the game room by scoring points through the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support system. "I do my classwork, homework. Sometimes I just help other teachers just so they would give me points," Cottle said.

Senior Damyan Santiago interrupted his Spider-Man game to say the game room provided a welcome break to bond with friends. "I'm often, like, trudging away on my senior project," he said. "Coming into a nice place to release some steam is really great."

The eSports room is purely for fun now, but Izzard hopes to eventually incorporate computer science education into the new game room.

ELECTIONS & POLITICS

JANUARY

The new year brings a flurry of new laws to Philly region, including wage bumps in NJ and Del. — but not Pa.

January 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As the calendar flipped from '23 to '24, new laws took effect in nearly every state. A higher minimum wage in Delaware and New Jersey and criminal justice reform in Pennsylvania are among the new laws now taking effect.

Nearly 10 million American minimum wage workers stand to benefit in 22 states that are adopting laws to pump up paychecks. Raises range from a 35-cents-an-hour hop in some states to big leaps of more than a 1 dollar for workers in Maryland, Hawaii, and Nebraska.

The minimum wage in New Jersey increased by \$1 when the clock struck midnight, taking it to \$15.13 per hour. Delaware raised its minimum wage to \$13.25, with another planned increase that will put it at \$15 per hour next year.

Pennsylvania's minimum wage remains at \$7.25. That's the federal minimum wage — which hasn't budged since 2009, despite a 40% jump in inflation since then. In all, 20 states remain at that baseline minimum wage.

The Keystone State did, however, pass a flurry of new laws aimed at criminal justice reform before the legislative session ended, last month.

Incarcerated people in Pennsylvania will now have an easier road to returning home. Under two new laws taking effect, criminal records for non-violent drug convictions can now be sealed, so people leaving jail can return to the community more easily, and offenders will stay on probation for shorter periods of time.

Incarcerated women in Pennsylvania now have more protections. Male guards can no longer do full body searches on them and pregnant inmates can't be put in solitary confinement.

The state is also cracking down on people who steal packages left outside homes. A third offense will now be a felony.

The Pennsylvania attorney general's power to prosecute local offenses has expanded, especially in Philadelphia, where a new law puts the AG in charge in the case of crimes on or near SEPTA property. District Attorney Larry Krasner has denounced the new law as taking away his prosecutorial discretion.

And Pennsylvania dog owners, be aware: All dogs must now be licensed by the time they're 3 months old.

Pennsylvania and Delaware now join New Jersey in allowing automatic voter registration when drivers receive or renew their licenses.

In Delaware, guns are banned at polling places, schools and recreation zones. And the First State gave tenants the right to legal representation during eviction proceedings and legalized marijuana, allowing heavily regulated sales of the drug.

New Jersey eased access to birth control (women can now get self-administered birth control without a doctor's prescription), mandated menstrual products in schools and expanded protection-from-abuse orders to include victims who have no dating or familial relationship with an abuser.

And telemarketers calling New Jerseyans now have 30 seconds to identify themselves and the reason for their call.

New federal guidelines will end highway signs deemed 'too edgy' and distracting for drivers

January 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has updated its manual of regulations governing street and highway signs, and those made with pop culture references or intended humor are no longer allowed.

It means classic quips made on New Jersey signs — “Nice car. Did it come with turn signals?” — and PennDOT holiday warnings — “Only Rudolph should drive lit.” — are banned from use beginning in 2026.

New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti told KYW in November that the FHWA believed the signs could be misunderstood by drivers.

“FHWA a year ago was concerned that the signs may have been too edgy or too distracting,” she said.

But Gutierrez-Scaccetti shot back that the humorous approach can make the message more memorable.

“I think when people see something that catches their eye, that they chuckle over — or they go home and tell their kids — yeah, you remember it,” she said. “Does it make them slow down? I hope in the moment it does.”

Under the new guidelines, only “simple, direct, brief, legible and clear” messages are permitted.

In a statement to KYW, the FHWA emphasized that “the safety of all road users is the priority,” and said it supported the use of “changeable message signs” operated by state transportation departments.

“States are expected to exercise good judgment in how and when they use changeable message signs for traffic safety messages, and in their specific wording of the messages,” it continued.

The FHWA then pointed to its manual when considering the nature of those messages.

Moratorium on New Jersey brewery restrictions extended by 2 weeks

January 2, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Brewery owners in New Jersey have temporary relief from some restrictions on events and menu offerings, and they hope a permanent solution is close.

A bill to remove the restriction on the number of events a brewery can host was passed by the state legislature, then conditionally vetoed by Gov. Phil Murphy. A six-month moratorium on enforcement expired at the start of the new year, but Alcoholic Beverage Control extended the moratorium by two weeks.

While Murphy hoped for a larger overhaul of New Jersey's liquor laws, that hasn't happened yet and brewery owners are stuck in the middle.

"Those restrictions though are set to go back into place on Jan. 16," said Eric Orlando, executive director of the Brewers Guild of New Jersey. He said the group is hopeful a new bill will be on the agenda in Trenton in the next few days.

"Based on the conversations that we have had with both the legislature and the governor's office, I think there is a commitment to try to get rid of these restrictions within the next few weeks," said Orlando.

"I'm hoping that possibly this Thursday there will be action on that legislation with the hopes of getting it on the governor's desk by next week."

Orlando said the constant fits and starts with the bill have been difficult to digest, but he's happy to see removing regulations that are harmful to breweries seems to be a priority in Trenton. However, as this is a lame duck session, Orlando acknowledges that brings some uncertainty to the table for an issue he wishes was already settled.

What to know about abortion rulings, bills and campaigns as the US marks Roe anniversary

January 22, 2024

Since the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade ruling on Jan. 22, 1973, the time around the anniversary has always been marked by rallies, protests and political pledges.

This time, after the 2022 ruling that overturned the nationwide right to abortion that Roe provided, there's a flurry of activity as state policy gets decided by courts, lawmakers and voters.

It's also giving Democrats, including President Joe Biden's reelection campaign, a chance to rally voters around abortion access.

Abortion opponents also rallied last week in Washington with a context that's different from past editions of the annual March for Life. There's no longer a nationwide right to abortion and 14 states have bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy. But the political fallout has boosted their opponents more than them.

There were still some traditional anti-abortion rallies, including one in St. Paul, Minnesota, where an estimated 2,000 people attended, with many placing what organizers described as life-size models of fetuses on the steps of the state Capitol in protest of policies that protect abortion access.

Here's what to know about several developments.

Ballot drive launches in Colorado, campaign in Maryland

At least a hundred people gathered on the steps of the Colorado Capitol on Monday to launch a signature campaign for a ballot measure to enshrine abortion rights in the state's constitution. A cardboard sign read, "Someone you love has had an abortion," as state lawmakers and the Colorado attorney general bunched around a microphone and the crowd cheered.

Colorado's legislature passed abortion protections last year, but "if we don't enshrine it in the constitution, we will be at the whim of lawmakers," said Nicole Hensel, executive director of New Era Colorado, one of the coalition of groups behind the Coloradans for Protecting Reproductive Freedom campaign.

Colorado has become an island of abortion protections as surrounding states installed restrictions after Roe was overturned. The Cobalt Abortion Fund based in Colorado spent six times the amount helping people get abortions in 2023 as they did in 2021.

Advocates in Maryland also used Monday's Roe v. Wade anniversary to begin their campaign to support the ballot measure to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution that's already on the ballot there for November.

The only other state where a statewide vote on abortion rights in 2024 is sure to happen is New York, where the proposed amendment includes protecting reproductive freedom.

But similar votes are under consideration in more than a dozen states.

Since 2022, abortion rights supporters have prevailed on all seven statewide ballot measures.

Lawmakers in Wisconsin, and Maine consider ballot measures

Lawmakers in two states scheduled hearings for Monday as first steps to ask voters to change abortion policy. Both face uphill battles.

In Maine, Democrats are pushing for a measure that would protect reproductive autonomy in the state constitution.

Democrats control both chambers of the Legislature and the governor's office and, under state law, abortion is allowed at any point throughout pregnancy, if it's deemed necessary by a doctor.

But advancing a measure to voters would require the approval of two-thirds of both legislative chambers. To reach that, several Republicans would have to vote in favor of asking the public to vote.

In Wisconsin, a GOP proposal would ban abortion after 14 weeks of pregnancy.

Republicans control the legislature there, but Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, would likely veto the measure if it passed.

Currently, abortion is available in Wisconsin until fetal viability, but there's litigation over whether an 1849 law that conservatives interpreted as banning abortion should apply.

Missouri activists choose an amendment to support

A coalition of abortion rights supporters in Missouri decided last week which of 11 amendment proposals to support.

They went with one that would allow lawmakers to restrict abortion access only after viability — generally considered to be around 23 or 24 weeks gestation age — when a fetus might survive outside the uterus.

The decision from groups including the state ACLU chapter and Planned Parenthood chapters is one solution to a debate advocates have been having on whether to support measures that allow some abortion restrictions.

The Missouri measure would allow abortion later in pregnancy to protect the life and physical and mental health of the woman.

Some moderate Republicans are pushing a competing amendment, which would allow abortion up to 12 weeks in most cases, and between then and viability only in pregnancies resulting from rape or incest or in medical emergencies.

Under Missouri law, abortion is banned at all stages of pregnancy, with an exception to protect the life of the woman — but not in cases of rape or incest.

Biden Administration sides with Oklahoma hospital

In a decision made in October but not revealed publicly until last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that an Oklahoma hospital did not violate federal law when doctors told a woman with a nonviable pregnancy to wait in a parking lot until her condition declined enough for her to qualify for an abortion under the state's strict ban.

The ruling was the latest in what's emerged as a major legal question as most Republican-controlled states have imposed abortion bans: When do exceptions apply?

In other situations, the same federal agency has maintained that hospitals would violate federal law by turning away women seeking an abortion amid medical emergencies.

Pending lawsuits from women who assert they were wrongly denied an abortion address the issue.

Even as the Biden administration ruled in favor of the hospital in the Oklahoma case, it's planning to help people file complaints under the law that's intended to ensure emergency health care access.

FEBRUARY

Former Atlantic City politician charged with ballot fraud in 2022 general election

February 1, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — South Jersey political operative Craig Callaway has been charged with submitting fraudulent mail-in ballots in the 2022 general election.

Federal authorities allege Callaway, a former City Council president in Atlantic City, gathered vote-by-mail ballots and cast them in the 2022 election, in the names of people who said they never voted.

U.S. Attorney Philip Sellinger said Callaway, about a month before the election, paid messengers between \$30 and \$50 each to gather applications from people who supposedly wanted to vote by mail. But according to Sellinger, after the applications were processed, the messengers took the mail-in ballots from the Atlantic County clerk and gave them to Callaway.

Under the law, messengers are required to deliver mail-in ballots directly to the people who requested them. Callaway, 64, is charged with one count of fraudulently procuring and casting ballots.

“Holding free and fair elections is a bedrock principle of our democracy,” Sellinger said in a statement. “As alleged in the complaint, the defendant attempted to deprive New Jersey residents

of a fair election by fraudulently procuring and casting ballots. Today's charges reflect our office's commitment to hold to account those who try to undermine the electoral process."

Callaway previously served 3 1/2 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to bribery in 2006.

City Councilmember introduces affordable housing legislation, but one measure could hurt public schools

February 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Councilmember Jamie Gauthier plans to introduce a package of bills at Thursday's meeting aimed at increasing access to affordable housing.

Gauthier is proposing several measures. One would beef up the language in the Fair Practices Ordinance to specify that landlords cannot discriminate against renters using housing vouchers.

It already prohibits "source of income" discrimination, but she said that hasn't stopped landlords from refusing to accept vouchers. Her bill would not only clarify that vouchers are included but would make it easier for renters to seek a legal remedy if they're denied.

Another bill involves the money paid by developers so they can build more densely than zoning allows. Gauthier proposes that it get redistributed to parts of the city seeing the biggest increases in development, to provide funds for affordable housing.

A third proposal would freeze property tax increases for people making under \$33,000 a year. That, though, would hurt the School District of Philadelphia, since it receives most of the property tax revenue and is already facing a \$400 million deficit next year.

NJ bill would prohibit cable service termination fees for customers moving to long-term care facilities

February 6, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Early termination fees are built into many contracts for cable, phone and internet service. A new bill advancing in the New Jersey Senate would prohibit service providers from imposing those fees on certain people suffering hardships.

The financial distress experienced by people who need extended medical treatment at long-term care facilities shouldn't be made worse by burdensome utility fees, according to bill sponsor, Sen. Robert Singer.

"This will affect thousands of people because, unfortunately, we have an aging population in New Jersey," Singer said.

The senator says some people are paying \$250 a month for cable, phone and internet bundles and there should be no red tape preventing them from canceling the service if they are moving into a nursing home.

"The fact of it is, if you terminate your gas or your electric, it ends that month. Cable should be the same thing."

He says this would apply to anyone who will be out of their home for at least 90 days for medical reasons.

The bill has received committee approval, and Singer hopes it'll be up for a full vote next month.

City Council committee votes to advance bill that would outlaw casino-style gaming machines in Philly stores

February 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City Council is back to in-person hearings for the first time in nearly four years, and the very first one — last week — showed how different it can be from a Zoom hearing.

After a long and sometimes heated hearing, the Public Safety Committee voted to advance a bill that would prohibit so-called skill game machines in corner stores and other spots where they may create a nuisance. The machines operate like arcade video games but can pay out like casino games. They are totally unregulated and untaxed.

Sponsor Curtis Jones said the machines create a dangerous environment, drawing would-be thieves lying in wait for someone to win.

“It’s a preponderance of things: When you sell loosie cigarettes; when you sell liquor by the drink and when you have these kinds of gambling machines, it almost creates a watering hole for prey.”

The bill has already passed City Council once, but Mayor Jim Kenney pocket-vetoed it by not signing it before leaving office, so this is the second hearing on the matter. The first one, last year, on Zoom, was quick with no opposition. This one took 3 ½ hours and was dominated by opponents like store owner Akash Patel, who said his store would suffer without the income from the machines.

“Why are you punishing honest, hard-working, tax-paying constituents?” he said in testimony.

Ari Marshand, who owns Xtreme Skill Games, Inc., said regulation is needed but not a ban.

“Right now, Philadelphia is known around the country as the Wild West of skills games. It’s an absolute atrocity what is happening in Philadelphia,” said Marshand, who has proposed turning the machines into revenue generators for the city by requiring permits that would also allow the city to track numbers and locations of the machines.

Supporters of the bill, such as Andy Toy of the Community Development Corporations Association, testified they create an unsavory atmosphere.

“Because of the amounts of cash at these locations and people hanging out for hours, they can become hostile and potentially unsafe places for others in the community,” Toy said.

Patel got into sometimes heated exchanges with councilman Jeff Young, attending his first hearing as a Council member.

“Should we as a city allow people to shoot dice outside your business establishment?” Young asked.

“Absolutely not. That would be very dangerous,” said Patel.

“My point is about the loitering that happens in these communities where these machines are,” said Young.

While City Council grapples with the issue, Gov. Josh Shapiro has recently proposed imposing state taxes on the machines.

In the end, the committee voted unanimously to advance the bill. It now goes to the full Council for a vote.

MARCH

New Jersey businessman pleads guilty and agrees to cooperate in Sen. Bob Menendez's corruption case

March 1, 2024

NEW YORK (AP) — A New Jersey businessman pleaded guilty Friday to trying to bribe U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, admitting that he gave the senator's wife a car to influence him and agreeing to a deal with prosecutors that calls for him to testify in the corruption case against the powerful Democrat.

Jose Uribe, of Clifton, New Jersey, entered the plea in Manhattan federal court to seven charges, including conspiracy to commit bribery from 2018 to 2023, honest services wire fraud, obstruction of justice and tax evasion.

As he described his crimes in court, Uribe told Judge Sidney H. Stein that he conspired with several people, including Nadine Menendez, to provide her with a Mercedes-Benz in return for her husband “using his power and influence as a United States senator to get a favorable outcome and to stop all investigations related to one of my associates.”

He said he also hoped the gift would, if necessary, stop a “possible investigation into another person who I considered to be a member of my family,” according to a transcript of the proceeding, which the media was not told about before it happened.

Uribe said he made certain payments on the Mercedes “in a manner to conceal my involvement because I knew it was wrong. I knew that giving a car in return for influencing a United States senator to stop a criminal investigation was wrong, and I deeply regret my actions.”

According to a plea agreement, Uribe could face up to 95 years in prison, though he could win leniency by cooperating and testifying against the other defendants, which he's agreed to do. He also agreed to forfeit \$246,000, representing proceeds traceable to his crimes.

Uribe was among three businessmen charged in the corruption case against Menendez and his wife, which was revealed last fall. Authorities say the couple accepted bribes of cash, gold bars and the luxury car in exchange for his help and influence over foreign affairs.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty.

Uribe remains free on a \$1 million bond, which was set when he was arrested. His plea deal, dated Thursday, was signed by him on Friday.

Uribe's attorney, Daniel Fetterman, declined to comment. David Schertler, a lawyer for Nadine Menendez, declined to comment. Lawyers for the senator did not immediately comment.

Menendez, his wife and the two other New Jersey businessmen are scheduled to go on trial in May.

Federal prosecutors allege that Menendez, the former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, used his position to take actions that benefited foreign governments in exchange for bribes paid by associates in New Jersey.

An indictment contends that Menendez and his wife took gold bars and cash from a real estate developer, and that the senator used his clout to get that businessman a multimillion-dollar deal with a Qatari investment fund.

Menendez is also accused of helping another New Jersey business associate get a lucrative deal with the government of Egypt. Prosecutors allege that in exchange for bribes, Menendez did things that benefited Egypt, including ghostwriting a letter to fellow senators encouraging them to lift a hold on \$300 million in aid.

Menendez also has been charged with using his international clout to help a friend get a multimillion-dollar deal with a Qatari investment fund, including by taking actions favorable to Qatar's government.

Uribe was accused of buying a luxury car for Nadine Menendez after her previous car was destroyed when she struck and killed a man crossing the street. She did not face criminal charges in connection with that crash.

The indictment has said the senator helped Uribe by trying to persuade prosecutors to go easy on one of his business associates who was the subject of a criminal investigation.

Uribe provided more information about his involvement in obstruction of justice crimes from June 2022 to 2023 during his plea hearing Friday, saying that after investigators sent him a subpoena related to the probe of the senator, Nadine Menendez contacted him through another individual.

He said he met with her later that afternoon at a Marriott hotel, where she asked him what he was going to say if somebody asked him about the car payments.

“I told her that I would say a good friend of mine was in a financial situation and I was helping that friend to make the payments on the car, and when she was financially stable, she will pay me back. Nadine says something like: ‘That sounds good,’” Uribe told the judge.

He said he later told his attorneys the same version of what happened and they transmitted that “false story” to prosecutors with his approval.

“Late in 2022, I received a check from Nadine paying me back for the car payments. I then deposited the check,” he said.

Rare public spat among City Council members breaks out in Thursday meeting

March 21, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Council members got into a rare public tiff at Thursday’s meeting when the Council president refused to allow a woman to speak about the war in Gaza during the public comment period.

The rules of Council say the public can only comment on legislation that’s up for a vote. The war in Gaza was not on the agenda, so when Kate Perez began speaking about Gaza, Council President Kenyatta Johnson interrupted her.

“I think I should be allowed my full two minutes to talk about Palestine,” Perez protested.

“Ms. Perez, could we just speak what’s on the actual bill?” asked Johnson, before ultimately cutting off her microphone and calling for the next speaker.

That prompted a rare public rebuke from Councilman Curtis Jones.

“When there is something egregious that is happening, we don’t want to fight the Middle East war here in City Council but doggone it, we have to be fair,” he said. “This is Ramadan. (I could) introduce a bill to allow her to speak. We can do it privately or we can do it real public.”

Jones went back and forth with Johnson until Council’s majority leader, Katherine Gilmore Richardson called for “orders of the day,” which means debate must stop. After the session, Jones and Johnson both said there were no hard feelings.

“There’s no bad blood,” Jones said, with Johnson adding, “For the record, this is us just having a spirited conversation.”

Council passed three significant bills at the meeting. One prohibits corner store gambling machines, which Council members say have become a nuisance and even a potential danger in vulnerable neighborhoods. Another bill outlaws devices that flip license plates, allowing drivers to evade police. The third imposes a curfew on businesses in Kensington that sponsor Quetcy Lozada says are problematic.

“This is just another tool we’re going to be able to use to respond to some of the illegal and disruptive activity that occurs after 11 p.m.,” said Lozada.

All three bills create new enforcement challenges for police and the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

New Parker administration policy requires city spokespeople get permission from mayor's press office before speaking to media

March 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's administration has imposed strict controls on her staff's interaction with reporters, which can hinder coverage of city government.

In January, KYW Newsradio contacted the fire department to confirm the address of a fire, in order to tell listeners to avoid the area. The spokesperson said she could not provide the information without first getting permission from the managing director's office and the mayor's press office.

This policy had been laid out in an email from Managing Director Adam Thiel saying — in capital letters — “NO MEDIA INTERVIEWS, SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS, OR STATEMENTS OF ANY KIND UNTIL/UNLESS APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS.” It immediately ran into trouble from librarians who alerted patrons they might not be able to post information about events or changes to hours.

At the time, the mayor's spokesman Joe Grace said the email had been misinterpreted. A short time later, police, fire, and the Office of Emergency Management were permitted to speak without advance permission.

However, the gag stayed on others, even cabinet-level commissioners, stifling the flow of information that reporters depend on to give the public an accurate picture of how the government performs.

The control of the message extends beyond limiting who can say what. Last month, after the press office sent out an email saying the mayor had no public events, it invited two — and only two — media outlets to a public event, effectively excluding all other coverage.

Grace says he is done talking about the policy because it is, in his words, “inside baseball,” meaning it isn't of interest to anyone except reporters. But privately, communications staff in other departments complain it adds time and extra steps to their job of keeping the public aware of what their government is doing.

Supreme Court seems likely to preserve access to the abortion medication mifepristone

March 26, 2024

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday seemed likely to preserve access to a medication that was used in nearly two-thirds of all abortions in the U.S. last year, in the court's first abortion case since conservative justices overturned *Roe v. Wade* two years ago.

In nearly 90 minutes of arguments, a consensus appeared to emerge that the abortion opponents who challenged the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the medication, mifepristone, and subsequent actions to ease access to it lack the legal right, or standing, to sue.

Such a decision would leave the current rules in place that allow patients to receive the drug through the mail, without any need for an in-person visit with a doctor, and to take the medication to induce an abortion through 10 weeks of pregnancy.

Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, the Biden administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, said the court should make clear that the anti-abortion doctors and organizations that challenged the FDA's relaxation of restrictions on mifepristone don't "come within 100 miles" of having the legal right, or standing, to sue.

Even three justices who were in the majority to overturn *Roe* posed skeptical questions about standing to the lawyer for the abortion opponents. Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch, and Brett Kavanaugh are former President Donald Trump's three Supreme Court appointees.

Barrett, for example, seemed to doubt that the doctors identified by lawyer Erin Hawley could show that they were actually harmed by the FDA's actions, one of the requirements for showing standing.

"The difficulty, to me, is that the affidavits do read more like conscience objections," Barrett said.

Abortion opponents are asking the justices to ratify a ruling from a conservative federal appeals court that would limit access to mifepristone, one of two drugs used in medication abortions.

The FDA approved mifepristone in 2000. Over the last quarter-century, the agency has made accessing the drug easier, most recently in 2021, when they allowed providers to send the pill through the mail amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The high court's return to the abortion thicket is taking place in a political and regulatory landscape that was reshaped by the abortion decision in 2022 that led many Republican-led states to ban or severely restrict abortion.

That ruling had immediate political consequences, and the outcome in the new case, expected by early summer, could affect races for Congress and the White House.

The scene outside the Supreme Court was lively Tuesday morning, with demonstrators occupying the streets surrounding the court and groups on both sides of the issue marching and chanting. The police blocked traffic surrounding the court as well.

The practical consequences of a ruling for abortion opponents would be dramatic, possibly halting the delivery of mifepristone through the mail and at large pharmacy chains, reducing the period in pregnancy when it can be used from 10 to seven weeks and ending increasingly popular telehealth visits at which the drug can be prescribed.

Rachel Rebouché, dean of Temple University Law School, says government agencies have typically been trusted to regulate as they see fit. She, along with President Joe Biden's administration and drug manufacturers, warn that such an outcome also could undermine the FDA's drug approval process more widely by inviting judges to second-guess the agency's judgments.

“If the Supreme Court decides the FDA erred, it will shake a tenet of administrative law that we defer to expert agencies and their reliance on evidence, science and research,” said Rebouché.

Anti-abortion doctors and medical organizations argue that the FDA's decisions in 2016 and 2021 to relax restrictions on getting the drug were unreasonable and “jeopardize women's health across the nation.” The Democratic administration and New York-based Danco Laboratories, which makes mifepristone, respond that the drug is among the safest the FDA has ever approved.

“This would be different if it was just a question in the abstract — ‘Is medication abortion safe?’ We know it is,” said Rebouché, “and there’s a disturbing pattern here of ‘The sky isn’t blue and water isn’t wet.’”

In one possible resolution, the justices could avoid touching on the more politically sensitive aspects of the case while preserving access to mifepristone. The administration and Danco argue that the challengers, represented by the conservative Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, lack the legal right, or standing, to sue. If the high court agrees, it would essentially dismiss the case and erase the appellate ruling.

Another abortion case already is on the docket. Next month, the justices will hear arguments over whether a federal law on emergency treatment at hospitals must include abortions, even in states that have otherwise banned them.

The mifepristone case began five months after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Abortion opponents initially won a sweeping ruling nearly a year ago from U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, a Trump nominee in Texas, which would have revoked the drug’s approval entirely. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals left intact the FDA’s initial approval of mifepristone. But it would reverse changes regulators made in 2016 and 2021 that eased some conditions for administering the drug.

The Supreme Court put the appeals court’s modified ruling on hold, then agreed to hear the case, though Justices Samuel Alito, the author of the decision overturning *Roe*, and Clarence Thomas would have allowed some restrictions to take effect while the case proceeded.

Mifepristone is one of two drugs, along with misoprostol, used in medication abortions. Their numbers have been rising for years. More than 6 million people have used mifepristone since 2000. Mifepristone is taken first to dilate the cervix and block the hormone progesterone, which is needed to sustain a pregnancy. Misoprostol is taken 24 to 48 hours later, causing the uterus to contract and expel pregnancy tissue.

Researchers at the Guttmacher Institute estimate that there were more than 1 million abortions in the U.S. last year and that nearly two-thirds of them were from medication. Both those numbers are up since the high court overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

Health care providers have said that if mifepristone is no longer available or is too hard to obtain, they would switch to using only misoprostol, which is somewhat less effective in ending pregnancies.

KYW Newsradio's Vik Raghupathi contributed to this story.

GUN CRIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

JANUARY

More than 1,600 gun victims in Philadelphia in 2023 — down by about 600, police say January 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Though gun violence continues to plague the city, the numbers have declined a bit from the prior year. More than 1,600 people were shot in the city in 2023 — about 375 of them fatally. Violent crime across Philadelphia is down about 7%, and police say they took about 6,000 guns off the street.

“I think it is a good indication that we are moving in a positive direction. I don’t think it is the norm to see any city drop 100 homicides in one year,” said interim Police Commissioner John Stanford.

He says they are trying to chip away at the city’s gun violence.

“Shooting victims are down 27%,” he said. That’s almost 600 fewer people shot in the city over the past year.

Stanford says the clearance — or solve — rate for homicides jumped a bit to about 60%, but for victims who were shot and injured: only about 1/3 of cases were solved.

“Our shooting clearance rate is 28%,” he said. “Still working to increase both of those numbers but have to tip our hat off to the investigators that have been working diligently on bringing in the people responsible for homicides and those who are responsible for shootings.”

He says communication between investigators working the cases and boots on the ground has been key — “both in solving some of these cases and clearing some of these cases but also in helping to prevent future incidents by trying to get in front of any type of retaliatory incidents we could possibly see.”

Stanford says the number of officers in the department is at a deficit, there are about 800 open spots.

“To see that we are making significant progress considering that we are down in staffing, it just is a testament to the dedication of everyone involved, and everyone committed to reducing gun violence in this city.”

There were about 30% fewer carjackings than in 2022, but car thefts were up more than 70%. About 23,000 cars were stolen in Philadelphia in 2023.

“We recovered 20,000 vehicles. Our folks are recovering vehicles just about the same rate that they are being stolen,” Stanford said.

He said most of the cars were found fairly quickly, and thieves mostly took the stolen cars on joyrides — “and then you have some folks that are stealing vehicles to commit other crimes.”

Retail theft was up about 27% from this time a year ago, he said.

Stanford credits community groups with helping to intervene in some of the issues on the streets. He will continue his career with the department, after Kevin Bethel is sworn in as the city’s new commissioner on Tuesday.

16-year-old shot in head on Center City subway platform

January 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A 16-year-old boy is in critical condition at the hospital after he was shot in the head on a SEPTA subway platform in Center City Thursday night.

It happened at the 15th Street Station along the Market-Frankford Line around 9:30 p.m.

Investigators are still combing through surveillance video. They say it shows the shooter and victim had some sort of interaction at the City Hall Station on the Broad Street Line. They then walked over to the 15th Street Station, and that's where the shooting happened.

SEPTA Police Chief Charles Lawson says there didn't appear to be any apparent dispute between the two.

"They didn't enter together and we haven't found an interaction between the two yet, prior to the shots ringing out."

What Lawson does know is that the presence of police did not stop the shooting.

He says there were three transit police officers on the platform when the shooting occurred.

An 18-year-old and a 16-year-old have been arrested, according to Philadelphia police. Lawson says both of them have criminal histories. One was arrested on weapons charges two years ago and then again for using a stolen car last year.

SEPTA plans to beef up security gates in South Broad concourse

January 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — SEPTA plans to erect more substantial fencing in the concourse under City Hall, by replacing chain link fencing in the South Broad concourse between 13th and 15th streets with steel panels and gates.

SEPTA has had chain link fencing up in the South Broad concourse since the pandemic. Spokesman Andrew Busch says the transit agency determined the subway concourse near City Hall, and one at 8th and Market streets, required a more secure structure.

“We did a full evaluation of the concourse and identified these locations where we thought it was appropriate to add gating,” said Busch. “It’s not limiting service or taking away any part of the concourse that is not currently closed off. We’re just trying to make it more secure.”

He says SEPTA maintains the South Broad concourse under an agreement with the city and that more secure gates would allow maintenance crews to do overnight work without disruption. The gates would close overnight when the Market-Frankford Line isn’t running, to discourage people experiencing homelessness from disrupting cleaning operations.

“It gives them security that there’s not going to be anybody coming into the concourse when they’re down there cleaning,” he said. “It’s not safe for anyone if the concourse area or our stations are being used as a shelter.”

The SEPTA board will vote Thursday on a \$795,000 contract to acquire the gates, which would be delivered by September.

Police searching for 17-year-old who escaped from custody at Children's Hospital

January 24, 2024

Last updated on Jan. 25, 7:45 a.m.

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police are looking for a juvenile detainee who escaped from custody while at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Wednesday afternoon. The U.S. Marshals Service said he may be driving a stolen blue Ford F-150 with a Pennsylvania license plate ZTS-0503.

“He was wearing a dark-colored blue sweatsuit at the time of his escape,” said Deputy Police Commissioner Frank Vanore. “He's about 180 pounds, 5-foot-7. He has braids in his hair that are pulled over on both sides.”

He was last seen wearing slides or flip-flops when he escaped.

According to authorities, juvenile justice officers brought 17-year-old Shane Pryor to the hospital for a hand injury just before noon on Wednesday.

Surveillance video shows his escape.

"When staff pulled up into the driveway of Children's Hospital, we know now, through video evidence, as the male was exiting that car, he was able to escape from staff and run from this area on foot," said Vanore.

Officials said he was not handcuffed.

After fleeing officers at CHOP, police say Pryor headed toward the area of University Avenue and Civic Center Boulevard. "He left from this driveway," Vanore told reporters, "and crossed the boulevard and ran [from] building to building, pretty much."

Vanore said police searched parking garages, buildings and surrounding areas.

Pryor has been detained at the Juvenile Justice Services Center since he was 14 years old. "It's a murder charge," Vanore said. "He's been in custody from that point, still awaiting trial."

Pryor's attorney Paul DiMaio said his client and another teen were charged in a homicide case, in which a woman was killed in October 2020.

"He's always maintained his innocence. I think he's scared. He doesn't know what's going to happen," DiMaio said. "Getting to know Shane in the past year, he's actually kind of a mild-mannered kid. I don't know why he escaped. I don't know why he walked off."

Although he was not armed at the time of his escape, police say Pryor is nonetheless considered dangerous. Anyone who sees him is cautioned not to approach him but to call 911 or 215-686-TIPS.

The U.S. Marshals Service is also taking tips at 877-WANTED-2.

"If he's out there and listening, he needs to turn himself in," DiMaio said. "We can fight this case. I know he's scared, but the best thing he can do ... if I was to talk to him, I would tell him, 'You need to turn yourself in.'"

A judge recently denied Pryor's request to be tried as a juvenile. DiMaio thinks that may be why he fled. Investigators have not determined a reason for his escape.

Stay with KYW Newsradio for more as this story develops.

FEBRUARY

City Council push against 'stop-and-go' corner stores renewed after police-involved shooting

February 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The recent shooting in which a Philadelphia police officer was wounded and the suspect killed has renewed city council's push to regulate stop-and-go liquor stores and gambling machines.

Philadelphia police released a video of the Jan. 26 shooting that showed the location, called Jennifer Tavern, didn't look like a tavern at all.

"You know, when I look at the video of what happened last Friday night, it just all came back because here was an establishment that's supposed to be a tavern, it's supposed to have seating for patrons, it's supposed to be an asset to the neighborhood, where people can purchase a meal and come in and eat — and it was none of these things."

Jennifer Tavern is a type of liquor store known as a "stop-and-go," which sells shots and other alcohol "to go," even though its license requires food service and dine-in space. Councilmember Cindy Bass targeted the stores as neighborhood nuisances in 2017, but she says seeing video of the incident made her realize that they are still operating with impunity.

"I'm calling out the departments to do the enforcement that we called upon many, many years ago. In seven years you can't get it done? This is absolutely ridiculous that we allow these folks to operate in ways that are detrimental. They are a blight on our community."

Bass proposed, and Council approved, hearings on the matter. The incident also touched a nerve with Councilmember Curtis Jones, who has been trying to regulate gambling machines in corner stores. There are three evident in the video of the shooting.

"They are in every neighborhood in the city of Philadelphia. We don't know how many there are. We don't know how much money they make. Nobody regulates them, nobody taxes them, so they are totally disrespecting the city of Philadelphia.

Jones has reintroduced a bill to outlaw the machines, which passed last session but was pocket-vetoed by Mayor Jim Kenney on his way out of office.

Temple police looking for suspect who fired gunshots into the air during huge teen gathering near Broad Street
February 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Temple University Police are trying to identify the person who they said fired two gunshots into the air during a gathering of hundreds of young people on Broad Street Saturday night.

Temple police released images of the suspect from the weekend gathering. Hundreds of young people met up in the area of Broad Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue, close to Temple's campus — a gathering that was organized on social media, police said.

Temple police were aware of the meetup ahead of time and alerted Philadelphia police, according to Jennifer Griffin, Temple's vice president and chief for public safety.

Initially, there were no issues. But around 5:30 p.m., several fights broke out. A TUalert was issued to students, telling them to avoid the area.

Then just before 6 p.m., police heard a gunshot as they were trying to disperse the crowd. Minutes later, there was a second shot, according to police.

Investigators believe the shooter fired the shots into the air and no one was hit. Within an hour, the crowd was gone.

"I saw the moment when a gunshot went off and they all scattered. It was crazy," Gage Bernstein, a Temple junior, told NBC10. "I haven't seen anything like that before."

Seven teens, ranging in age between 13 and 16, were taken into custody in connection with the incident. They were cited for disorderly conduct, police said.

As police search for the alleged shooter, they are also looking at surveillance and cellphone footage to see if anyone else caused trouble during the gathering.

New Philly top cop Kevin Bethel talks reducing gun violence, helping the city's youth, stop-and-frisk, and more with KYW

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel being interviewed by KYW Crime and Justice

February 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW NEWSRADIO) — Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel has been on the job a little over a month and has inherited a number of ongoing problems in the city, such as gun violence, retail theft, low recruitment, and a rising youth violent crime rate, to name a few.

But with a new administration at his back, Bethel projected confidence on a recent visit to KYW to talk through his plans.

On gun violence — the issue that remains at the top of his list — Bethel said he would continue to focus efforts on the districts where the most gun violence occurs.

“We have about 10 districts that represent about 80% of the violence in our city,” Bethel said.

Youth charged with violent crimes have also increased over the last few years, and Bethel's past experience working as Chief of School Safety at the Philadelphia School District could make him more apt than others to stem the trend.

For him, it starts with parents.

“Being in their lives is the first part,” said Bethel. “Having a positive adult in a child's life we know works, so don't cast that away.”

When it comes to the police department's often fraught relationship with District Attorney Larry Krasner, Bethel struck a conciliatory tone and acknowledged that he and Krasner may not always agree, but could hit a “reset” on the relationship.

Community members push to keep Jenkintown PD independent as its future remains uncertain

February 26, 2024

JENKINTOWN, PA (KYW Newsradio) — The future of Jenkintown's Police Department is at the center of an ongoing conversation between taxpayers and officials. The borough says the rising costs of running it are outpacing population growth.

"I want you all to show me by hands how many of you know our police officers? All 10? How about five police officers?" said Jenkintown Police Chief Thomas Scott.

Jenkintown Police Department is under the borough's general fund, currently taking up about 51% of the budget, according to officials.

During a presentation at a community meeting inside a crowded Jenkintown High School auditorium Monday, town leaders mentioned the financial strains of running the borough, noting several instances of mismanagement with a previous administration and the stress of catching up on tax revenue from the impact of the pandemic.

"How are we going to provide the best service while also being financially responsible?" Scott asked.

He says no decision has been made, but they are exploring other options, like contracting with officers from other towns.

"Our goal is to provide the best public safety to our citizens. If it's sustaining the police department the way it is, then we'll work through that. If it's looking at other options, we'll look at that."

Community members expressed their fears of losing officers they are familiar with if a contractor does take over. They say they want the police department to remain independent

"They are here, they are constantly patrolling," a community member said. "That would not happen with Abington. I'm not discouraging Abington or Cheltenham, but we should not lose such a valuable asset."

MARCH

New Jersey recognized by national study for its efforts to curb firearm deaths

March 2, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — A new study gave New Jersey top marks for efforts to curb gun violence, one of only four states to earn this status.

The national report from the nonprofit Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence found that in 2023, no firearms dealers in New Jersey were cited by the federal government for selling a high volume of guns that were later used in crimes. It's the second year in a row the state received this recognition.

"New Jersey is a leader on gun safety policies, with some of the strongest gun laws in the country — and the third-lowest rate of firearm deaths," read the report.

"Last year we had the lowest number of shootings in New Jersey since we've been tracking them," said Attorney General Matt Platkin. For him, the report proves all of his office's hard work is paying off.

"We have the strongest gun laws in the country, and I'm proud of that. We have successfully defended them against every single challenge that has come our way, and we will continue to do so," he said.

Platkin says his office has approached gun violence from every angle they can think of, including strong laws, enforcement, policing, community engagement, and holding manufacturers accountable.

"Then we use those laws," he said. "We use them to hold accountable violent, serially violent people who are causing havoc in our communities."

Platkin said he's also encouraged by a recent study that proves the viability of microstamping technology, which gives law enforcement additional tools to match guns with shell casings found at the scene of a crime. He urged gun manufacturers to adopt the technology and make it widely available.

More than a dozen shots fired near The Met, injuring 2 men

March 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Two men were shot near The Met Philadelphia on North Broad Street early Wednesday morning.

It happened around 1 a.m. near Broad and Poplar Streets. Police said the shooting stemmed from a party up the block.

Someone fired at least 18 shots, striking two men, ages 41 and 42. One was shot in the leg, and the other was shot in the eye. Their conditions are unknown.

Several cars parked on the street were also hit by gunfire. Two of the bullets hit The Met building.

Police have not made any arrests. Police search for suspect in string of Camden robberies

March 7, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Police in Camden say the same man is responsible for eight robberies since the start of the year and they need help tracking him down.

Investigators believe 53-year-old Mark Long has stolen thousands of dollars from local businesses and caused thousands more in damage from breaking in.

“This individual was gaining access using prying tools and then using the prying tools to open up the register,” said Deputy Police Chief Janel Simpson.

They say Mark Long is believed to be homeless, but is known to frequent the Fairview neighborhood and Mount Ephraim Corridor.

Police want to hear from anyone with information on his whereabouts.

SEPTA ends pilot program that used artificial intelligence to detect guns on the system

March 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Amid a rash of gun crimes, SEPTA has ended a pilot program that used artificial intelligence to detect guns on the system.

Without fanfare, the 10-month pilot program with the Conshohocken-based firm ZeroEyes ended in December. ZeroEyes used artificial intelligence to scan real-time security camera feeds to alert police about people with guns.

SEPTA spokesperson Andrew Busch said only a few guns were spotted during the pilot, which monitored 300 analog and digital cameras on the Broad Street and Market-Frankford lines.

“What we decided was that it wasn’t the right fit for SEPTA police at this time,” Busch said. “There were only a few instances that we saw where the system alerted police to someone with a firearm.”

Sam Alaimo, ZeroEyes co-founder and chief revenue officer, said SEPTA’s mostly analog cameras were largely incompatible with the AI software.

“They’re very old. They’re ineffective. They’re grainy,” Alaimo said. “We built a cutting-edge AI technology to leverage digital cameras, which most institutions have nowadays.”

Alaimo said ZeroEyes’ software is being used at schools, colleges, and federal and commercial facilities in 40 states.

“Our new technology simply does not work well on old security cameras,” he added, “so neither SEPTA nor us [sic] were satisfied with our performance.”

Busch said SEPTA did a blind test with plainclothes officers carrying guns. The transit agency tested 20 digital cameras and 20 analog cameras that were part of the program, but the cameras didn’t detect the armed officers.

Alaimo said SEPTA asked ZeroEyes to figure out a way to use the AI software on the transit agency’s existing cameras. “SEPTA was adamant that they wanted us to function on the analog

cameras,” he said. “While we became slightly better, it was still a degraded performance that we were not comfortable deploying on, and SEPTA was not comfortable deploying on.”

From SEPTA’s standpoint, Busch said it’s not a matter of analog versus digital. “Because we do have a mix” of cameras, he said. “We’ve been bringing cameras online for well over a decade.”

SEPTA received a \$5 million state grant to be used for the ZeroEyes program. The firm approached SEPTA about using some of that money to replace more of its analog cameras with digital ones, but “that was not an acceptable solution,” Alaimo said.

Instead, SEPTA is asking the state to reallocate \$2 million of the grant for camera upgrades and another \$2 million for police overtime related to a separate technology that SEPTA may pursue, Busch said.

SEPTA’s Virtual Patrol Unit, which uses retired police officers to monitor live video feeds from its 31,000 cameras, has helped make arrests in several recent high-profile crimes, Busch noted, including the stabbing death of a Center City Macy’s guard in December 2023.

ECONOMY

JANUARY

Home mortgage rates expected to fall in 2024, but not until the second half of the year, says economist

January 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — It could cost less to borrow money in 2024 after years of interest rate hikes, but that doesn't mean it's going to be less expensive to buy a home. Economists believe the Federal Reserve won't cut interest rates until summer.

The Fed has hiked interest rates 11 times since March of 2022, and the national average for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage hit 8% last year.

"Interest rates took the elevator going up the past couple of years, but they're going to take the stairs coming down," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst with Bankrate.

The national average is now hovering around 7%, and McBride expects the Fed to cut rates no earlier than June.

"Most of that is going to come in the back half of the year, and that's contingent on inflation," he said. "From an interest rate perspective, later in the year will be better than earlier in the year. But the offset to that is if mortgage rates come down sharply, home prices are likely to go up in response."

McBride says inflation needs to continue to come down in order for the Fed to feel comfortable to start to trim interest rates.

"If inflation is stubbornly high, that's going to limit how much the Fed can cut interest rates this year. That's why I only expect to be able to cut rates twice."

McBride says more sellers may list their homes this year as rates come down, but buyers will still have a tough time.

“It’s not really going to do much to ease the affordability pressures because, with the limited inventory and high home prices, those are really going to persist. We might see some modest improvement on the inventory front but affordability is still going to be an issue.”

Buyers may feel pressure to overpay for a home or waive inspection, but McBride says if the competition is that heated, just walk away.

“Making the biggest financial decision of your life under duress is rarely a recipe for success.”

Mortgage rates aren’t all that is expected to drop. Savings rates are also due, he said.

“So if you’ve had your eye on a CD, now is the time to lock in. I wouldn’t expect those to improve as the year progresses.”

Broad Street reopens through Navy Yard after 18-month, \$22M reconstruction project January 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — It’s a straight drive through the Philadelphia Navy Yard again, as Broad Street has reopened after 18 months of construction.

Four lanes of Broad Street between Crescent Drive and Intrepid Avenue reopened Monday after a \$22 million reconstruction project. Broad Street had been built on top of a wooden bridge constructed in the 1800s that connected League Island to the mainland. By 2006, that timber bridge had weakened to the point that two lanes of Broad Street and the sidewalks near the reserve basin were closed for safety concerns.

“Just in the natural course of things, it had deteriorated over time and that resulted in subsidence and cracking in the sidewalk and the travel lanes,” said Kate McNamara, senior vice president for the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) at the Navy Yard.

“Everybody understood that Broad Street needed to be reconstructed — that it was a super-important safety issue and convenience issue and we had to make sure that it was done right.”

With Broad Street reopened, the Navy Yard will need to tweak the software for the driverless employee shuttle it’s preparing to introduce. “What threw us for a loop is the reopening of Broad Street, which we were able to get done. And that just meant that we had to program the shuttle for that piece of the route,” McNamara said. “We couldn’t do it until the road was actually open, so it added a little bit of extra time to the programming for the shuttle.”

The autonomous shuttle should launch in late January or early February, according to McNamara. In addition to the newly-opened travel lanes, a bicycle lane and pedestrian walkway were also built.

Construction also continues on a mixed-use development project that includes 614 apartments. It would mark the first residential development at the Navy Yard since the base closed in 1996.

Philly Water Department receives \$25M grant for improvement projects January 24, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City and state officials on Wednesday celebrated \$25 million in grants to the Philadelphia Water Department for projects to improve drinking water, reduce flooding and make the Delaware River cleaner.

The award was announced by state legislators at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant in Port Richmond. The money comes from \$200 million in federal funds that were awarded to the state for distribution. State Rep. Jordan Harris says Philadelphia is getting more than 10% of the total.

“Philadelphia is one of the oldest cities in the country and because of that, we have an old and aging infrastructure and that infrastructure must be addressed,” Harris said.

Some of the grant money will go to expanding the capacity of the Germantown pumping station to reduce sewer overflow and flooding. Another chunk will go to a long-term plan to improve drinking water quality at the Queen Lane plant in East Falls. The largest share will go to the Port Richmond plant.

Water Commissioner Randy Hayman says the grants will have a big impact. “These are improvements that will touch the lives of Philadelphians. Each of these projects will make our city cleaner, greener and safer and show people how support from the state and federal government can improve the lives of our residents,” he said.

Harris promised more help would be coming from Harrisburg, which delighted Mayor Cherelle Parker.

“Thank you for not bringing home slogans,” she said. “Slogans won’t help us fix our aging infrastructure.”

Elevated Darby Creek Trail project receives \$226K in state funding to finish design phase January 25, 2024

DELAWARE COUNTY, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A new trail that will let hikers walk among the treetops in Delaware County is one step closer to becoming a reality.

A \$226,900 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development is pushing the Darby Creek Trail project into its phase 2 final design, “which means engineering an elevated trail,” said Gina Burritt, the county’s director of planning.

“It’s not your typical trail, but this will really be a neat design feature and a unique section of trail that will be up in the trees.”

Burritt says the trail will span about a half-mile, from Upper Darby through Lansdowne and into Clifton Heights. The project also takes into consideration how the weather affects the creek.

“Because of the land uses and the creek being right there, obviously that is also a feature but it can lead to some flooding concerns,” she said, “so having an elevated trail that will not be as prone to flooding is a big deal.”

Part of the grant will go into figuring out just how this trail will look. “It will give people just a different viewpoint, a different perspective than what they typically see on your standard trail,” Burrit said.

The final design phase has an estimated price tag of \$850,000. According to Burritt, the county hopes to have it wrapped up in the next three years. Construction of the elevated trail, however, won’t come cheap.

“Because of this feature, it will be expensive. We’re at this point thinking somewhere in the \$5 million range,” said Burritt. Right now, there is no timetable on when the project as a whole will be finished.

FEBRUARY

\$1.47M federal grant a boost to Philadelphia's growing electric vehicle workforce February 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia received a \$1.47 million federal grant to develop a workforce program that will train a new generation of workers in the electric vehicle industry.

Through the Plug In Philly initiative, workers will complete a pre-apprenticeship program, which will help launch them into full-time or union jobs in the field. They will learn to build, install, and maintain charging stations for electric cars.

“This grant is going to be used to create 45 job placements,” Mayor Cherelle Parker said, “and at the same time, it’s going to expand the use of electric vehicles in our great city of Philadelphia.”

The long-term goal is to create a more diverse electrician workforce, said Lily Reynolds, director of federal infrastructure strategy for the Philadelphia Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability.

“Today, women and people of color are underrepresented in the trades and in all types of infrastructure careers,” she said. “Meanwhile, new federal investments in infrastructure mean an increase of job opportunities with family-sustaining wages.”

The announcement was made Monday at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 98 training facility at the Navy Yard.

“What we believe now is that if we care about our children, we invest in their future. We don’t just give them jobs — we give them careers,” said union business manager Mark Lynch Jr.

Philadelphia Managing Director Adam Thiel said the city is committed to a safe, clean and green infrastructure installation.

“We need more folks to represent our community who are trained and certified to do the work, and this program will help do that,” he added.

The program aims to enroll the first group of participants in late summer or early fall.

Federal transit officials announce \$317M for new rail cars on SEPTA's Market-Frankford Line

Updated on February 21, 2024

UPDATED: 4:25 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — SEPTA has received a big boost from the federal government to pay for hundreds of new rail cars on the Market-Frankford Line.

Nuria Fernandez, head of the Federal Transit Administration, issued SEPTA a check for \$317 million at a press conference Wednesday, at 69th Street Transportation Center in Upper Darby. “It is the largest single grant that SEPTA has ever received,” said SEPTA General Manager and CEO Leslie Richards.

“About 175,000 riders a day are now going to get better and more reliable service,” said Fernandez.

The grant will fund 200 new cars for the El. The cities of Baltimore and Chicago also received funding.

SEPTA has been looking to modernize the Market-Frankford Line, which the agency calls the “workhorse” of its system. The M-4 cars that are running now have been around for at least 25 years, which Fernandez acknowledged brings them to the end of their useful lives. “It has become challenging to keep those rail cars in service,” said the FTA administrator.

“Constant maintenance and downtime are limiting the number of trains that we can put out on the line every day. It’s preventing SEPTA from providing the frequency and reliability to support the needs of our customers and this region,” explained Richards.

“Replacing these rail cars is our highest priority and this grant could not have come at a more critical time for SEPTA.”

Richards said the transit agency plans to award the contract for a company to build the new M-5 rail cars this summer, and hopes to start using them within the next few years.

This round of federal money comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rail Vehicle Replacement Program, which stems from the bipartisan infrastructure bill that was signed in 2021.

Any bit of money helps, and SEPTA has a huge backlog of projects. Issues have been popping up — last week, a wheel on a work train came off the tracks near Huntingdon Station. That led to a service disruption, and shuttle buses were needed.

Financially, SEPTA faces a fiscal cliff when pandemic relief cash runs out later this year. SEPTA and transit advocates are pushing for Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget proposal, which would increase state public transportation funding. The agency is warning, though, that there could be service cuts and fare hikes if the budget hole is not filled.

Philadelphia tourism made some progress in 2023, but economic impact is still not what it was before pandemic

February 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Tourists still are not flocking to the Philadelphia region like they did before the pandemic lockdowns, but the city's tourism sector last year did manage to make some improvements over the year before.

In 2023, Philadelphia and its five surrounding counties welcomed just under 43 million visitors, and tourists spent just over \$7.5 billion, leading to an estimated economic impact of \$12.4 billion. That's according to a new outlook for 2024 put out by Visit Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Here in Philadelphia, we should be proud of the city that we have," said Angela Val, president and CEO of Visit Philadelphia.

The numbers are slight increases in tourism for the region compared to 2022, but still not at their pre-pandemic levels, which were at a record high for visitors in the region.

"We have definitely made year-to-year progress, so everything is headed in the right direction, although there is definitely room to grow," Val said.

The depletion of some of the savings people were able to grow during the pandemic when travel was restricted is one headwind facing further tourism growth in the city, she added. "So, although demand for travel is still really great, we do expect it to slow down a bit, but not decrease."

The hotel sector, especially, in 2023, still lagged behind pre-pandemic figures in occupancy rate, demand for rooms, and revenue.

“I think one of the things that is impacting the slow recovery in occupancy is that we grew the number of rooms here in Philadelphia County, specifically in the downtown area, about 2,000 additional rooms out of the pandemic.”

Leaders still have an optimistic outlook for 2024, however, two years before the 2026 FIFA World Cup shines an international spotlight on the city and draws throngs of soccer fans from around the world.

“We have a lot of work to get prepared for 2026, but I anticipate that we would’ve reached our 2019 benchmarks by the first quarter of ’25 and definitely 2026,” Val said.

Center City Philadelphia continues to attract new residents, which is helping overall recovery downtown
February 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The number of people moving into Philadelphia’s core continues to grow, according to a Center City District report released Monday.

Foot traffic in the district is still slightly less than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the report shows the number of full-time residents has grown by 6% in the last three years. Unlike many parts of Philadelphia, more people are moving into Center City than are moving out.

Residential growth has been a crucial part of ongoing economic recovery from the pandemic in every sector, says Prema Gupta, who recently took over as CCD president.

“More residents means steady foot traffic, which attracts restaurants and retailers, increases economic activity, and contributes to safety and security,” Gupta says.

“Where we see it very directly is with new retailers in Center City. We’ve heard national experts call Walnut Street one of the preeminent locations for digital-native brands which, frankly, cater to a younger, Millennial, Gen Z crowd.”

Gupta says it also helps with the return to work since CCD has found that employees are far more likely to go into an office if it’s within two miles of their home, and Center City remains the largest job center.

“This report is really optimistic,” says Gupta. “We feel really good that this relationship between new inventory and population follow each other really closely.”

CCD's economic development manager, Lauren Smith, says most of the new residents are coming from other parts of Pennsylvania, but 15% have come from New York City. The majority of Center City residents are 22 to 34 years old, and 80% have college degrees.

"We're looking at affluent young professionals, many of them coming from universities nearby," she said.

Philadelphia leads the nation in converting office space to residential, thanks in part to the 10-year tax abatement — though, Smith adds, candidates for the conversion are dwindling.

"There are very specific things that are needed for a residential building — like windows and elevator access — so identifying those buildings will be important for the future," Smith said.

Center City added nearly 3,000 residential units last year, the highest number in the last five years, according to the report. Smith says there are 7,000 more in the pipeline, and she expects demand to keep up with the new supply.

MARCH

Are you eligible for Pa.'s Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program? Find out at an info session this month.

March 11, 2024

MEDIA, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — With the expansion this year of Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, many thousands of seniors and adults with disabilities are newly eligible for relief up to \$1,000. To help Delaware County residents access the program and find out if they are eligible, several senior centers this month are hosting a series of in-person information sessions.

Starting in 2024, for tax year 2023, the household income limit for both property tax rebates and rent rebates increased to \$45,000, and the maximum standard rebate increased from \$650 to \$1,000. Those changes opened the program up to thousands and as much as doubled the rebate for many who were already eligible.

Applications for 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebates are due by June 30, 2024.

The Department of Revenue has more information online, as well as this tutorial video:

Delaware County Council Chair Dr. Monica Taylor says she wants residents to know about the expanded program so they don't miss out. The one-on-one sessions are meant to get residents access to the information they need, determine their eligibility, and fill out the application.

"It's just very important, when you look at the strains that are on our residents — especially our individuals who are older adults, and those with disabilities," said Taylor.

"You can just come to that senior center to get support."

The relief comes at a good time, too, she says, as property taxes rise and household budgets continue to adjust to the realities of inflation.

"Being able to take at least a little bit of the burden off and being able to provide some relief in terms of property tax and rent rebate — it's really going to have an impact for our community," Taylor said.

Residents are advised to call ahead of time to confirm availability for any of the following upcoming sessions and to schedule an appointment:

March 12 from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Wayne Senior Center
108 Station Rd., Wayne, PA 19087
610-688-6246

March 13, 20 and 27, and April 3 and 10 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Good Neighbor Senior Center
1085 Hook Rd., Sharon Hill, PA 19079
610-586-8170

March 19 from 9 a.m. – noon
Friendship Circle Senior Center
1515 Lansdowne Ave., Darby, PA 19023
610-237-6222

March 21 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Schoolhouse Senior Center
600 Swarthmore Ave., Folsom, PA 19033
610-237-8100

'Chinatown Stitch' now fully funded with federal grant to heal community divided for decades

March 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia has received full funding to put a cap over the Vine Street Expressway. The project is known as the Chinatown Stitch because its purpose is to reconnect the two sides of the neighborhood that were divided when the section of I-676 was built about 30 years ago.

The project will build a park over a two-and-a-half block stretch of the expressway between 10th and 13th streets. Construction is expected to take three or four years.

“This is truly a transformative day in the history of Philadelphia,” said Congressman Brendan Boyle Monday.

He and members of the city’s congressional delegation had gathered to announce that nearly \$160 million from the Infrastructure Bill has been designated for the Chinatown Stitch.

“We will finally be repairing a historic wrong, an injustice that was done to a community.”

When the Vine Street Expressway was built in the late 1980s and early '90s, state and city officials considered dividing Chinatown an acceptable cost. Decades did not heal the community’s scar, but John Chin of the Chinatown Development Corporation says this project will.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of my heart,” said Chin.

He says he was moved to tears when members of the city’s congressional delegation announced the full \$160 million cost would be covered.

Chin has helped the community work with PennDOT for nearly two years on a design for the cap.

“Chinatown’s relationship with PennDOT has come full circle from 60 years ago when it was in charge of constructing that highway and dividing our community,” he said.

“The Chinatown Stitch is transformative. You will no longer see the highway. And it will provide green space and amenities that our community never had.”

Mayor Cherelle Parker applauded the project, which was begun during the Jim Kenney administration — but fitting in with her vision of unity.

“We are going to ensure that we really are one city, because we are bringing together a community that people across our city take great pride in,” the mayor said.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2028.

It has taken more than 30 years to repair the damage done to Chinatown by the expressway. The community is now concerned that a proposed arena on its south side poses another threat.

Delco borough awarded \$425K for much-needed sewer restoration project
March 13, 2024

DELAWARE COUNTY, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A small borough in Delaware County is getting \$425,000 towards a sanitation project aimed at fixing a flooding problem plaguing the area for years.

Colwyn is less than a mile wide but unlike other areas in the region, the town owns its sewer system. But Borough Manager Richard Knox says after many decades, it’s now under pressure and out of date.

“Piping and things change over time,” he said. “We actually have a company going around now replacing the sewer system so we won’t get rainwater into the system which causes overflow and causes us to pay fines if we don’t maintain.”

Flooding from Darby Creek which happens multiple times a year, heavily impacts their neighborhood and sanitary pipes.

“When these outlets get clogged up and we don’t have the proper things in place to receive the amount of water we get from floods it causes that damage to the system,” Knox said.

Knox says he believes the money will go a long way and provide immediate help for residents when the creek inevitably floods.

“Having that updated piping so we don’t get the breaks, we don’t get the collapses in the streets, all the different things that can happen when those pipes are compromised,” he said.

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Bridging Philly: Q1 January, February & March 2024

Prepared by Patty McMahon

Benefits of Dry January | The Philly Goat Project January 06, 2024

Dry January has become an annual international event inspiring all kinds of drinkers to leave the bottles on the shelf for 31 days. The market for mocktails, non-alcohol spirits, wines, and beer is growing, and there are "safe spaces" for those who choose not to drink, but still want to be social. We learn about the benefits of temporary abstaining and the resources people can use to help them overcome their habit. Guests are Erin Goodhart, Executive Director of Core Programming, Pennsylvania at Caron Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centers; Fergie Carey, proprietor of several bars and restaurants in Philadelphia; and Drew Davis, co-founder of Pitman New Jersey's no-alcohol bottle shop and pop-up bar, Gem Life + Bar.

Then, an introduction to the only city-based multi-service goat program: Germantown's Philly Goat Project, which has programs including education, community wellness, animal-assisted therapy, and teen job training with the help of trained goats. Shara in the City talks to Karen Krivit, Director, and Kelly Corrigan, Therapy and Wellness Director of The Philly Goat Project.

Urban Navigation | MLK's legacy of social justice January 13, 2024

Co-founders Don Jackson and Hameen Diggins describe their community organization Urban Navigation as a GPS for urban youth that points the next generation of non-shooters towards gun education and technician training in the inner city and Philadelphia suburbs. Then, this year is the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and Global Citizen's Founder and President Todd Bernstein describes the many opportunities in which to embrace MLK's legacy of social justice at the 29th Annual Great Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service at Girard College.

Pa. House Speaker Joanna McCClinton | Youth America Grand Prix January 20, 2024

Pa. Speaker of the House Joanna McCClinton looks back on the successes and challenges of her first year as the first woman and the first person of color to hold the gavel. With a razor-thin majority, Speaker McCClinton negotiated tax credits for working families' daycare expenses, violence reduction programs, and a public defender fund. Then, Philly hosts the Youth America Grand Prix, an international student ballet competition that draws about 20,000 dancers whose finalists are selected to win cash prizes and scholarships at top schools and companies.

NJ's doula access law | The Lullaby Project
January 27, 2024

Tammy Murphy, First Lady of New and U.S. Senate candidate, describes the new state law that protects a mother's right to a doula throughout pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. Then, creating a deeper bond between parents and young children through music with the Philadelphia Lullaby Project.

Cecil B. Moore Freedom Fighters | The Colored Girl Museum lives on
February 03, 2024

Philadelphia's civil rights movement included the Cecil B. Moore Freedom Fighters, the "young militants" who protested and helped desegregate Girard College, which was a school intended for "poor, white male orphans." We hear stories of police harassment and songs of freedom from the former teenagers who followed their leader and Philadelphia NAACP branch's president's words: "If you stand together, you can make a difference." Then, Vashti DuBois shares good news about the future of The Colored Girl Museum, which has received a zoning variance to continue living in the Germantown house that is her home and museum.

Are you ready for love? | Little Free(dom) Library
February 10, 2024

Is everyone ready for love? A relationship coach and a social worker discuss the humility, inspiration, and personal growth it takes to make heterosexual, same-sex, and non-traditional couples last. Then, taking and leaving banned books by Black authors at Visit Philly's 13 Little Free(dom) Libraries.

Art for all
February 17, 2024

Fine art should be experienced by all people, according to philanthropic Philadelphia art collector Albert C. Barnes. The Barnes Foundation's Martha Lucy leads a tour of modern art and African masks, demonstrating the founder's legacy of accessible and diverse arts education. Lucy has edited a new book, "The Barnes Then and Now: Dialogues on Education, Installation and Social Justice."

Young Chances Foundation | Preserving Mother Bethel AME Church
February 24, 2024

South Philly's Tyrique Glasgow shares his story about owning his South Philly neighborhood drug corner at 12 to founding the Young Chances Foundation, which provides a clothing bank, educational and feeding programs, and school supplies.

Then, Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler describes how a \$90,000 National Trust for Historic Preservation grant to help preserve Richard Allen's Mother Bethel AME Church, a beacon of hope and inspiration for those resisting white supremacy. The church is still growing in 39 countries and five continents.

PA Youth Vote | Legacy Reclaimed: A 7th Ward Tribute
March 02, 2024

PA Youth Votes' Angelique Hinton, Kamryn Davis, and a high school senior explain how they engage future leaders with education and events programming to connect the dots between the issues they care about, voting, and holding elected officials accountable. Then, artists and curators lead a tour of the collective public art initiative, "Legacy Reclaimed: A 7th Ward Tribute," encompassing the blocks between 6th and 23rd Streets and Spruce and South Streets, whose residents once included Richard Allen, Octavius Catto, and W.E.B. Du Bois.

Marian Anderson Hall | Restoring Marian Anderson's home
March 09, 2024

Marian Anderson Hall will soon be the home of the Philadelphia Orchestra. President and CEO of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Matias Tarnopolsky, explains how updating the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall should reflect the diversity and demographics of Philadelphia. Then, a tour of the repair and restoration of the Marian Anderson Museum and Historical Society with its CEO, Jillian Patricia Pirtle. She has been working to put the museum back together after a flood to keep Marian Anderson's music and contributions to the Civil Rights Movement alive.

Evoluer House | Girls Auto Clinic
March 16, 2024

Former fashion editor Cheryl Ann Wadlington has been mentoring urban girls to rise above their circumstances to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty for 20 years at Evoluer House with workforce, professional, and personal development programs. Then, engineer Patrice Banks leads a tour of her Girls Auto Clinic in Upper Darby – an auto repair service - that caters to women where she can get a manicure and car maintenance tips while waiting for her car.

PA School funding | Uncle Bobbie's Coffee & Books

March 23, 2024

How can Pennsylvania public school students who live in a lower-income school district receive an equitable and adequate education like their affluent counterparts? Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Hughes and education advocate Priyanka Reyes-Kaura discuss how state legislators must work with Governor Shapiro and his budget proposal to invest in our communities. Then, we hear why regulars and new guests at Germantown's home-grown, black-owned Uncle Bobbie's Coffee and Books come for the vibe, books, coffee, and stay for music and community.

March 30, 2024

As childcare wait lists grow many busy families are opening their homes to a young person from another country as an affordable care alternative. Cultural Care Au Pair's Natalie Jordan describes their multi-step screening process and cultural exchange benefits. Then, as roller skating returns across the nation, Great On Skates' co-founder India Bernadino creates accessible and affordable "Dope Skate Classes In Philadelphia" at three locations for all skill levels.

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I'm Listening - Q1 January, February, March 2024

I'm Listening / January / Mental Health Seg 1

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Contact: David O'Leary, Host

Airdate: January 28, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones. We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

I'm Listening / January / Mental Health Seg 2

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Contact: David O'Leary, Host

Airdate: January 28, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones. We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Audacy Conversations-State of the Entertainment Industry / February / Seg 1

Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA

Contact: KNX Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson-Hosts

Airdate: February 15, 2024 at 7pm

Category: Media/Entertainment

Description: Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

Audacy Conversations-State of the Entertainment Industry / February / Seg 2

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I'm Listening / March / Mental Health Seg 1

Guest: Victor Armstrong-AFSP, Steve Siple-AFSP Contributor

Contact: David Glover, Host

Airdate: March 17, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Men. Men are less likely to talk about their mental health struggles than women, which is why it's so important to break down stigma and open the door for these conversations. Community and friendships are huge protective factors against suicide. We seek to emphasize the critical role that asking someone directly about suicide plays in suicide prevention and demonstrate how to have supportive conversations with loved ones about mental health and suicide prevention.

I'm Listening / March / Mental Health Seg 2

Guest: Alex Silva-AFSP, Dan Miller-Wounded Warrior Project and Dr. Erin Fletcher-Wounded Warrior Project

Contact: David Glover, Host

Airdate: March 17, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Military and Veterans. Veteran populations face difficulties transitioning from military life and have higher rates of suicide compared to the civilian population. We seek to Understand how Veteran and military culture contributes to existing stigmas is essential to being open about mental health challenges and encouraging those who need it to seek help. Support and resources are available for Veterans that can make a major difference to save lives.

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KYW-AM/WIP-HD2 PHILADELPHIA, WPHI-FM JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT

January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

Station KYW (AM) provides an all-news radio service to Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area at 1060khz AM, with simulcasts on the FM dial on WPHI-FM at 103.9 MHz and WIP-FM-HD2 at 94.1 MHz HD2. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.

This report was prepared and placed in the station's public inspection file on **March, 27th, 2024.**

The report was prepared and reviewed by Newsroom Operations Manager, Dennis Edward.

Bridging Philly is KYW Newsradio's half-hour public affairs show that airs Saturdays at 9:30p and Sundays at 8:30a

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Elections and Politics - Page 46

Gun Crimes and Public Safety - Page 67

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CHILDREN AND HUMAN SERVICES

JANUARY

With the holidays over, COVID-19, RSV and flu cases on the rise

January 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, RSV, and the flu have been on the rise, and health officials expect them to shoot up even more now that holiday gatherings have wrapped up.

Most states have “moderate” to “very high” levels of respiratory illnesses, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. New Jersey is at the “very high” level, while Pennsylvania is “high.” Delaware is one of the handful of states that is “low.”

COVID-19 hospitalizations were up — close to 17% — and deaths were up 10% in the week ending on Dec. 23, according to the CDC.

Health experts are urging people to take precautions to protect themselves and those around them.

“If you can work from home if you’re feeling a little bit sick, that’s a great thing to do,” said Dr. John Russell, chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Jefferson Abington Hospital. “I think people should consider putting masks on again. Not forever and ever, but I think in a time when we’re having so much of this respiratory illness going around, especially if you are vulnerable, wearing a mask in public is not a bad thing.”

At least five states in other parts of the country currently have mask requirements at healthcare facilities. There are no such mandates in the greater Philadelphia area, but in western Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center has one in effect, as of Dec. 20.

Health officials are also urging people to get vaccinated. The CDC released a health advisory in December saying not enough people were getting their shots.

“Low vaccination rates, coupled with ongoing increases in national and international respiratory disease activity caused by multiple pathogens, including influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2 (the

virus that causes COVID-19), and RSV, could lead to more severe disease and increased healthcare capacity strain in the coming weeks,” the advisory says.

Less than 20% of Americans received the updated COVID-19 vaccine, according to the latest figures released by the CDC. That number is on par with the RSV vaccine, which the CDC recommends for adults 60 and older.

An estimated 42% of U.S. adults received the flu shot. Russell said there is still time to get one.

“The majority of flu activity over the last 35 years in the United States has been around February, so it’s not too late,” he assured. “So your doctor, I’m sure, still has the flu vaccine in the refrigerators.”

Record 410,000 Pa. residents have health coverage through Pennie — but some 700,000 don't, and time is running out

January 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — An estimated 700,000 Pennsylvanians currently have no health insurance, and there are just 10 days left to get affordable coverage through the state’s online health insurance marketplace, known as Pennie.

The Jan. 19 deadline for Pennie health plans is actually an extension. Normally, the final deadline is Jan. 15, but that’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day, so state officials added four extra days to give people until next week Friday.

Announcing the extension at Beckett Life Center, a North Philadelphia community center, Pennie Executive Director Devon Trolley pushed back on the three most common reasons people give for not signing up.

First, to those who think they don’t need insurance because they’re young and healthy: Accidents happen, she says. “Think about health insurance as protection against what you can’t control and can’t see coming.”

Second, for those who think they can't afford insurance: There are a variety of plans available, and the cost will never be more than 8.5% of your income. "What you pay for Pennie is based on your income — so, if you make less, you pay less."

She notes some plans cost \$0 a month.

Third, for those who are simply overwhelmed by the process and the options: Help is available, she says. "We have call center representatives that are both English- and Spanish-speaking, and we even have in-person help throughout the commonwealth."

Carol Zachary Smith, Beckett's executive director, says she used to pay \$1,100 per month for a family insurance plan. Now she enrolls through Pennie and gets the same coverage for free.

"It can be a little challenging, but they know a lot," she said. "So I implore you, once you give them the information that they need, they can help you through it."

On the upside, Trolley says, a record 410,000 Pennsylvanians have health coverage for 2024 through Pennie.

All plans cover essentials, including primary care visits, hospitalizations, immunizations, and mental health treatment.

Deptford Mall enforces policy requiring chaperone for teens on weekends

January 17, 2024

DEPTFORD, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Teens must now be accompanied by an adult chaperone on weekend evenings at the Deptford Mall.

A robust retail shopping scene is the lifeblood of Deptford's local economy, and Mayor Paul Medany said he wants to be proactive in preventing theft and any other kind of nuisance behavior.

"We know people are stealing, regretfully, but we want them to know: You come to Deptford, you're going to get caught and you're going to get punished," he said.

Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 25 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, starting at 5 p.m. The over-25 adult can supervise up to four minors.

There will also be more police on patrol at the mall.

Medany said there wasn't a specific incident that prompted the strict policy, but after a meeting with police and mall security, they all decided a curfew would be the best way to avoid potential problems moving forward.

"I want to be proactive," he said. "I don't want any issues or problems. I don't want to wait until something happens and then we react to it."

Medany noted there haven't been any arrests either. "We stemmed any issues. We go up to the kids and tell them 'Listen, you're misbehaving and you have to leave.'"

Other malls, including Cherry Hill Mall and the Fashion District in Philadelphia, have used similar policies off and on in the past.

The whole country is dealing with a rise in retail theft and social media meetups that sometimes get out of hand, Medany added, which he finds unacceptable. He said he wants the township and local businesses to know that they will "aggressively" work to curb retail theft.

"Don't come to the Deptford Mall and do something stupid," he warned.

New law requires NJ schools to issue reports on students' mental health January 24, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Gov. Phil Murphy has signed a new bill into law that requires schools to report on child mental health, as the state is seeing an uptick in teen mental illness and suicide.

The law's sponsor, Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, says it is essential to better understand what kids are going through and why there has been an increase in depression and other mental health disorders in young people.

The goal is to save lives by learning about the best ways of preventing suicide. She said it “focuses on trying to capture what each one of our school districts are actually doing in the schools as it pertains to suicide prevention.”

She says they want to identify some of the best practices being used by schools and find ways to share that with others to hopefully save lives.

“It really helps to formulate what can you do, what’s in our control to do. And these are the things that are definitely in our control, that we can act upon to minimize the negativity around mental health,” Lampitt said.

“We need to increase opportunities for people to find mental health providers.”

According to national statistics, the suicide rate among children ages 12 to 17 increased 16% between 2008 and 2020.

FEBRUARY

New teen center in South Philly offers youth a safe space to gather

February 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A teen center is officially open in South Philadelphia, a place where organizers say kids can be engaged and safe.

Downstairs at the Caring People Alliance, located at 15th and West Porter streets, the South Philadelphia Boys and Girls Club space now has a fresh coat of paint and tables full of activities, ready to welcome local teenagers.

“It’s exciting,” said Jewel Felder-James, director of teen programming. “I just can’t wait to see it fully functioning, seeing kids having fun, and music playing and kids just doing what they want to do.”

She said when she was a teen, she got involved in activities of her own, and they stuck with her years later. “I started caring,” she recalled. “I started wanting to get up in the morning. I wanted to get up and go do those things.”

At Wednesday afternoon’s ribbon-cutting, speakers reminded the audience that the space needed a major clean-up. The 3,350-square-foot, multi-level teen center has new areas for them to hang out and activities ranging from art, technology, podcasting, and more.

“It is a needed place. It helps the kids grow,” said 19-year-old Shakeem Smith, who has participated in the program in North Philly since he was 14. He has since been hired as a mentor for kids coming into the program.

“It gives kids the opportunities to experience what they really want to be in life,” he said. “They can stay away from outside drama, the drugs, the shootings, and everything out there. And also to have a place to experience their talents and become a better person.”

Local parent Teresa Jack helped get support and backing for the space. She said there's a void citywide for teen programming, as well as space to accommodate youth in the city — especially as they age out of activities.

“Having a space where teenagers want to come and be here and be with their peers, be with trusted adults,” she said, “it’s critical, but as a parent, it’s really heartwarming.”

The free center will be open until 8 p.m. every school night.

The space is done, but officials need some help filling it. Caring People Alliance is fundraising to get more equipment and other supplies on its wish list.

Delco’s newest state-of-the-art support center caters to young victims of sexual assault

February 7, 2024

MEDIA, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A new state-of-the-art support center in Delaware County is helping young sexual assault victims get the help they need, while also helping put sex offenders behind bars.

The Family Support Line provides a crucial resource for court cases involving children, especially those who are sexual abuse victims, according to their executive director Sarah Gibbons. She says their new 13,000-square-foot space in Chester Heights, equipped with bright lights, plush seats, and comforting toys, allows them to better serve some of the county’s most vulnerable residents.

“We provide 360 comprehensive child sexual abuse education, prevention education, therapy, and also advocacy,” she said.

Their new children’s advocacy center is critical for their forensic interviewers who are tasked with sitting with children and speaking with them about what trauma they might have experienced. Many of those interviews are used in court to help convict sex offenders.

Gibbons says having a safe, comfortable space is crucial to helping those young witnesses who otherwise might be too intimidated to talk.

“A child having to go to a courthouse or a law enforcement office to testify around what has happened to them is very trauma intensive,” she said.

According to Gibbons, in the last fiscal year, the support line provided more than 400 forensic interviews and saw over 700 kids in the county. So far this year, they’re on pace to see even more in their new space.

Gibbons says they’re using a \$100,000 grant to create a room that provides medical exams, so families don’t have to go to various places and relive their trauma.

Philly Dems raise awareness of new child care tax credit amid filing season

February 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Members of the Pennsylvania House Delegation visited the Early Learning Literacy Academy in Philadelphia Thursday to discuss the expansion of one of Pennsylvania’s tax credit programs.

Pennsylvania’s Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit was created to help ease the costs for working families. Eligible families can claim the credit when they file tax returns.

And now, since the state's credit is the same as the federal credit, Pennsylvania will provide a 100% match to the tax credit. It was previously 30%.

Households with two or more children will see a state credit of up to \$2,100 — and households with one child, up to \$1,050. According to the Department of Revenue, the credit cap phases down as income levels increase.

State Representative Morgan Cephias says childcare plays a pivotal role in the lives of working parents.

“For millions of families across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, particularly here in the City of Philadelphia when we are dealing with a startling 25% poverty rate, access to reliable and affordable childcare is not just a convenience, it's a lifeline,” Cephias said.

Latoya Monroe, owner and director of the Early Learning Literacy Academy, says working just to be able to afford childcare is no way to live.

“The tireless effort that the Pennsylvania House delegation put in to increase this child tax credit will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for many families.”

More than 27,000 working Philadelphians will see their tax credit triple for daycare costs when they file their taxes this year.

Philadelphia City Councilmember goes to battle for better health outcomes for Black women in pregnancy

February 29, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City Council Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson has awarded a foundation of \$250,000 to address the crises of maternal mortality and homelessness among Black women in Philadelphia.

Richardson had her own scare in 2016 while giving birth to her son, she explains. She was in the worst pain of her life, knew something was wrong, and she demanded a caesarian section as she advocated for herself.

“Little did I know at that time, my uterus had ruptured while I was in labor, and if it had been any longer, things may not have ended well,” she said.

Hers is just one of many horror stories Black women experience when they face life-threatening problems during the birthing process.

The \$250,000 will go to the A Home From Shana Foundation, which honors the life and legacy of LaShana Gilmore, who died in 2019 at age 34, while giving birth to her second child.

“I never had the opportunity to know her,” Richardson said of Gilmore. “And I remember hearing about her story. And I said we cannot let her story go, because it happens to too many of us. And I said when I have the opportunity to do something about this issue, we are going to do just that.”

They will establish the first and only maternity safe haven in the United States, called LaborLiveLove, staffed with birth doulas.

“Being pregnant, and giving birth, while Black can possibly be one of the most traumatic experiences that one would ever endure,” said founder Cleopatra Robinson. “As of today, we are still being sent home with chest pain, high fever, excessive bleeding, incisions that show no sign of healing, bad headaches, trouble breathing.”

Robinson was Shana’s best friend and is now, herself, a doula. Statistics show Black women are about four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

“A lot of people are scared. A lot of people don't know resources, and a lot of people don't know where to begin to ask for help. Some people are scared to ask for help,” said Nina Winfield, a Philadelphia mother who was previously unhoused. “I wasn't and I hope that nobody else will be either.”

Winfield received help from A Home From Shana Foundation.

State Rep. Gina Curry, co-founder of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, says they plan to introduce the Pennsylvania Momnibus on March 18. The bill package covers maternal health community funds, commercial insurance coverage for blood pressure cuffs, and commercial insurance coverage for doula services, among other necessities.

MARCH

Former director of the Office of Homeless Services welcomes investigations into overspending under her leadership

March 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Liz Hersh, the former director of Philadelphia’s Office of Homeless Services (OHS), said she welcomes an outside audit and an inspector general’s investigation of cost overruns while she was in charge.

Hersh ran OHS for nearly eight years, from 2016 to October 2023, and faced unprecedented challenges — the opioid crisis, the pandemic, the Parkway encampment — and she’s proud of her record.

“I make no apologies for prioritizing life-saving services throughout my administration and especially throughout the pandemic, the opioid crisis,” she told KYW Newsradio in an interview this week. “Unlike cities across the country, where they stopped providing those life-giving services [during the pandemic], we never closed our doors and we bucked national odds. In Philadelphia, homelessness went down by 22 % between 2018 and 2022.”

City officials say cost overruns began during the 2020 pandemic and accumulated until they totaled \$14 million over four years.

Hersh attributes them to new funding streams that confounded the city’s financial system: federal money the city had never received before, new state grants, all with different rules and timetables, she said.

Overruns are not uncommon. The Philadelphia Fire Department went over budget by \$14 million in one year, in 2023. Fleet services went \$17 million over and subsidies to the Community College of Philadelphia were \$16 million higher than budgeted that year alone.

OHS, though, also postponed payments to providers for months at a time. Hersh says she worked with the providers so they always had what they needed even as she grappled with accounting issues brought on by the pandemic.

“We would all get on the phone sometimes every day, every week, every month, whatever it took to resolve the issues,” Hersh said.

That's why she said she welcomes the scrutiny of her spending.

“I hope it will accelerate the city’s ability to respond to these emergencies when they arise so that the next time the people who are charged with saving lives have the tools that they need,” Hersh said.

City Council is conducting its own investigation. Council member Katherine Gilmore Richardson has even proposed a charter change to create an ombudsman just for OHS.

That is not on Hersh’s list of what the office needs.

“What the Office of Homeless Services needs is enough money to house every single person who is experiencing homelessness, and enough money to pay the providers so their employees aren’t making just \$15 an hour and they can recruit and retain qualified people,” she said. “What I think the Office of Homeless Services needs is a modern financial infrastructure and staffing that supports the kind of complex funding situation we have in getting grants from local, state, and federal dollars.

“And what I think the Office of Homeless Services needs is to be supported in investing in the men, women, and children who are experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia — 70% of whom, in 2022, had never been homeless before. Let’s keep our eye on the ball.”

Federal budget dispute over LIHEAP is putting low-income families in Pa. at risk of utility shutoff

March 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With three weeks remaining for low-income families to get help with utility bills through a well-known utility assistance program, Pennsylvania is running out of money because Congress is withholding any remaining funds.

Some states contribute to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP which helps low-income households pay heating bills and restore service. Since hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians depend on it, the hold-up in releasing the funds would impact the most vulnerable residents.

But Pennsylvania runs its entire program on federal funds so the budget dispute in Washington means a \$2 million shortfall.

Department of Human Services Secretary Val Arkoosh has announced the state is pausing cash grants till the situation is resolved but will not shorten the season and will continue to issue crisis payments for those in imminent danger of a heat shut-off.

Lydia Gottesfeld, Managing Attorney of Community Legal Services Health and Independence Unit, says although she's pleased the state is continuing applications and crisis grants, the situation shows the need for the state to put money into the program.

"We've pushed Pennsylvania to expand our LIHEAP programs so we cover not only heating season but cooling season and to put state funds in the program," she said. "Having state funds in the program would mitigate this crisis that we're dealing with right now."

Gottesfeld expects the budget dispute to be resolved before LIHEAP closes on April 5th.

As child care waitlists balloon, some parents turn to au pairs

March 18, 2024

LAWNDALE (KYW Newsradio) — In 2023, it was reported that more than 35,000 children in Pennsylvania are on waiting lists for day care centers. It's the product of COVID-19 staffing shortages that are still impacting child care services across the country, and it's forced some parents to find other options.

Caroline Bright is one of those parents. She lives in the Lawndale section of Philadelphia, is a flight attendant and is also pursuing her master's degree in Divinity. Her husband is a JAG officer in the Army National Guard and also works for the City of Philadelphia.

They're two parents with very hectic schedules, and when their first child was 18 months old, her husband suggested an au pair.

Bright wasn't buying her husband's proposal at first.

"And I said, No, no, there's no way we can afford that. It's way too expensive. That is not something that we have no way like our house is too small," she said.

The notion that au pairs are only for wealthy families is a common misconception. Au pairs are young people between the ages of 18 and 26 from foreign countries that arrive in the U.S. on J-1 visas to stay with American families and care for their children.

The State Department oversees the program that welcomes au pairs to the U.S. It began as a cultural exchange visa program in 1986. Regulations require au pairs to receive a weekly stipend, room and board, and three meals a day. For Bright, that's a weekly cost of just over \$400.

After some persuading, Bright caved, and now she and her husband are on their second au pair, Issy from the U.K., who they welcomed in October 2022.

"I am not exaggerating when I say that Issy is truly the little sister I never had," said Bright. "And in fact my daughter is very possessive of Issy, and it's really special but we've had so many adventures with Issy."

She said Issy also allows her to have the flexibility that daycare wouldn't allow her. Bright's sentiment was echoed by Natalie Jordan, senior vice president of Cultural Care Au Pair, a designated sponsor of the federal au pair program.

"The au pair program offers an alternative option where families can have accessible care that they can have flexibility to be able to create a schedule that works well for them and for the au pair," she said.

But Jordan did warn that parents must be willing to share space, culture, and traditions with the au pair for it to be successful. Parents that only want someone to take care of their kids should stay away.

"If you're willing to fully embrace a young person coming into your home, and learning some things that might really be brand new to them," said Jordan, citing the metric system or driving on the other side of the road as examples. "These are small things that we might take for granted, but are differences that need patience and time to work through."

According to the State Department, there are approximately 29,000 au pairs currently working in the U.S.

Child advocates already seeking changes to mayor's budget, including more money for schools and pre-K

March 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's budget was not even a week old when advocates began lobbying City Council for changes to her \$6.3 billion spending plan.

The child advocacy organization Children First went office to office last week asking council members to back four changes in the budget: more money for schools, pre-schools, out-of-school time, and diversion programs to keep kids out of the criminal justice system.

Parker did propose an increase in the percentage of city taxes that go to schools, from 55% to 56%, but parent Jazmin Banks said it should be 58%.

“We cannot afford any cuts to the school district budget so that the gains the district has made these last few years are not lost, because the district is facing a fiscal cliff,” she said.

Parker’s budget holds the number of free pre-K seats steady, but parent Savon Almodovar said that number should grow.

“We want 250 more PHL pre-K seats. My child is in one of them, and I thank God for it,” Almodovar said. “Our district is facing a fiscal cliff and our kids cannot afford to move backward.”

Council members say they are open to the advocates’ requests and will keep them in mind as they rework the budget over the next few months. Councilmembers Jaime Gauthier and Rue Landau welcomed the proposals.

“These are things that I support and I’m just looking into the budget to see how the proposal relates to these requests,” Gauthier said.

“Anything we can do to support young people in schools, after-school programs, and in any way in our city, I’m all for it,” Landau added.

ARTS AND CULTURE

JANUARY

**Philly Loves Bowie Week is back — alongside a new exhibit on music’s ability to bring change
January 6, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Nobody gets David Bowie like Philly, especially in early January. It’s the time of year when the city comes together for a week of Bowie-inspired celebrations.

Philly Loves Bowie Week is an annual festival honoring the rock icon, who died of liver cancer on Jan. 10, 2016, just two days after his 69th birthday. There are tribute performances, dance parties, gallery exhibitions, and even a Bowie-focused karaoke night.

Everyone has a story of how they found Bowie, but few have a story like Patti Brett.

“I discovered him when I was 17 years old,” I saw him live in December of ‘72, and seeing that show changed my life.”

Later, Brett was one of the “Sigma Kids” standing outside Sigma Sound Studios as Bowie recorded his legendary album “Young Americans” in Philadelphia. He invited them in to hear the unedited tracks, inspired heavily by the Philly soul sound he’d fallen in love with during his “Diamond Dogs” tour.

Bowie’s bond with the city would grow deeper over the years, not only through regular touring appearances but also a pair of live albums — “David Live,” recorded at the Tower Theater and “Stage,” recorded in part at the Spectrum. Notably, Bowie also narrated a 1978 recording of “Peter and the Wolf,” performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In 2017, Brett, a bartender at Doobies in South Philly, found other Bowie lovers to inaugurate a week of Bowie celebrations in the city. This year, the annual Philly Loves Bowie Week runs now through Jan. 13.

On Friday night, The National Liberty Museum kicked off the festivities with its fourth annual Bowie Bash.

“Oh, who isn’t a Bowie fan?” asked museum CEO Alaine Arnott. The event this year comes alongside the opening of the museum’s “Amplified” exhibit, which showcases the power of art and music to spur social change.

“A lot of people come and they expect it to be about protest music or big events and what we really found is that it’s really most important to talk about the personal connections,” said Aaron Billheimer, the museum’s director of exhibitions.

“The nostalgia the people have, the way they’re moved by the music, that’s what actually empowers them to cause the social movements.”

For Billheimer, the late singer-songwriter evokes both nostalgia — but also empowerment, through his ever-shifting styles and personas. “He was a person who was fluid and kind of traveled through different social norms and sort of represents all of us,” he said, alluding to how the singer elided the boundaries of gender during the 1970s.

Brett, for her part, couldn’t be happier to pair the Bowie Week kickoff with the “Amplified” exhibit, which runs through April 8. “I think it’s a perfect match ... I think he would be blown away by it,” she said.

“He’s been so influential to so many people with, you know, being who you are, don’t care about what people think, do what you want to do.”

Or as Bowie himself — as Ziggy Stardust — summed it up, “Let all the children boogie.”

Rowan University to build healing arts center thanks to \$1M donation

January 6, 2024

GLASSBORO, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Rowan University will be the site of a new healing arts center, thanks to a donor who says painting helped change his outlook on life after he was paralyzed.

A \$1 million gift from Dr. James George will fund the creation of the healing arts center in his name. George worked for decades as an emergency medicine physician, until a fall paralyzed him. He says painting became a passion during his recovery at Magee Rehabilitation Center in Philadelphia.

“When I was in Magee rehab hospital, just barely beginning to recover some movement on my left side, I could just put marks on paper. And then after a couple of weeks of that, I discovered color, and I ended up painting every day when I was at Magee,” he said.

“That, for me, has been a miraculous gift of art in my life after my accident.”

George says he’s right-handed but gained function in his left side first, and he found joy and inspiration in learning something new. He says this turned into the passion that helped push his limits of mental and physical recovery.

He now hopes to share this experience with others through the creation of the new center, “which would collaborate with a wider and wider network of healthcare institutions, community groups, Rowan students, and other folks,” he explained.

“It gave and gives me great personal satisfaction and it keeps me active,” George said, “so all of those things are reasons why I decided to do this.”

Rowan’s Creative Arts and Communications Dean Sanford Tweedie says the Dr. James George & Family Healing Arts Center will be available to patients, their families, students, and just about anyone else they can help.

“He hasn’t used this phrase yet but he’s said it before: he sees this opportunity for the healing arts as a weapon of mass improvement,” Tweedie shared.

Rowan President Dr. Ali Houshmand says George is a longtime member of the Rowan community who leads by example — and helping to unlock the healing power of creativity may be the greatest gift of all.

Philly Art Commission gives final, unanimous approval to Harriet Tubman statue project January 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia’s new Harriet Tubman statue is one step closer to taking its place outside of City Hall, as officials gave final approval to the project.

The Philadelphia Art Commission unanimously approved the commission at a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, allowing the city to begin the contracting process with artist Alvin Pettit. The Jersey City-based Pettit was chosen last October to create the statue after an open call to artists was narrowed down to five finalists.

All five finalists were presented to the public in an online survey that received nearly 3,000 responses. Pettit’s design scored the highest in every category, including likeness, essence, and emotional and educational qualities.

The statue will be titled “A Higher Power: The Call of a Freedom Fighter,” and will stand on the northeast apron of City Hall upon its completion. According to the city’s Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, it is inspired by Tubman’s Civil War heroism, including an 1863 battle where she led 150 Black Union soldiers and rescued more than 700 enslaved people. Tubman was the first woman to lead an armed military operation in the U.S.

“As the first ever woman mayor of Philadelphia, I am thrilled that the first piece of public art to be approved under this administration will be this statue of a Black woman who fought for freedom here in Philadelphia,” said Mayor Cherelle Parker.

OCT. 30, 2023

Pettit says the statue, which depicts Tubman with a rifle across her arm and her hands clasped in prayer, is also inspired by a 1975 painting of George Washington at Valley Forge. “Since [George Washington] is considered by most to be the primary founding father of our nation, I

feel it is only fitting to reimagine this famous image with Harriet as the founding mother of freedom,” said the artist.

A permanent Tubman statue has been in the works since 2022 after a traveling statue of the abolitionist received positive feedback from Philadelphians. The Kenney administration commissioned that statue’s creator, Wesley Wofford, to create the permanent work.

However, the choice of Wofford, a white sculptor from North Carolina, received pushback from many Black artists from the area, who were upset that the city automatically chose to move forward with Wofford rather than offer local artists, including those of color, the opportunity to submit their own designs.

Curtain up! Ensemble Arts Philly takes center stage as presenting brand for former Kimmel Cultural Campus

January 14, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — What's in a name? Ask the Kimmel Cultural Campus, which has changed its name to Ensemble Arts Philly.

The Kimmel Cultural Campus may have been known as the centerpiece of performance on the Avenue of the Arts, but the name was difficult to distinguish from the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, which is a single venue within the campus.

“What we were finding was that people were showing up with a ticket to the Academy of Music at the beautiful Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts,” said President and CEO Matías Tarnopolsky.

The organization is hoping to clear that up by making Ensemble Arts Philly the presenting brand for shows at the Kimmel Center, Miller Theater, Academy of Music, and Forrest Theater. The newly named Ensemble Arts Philly will present just about every performance that would play before on the Kimmel Cultural Campus.

The musical “Ain’t Too Proud” currently running at the Academy of Music, “Girl From the North Country” coming to the Forrest Theatre, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra coming to Verizon Hall inside the Kimmel Center, are all Ensemble Arts Philly shows.

Ensemble Arts Philly will also present “Hamilton” in 2024 and “MJ the Musical” in 2025.

The Philadelphia Orchestra, which performs at the Kimmel Center, will maintain its own brand and website, but tickets will also be available on the Ensemble Arts Philly website.

“For the first time ever, you could buy a ticket for a Broadway show and a Philadelphia Orchestra performance in the same shopping cart,” Tarnopolsky said.

Tarnopolsky says the new name is all about bringing people together.

“Ensemble is a warm embrace. It's a unifying concept. Ensemble Arts Philly is about bringing the audiences, the communities, of Philadelphia together with the great artists and performances of our day in our beautiful venues.”

FEBRUARY

Black cinema classics take center stage this weekend at Philadelphia Film Center February 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Classics of Black cinema, as well as movies that flew under the radar are on display this weekend at the Philadelphia Film Center in Center City.

The five-night Black Cinema Weekend series kicked off Black History Month on Thursday with a screening of Zeinabu Irene Davis’ 1991 romantic drama “A Powerful Thang.” The Philadelphia Film Society, which operates the Film Center, followed that on Friday with that same year’s seminal coming-of-age story “Boyz N the Hood.”

The Film Center also has a series of events scheduled over the weekend before the films, including everything from a celebration of Black women filmmakers to a family-fun trivia night. Black Cinema Weekend runs through Sunday.

“What I love about film in particular is that it has a power to spark conversation, show you something, and have you grapple with it as a community,” said Joshua Campbell, director of education for PFS. He worked alongside education and programming coordinator Yace Sula to assemble the lineup.

“What I love about this program specifically, it’s a plethora of varying narratives of Blackness that aren’t necessarily explicitly about Blackness,” shared Sula. “It’s just about being a person in this world and navigating the things you navigate in life, but you can’t separate Blackness from that.”

The selected films also honor the achievements of their creators, like “Boyz N the Hood” director John Singleton. Singleton made the movie right out of film school and received Oscar nominations for Best Original Screenplay and Best Director — becoming not only the youngest, but also the first Black director to be nominated.

“The best way to honor the likes of a John Singleton is to continue that work, and to continue uplifting Black filmmakers and filmmakers of color, and giving them the opportunity to continue the work that he did,” said Sula.

The movie’s themes of gun violence, police brutality, and family are just a few that some of the other films this weekend will grapple with while showcasing the complexity of Blackness. “It’s asking us, in this moment, ‘Have we really grown, have we really learned, have we really evolved if this thing is still happening?’” said Campbell.

Several dozen Black creatives gathered Friday evening for a cocktail hour before entering the theater to see the Singleton classic. Jae Rich was the mind behind the cocktails, and she has a whole slate of them to go with every movie being shown across Black Cinema Weekend.

“We called it Sweet Cinematics, and that was infusing flavor with film, and I decided to theme all of the drinks around the movies,” said Rich, who called Friday’s drink “Concrete Jungle.”

“We came up with these amazing ideas,” she added. “How can we help people experience all of the amazing things that the Philadelphia Film Society has?’ Just movies, but they also have an amazing bar experience here.”

Six other movies will be showcased this weekend, including “Sweet Sweetback’s Baadasssss Song,” credited with kicking off the Blaxplotation wave of the ‘70s, and 1982’s “Losing Ground,” the first movie directed by a Black woman since the 1920s.

Also on the schedule are the supernatural drama “Eve’s Bayou,” starring Samuel L. Jackson, and the boxing biopic “Big George Foreman.”

Camden County College unveils exhibition highlighting legacy of Black baseball figures

February 5, 2024

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — A new exhibition now open at Camden County College showcases the impact Black athletes had on baseball.

The exhibition, “A League Apart,” focuses on the importance of breaking barriers with a series of historic photos and stories about Philadelphia Negro League baseball, as well as five Black individuals whose impact on the game is immeasurable.

Camden County Commissioner Jon Young says this is a great way to teach Black kids about the Black heroes of baseball.

“I think these stories and these types of exhibits really highlight baseball at a time where baseball is kind of teetering a little bit and trying to find some new identity,” Young said.

Visitors will find Octavius Catto in the exhibit. “He founded the second Black baseball team in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Pythons,” Young said.

South Philadelphia Little League phenom Mo’ne Davis is also there. “Everyone knows that great story and how she broke some boundaries,” Young said.

Also on the roster are Ed Bolden, Pop Lloyd, and Phillies legend Dick Allen.

“Dick Allen belongs in the Hall of Fame. We all know that. The guy was a hell of a slugger,” Young said.

Admission to the exhibit is free at Camden County College’s Cherry Hill campus, and it will be open until May 20.

Banned books by Black authors get new life in Little Free(dom) Libraries

February 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Visit Philadelphia has launched a new initiative for Black History Month to make hundreds of banned books by Black authors available to readers.

The Little Free(dom) Library project is aimed at encouraging Philadelphians to explore Black history. Together with the Free Library of Philadelphia and Little Free Library, Visit Philadelphia placed boxes in 13 visitor hubs across the city. More than 1,500 books by Black authors are distributed through those boxes.

According to free speech nonprofit PEN America, more than 30 states have banned certain books by Black authors. As Visit Philadelphia's CEO Angela Val says, the Little Free(dom) Library initiative demonstrates Philadelphia's commitment to making these stories accessible to both visitors and residents.

"We understand that our history in America can be complex but we celebrate it here in Philadelphia," said Val, "and we do that by also telling Black stories — which are also American history stories."

Loraine Carter and her two daughters spent the weekend visiting Philly museums, historic houses, and the Little Free(dom) Libraries. She calls the project outstanding but warns the books are going fast.

"We took books and when we came back ... many were already taken. They were gone," she said.

The Little Free(dom) Libraries can be found throughout the city at the following locations:

1. Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street
2. Columbia North YMCA, 1400 N. Broad Street
3. Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, 2027 Fairmount Avenue
4. Faheem's Hands of Precision, 2100 S. 20th Street
5. Frankford Community Development Corporation, 4667 Paul Street
6. Franklin Square, 200 N. 6th Street

7. Historic Germantown, 5501 Germantown Avenue
8. Johnson House Historic Site, 6306 Germantown Avenue
9. Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, 419 S. 6th Street
10. Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
11. The Independence Visitor Center, 599 Market Street
12. The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 300 S. Broad Street
13. South Street Off Center, 407 South Street

Marian Anderson Museum and historic church to present one-day pop-up exhibit, 'Faith, Music and Community'

February 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Marian Anderson Museum is partnering with the historic Tindley Temple United Methodist Church on Broad Street for a Black History Month event honoring two very special people in the singer's life.

Jillian Patricia Pirtle, a National Marian Anderson Scholar artist with the museum, says faith, music, and community are at the heart of the pop-up exhibit experience: "Faith Music & Community."

"They are important because they foster the story of the Black community in Philadelphia," said Pirtle.

The exhibit examines the lives of Rev. Charles A. Tindley and opera singer Marian Anderson — both connected to Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Center City.

"The reason why this is so significant is because Marian Anderson's mother was a lifetime member of the church. And because of that, Marian Anderson had several meaningful concerts there during her lifetime and career in honor of her mother."

Tindley headed the church during the civil rights movement of the 20th century. Both Anderson and Tindley were integral in the church's involvement in civil rights and in lifting up the Black community.

“It’s a brand-new experience. Philadelphia has never seen it before. An exhibition that features Rev. Charles Tindley and everything he did to build a bridge of faith for the Black community in the 1800s into the 20th century — and Marion Anderson’s significant role with that and her family.”

Pirtle says the one-day event — Sunday, Feb. 25, at 1 p.m. — will include recordings and live performances.

On display, visitors will find photos, artifacts, and sheet music from Marian Anderson and the church’s historic collections, showcasing the essential roles faith, music, and community played in American history.

“These things are a rich part of the story of what makes Black Philadelphia the experience it has been since 1663.”

MARCH

After decades in the dark, historic Lansdowne Theater set to reopen as a concert venue this fall

March 14, 2024

LANSDOWNE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The last time the Lansdowne Theater hosted guests was Independence Day 1987 for a showing of “Beverly Hills Cop II.” An electrical fire damaged the theater and the owner walked away, leaving it untouched for more than 35 years.

Now, tickets are available at the historic Delaware County theater, but not for movies on the silver screen. It is being converted into a live music venue.

Construction started in August 2023 and is expected to be completed by the fall of this year. The Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation used grant money and donations from the community to transform the former movie theater into a state-of-the-art concert hall.

“The borough forgave some of the building permits, so that saved us money. The county has made a significant financial investment in the building, as has the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government,” said Matt Schultz, executive director of the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation.

The building, which opened in 1927, has old but strong bones, Schultz said. He is in charge of preserving its character, and he's doing so by keeping some pieces intact, like the projection booth equipment.

"This is how they controlled all the lights in the theater, through this board," he described. "It's disconnected. We're just going to keep it as a relic of the days that movies were shown here."

Concertgoers can expect new seating that resembles the theater's original chairs, a cash bar, and a stage that can support bands and their equipment.

"We're going to extend the stage overtop of what was the orchestra pit," he said. "When movies would be delivered to the theaters, sheet music would be delivered [too], so the organ would play along. We're not sure how frequently they did it, but there would be a pit orchestra here of maybe four or five people playing along with the organ."

The theater tested out the stage with a performance by a capella group Straight No Chaser. Schultz said the size of the venue made it an intimate show.

"I got to introduce them," he said, "and when I stepped out on the stage and looked at this big auditorium, I felt like I was standing in my living room. Because when you have that many people, it just makes it tiny, which makes it a great place to see a show."

The theater's first official acts will be Hot Tuna, Don McLean, Will Downing, and Southside Johnny in December.

Concertgoers can see the venue's progress for themselves on April 13 at an open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the theater's old ticket booth for \$20.

Ensemble Arts promises big hits and even bigger names in 2024-25 Broadway season

March 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Ensemble Arts, the new presenting brand of The Philadelphia Orchestra and The Kimmel Cultural Campus, announced its 2024-25 Broadway season full of current and past hits that have captivated audiences.

As Francis Egler with Ensemble Arts highlighted, among heavy hitters like “Les Miserables” (which kicks off the season on Aug. 27) and “Hamilton” (beginning on Oct. 29) is a Philly classic.

“We’re really excited to showcase the amazing new revival of ‘The Wiz’ and [it] has everything from home and [a] brand new day, so many songs that we haven’t had a chance to present on stage in Philly,” she said.

“The Wiz” began its pre-Broadway tour in Philly at the Forrest Theatre in 1974. It would hit Broadway in 1975.

On the whole, the season will feature 12 shows and run between Aug. 27, 2024 and July 27, 2025. The caper in July of next year is “Life of Pi.” During the holiday season there’s also a variety of exclusive touring productions and children’s favorites like “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

Philly’s Jewish history museum could become part of the Smithsonian

March 21, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Bipartisan-backed legislation was introduced in Congress to try to make Philadelphia’s Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History a part of the Smithsonian Institution.

Lawmakers want to establish a commission of nine people to “study the feasibility of transferring” the Weitzman to the Smithsonian, a press release from the Jewish museum says.

If integrated, the Weitzman would become the 22nd museum under the Smithsonian but would remain in Philadelphia.

“Our museum’s location here on Independence Mall, here in Philadelphia is very intentional,” said Chief Public Engagement Officer Emily August. “A lot of people have asked us over the years, ‘Why aren’t you in D.C.? Why aren’t you in New York?’ And the answer seems so clear to us.

“When you come to a museum and explore American Jewish stories in that location and look out the windows across at the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall and Independence Hall, it’s a really powerful feeling.”

After the commission process, another round of legislation would be needed to officially make the transfer. August said it would be an exponential opportunity for the Weitzman to tell American Jewish stories on the Smithsonian’s level.

The legislation was introduced in the House by U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and backed by several other lawmakers, including Pennsylvania Rep. Brendan Boyle and Sens. Bob Casey and John Fetterman.

‘We are all Jonathan Larson’ — In ‘Rent’ composer’s ‘other show,’ a tribute to Philly’s creative community

March 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Theatre Horizon’s production of the rock concert-style musical “Tick, Tick... Boom!” in April is an exercise in autobiography on a couple of levels.

The musical, written by the late Jonathan Larson — who later won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for “Rent” — is about a composer who’s about to turn 30 and struggling to get a show produced.

Robi Hager, who directs and stars in Theatre Horizon’s production, is a lyricist and composer himself. He has performed on Broadway, but he always returns home to Philadelphia, where he says he has found a strong theater community.

“I think there’s a sense of community here, that everybody is in on the same plane, that we all collaborate together to make art. And that’s been really, really exciting,” Hager said. And he says his aim with this production is to use Larson’s story to pay homage to the people of that community.

“And as many, many, many composers — even here in Philadelphia, that I know, that are friends of mine — that part of what I want to do with this show in this version is to represent them as well — as what it takes for young composers to step away from being a ‘young promising composer’ [to become] a composer that is making a living off of it.”

Hager says the echoes of Philadelphia’s creative community show up in more concrete ways on the stage, as well.

“We decided to add a little bit of that touch in our set — of other composers that have inspired me, and composers who are still on the rise who are friends of mine. We have some of their sheet music put in decoupage, on the wall in the back to be like: We all are, in some way, a version of Jonathan Larson.”

In “Tick, Tick... Boom!” the main character, Jon, sees his friend succeeding at a corporate job and has to decide if he wants to keep struggling and pursuing his art, or turn to something more lucrative but less fulfilling.

“I’m excited to do the show, because I’m kind of hitting that wall a little bit. You know, the arts is the first thing to go when it comes to funding. So that’s the thing — like, I love doing this so much. I love performing. I love writing,” Hager says.

“But how much longer do I have it in me when I see other people stepping away from that art form and getting that house, getting that car, getting all these things? Not that it’s a material thing that I’m looking for, but it’s stability.”

Hager wrote a musical in 2021 called “Little Duende,” which had a reading in New York City but was not picked up by any producers. He’s now working on another musical, “Siluetas,” that will be produced in Philadelphia by Power Street Theatre.

“Tick, Tick... Boom!” is co-directed by Steve Pacek and also stars Angel Sigala and Montgomery County native Elena Camp. It opens April 4 and runs through April 14. Tickets are available on Theatre Horizon’s website.

EDUCATION

JANUARY

Education advocates say boosting Pa. school funding by billions would meet the Commonwealth Court mandate

January 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As Gov. Josh Shapiro prepares his budget proposal, education advocates are recommending how Pennsylvania should fund K-12 schools in a way that would meet last year's court mandate.

Last year, the Commonwealth Court ruled that Pennsylvania's system of funding education was unconstitutionally inadequate and inequitable. A coalition of groups called PA Schools Work has released a recommendation on how to satisfy the court.

Dan Urevick-Ackelsberg, senior attorney with the Public Interest Law Center, said adding \$6.2 billion to the state's education budget over the next five years — with a \$2 billion increase in the first year — would meet the court's directive.

"They have to fill this \$6.2 billion adequacy gap within five years. It's a big number," he said. "We don't pretend that it's not a big number, but it's also an urgent problem."

Donna Cooper, executive director of the nonprofit Children First, said Shapiro should step up when he delivers his budget address next month.

"We know and hope that he agrees with us that this is the right time, this year, to right the unconstitutional wrong," she said.

A bipartisan panel called the Basic Education Funding Commission is expected to present its school funding recommendations to the governor and state Legislature next week.

New PA legislation to require mandatory financial literacy course for high school graduation

January 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Pennsylvania high school students will soon be required to take a personal finance course in order to graduate.

“While it’s important to understand biology and history, they’re not going to be using them in their day-to-day living,” said Cindy Axelrod, a finance professor at Temple University’s Fox School of Business.

She says teaching financial literacy at a young age will set students up for success.

“When you graduate high school you’re 18 years old and you’re suddenly thrust out into the world and you don’t have the financial tool to be able to succeed financially. Suddenly, you have bills to pay, you have independence.”

The new graduation requirement will be implemented in the 2026-2027 school year.

According to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, a school entity or nonpublic school must provide a mandatory course in personal financial literacy worth at least half of a credit.

Students will have to complete the course once during their high school career. Ed Nelling, head of the finance department at Drexel University’s LeBow College of Business, says it’s been considered taboo to talk about money in the past, but sharing financial successes and failures with your children can help them in the future.

Pennsylvania is one of 25 states to pass legislation requiring financial literacy courses for high schoolers.

Murphy calls for Camden School Board president to resign amid sexual assault allegations

January 19, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Camden’s School Board president has taken a leave of absence amid allegations of sexual assault of a student in the 1990s. New Jersey’s governor is asking for him to resign immediately.

Wasim Muhammad was a social studies teacher at Cooper B. Hatch Middle School in Camden when the victim, in eighth grade at the time, says he began calling her beautiful and grooming her for a sexual relationship.

Her attorney, Jeff Fritz, says Muhammad had sexual encounters with her for years — in classrooms, at motels, and at his home, which is near the school. Fritz says he claimed her as one of his multiple wives when she turned 18 in 1997.

“Mr. Muhammad is claiming that she was a wife of his, a spiritual wife, through the Islamic faith. She denies that,” Fritz said.

Camden School District is also named as a defendant in the civil suit. Fritz says there’s reason to believe administrators knew about this relationship.

“She was unable to come forward for years, in fact, decades, due to embarrassment, humiliation, and a fear that she wouldn’t be believed.”

A spokesperson for the district says their top priority continues to be the safety and well-being of students.

Gov. Phil Murphy says the allegations are heinous and believes Muhammad should resign.

Muhammad’s attorney has not responded to a request for comment.

Expected \$400M budget shortfall has Philly district delaying year-round schools pilot
January 31, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With a big budget deficit looming, the School District of Philadelphia is taking a more cautious approach to its pilot program for year-round schools.

Superintendent Tony Watlington has made a pilot of up to 10 year-round schools part of his five-year “Accelerate Philly” plan, with a projected cost of about \$25 million. However, with a projected budget shortfall of \$400 million next year, Watlington tells KYW Newsradio that the district is backing off of the accelerator.

“We want to make sure that we have the resources not just to do this, but to do this well,” Watlington said, “so we’ve delayed a communication about next steps until we see what the budget looks like.”

Mayor Cherelle Parker — who talked about her desire for year-round schools during her campaign — clarified her position on Tuesday, at Watlington’s “State of the Schools” address.

“Some people refer to it as out of school time. I called it year-round school during the campaign,” she said. “You can call it whatever you want to call it, but I want our young people to have access to those opportunities year-round.”

Watlington says he’ll have a more complete picture of any year-round school pilot later this semester.

FEBRUARY

Philadelphia School District hires administrator to help reduce dropout rate

February 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Thousands of Philadelphia public school students drop off the rolls each year, with no explanation. A new administrator is joining the Philadelphia School District with the sole focus of preventing dropouts.

At the end of last school year, 3,600 students had disappeared from the district's attendance rolls, with no information about why they weren't in school anymore.

As of December 2023, the district listed more than 1,900 dropouts for the current school year. That's about 900 fewer than December 2022, but Superintendent Tony Watlington said it's still too many.

So, he's hiring someone to tackle the issue.

"We're going to bring aboard a new assistant superintendent who will focus exclusively on coordinating our dropout efforts across the school district," Watlington said.

Dr. Melvin Marshall, a former high school principal in Guilford County, North Carolina, will become the district's latest assistant superintendent. Marshall was an assistant principal at Dudley High School in Greensboro — the same school where Watlington served as principal two decades ago.

"It's a school where we had a significant improvement in student achievement and significant decreases in the dropout rate," Watlington said. "He has experience significantly improving student outcomes, including for children of color, and for significantly reducing the dropout numbers and increasing the four-year graduation rates."

Watlington said Marshall will work with the city, the Philadelphia Housing Authority, and other agencies to keep students in school.

"We have a very tightly coordinated intergovernmental strategy, and we won't stop until we get the dropout numbers down to zero," he pledged.

Watlington pointed to a study that determined every dropout costs the city \$405,000. Because students who drop out generally don't have good life outcomes, he said keeping students in school is a moral issue for the district.

Marshall comes to Philadelphia from North Carolina, but Watlington noted that he has promoted several assistant superintendents from within the Philadelphia School District in recent months.

Community College of Philadelphia scholarship offers financial boost to LGBTQ, under-represented minority students

February 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A historic nonprofit and the Community College of Philadelphia are working together to give LGBTQ students a financial boost for higher education.

“We love our community and we want to make sure that all of our community get the opportunities that everyone else has,” says Christopher Cirillo, with the nonprofit Philly AIDS Thrift at Giovanni's Room.

The goal is to help bridge a gap in resources for LGBTQ students.

“They're discriminated against — not always just by their peers but also their families — so they don't always have the opportunities that a lot of other people have,” Cirillo said.

The Ed Hermance Scholarship was established to create opportunities for LGBTQ and under-represented minority students pursuing higher education at the Community College of Philadelphia.

“Last year was our 50th anniversary, and we decided one of the best ways to celebrate was to honor one of the longest-standing managers of Giovanni's Room itself — that's Ed Hermance. So they decided to start a scholarship in his name.”

Annually the scholarship fund will offer \$1,000 to 50 incoming and current full- and part-time students in good standing at the Community College of Philadelphia, Cirillo said. Applications for the scholarship are being accepted now. The deadline is June 30.

Philly AIDS Thrift at Giovanni's Room supports organizations fighting against HIV and AIDS. Giovanni's Room is the oldest LGBTQ and feminist bookstore in the country.

Study: Philly schools outpacing other urban districts in pandemic recovery
February 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A recent study shows Philadelphia schools are outpacing other urban districts in recovering from the pandemic.

The report by Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research and the Educational Opportunity Project said, compared to other large and poor urban districts, Philadelphia's math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress tests have recovered from the pandemic the fastest, and its reading scores showed more post-COVID growth than only Chicago.

Schools Superintendent Tony Watlington touted the Harvard study at the school board's Goals and Guardrails meeting Thursday night.

"Anytime the School District of Philadelphia can get in first place in terms of rebound and improvement, we should celebrate and applaud our students and staff," he said.

Overall, of the urban districts that took the tests, Philadelphia ranked near the bottom. Watlington, though, told the board that it's important to recognize growth.

"It validates that we're on the right track. We're making some significant progress, and yet, we have a long way to go and a lot of work to do," he said.

"We should not immediately say, 'Well, the test scores are too low anyway.'"

He says they need to let teachers and students know that success begets more success.

“We've got to start looking at the glass as half full and not just always half empty.”

One way to address the teacher shortage: Pay student-teachers for their time, lawmaker suggests

February 27, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Pennsylvania State Sen. Vincent Hughes, union leaders and administrators gathered at Science Leadership Academy at Beeber Monday to discuss ways to ease the state’s teacher shortage.

The Philadelphia School District started the current year short of more than 200 teachers. Superintendent Tony Watlington says it’s a reflection of the fact that between 2011 and 2022, there’s been a huge drop — about 71% — in people seeking teaching careers.

Recognizing the decline, Science Leadership Academy started a course for students seeking teaching careers.

“The pipeline program is doing what it has set out to do: To spark that interest,” said Instructor Njemele Anderson.

But beyond interest there are financial obstacles, said Melody Dorsainvil, a Temple University senior majoring in early childhood education.

“From tuition to books to transportation, there were very few days where I wasn’t anxious about how I’d be able to keep going,” she said. “During a majority of my college career, I’ve had to work two or three jobs to try and stay afloat.”

One strategy promoted by Hughes is to pay student-teachers for their time. Pennsylvania State Education Association President Aaron Chapin endorsed the idea.

“Paying our student-teachers a modest stipend will remove a significant barrier in becoming an educator and help ease the staff shortages in the years ahead,” he said.

Last year, lawmakers approved \$10 million to pay student-teachers up to \$10,000 each. Gov. Josh Shapiro is looking to expand the program in his current budget proposal.

MARCH

Philadelphia School Board VP resigns ahead of new board nominations

March 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As Mayor Cherelle Parker prepares to pick a new Philadelphia School Board, one influential member is taking her name out of the running.

School Board Vice President Mallory Fix-Lopez had applied to be considered by Parker for reappointment, but she has since withdrawn her name and announced her resignation, effective April 18.

Her decision to step down isn't political, she said. It's personal. With two young children in school and a medical procedure coming up, she said she couldn't commit to a new four-year term.

"When I started this, I had one child that was 3 years old. Now I have two that are 8 and 4. Both of them will be in school this fall and I really want to be deeply committed to their school and engaged," she said. "When I really thought about that much more deeply, over the past couple of weeks in particular, I had to be honest with myself that I don't have four more full years."

Fix-Lopez, who teaches at the Community College of Philadelphia, has been a member of the school board since 2018 when the district returned to local control.

"We had to build this board from scratch. I think just helping it have a structure, have governance policies is huge," she said.

Among her accomplishments, Fix-Lopez lists the expansion of multilingual services, a renewed board focus on academic achievement, and a policy supporting trans and nonbinary students. The latter led to mandatory training across the district and the creation of gender-neutral bathrooms in schools — something "the policy called for, but never existed," she said.

"I feel like I really helped set things in motion for the next board to carry through and to bring their own ideas and new lenses to it," Fix-Lopez added. "But it's my time to go to focus on my family."

Board President Reginald Streater has said he would like to continue on the board. The Educational Nominating Panel on March 12 is expected to give the mayor 27 names, from whom she can pick nine to serve on the new school board.

Gov. Shapiro discusses his higher education ‘blueprint’ at West Chester University
March 7, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Gov. Josh Shapiro on Thursday shared his vision for the future of higher education in the commonwealth. Speaking at West Chester University, he proposed significant tuition drops for lots of students.

According to Shapiro, Pennsylvania ranks 49th in the U.S. in state investment in higher education, and 48th for affordability. He said he wants to change those numbers.

With a placard on the podium in front of him reading “Freedom to chart your own choice,” the governor delivered his new “blueprint for higher education,” focusing on competition and workforce development, as well as access and affordability.

“My plan builds a strong pipeline between our community colleges and our [Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education] universities and invests in the future of our students and our colleges,” Shapiro said.

The governor unveiled his plan in January, ahead of last month’s budget address. Under the initiative, state system universities and community colleges will unite under a new governance system, and Pennsylvanians making up to the median income will pay no more than \$1,000 in tuition and fees per semester at those schools.

“We need to make sure that they have a low-cost, high-quality higher education at any one of our Pennsylvania colleges or universities,” he said.

Shapiro told lawmakers that his plan, if passed, would take Pennsylvania from 49th in the nation in higher education investment to 22nd place.

He also encouraged lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to give their input on his blueprint. “We put forth a thoughtful plan that we are now giving to lawmakers and others,” said Shapiro, “to allow them to help inform that plan so that we can get it done together.”

Republican lawmakers were cool to his plan, however. Pa. Rep. Seth Grove, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said the plan lacked key details, particularly on financing. He also claimed it would open families and businesses to significant future tax hikes, and that it funds institutions over students.

Bipartisan legislators call for overhaul of New Jersey’s school funding formula

March 19, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are calling for an overhaul of New Jersey’s school funding formula, as they say it is too unpredictable year to year and leaves many school districts caught off guard.

School funding will increase by \$900 million, totaling \$11.7 billion for the next budget year. Despite this massive increase, more than 130 districts are seeing reductions in state aid.

Democratic state Sen. Vin Gopal, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said one of the schools in his district lost \$10 million from last year’s aid total.

“We need to make sure there is at least three- to five-year budgeting so a district is not on the hook all of a sudden, like Long Branch, where they’re down \$10 million and they got three weeks to figure out how to cut \$10 million from their budget,” he said. “That’s layoffs. That’s real people.”

Year to year, districts often don’t know what to expect from the state, with millions of dollars in fluctuations. Over the last several years, Gopal said increased transportation and special education costs have put districts in a tough spot.

This is the last year for the current funding formula. Republican state Sen. Owen Henry agrees with the need for multi-year budgeting.

“And now we have the opportunity to fix this,” he said. “Some districts need relief now. We need to do some short-term solutions, but at the end of the day, long-term solutions. These districts need to be stabilized.”

Both senators also believe that the state isn’t doing enough to support students with special needs. Currently, the state funds about 70% of special education, but there is no headcount of the total special needs students in each district. Instead, funding is estimated by a census formula based on population.

“It has to be tiered,” Henry suggested. “What are the needs for every individual special needs [student]? Is it a tier one? Is it a tier five, where that student needs to be placed out of district?”

Special education advocate John Mulholland said magnet schools do the best job with special education under the current system, adding to a district’s costs.

“If you create fair funding that actually supports students where they are, it doesn’t disincentivize districts from trying to do the right thing,” he added.

Principal at Edison High uses award money to open e-sports room for students

March 19, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Students at Philadelphia’s Edison High School who behave well and get good grades can earn time in the school’s new e-gaming room.

Principal Lillian Izzard used the \$20,000 she received last year as a Lindback award winner to outfit a little-used school room with flat screens, arcade games, furniture, and a colorful mural with a comic book vibe. She made the decision after speaking to her students.

“When I was awarded the \$20,000, this would have been the best thing for them – to have a place for them to be able to gather,” Izzard told KYW Newsradio.

There’s only room for 15 students or so, in a school of nearly 1,000 students. So they earn game time by having good attendance, performing well academically and staying out of trouble. Senior Kevon Cottle says he spends about a half hour each week in the room. “Since I’m a senior, it’s like really stressful now. And the fact that I get to play some games inside school makes it fun.”

Students are rewarded with time in the game room by scoring points through the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support system. "I do my classwork, homework. Sometimes I just help other teachers just so they would give me points," Cottle said.

Senior Damyan Santiago interrupted his Spider-Man game to say the game room provided a welcome break to bond with friends. "I'm often, like, trudging away on my senior project," he said. "Coming into a nice place to release some steam is really great."

The eSports room is purely for fun now, but Izzard hopes to eventually incorporate computer science education into the new game room.

ELECTIONS & POLITICS

JANUARY

The new year brings a flurry of new laws to Philly region, including wage bumps in NJ and Del. — but not Pa.

January 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As the calendar flipped from '23 to '24, new laws took effect in nearly every state. A higher minimum wage in Delaware and New Jersey and criminal justice reform in Pennsylvania are among the new laws now taking effect.

Nearly 10 million American minimum wage workers stand to benefit in 22 states that are adopting laws to pump up paychecks. Raises range from a 35-cents-an-hour hop in some states to big leaps of more than a 1 dollar for workers in Maryland, Hawaii, and Nebraska.

The minimum wage in New Jersey increased by \$1 when the clock struck midnight, taking it to \$15.13 per hour. Delaware raised its minimum wage to \$13.25, with another planned increase that will put it at \$15 per hour next year.

Pennsylvania's minimum wage remains at \$7.25. That's the federal minimum wage — which hasn't budged since 2009, despite a 40% jump in inflation since then. In all, 20 states remain at that baseline minimum wage.

The Keystone State did, however, pass a flurry of new laws aimed at criminal justice reform before the legislative session ended, last month.

Incarcerated people in Pennsylvania will now have an easier road to returning home. Under two new laws taking effect, criminal records for non-violent drug convictions can now be sealed, so people leaving jail can return to the community more easily, and offenders will stay on probation for shorter periods of time.

Incarcerated women in Pennsylvania now have more protections. Male guards can no longer do full body searches on them and pregnant inmates can't be put in solitary confinement.

The state is also cracking down on people who steal packages left outside homes. A third offense will now be a felony.

The Pennsylvania attorney general's power to prosecute local offenses has expanded, especially in Philadelphia, where a new law puts the AG in charge in the case of crimes on or near SEPTA property. District Attorney Larry Krasner has denounced the new law as taking away his prosecutorial discretion.

And Pennsylvania dog owners, be aware: All dogs must now be licensed by the time they're 3 months old.

Pennsylvania and Delaware now join New Jersey in allowing automatic voter registration when drivers receive or renew their licenses.

In Delaware, guns are banned at polling places, schools and recreation zones. And the First State gave tenants the right to legal representation during eviction proceedings and legalized marijuana, allowing heavily regulated sales of the drug.

New Jersey eased access to birth control (women can now get self-administered birth control without a doctor's prescription), mandated menstrual products in schools and expanded protection-from-abuse orders to include victims who have no dating or familial relationship with an abuser.

And telemarketers calling New Jerseyans now have 30 seconds to identify themselves and the reason for their call.

New federal guidelines will end highway signs deemed 'too edgy' and distracting for drivers

January 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has updated its manual of regulations governing street and highway signs, and those made with pop culture references or intended humor are no longer allowed.

It means classic quips made on New Jersey signs — “Nice car. Did it come with turn signals?” — and PennDOT holiday warnings — “Only Rudolph should drive lit.” — are banned from use beginning in 2026.

New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti told KYW in November that the FHWA believed the signs could be misunderstood by drivers.

“FHWA a year ago was concerned that the signs may have been too edgy or too distracting,” she said.

But Gutierrez-Scaccetti shot back that the humorous approach can make the message more memorable.

“I think when people see something that catches their eye, that they chuckle over — or they go home and tell their kids — yeah, you remember it,” she said. “Does it make them slow down? I hope in the moment it does.”

Under the new guidelines, only “simple, direct, brief, legible and clear” messages are permitted.

In a statement to KYW, the FHWA emphasized that “the safety of all road users is the priority,” and said it supported the use of “changeable message signs” operated by state transportation departments.

“States are expected to exercise good judgment in how and when they use changeable message signs for traffic safety messages, and in their specific wording of the messages,” it continued.

The FHWA then pointed to its manual when considering the nature of those messages.

Moratorium on New Jersey brewery restrictions extended by 2 weeks

January 2, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Brewery owners in New Jersey have temporary relief from some restrictions on events and menu offerings, and they hope a permanent solution is close.

A bill to remove the restriction on the number of events a brewery can host was passed by the state legislature, then conditionally vetoed by Gov. Phil Murphy. A six-month moratorium on enforcement expired at the start of the new year, but Alcoholic Beverage Control extended the moratorium by two weeks.

While Murphy hoped for a larger overhaul of New Jersey's liquor laws, that hasn't happened yet and brewery owners are stuck in the middle.

"Those restrictions though are set to go back into place on Jan. 16," said Eric Orlando, executive director of the Brewers Guild of New Jersey. He said the group is hopeful a new bill will be on the agenda in Trenton in the next few days.

"Based on the conversations that we have had with both the legislature and the governor's office, I think there is a commitment to try to get rid of these restrictions within the next few weeks," said Orlando.

"I'm hoping that possibly this Thursday there will be action on that legislation with the hopes of getting it on the governor's desk by next week."

Orlando said the constant fits and starts with the bill have been difficult to digest, but he's happy to see removing regulations that are harmful to breweries seems to be a priority in Trenton. However, as this is a lame duck session, Orlando acknowledges that brings some uncertainty to the table for an issue he wishes was already settled.

What to know about abortion rulings, bills and campaigns as the US marks Roe anniversary

January 22, 2024

Since the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade ruling on Jan. 22, 1973, the time around the anniversary has always been marked by rallies, protests and political pledges.

This time, after the 2022 ruling that overturned the nationwide right to abortion that Roe provided, there's a flurry of activity as state policy gets decided by courts, lawmakers and voters.

It's also giving Democrats, including President Joe Biden's reelection campaign, a chance to rally voters around abortion access.

Abortion opponents also rallied last week in Washington with a context that's different from past editions of the annual March for Life. There's no longer a nationwide right to abortion and 14 states have bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy. But the political fallout has boosted their opponents more than them.

There were still some traditional anti-abortion rallies, including one in St. Paul, Minnesota, where an estimated 2,000 people attended, with many placing what organizers described as life-size models of fetuses on the steps of the state Capitol in protest of policies that protect abortion access.

Here's what to know about several developments.

Ballot drive launches in Colorado, campaign in Maryland

At least a hundred people gathered on the steps of the Colorado Capitol on Monday to launch a signature campaign for a ballot measure to enshrine abortion rights in the state's constitution. A cardboard sign read, "Someone you love has had an abortion," as state lawmakers and the Colorado attorney general bunched around a microphone and the crowd cheered.

Colorado's legislature passed abortion protections last year, but "if we don't enshrine it in the constitution, we will be at the whim of lawmakers," said Nicole Hensel, executive director of New Era Colorado, one of the coalition of groups behind the Coloradans for Protecting Reproductive Freedom campaign.

Colorado has become an island of abortion protections as surrounding states installed restrictions after Roe was overturned. The Cobalt Abortion Fund based in Colorado spent six times the amount helping people get abortions in 2023 as they did in 2021.

Advocates in Maryland also used Monday's Roe v. Wade anniversary to begin their campaign to support the ballot measure to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution that's already on the ballot there for November.

The only other state where a statewide vote on abortion rights in 2024 is sure to happen is New York, where the proposed amendment includes protecting reproductive freedom.

But similar votes are under consideration in more than a dozen states.

Since 2022, abortion rights supporters have prevailed on all seven statewide ballot measures.

Lawmakers in Wisconsin, and Maine consider ballot measures

Lawmakers in two states scheduled hearings for Monday as first steps to ask voters to change abortion policy. Both face uphill battles.

In Maine, Democrats are pushing for a measure that would protect reproductive autonomy in the state constitution.

Democrats control both chambers of the Legislature and the governor's office and, under state law, abortion is allowed at any point throughout pregnancy, if it's deemed necessary by a doctor.

But advancing a measure to voters would require the approval of two-thirds of both legislative chambers. To reach that, several Republicans would have to vote in favor of asking the public to vote.

In Wisconsin, a GOP proposal would ban abortion after 14 weeks of pregnancy.

Republicans control the legislature there, but Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, would likely veto the measure if it passed.

Currently, abortion is available in Wisconsin until fetal viability, but there's litigation over whether an 1849 law that conservatives interpreted as banning abortion should apply.

Missouri activists choose an amendment to support

A coalition of abortion rights supporters in Missouri decided last week which of 11 amendment proposals to support.

They went with one that would allow lawmakers to restrict abortion access only after viability — generally considered to be around 23 or 24 weeks gestation age — when a fetus might survive outside the uterus.

The decision from groups including the state ACLU chapter and Planned Parenthood chapters is one solution to a debate advocates have been having on whether to support measures that allow some abortion restrictions.

The Missouri measure would allow abortion later in pregnancy to protect the life and physical and mental health of the woman.

Some moderate Republicans are pushing a competing amendment, which would allow abortion up to 12 weeks in most cases, and between then and viability only in pregnancies resulting from rape or incest or in medical emergencies.

Under Missouri law, abortion is banned at all stages of pregnancy, with an exception to protect the life of the woman — but not in cases of rape or incest.

Biden Administration sides with Oklahoma hospital

In a decision made in October but not revealed publicly until last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that an Oklahoma hospital did not violate federal law when doctors told a woman with a nonviable pregnancy to wait in a parking lot until her condition declined enough for her to qualify for an abortion under the state's strict ban.

The ruling was the latest in what's emerged as a major legal question as most Republican-controlled states have imposed abortion bans: When do exceptions apply?

In other situations, the same federal agency has maintained that hospitals would violate federal law by turning away women seeking an abortion amid medical emergencies.

Pending lawsuits from women who assert they were wrongly denied an abortion address the issue.

Even as the Biden administration ruled in favor of the hospital in the Oklahoma case, it's planning to help people file complaints under the law that's intended to ensure emergency health care access.

FEBRUARY

Former Atlantic City politician charged with ballot fraud in 2022 general election

February 1, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — South Jersey political operative Craig Callaway has been charged with submitting fraudulent mail-in ballots in the 2022 general election.

Federal authorities allege Callaway, a former City Council president in Atlantic City, gathered vote-by-mail ballots and cast them in the 2022 election, in the names of people who said they never voted.

U.S. Attorney Philip Sellinger said Callaway, about a month before the election, paid messengers between \$30 and \$50 each to gather applications from people who supposedly wanted to vote by mail. But according to Sellinger, after the applications were processed, the messengers took the mail-in ballots from the Atlantic County clerk and gave them to Callaway.

Under the law, messengers are required to deliver mail-in ballots directly to the people who requested them. Callaway, 64, is charged with one count of fraudulently procuring and casting ballots.

“Holding free and fair elections is a bedrock principle of our democracy,” Sellinger said in a statement. “As alleged in the complaint, the defendant attempted to deprive New Jersey residents

of a fair election by fraudulently procuring and casting ballots. Today's charges reflect our office's commitment to hold to account those who try to undermine the electoral process."

Callaway previously served 3 1/2 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to bribery in 2006.

City Councilmember introduces affordable housing legislation, but one measure could hurt public schools

February 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Councilmember Jamie Gauthier plans to introduce a package of bills at Thursday's meeting aimed at increasing access to affordable housing.

Gauthier is proposing several measures. One would beef up the language in the Fair Practices Ordinance to specify that landlords cannot discriminate against renters using housing vouchers.

It already prohibits "source of income" discrimination, but she said that hasn't stopped landlords from refusing to accept vouchers. Her bill would not only clarify that vouchers are included but would make it easier for renters to seek a legal remedy if they're denied.

Another bill involves the money paid by developers so they can build more densely than zoning allows. Gauthier proposes that it get redistributed to parts of the city seeing the biggest increases in development, to provide funds for affordable housing.

A third proposal would freeze property tax increases for people making under \$33,000 a year. That, though, would hurt the School District of Philadelphia, since it receives most of the property tax revenue and is already facing a \$400 million deficit next year.

NJ bill would prohibit cable service termination fees for customers moving to long-term care facilities

February 6, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Early termination fees are built into many contracts for cable, phone and internet service. A new bill advancing in the New Jersey Senate would prohibit service providers from imposing those fees on certain people suffering hardships.

The financial distress experienced by people who need extended medical treatment at long-term care facilities shouldn't be made worse by burdensome utility fees, according to bill sponsor, Sen. Robert Singer.

"This will affect thousands of people because, unfortunately, we have an aging population in New Jersey," Singer said.

The senator says some people are paying \$250 a month for cable, phone and internet bundles and there should be no red tape preventing them from canceling the service if they are moving into a nursing home.

"The fact of it is, if you terminate your gas or your electric, it ends that month. Cable should be the same thing."

He says this would apply to anyone who will be out of their home for at least 90 days for medical reasons.

The bill has received committee approval, and Singer hopes it'll be up for a full vote next month.

City Council committee votes to advance bill that would outlaw casino-style gaming machines in Philly stores

February 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City Council is back to in-person hearings for the first time in nearly four years, and the very first one — last week — showed how different it can be from a Zoom hearing.

After a long and sometimes heated hearing, the Public Safety Committee voted to advance a bill that would prohibit so-called skill game machines in corner stores and other spots where they may create a nuisance. The machines operate like arcade video games but can pay out like casino games. They are totally unregulated and untaxed.

Sponsor Curtis Jones said the machines create a dangerous environment, drawing would-be thieves lying in wait for someone to win.

“It’s a preponderance of things: When you sell loosie cigarettes; when you sell liquor by the drink and when you have these kinds of gambling machines, it almost creates a watering hole for prey.”

The bill has already passed City Council once, but Mayor Jim Kenney pocket-vetoed it by not signing it before leaving office, so this is the second hearing on the matter. The first one, last year, on Zoom, was quick with no opposition. This one took 3 ½ hours and was dominated by opponents like store owner Akash Patel, who said his store would suffer without the income from the machines.

“Why are you punishing honest, hard-working, tax-paying constituents?” he said in testimony.

Ari Marshand, who owns Xtreme Skill Games, Inc., said regulation is needed but not a ban.

“Right now, Philadelphia is known around the country as the Wild West of skills games. It’s an absolute atrocity what is happening in Philadelphia,” said Marshand, who has proposed turning the machines into revenue generators for the city by requiring permits that would also allow the city to track numbers and locations of the machines.

Supporters of the bill, such as Andy Toy of the Community Development Corporations Association, testified they create an unsavory atmosphere.

“Because of the amounts of cash at these locations and people hanging out for hours, they can become hostile and potentially unsafe places for others in the community,” Toy said.

Patel got into sometimes heated exchanges with councilman Jeff Young, attending his first hearing as a Council member.

“Should we as a city allow people to shoot dice outside your business establishment?” Young asked.

“Absolutely not. That would be very dangerous,” said Patel.

“My point is about the loitering that happens in these communities where these machines are,” said Young.

While City Council grapples with the issue, Gov. Josh Shapiro has recently proposed imposing state taxes on the machines.

In the end, the committee voted unanimously to advance the bill. It now goes to the full Council for a vote.

MARCH

New Jersey businessman pleads guilty and agrees to cooperate in Sen. Bob Menendez's corruption case

March 1, 2024

NEW YORK (AP) — A New Jersey businessman pleaded guilty Friday to trying to bribe U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, admitting that he gave the senator's wife a car to influence him and agreeing to a deal with prosecutors that calls for him to testify in the corruption case against the powerful Democrat.

Jose Uribe, of Clifton, New Jersey, entered the plea in Manhattan federal court to seven charges, including conspiracy to commit bribery from 2018 to 2023, honest services wire fraud, obstruction of justice and tax evasion.

As he described his crimes in court, Uribe told Judge Sidney H. Stein that he conspired with several people, including Nadine Menendez, to provide her with a Mercedes-Benz in return for her husband “using his power and influence as a United States senator to get a favorable outcome and to stop all investigations related to one of my associates.”

He said he also hoped the gift would, if necessary, stop a “possible investigation into another person who I considered to be a member of my family,” according to a transcript of the proceeding, which the media was not told about before it happened.

Uribe said he made certain payments on the Mercedes “in a manner to conceal my involvement because I knew it was wrong. I knew that giving a car in return for influencing a United States senator to stop a criminal investigation was wrong, and I deeply regret my actions.”

According to a plea agreement, Uribe could face up to 95 years in prison, though he could win leniency by cooperating and testifying against the other defendants, which he's agreed to do. He also agreed to forfeit \$246,000, representing proceeds traceable to his crimes.

Uribe was among three businessmen charged in the corruption case against Menendez and his wife, which was revealed last fall. Authorities say the couple accepted bribes of cash, gold bars and the luxury car in exchange for his help and influence over foreign affairs.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty.

Uribe remains free on a \$1 million bond, which was set when he was arrested. His plea deal, dated Thursday, was signed by him on Friday.

Uribe's attorney, Daniel Fetterman, declined to comment. David Schertler, a lawyer for Nadine Menendez, declined to comment. Lawyers for the senator did not immediately comment.

Menendez, his wife and the two other New Jersey businessmen are scheduled to go on trial in May.

Federal prosecutors allege that Menendez, the former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, used his position to take actions that benefited foreign governments in exchange for bribes paid by associates in New Jersey.

An indictment contends that Menendez and his wife took gold bars and cash from a real estate developer, and that the senator used his clout to get that businessman a multimillion-dollar deal with a Qatari investment fund.

Menendez is also accused of helping another New Jersey business associate get a lucrative deal with the government of Egypt. Prosecutors allege that in exchange for bribes, Menendez did things that benefited Egypt, including ghostwriting a letter to fellow senators encouraging them to lift a hold on \$300 million in aid.

Menendez also has been charged with using his international clout to help a friend get a multimillion-dollar deal with a Qatari investment fund, including by taking actions favorable to Qatar's government.

Uribe was accused of buying a luxury car for Nadine Menendez after her previous car was destroyed when she struck and killed a man crossing the street. She did not face criminal charges in connection with that crash.

The indictment has said the senator helped Uribe by trying to persuade prosecutors to go easy on one of his business associates who was the subject of a criminal investigation.

Uribe provided more information about his involvement in obstruction of justice crimes from June 2022 to 2023 during his plea hearing Friday, saying that after investigators sent him a subpoena related to the probe of the senator, Nadine Menendez contacted him through another individual.

He said he met with her later that afternoon at a Marriott hotel, where she asked him what he was going to say if somebody asked him about the car payments.

“I told her that I would say a good friend of mine was in a financial situation and I was helping that friend to make the payments on the car, and when she was financially stable, she will pay me back. Nadine says something like: ‘That sounds good,’” Uribe told the judge.

He said he later told his attorneys the same version of what happened and they transmitted that “false story” to prosecutors with his approval.

“Late in 2022, I received a check from Nadine paying me back for the car payments. I then deposited the check,” he said.

Rare public spat among City Council members breaks out in Thursday meeting

March 21, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Council members got into a rare public tiff at Thursday’s meeting when the Council president refused to allow a woman to speak about the war in Gaza during the public comment period.

The rules of Council say the public can only comment on legislation that’s up for a vote. The war in Gaza was not on the agenda, so when Kate Perez began speaking about Gaza, Council President Kenyatta Johnson interrupted her.

“I think I should be allowed my full two minutes to talk about Palestine,” Perez protested.

“Ms. Perez, could we just speak what’s on the actual bill?” asked Johnson, before ultimately cutting off her microphone and calling for the next speaker.

That prompted a rare public rebuke from Councilman Curtis Jones.

“When there is something egregious that is happening, we don’t want to fight the Middle East war here in City Council but doggone it, we have to be fair,” he said. “This is Ramadan. (I could) introduce a bill to allow her to speak. We can do it privately or we can do it real public.”

Jones went back and forth with Johnson until Council’s majority leader, Katherine Gilmore Richardson called for “orders of the day,” which means debate must stop. After the session, Jones and Johnson both said there were no hard feelings.

“There’s no bad blood,” Jones said, with Johnson adding, “For the record, this is us just having a spirited conversation.”

Council passed three significant bills at the meeting. One prohibits corner store gambling machines, which Council members say have become a nuisance and even a potential danger in vulnerable neighborhoods. Another bill outlaws devices that flip license plates, allowing drivers to evade police. The third imposes a curfew on businesses in Kensington that sponsor Quetcy Lozada says are problematic.

“This is just another tool we’re going to be able to use to respond to some of the illegal and disruptive activity that occurs after 11 p.m.,” said Lozada.

All three bills create new enforcement challenges for police and the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

New Parker administration policy requires city spokespeople get permission from mayor's press office before speaking to media

March 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's administration has imposed strict controls on her staff's interaction with reporters, which can hinder coverage of city government.

In January, KYW Newsradio contacted the fire department to confirm the address of a fire, in order to tell listeners to avoid the area. The spokesperson said she could not provide the information without first getting permission from the managing director's office and the mayor's press office.

This policy had been laid out in an email from Managing Director Adam Thiel saying — in capital letters — “NO MEDIA INTERVIEWS, SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS, OR STATEMENTS OF ANY KIND UNTIL/UNLESS APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS.” It immediately ran into trouble from librarians who alerted patrons they might not be able to post information about events or changes to hours.

At the time, the mayor's spokesman Joe Grace said the email had been misinterpreted. A short time later, police, fire, and the Office of Emergency Management were permitted to speak without advance permission.

However, the gag stayed on others, even cabinet-level commissioners, stifling the flow of information that reporters depend on to give the public an accurate picture of how the government performs.

The control of the message extends beyond limiting who can say what. Last month, after the press office sent out an email saying the mayor had no public events, it invited two — and only two — media outlets to a public event, effectively excluding all other coverage.

Grace says he is done talking about the policy because it is, in his words, “inside baseball,” meaning it isn't of interest to anyone except reporters. But privately, communications staff in other departments complain it adds time and extra steps to their job of keeping the public aware of what their government is doing.

Supreme Court seems likely to preserve access to the abortion medication mifepristone

March 26, 2024

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday seemed likely to preserve access to a medication that was used in nearly two-thirds of all abortions in the U.S. last year, in the court's first abortion case since conservative justices overturned *Roe v. Wade* two years ago.

In nearly 90 minutes of arguments, a consensus appeared to emerge that the abortion opponents who challenged the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the medication, mifepristone, and subsequent actions to ease access to it lack the legal right, or standing, to sue.

Such a decision would leave the current rules in place that allow patients to receive the drug through the mail, without any need for an in-person visit with a doctor, and to take the medication to induce an abortion through 10 weeks of pregnancy.

Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, the Biden administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, said the court should make clear that the anti-abortion doctors and organizations that challenged the FDA's relaxation of restrictions on mifepristone don't "come within 100 miles" of having the legal right, or standing, to sue.

Even three justices who were in the majority to overturn *Roe* posed skeptical questions about standing to the lawyer for the abortion opponents. Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch, and Brett Kavanaugh are former President Donald Trump's three Supreme Court appointees.

Barrett, for example, seemed to doubt that the doctors identified by lawyer Erin Hawley could show that they were actually harmed by the FDA's actions, one of the requirements for showing standing.

"The difficulty, to me, is that the affidavits do read more like conscience objections," Barrett said.

Abortion opponents are asking the justices to ratify a ruling from a conservative federal appeals court that would limit access to mifepristone, one of two drugs used in medication abortions.

The FDA approved mifepristone in 2000. Over the last quarter-century, the agency has made accessing the drug easier, most recently in 2021, when they allowed providers to send the pill through the mail amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The high court's return to the abortion thicket is taking place in a political and regulatory landscape that was reshaped by the abortion decision in 2022 that led many Republican-led states to ban or severely restrict abortion.

That ruling had immediate political consequences, and the outcome in the new case, expected by early summer, could affect races for Congress and the White House.

The scene outside the Supreme Court was lively Tuesday morning, with demonstrators occupying the streets surrounding the court and groups on both sides of the issue marching and chanting. The police blocked traffic surrounding the court as well.

The practical consequences of a ruling for abortion opponents would be dramatic, possibly halting the delivery of mifepristone through the mail and at large pharmacy chains, reducing the period in pregnancy when it can be used from 10 to seven weeks and ending increasingly popular telehealth visits at which the drug can be prescribed.

Rachel Rebouché, dean of Temple University Law School, says government agencies have typically been trusted to regulate as they see fit. She, along with President Joe Biden's administration and drug manufacturers, warn that such an outcome also could undermine the FDA's drug approval process more widely by inviting judges to second-guess the agency's judgments.

“If the Supreme Court decides the FDA erred, it will shake a tenet of administrative law that we defer to expert agencies and their reliance on evidence, science and research,” said Rebouché.

Anti-abortion doctors and medical organizations argue that the FDA's decisions in 2016 and 2021 to relax restrictions on getting the drug were unreasonable and “jeopardize women's health across the nation.” The Democratic administration and New York-based Danco Laboratories, which makes mifepristone, respond that the drug is among the safest the FDA has ever approved.

“This would be different if it was just a question in the abstract — ‘Is medication abortion safe?’ We know it is,” said Rebouché, “and there’s a disturbing pattern here of ‘The sky isn’t blue and water isn’t wet.’”

In one possible resolution, the justices could avoid touching on the more politically sensitive aspects of the case while preserving access to mifepristone. The administration and Danco argue that the challengers, represented by the conservative Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, lack the legal right, or standing, to sue. If the high court agrees, it would essentially dismiss the case and erase the appellate ruling.

Another abortion case already is on the docket. Next month, the justices will hear arguments over whether a federal law on emergency treatment at hospitals must include abortions, even in states that have otherwise banned them.

The mifepristone case began five months after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Abortion opponents initially won a sweeping ruling nearly a year ago from U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, a Trump nominee in Texas, which would have revoked the drug’s approval entirely. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals left intact the FDA’s initial approval of mifepristone. But it would reverse changes regulators made in 2016 and 2021 that eased some conditions for administering the drug.

The Supreme Court put the appeals court’s modified ruling on hold, then agreed to hear the case, though Justices Samuel Alito, the author of the decision overturning *Roe*, and Clarence Thomas would have allowed some restrictions to take effect while the case proceeded.

Mifepristone is one of two drugs, along with misoprostol, used in medication abortions. Their numbers have been rising for years. More than 6 million people have used mifepristone since 2000. Mifepristone is taken first to dilate the cervix and block the hormone progesterone, which is needed to sustain a pregnancy. Misoprostol is taken 24 to 48 hours later, causing the uterus to contract and expel pregnancy tissue.

Researchers at the Guttmacher Institute estimate that there were more than 1 million abortions in the U.S. last year and that nearly two-thirds of them were from medication. Both those numbers are up since the high court overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

Health care providers have said that if mifepristone is no longer available or is too hard to obtain, they would switch to using only misoprostol, which is somewhat less effective in ending pregnancies.

KYW Newsradio's Vik Raghupathi contributed to this story.

GUN CRIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

JANUARY

More than 1,600 gun victims in Philadelphia in 2023 — down by about 600, police say January 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Though gun violence continues to plague the city, the numbers have declined a bit from the prior year. More than 1,600 people were shot in the city in 2023 — about 375 of them fatally. Violent crime across Philadelphia is down about 7%, and police say they took about 6,000 guns off the street.

“I think it is a good indication that we are moving in a positive direction. I don’t think it is the norm to see any city drop 100 homicides in one year,” said interim Police Commissioner John Stanford.

He says they are trying to chip away at the city’s gun violence.

“Shooting victims are down 27%,” he said. That’s almost 600 fewer people shot in the city over the past year.

Stanford says the clearance — or solve — rate for homicides jumped a bit to about 60%, but for victims who were shot and injured: only about 1/3 of cases were solved.

“Our shooting clearance rate is 28%,” he said. “Still working to increase both of those numbers but have to tip our hat off to the investigators that have been working diligently on bringing in the people responsible for homicides and those who are responsible for shootings.”

He says communication between investigators working the cases and boots on the ground has been key — “both in solving some of these cases and clearing some of these cases but also in helping to prevent future incidents by trying to get in front of any type of retaliatory incidents we could possibly see.”

Stanford says the number of officers in the department is at a deficit, there are about 800 open spots.

“To see that we are making significant progress considering that we are down in staffing, it just is a testament to the dedication of everyone involved, and everyone committed to reducing gun violence in this city.”

There were about 30% fewer carjackings than in 2022, but car thefts were up more than 70%. About 23,000 cars were stolen in Philadelphia in 2023.

“We recovered 20,000 vehicles. Our folks are recovering vehicles just about the same rate that they are being stolen,” Stanford said.

He said most of the cars were found fairly quickly, and thieves mostly took the stolen cars on joyrides — “and then you have some folks that are stealing vehicles to commit other crimes.”

Retail theft was up about 27% from this time a year ago, he said.

Stanford credits community groups with helping to intervene in some of the issues on the streets. He will continue his career with the department, after Kevin Bethel is sworn in as the city’s new commissioner on Tuesday.

16-year-old shot in head on Center City subway platform

January 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A 16-year-old boy is in critical condition at the hospital after he was shot in the head on a SEPTA subway platform in Center City Thursday night.

It happened at the 15th Street Station along the Market-Frankford Line around 9:30 p.m.

Investigators are still combing through surveillance video. They say it shows the shooter and victim had some sort of interaction at the City Hall Station on the Broad Street Line. They then walked over to the 15th Street Station, and that's where the shooting happened.

SEPTA Police Chief Charles Lawson says there didn't appear to be any apparent dispute between the two.

"They didn't enter together and we haven't found an interaction between the two yet, prior to the shots ringing out."

What Lawson does know is that the presence of police did not stop the shooting.

He says there were three transit police officers on the platform when the shooting occurred.

An 18-year-old and a 16-year-old have been arrested, according to Philadelphia police. Lawson says both of them have criminal histories. One was arrested on weapons charges two years ago and then again for using a stolen car last year.

SEPTA plans to beef up security gates in South Broad concourse

January 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — SEPTA plans to erect more substantial fencing in the concourse under City Hall, by replacing chain link fencing in the South Broad concourse between 13th and 15th streets with steel panels and gates.

SEPTA has had chain link fencing up in the South Broad concourse since the pandemic. Spokesman Andrew Busch says the transit agency determined the subway concourse near City Hall, and one at 8th and Market streets, required a more secure structure.

“We did a full evaluation of the concourse and identified these locations where we thought it was appropriate to add gating,” said Busch. “It’s not limiting service or taking away any part of the concourse that is not currently closed off. We’re just trying to make it more secure.”

He says SEPTA maintains the South Broad concourse under an agreement with the city and that more secure gates would allow maintenance crews to do overnight work without disruption. The gates would close overnight when the Market-Frankford Line isn’t running, to discourage people experiencing homelessness from disrupting cleaning operations.

“It gives them security that there’s not going to be anybody coming into the concourse when they’re down there cleaning,” he said. “It’s not safe for anyone if the concourse area or our stations are being used as a shelter.”

The SEPTA board will vote Thursday on a \$795,000 contract to acquire the gates, which would be delivered by September.

Police searching for 17-year-old who escaped from custody at Children's Hospital

January 24, 2024

Last updated on Jan. 25, 7:45 a.m.

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police are looking for a juvenile detainee who escaped from custody while at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Wednesday afternoon. The U.S. Marshals Service said he may be driving a stolen blue Ford F-150 with a Pennsylvania license plate ZTS-0503.

“He was wearing a dark-colored blue sweatsuit at the time of his escape,” said Deputy Police Commissioner Frank Vanore. “He's about 180 pounds, 5-foot-7. He has braids in his hair that are pulled over on both sides.”

He was last seen wearing slides or flip-flops when he escaped.

According to authorities, juvenile justice officers brought 17-year-old Shane Pryor to the hospital for a hand injury just before noon on Wednesday.

Surveillance video shows his escape.

"When staff pulled up into the driveway of Children's Hospital, we know now, through video evidence, as the male was exiting that car, he was able to escape from staff and run from this area on foot," said Vanore.

Officials said he was not handcuffed.

After fleeing officers at CHOP, police say Pryor headed toward the area of University Avenue and Civic Center Boulevard. "He left from this driveway," Vanore told reporters, "and crossed the boulevard and ran [from] building to building, pretty much."

Vanore said police searched parking garages, buildings and surrounding areas.

Pryor has been detained at the Juvenile Justice Services Center since he was 14 years old. "It's a murder charge," Vanore said. "He's been in custody from that point, still awaiting trial."

Pryor's attorney Paul DiMaio said his client and another teen were charged in a homicide case, in which a woman was killed in October 2020.

"He's always maintained his innocence. I think he's scared. He doesn't know what's going to happen," DiMaio said. "Getting to know Shane in the past year, he's actually kind of a mild-mannered kid. I don't know why he escaped. I don't know why he walked off."

Although he was not armed at the time of his escape, police say Pryor is nonetheless considered dangerous. Anyone who sees him is cautioned not to approach him but to call 911 or 215-686-TIPS.

The U.S. Marshals Service is also taking tips at 877-WANTED-2.

"If he's out there and listening, he needs to turn himself in," DiMaio said. "We can fight this case. I know he's scared, but the best thing he can do ... if I was to talk to him, I would tell him, 'You need to turn yourself in.'"

A judge recently denied Pryor's request to be tried as a juvenile. DiMaio thinks that may be why he fled. Investigators have not determined a reason for his escape.

Stay with KYW Newsradio for more as this story develops.

FEBRUARY

City Council push against 'stop-and-go' corner stores renewed after police-involved shooting

February 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The recent shooting in which a Philadelphia police officer was wounded and the suspect killed has renewed city council’s push to regulate stop-and-go liquor stores and gambling machines.

Philadelphia police released a video of the Jan. 26 shooting that showed the location, called Jennifer Tavern, didn’t look like a tavern at all.

“You know, when I look at the video of what happened last Friday night, it just all came back because here was an establishment that’s supposed to be a tavern, it’s supposed to have seating for patrons, it’s supposed to be an asset to the neighborhood, where people can purchase a meal and come in and eat — and it was none of these things.”

Jennifer Tavern is a type of liquor store known as a “stop-and-go,” which sells shots and other alcohol “to go,” even though its license requires food service and dine-in space. Councilmember Cindy Bass targeted the stores as neighborhood nuisances in 2017, but she says seeing video of the incident made her realize that they are still operating with impunity.

“I’m calling out the departments to do the enforcement that we called upon many, many years ago. In seven years you can’t get it done? This is absolutely ridiculous that we allow these folks to operate in ways that are detrimental. They are a blight on our community.”

Bass proposed, and Council approved, hearings on the matter. The incident also touched a nerve with Councilmember Curtis Jones, who has been trying to regulate gambling machines in corner stores. There are three evident in the video of the shooting.

“They are in every neighborhood in the city of Philadelphia. We don’t know how many there are. We don’t know how much money they make. Nobody regulates them, nobody taxes them, so they are totally disrespecting the city of Philadelphia.

Jones has reintroduced a bill to outlaw the machines, which passed last session but was pocket-vetoed by Mayor Jim Kenney on his way out of office.

Temple police looking for suspect who fired gunshots into the air during huge teen gathering near Broad Street
February 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Temple University Police are trying to identify the person who they said fired two gunshots into the air during a gathering of hundreds of young people on Broad Street Saturday night.

Temple police released images of the suspect from the weekend gathering. Hundreds of young people met up in the area of Broad Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue, close to Temple's campus — a gathering that was organized on social media, police said.

Temple police were aware of the meetup ahead of time and alerted Philadelphia police, according to Jennifer Griffin, Temple's vice president and chief for public safety.

Initially, there were no issues. But around 5:30 p.m., several fights broke out. A TUalert was issued to students, telling them to avoid the area.

Then just before 6 p.m., police heard a gunshot as they were trying to disperse the crowd. Minutes later, there was a second shot, according to police.

Investigators believe the shooter fired the shots into the air and no one was hit. Within an hour, the crowd was gone.

"I saw the moment when a gunshot went off and they all scattered. It was crazy," Gage Bernstein, a Temple junior, told NBC10. "I haven't seen anything like that before."

Seven teens, ranging in age between 13 and 16, were taken into custody in connection with the incident. They were cited for disorderly conduct, police said.

As police search for the alleged shooter, they are also looking at surveillance and cellphone footage to see if anyone else caused trouble during the gathering.

New Philly top cop Kevin Bethel talks reducing gun violence, helping the city's youth, stop-and-frisk, and more with KYW

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel being interviewed by KYW Crime and Justice

February 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW NEWSRADIO) — Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel has been on the job a little over a month and has inherited a number of ongoing problems in the city, such as gun violence, retail theft, low recruitment, and a rising youth violent crime rate, to name a few.

But with a new administration at his back, Bethel projected confidence on a recent visit to KYW to talk through his plans.

On gun violence — the issue that remains at the top of his list — Bethel said he would continue to focus efforts on the districts where the most gun violence occurs.

“We have about 10 districts that represent about 80% of the violence in our city,” Bethel said.

Youth charged with violent crimes have also increased over the last few years, and Bethel's past experience working as Chief of School Safety at the Philadelphia School District could make him more apt than others to stem the trend.

For him, it starts with parents.

“Being in their lives is the first part,” said Bethel. “Having a positive adult in a child's life we know works, so don't cast that away.”

When it comes to the police department's often fraught relationship with District Attorney Larry Krasner, Bethel struck a conciliatory tone and acknowledged that he and Krasner may not always agree, but could hit a “reset” on the relationship.

Community members push to keep Jenkintown PD independent as its future remains uncertain

February 26, 2024

JENKINTOWN, PA (KYW Newsradio) — The future of Jenkintown's Police Department is at the center of an ongoing conversation between taxpayers and officials. The borough says the rising costs of running it are outpacing population growth.

"I want you all to show me by hands how many of you know our police officers? All 10? How about five police officers?" said Jenkintown Police Chief Thomas Scott.

Jenkintown Police Department is under the borough's general fund, currently taking up about 51% of the budget, according to officials.

During a presentation at a community meeting inside a crowded Jenkintown High School auditorium Monday, town leaders mentioned the financial strains of running the borough, noting several instances of mismanagement with a previous administration and the stress of catching up on tax revenue from the impact of the pandemic.

"How are we going to provide the best service while also being financially responsible?" Scott asked.

He says no decision has been made, but they are exploring other options, like contracting with officers from other towns.

"Our goal is to provide the best public safety to our citizens. If it's sustaining the police department the way it is, then we'll work through that. If it's looking at other options, we'll look at that."

Community members expressed their fears of losing officers they are familiar with if a contractor does take over. They say they want the police department to remain independent

"They are here, they are constantly patrolling," a community member said. "That would not happen with Abington. I'm not discouraging Abington or Cheltenham, but we should not lose such a valuable asset."

MARCH

New Jersey recognized by national study for its efforts to curb firearm deaths

March 2, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — A new study gave New Jersey top marks for efforts to curb gun violence, one of only four states to earn this status.

The national report from the nonprofit Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence found that in 2023, no firearms dealers in New Jersey were cited by the federal government for selling a high volume of guns that were later used in crimes. It's the second year in a row the state received this recognition.

"New Jersey is a leader on gun safety policies, with some of the strongest gun laws in the country — and the third-lowest rate of firearm deaths," read the report.

"Last year we had the lowest number of shootings in New Jersey since we've been tracking them," said Attorney General Matt Platkin. For him, the report proves all of his office's hard work is paying off.

"We have the strongest gun laws in the country, and I'm proud of that. We have successfully defended them against every single challenge that has come our way, and we will continue to do so," he said.

Platkin says his office has approached gun violence from every angle they can think of, including strong laws, enforcement, policing, community engagement, and holding manufacturers accountable.

"Then we use those laws," he said. "We use them to hold accountable violent, serially violent people who are causing havoc in our communities."

Platkin said he's also encouraged by a recent study that proves the viability of microstamping technology, which gives law enforcement additional tools to match guns with shell casings found at the scene of a crime. He urged gun manufacturers to adopt the technology and make it widely available.

More than a dozen shots fired near The Met, injuring 2 men

March 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Two men were shot near The Met Philadelphia on North Broad Street early Wednesday morning.

It happened around 1 a.m. near Broad and Poplar Streets. Police said the shooting stemmed from a party up the block.

Someone fired at least 18 shots, striking two men, ages 41 and 42. One was shot in the leg, and the other was shot in the eye. Their conditions are unknown.

Several cars parked on the street were also hit by gunfire. Two of the bullets hit The Met building.

Police have not made any arrests. Police search for suspect in string of Camden robberies

March 7, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Police in Camden say the same man is responsible for eight robberies since the start of the year and they need help tracking him down.

Investigators believe 53-year-old Mark Long has stolen thousands of dollars from local businesses and caused thousands more in damage from breaking in.

“This individual was gaining access using prying tools and then using the prying tools to open up the register,” said Deputy Police Chief Janel Simpson.

They say Mark Long is believed to be homeless, but is known to frequent the Fairview neighborhood and Mount Ephraim Corridor.

Police want to hear from anyone with information on his whereabouts.

SEPTA ends pilot program that used artificial intelligence to detect guns on the system

March 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Amid a rash of gun crimes, SEPTA has ended a pilot program that used artificial intelligence to detect guns on the system.

Without fanfare, the 10-month pilot program with the Conshohocken-based firm ZeroEyes ended in December. ZeroEyes used artificial intelligence to scan real-time security camera feeds to alert police about people with guns.

SEPTA spokesperson Andrew Busch said only a few guns were spotted during the pilot, which monitored 300 analog and digital cameras on the Broad Street and Market-Frankford lines.

“What we decided was that it wasn’t the right fit for SEPTA police at this time,” Busch said. “There were only a few instances that we saw where the system alerted police to someone with a firearm.”

Sam Alaimo, ZeroEyes co-founder and chief revenue officer, said SEPTA’s mostly analog cameras were largely incompatible with the AI software.

“They’re very old. They’re ineffective. They’re grainy,” Alaimo said. “We built a cutting-edge AI technology to leverage digital cameras, which most institutions have nowadays.”

Alaimo said ZeroEyes’ software is being used at schools, colleges, and federal and commercial facilities in 40 states.

“Our new technology simply does not work well on old security cameras,” he added, “so neither SEPTA nor us [sic] were satisfied with our performance.”

Busch said SEPTA did a blind test with plainclothes officers carrying guns. The transit agency tested 20 digital cameras and 20 analog cameras that were part of the program, but the cameras didn’t detect the armed officers.

Alaimo said SEPTA asked ZeroEyes to figure out a way to use the AI software on the transit agency’s existing cameras. “SEPTA was adamant that they wanted us to function on the analog

cameras,” he said. “While we became slightly better, it was still a degraded performance that we were not comfortable deploying on, and SEPTA was not comfortable deploying on.”

From SEPTA’s standpoint, Busch said it’s not a matter of analog versus digital. “Because we do have a mix” of cameras, he said. “We’ve been bringing cameras online for well over a decade.”

SEPTA received a \$5 million state grant to be used for the ZeroEyes program. The firm approached SEPTA about using some of that money to replace more of its analog cameras with digital ones, but “that was not an acceptable solution,” Alaimo said.

Instead, SEPTA is asking the state to reallocate \$2 million of the grant for camera upgrades and another \$2 million for police overtime related to a separate technology that SEPTA may pursue, Busch said.

SEPTA’s Virtual Patrol Unit, which uses retired police officers to monitor live video feeds from its 31,000 cameras, has helped make arrests in several recent high-profile crimes, Busch noted, including the stabbing death of a Center City Macy’s guard in December 2023.

ECONOMY

JANUARY

Home mortgage rates expected to fall in 2024, but not until the second half of the year, says economist

January 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — It could cost less to borrow money in 2024 after years of interest rate hikes, but that doesn't mean it's going to be less expensive to buy a home. Economists believe the Federal Reserve won't cut interest rates until summer.

The Fed has hiked interest rates 11 times since March of 2022, and the national average for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage hit 8% last year.

"Interest rates took the elevator going up the past couple of years, but they're going to take the stairs coming down," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst with Bankrate.

The national average is now hovering around 7%, and McBride expects the Fed to cut rates no earlier than June.

"Most of that is going to come in the back half of the year, and that's contingent on inflation," he said. "From an interest rate perspective, later in the year will be better than earlier in the year. But the offset to that is if mortgage rates come down sharply, home prices are likely to go up in response."

McBride says inflation needs to continue to come down in order for the Fed to feel comfortable to start to trim interest rates.

"If inflation is stubbornly high, that's going to limit how much the Fed can cut interest rates this year. That's why I only expect to be able to cut rates twice."

McBride says more sellers may list their homes this year as rates come down, but buyers will still have a tough time.

“It’s not really going to do much to ease the affordability pressures because, with the limited inventory and high home prices, those are really going to persist. We might see some modest improvement on the inventory front but affordability is still going to be an issue.”

Buyers may feel pressure to overpay for a home or waive inspection, but McBride says if the competition is that heated, just walk away.

“Making the biggest financial decision of your life under duress is rarely a recipe for success.”

Mortgage rates aren’t all that is expected to drop. Savings rates are also due, he said.

“So if you’ve had your eye on a CD, now is the time to lock in. I wouldn’t expect those to improve as the year progresses.”

Broad Street reopens through Navy Yard after 18-month, \$22M reconstruction project January 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — It’s a straight drive through the Philadelphia Navy Yard again, as Broad Street has reopened after 18 months of construction.

Four lanes of Broad Street between Crescent Drive and Intrepid Avenue reopened Monday after a \$22 million reconstruction project. Broad Street had been built on top of a wooden bridge constructed in the 1800s that connected League Island to the mainland. By 2006, that timber bridge had weakened to the point that two lanes of Broad Street and the sidewalks near the reserve basin were closed for safety concerns.

“Just in the natural course of things, it had deteriorated over time and that resulted in subsidence and cracking in the sidewalk and the travel lanes,” said Kate McNamara, senior vice president for the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) at the Navy Yard.

“Everybody understood that Broad Street needed to be reconstructed — that it was a super-important safety issue and convenience issue and we had to make sure that it was done right.”

With Broad Street reopened, the Navy Yard will need to tweak the software for the driverless employee shuttle it’s preparing to introduce. “What threw us for a loop is the reopening of Broad Street, which we were able to get done. And that just meant that we had to program the shuttle for that piece of the route,” McNamara said. “We couldn’t do it until the road was actually open, so it added a little bit of extra time to the programming for the shuttle.”

The autonomous shuttle should launch in late January or early February, according to McNamara. In addition to the newly-opened travel lanes, a bicycle lane and pedestrian walkway were also built.

Construction also continues on a mixed-use development project that includes 614 apartments. It would mark the first residential development at the Navy Yard since the base closed in 1996.

Philly Water Department receives \$25M grant for improvement projects January 24, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City and state officials on Wednesday celebrated \$25 million in grants to the Philadelphia Water Department for projects to improve drinking water, reduce flooding and make the Delaware River cleaner.

The award was announced by state legislators at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant in Port Richmond. The money comes from \$200 million in federal funds that were awarded to the state for distribution. State Rep. Jordan Harris says Philadelphia is getting more than 10% of the total.

“Philadelphia is one of the oldest cities in the country and because of that, we have an old and aging infrastructure and that infrastructure must be addressed,” Harris said.

Some of the grant money will go to expanding the capacity of the Germantown pumping station to reduce sewer overflow and flooding. Another chunk will go to a long-term plan to improve drinking water quality at the Queen Lane plant in East Falls. The largest share will go to the Port Richmond plant.

Water Commissioner Randy Hayman says the grants will have a big impact. “These are improvements that will touch the lives of Philadelphians. Each of these projects will make our city cleaner, greener and safer and show people how support from the state and federal government can improve the lives of our residents,” he said.

Harris promised more help would be coming from Harrisburg, which delighted Mayor Cherelle Parker.

“Thank you for not bringing home slogans,” she said. “Slogans won’t help us fix our aging infrastructure.”

Elevated Darby Creek Trail project receives \$226K in state funding to finish design phase January 25, 2024

DELAWARE COUNTY, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A new trail that will let hikers walk among the treetops in Delaware County is one step closer to becoming a reality.

A \$226,900 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development is pushing the Darby Creek Trail project into its phase 2 final design, “which means engineering an elevated trail,” said Gina Burritt, the county’s director of planning.

“It’s not your typical trail, but this will really be a neat design feature and a unique section of trail that will be up in the trees.”

Burritt says the trail will span about a half-mile, from Upper Darby through Lansdowne and into Clifton Heights. The project also takes into consideration how the weather affects the creek.

“Because of the land uses and the creek being right there, obviously that is also a feature but it can lead to some flooding concerns,” she said, “so having an elevated trail that will not be as prone to flooding is a big deal.”

Part of the grant will go into figuring out just how this trail will look. “It will give people just a different viewpoint, a different perspective than what they typically see on your standard trail,” Burrit said.

The final design phase has an estimated price tag of \$850,000. According to Burritt, the county hopes to have it wrapped up in the next three years. Construction of the elevated trail, however, won’t come cheap.

“Because of this feature, it will be expensive. We’re at this point thinking somewhere in the \$5 million range,” said Burritt. Right now, there is no timetable on when the project as a whole will be finished.

FEBRUARY

\$1.47M federal grant a boost to Philadelphia's growing electric vehicle workforce February 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia received a \$1.47 million federal grant to develop a workforce program that will train a new generation of workers in the electric vehicle industry.

Through the Plug In Philly initiative, workers will complete a pre-apprenticeship program, which will help launch them into full-time or union jobs in the field. They will learn to build, install, and maintain charging stations for electric cars.

“This grant is going to be used to create 45 job placements,” Mayor Cherelle Parker said, “and at the same time, it’s going to expand the use of electric vehicles in our great city of Philadelphia.”

The long-term goal is to create a more diverse electrician workforce, said Lily Reynolds, director of federal infrastructure strategy for the Philadelphia Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability.

“Today, women and people of color are underrepresented in the trades and in all types of infrastructure careers,” she said. “Meanwhile, new federal investments in infrastructure mean an increase of job opportunities with family-sustaining wages.”

The announcement was made Monday at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 98 training facility at the Navy Yard.

“What we believe now is that if we care about our children, we invest in their future. We don’t just give them jobs — we give them careers,” said union business manager Mark Lynch Jr.

Philadelphia Managing Director Adam Thiel said the city is committed to a safe, clean and green infrastructure installation.

“We need more folks to represent our community who are trained and certified to do the work, and this program will help do that,” he added.

The program aims to enroll the first group of participants in late summer or early fall.

Federal transit officials announce \$317M for new rail cars on SEPTA's Market-Frankford Line

Updated on February 21, 2024

UPDATED: 4:25 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — SEPTA has received a big boost from the federal government to pay for hundreds of new rail cars on the Market-Frankford Line.

Nuria Fernandez, head of the Federal Transit Administration, issued SEPTA a check for \$317 million at a press conference Wednesday, at 69th Street Transportation Center in Upper Darby. “It is the largest single grant that SEPTA has ever received,” said SEPTA General Manager and CEO Leslie Richards.

“About 175,000 riders a day are now going to get better and more reliable service,” said Fernandez.

The grant will fund 200 new cars for the El. The cities of Baltimore and Chicago also received funding.

SEPTA has been looking to modernize the Market-Frankford Line, which the agency calls the “workhorse” of its system. The M-4 cars that are running now have been around for at least 25 years, which Fernandez acknowledged brings them to the end of their useful lives. “It has become challenging to keep those rail cars in service,” said the FTA administrator.

“Constant maintenance and downtime are limiting the number of trains that we can put out on the line every day. It’s preventing SEPTA from providing the frequency and reliability to support the needs of our customers and this region,” explained Richards.

“Replacing these rail cars is our highest priority and this grant could not have come at a more critical time for SEPTA.”

Richards said the transit agency plans to award the contract for a company to build the new M-5 rail cars this summer, and hopes to start using them within the next few years.

This round of federal money comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rail Vehicle Replacement Program, which stems from the bipartisan infrastructure bill that was signed in 2021.

Any bit of money helps, and SEPTA has a huge backlog of projects. Issues have been popping up — last week, a wheel on a work train came off the tracks near Huntingdon Station. That led to a service disruption, and shuttle buses were needed.

Financially, SEPTA faces a fiscal cliff when pandemic relief cash runs out later this year. SEPTA and transit advocates are pushing for Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget proposal, which would increase state public transportation funding. The agency is warning, though, that there could be service cuts and fare hikes if the budget hole is not filled.

Philadelphia tourism made some progress in 2023, but economic impact is still not what it was before pandemic

February 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Tourists still are not flocking to the Philadelphia region like they did before the pandemic lockdowns, but the city's tourism sector last year did manage to make some improvements over the year before.

In 2023, Philadelphia and its five surrounding counties welcomed just under 43 million visitors, and tourists spent just over \$7.5 billion, leading to an estimated economic impact of \$12.4 billion. That's according to a new outlook for 2024 put out by Visit Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Here in Philadelphia, we should be proud of the city that we have," said Angela Val, president and CEO of Visit Philadelphia.

The numbers are slight increases in tourism for the region compared to 2022, but still not at their pre-pandemic levels, which were at a record high for visitors in the region.

"We have definitely made year-to-year progress, so everything is headed in the right direction, although there is definitely room to grow," Val said.

The depletion of some of the savings people were able to grow during the pandemic when travel was restricted is one headwind facing further tourism growth in the city, she added. "So, although demand for travel is still really great, we do expect it to slow down a bit, but not decrease."

The hotel sector, especially, in 2023, still lagged behind pre-pandemic figures in occupancy rate, demand for rooms, and revenue.

“I think one of the things that is impacting the slow recovery in occupancy is that we grew the number of rooms here in Philadelphia County, specifically in the downtown area, about 2,000 additional rooms out of the pandemic.”

Leaders still have an optimistic outlook for 2024, however, two years before the 2026 FIFA World Cup shines an international spotlight on the city and draws throngs of soccer fans from around the world.

“We have a lot of work to get prepared for 2026, but I anticipate that we would’ve reached our 2019 benchmarks by the first quarter of ’25 and definitely 2026,” Val said.

Center City Philadelphia continues to attract new residents, which is helping overall recovery downtown
February 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The number of people moving into Philadelphia’s core continues to grow, according to a Center City District report released Monday.

Foot traffic in the district is still slightly less than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the report shows the number of full-time residents has grown by 6% in the last three years. Unlike many parts of Philadelphia, more people are moving into Center City than are moving out.

Residential growth has been a crucial part of ongoing economic recovery from the pandemic in every sector, says Prema Gupta, who recently took over as CCD president.

“More residents means steady foot traffic, which attracts restaurants and retailers, increases economic activity, and contributes to safety and security,” Gupta says.

“Where we see it very directly is with new retailers in Center City. We’ve heard national experts call Walnut Street one of the preeminent locations for digital-native brands which, frankly, cater to a younger, Millennial, Gen Z crowd.”

Gupta says it also helps with the return to work since CCD has found that employees are far more likely to go into an office if it’s within two miles of their home, and Center City remains the largest job center.

“This report is really optimistic,” says Gupta. “We feel really good that this relationship between new inventory and population follow each other really closely.”

CCD's economic development manager, Lauren Smith, says most of the new residents are coming from other parts of Pennsylvania, but 15% have come from New York City. The majority of Center City residents are 22 to 34 years old, and 80% have college degrees.

"We're looking at affluent young professionals, many of them coming from universities nearby," she said.

Philadelphia leads the nation in converting office space to residential, thanks in part to the 10-year tax abatement — though, Smith adds, candidates for the conversion are dwindling.

"There are very specific things that are needed for a residential building — like windows and elevator access — so identifying those buildings will be important for the future," Smith said.

Center City added nearly 3,000 residential units last year, the highest number in the last five years, according to the report. Smith says there are 7,000 more in the pipeline, and she expects demand to keep up with the new supply.

MARCH

Are you eligible for Pa.'s Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program? Find out at an info session this month.

March 11, 2024

MEDIA, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — With the expansion this year of Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, many thousands of seniors and adults with disabilities are newly eligible for relief up to \$1,000. To help Delaware County residents access the program and find out if they are eligible, several senior centers this month are hosting a series of in-person information sessions.

Starting in 2024, for tax year 2023, the household income limit for both property tax rebates and rent rebates increased to \$45,000, and the maximum standard rebate increased from \$650 to \$1,000. Those changes opened the program up to thousands and as much as doubled the rebate for many who were already eligible.

Applications for 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebates are due by June 30, 2024.

The Department of Revenue has more information online, as well as this tutorial video:

Delaware County Council Chair Dr. Monica Taylor says she wants residents to know about the expanded program so they don't miss out. The one-on-one sessions are meant to get residents access to the information they need, determine their eligibility, and fill out the application.

"It's just very important, when you look at the strains that are on our residents — especially our individuals who are older adults, and those with disabilities," said Taylor.

"You can just come to that senior center to get support."

The relief comes at a good time, too, she says, as property taxes rise and household budgets continue to adjust to the realities of inflation.

"Being able to take at least a little bit of the burden off and being able to provide some relief in terms of property tax and rent rebate — it's really going to have an impact for our community," Taylor said.

Residents are advised to call ahead of time to confirm availability for any of the following upcoming sessions and to schedule an appointment:

March 12 from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Wayne Senior Center
108 Station Rd., Wayne, PA 19087
610-688-6246

March 13, 20 and 27, and April 3 and 10 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Good Neighbor Senior Center
1085 Hook Rd., Sharon Hill, PA 19079
610-586-8170

March 19 from 9 a.m. – noon
Friendship Circle Senior Center
1515 Lansdowne Ave., Darby, PA 19023
610-237-6222

March 21 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Schoolhouse Senior Center
600 Swarthmore Ave., Folsom, PA 19033
610-237-8100

'Chinatown Stitch' now fully funded with federal grant to heal community divided for decades

March 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia has received full funding to put a cap over the Vine Street Expressway. The project is known as the Chinatown Stitch because its purpose is to reconnect the two sides of the neighborhood that were divided when the section of I-676 was built about 30 years ago.

The project will build a park over a two-and-a-half block stretch of the expressway between 10th and 13th streets. Construction is expected to take three or four years.

“This is truly a transformative day in the history of Philadelphia,” said Congressman Brendan Boyle Monday.

He and members of the city’s congressional delegation had gathered to announce that nearly \$160 million from the Infrastructure Bill has been designated for the Chinatown Stitch.

“We will finally be repairing a historic wrong, an injustice that was done to a community.”

When the Vine Street Expressway was built in the late 1980s and early '90s, state and city officials considered dividing Chinatown an acceptable cost. Decades did not heal the community’s scar, but John Chin of the Chinatown Development Corporation says this project will.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of my heart,” said Chin.

He says he was moved to tears when members of the city’s congressional delegation announced the full \$160 million cost would be covered.

Chin has helped the community work with PennDOT for nearly two years on a design for the cap.

“Chinatown’s relationship with PennDOT has come full circle from 60 years ago when it was in charge of constructing that highway and dividing our community,” he said.

“The Chinatown Stitch is transformative. You will no longer see the highway. And it will provide green space and amenities that our community never had.”

Mayor Cherelle Parker applauded the project, which was begun during the Jim Kenney administration — but fitting in with her vision of unity.

“We are going to ensure that we really are one city, because we are bringing together a community that people across our city take great pride in,” the mayor said.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2028.

It has taken more than 30 years to repair the damage done to Chinatown by the expressway. The community is now concerned that a proposed arena on its south side poses another threat.

Delco borough awarded \$425K for much-needed sewer restoration project
March 13, 2024

DELAWARE COUNTY, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A small borough in Delaware County is getting \$425,000 towards a sanitation project aimed at fixing a flooding problem plaguing the area for years.

Colwyn is less than a mile wide but unlike other areas in the region, the town owns its sewer system. But Borough Manager Richard Knox says after many decades, it’s now under pressure and out of date.

“Piping and things change over time,” he said. “We actually have a company going around now replacing the sewer system so we won’t get rainwater into the system which causes overflow and causes us to pay fines if we don’t maintain.”

Flooding from Darby Creek which happens multiple times a year, heavily impacts their neighborhood and sanitary pipes.

“When these outlets get clogged up and we don’t have the proper things in place to receive the amount of water we get from floods it causes that damage to the system,” Knox said.

Knox says he believes the money will go a long way and provide immediate help for residents when the creek inevitably floods.

“Having that updated piping so we don’t get the breaks, we don’t get the collapses in the streets, all the different things that can happen when those pipes are compromised,” he said.

###

Bridging Philly: Q1 January, February & March 2024

Prepared by Patty McMahon

Benefits of Dry January | The Philly Goat Project January 06, 2024

Dry January has become an annual international event inspiring all kinds of drinkers to leave the bottles on the shelf for 31 days. The market for mocktails, non-alcohol spirits, wines, and beer is growing, and there are "safe spaces" for those who choose not to drink, but still want to be social. We learn about the benefits of temporary abstaining and the resources people can use to help them overcome their habit. Guests are Erin Goodhart, Executive Director of Core Programming, Pennsylvania at Caron Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centers; Fergie Carey, proprietor of several bars and restaurants in Philadelphia; and Drew Davis, co-founder of Pitman New Jersey's no-alcohol bottle shop and pop-up bar, Gem Life + Bar.

Then, an introduction to the only city-based multi-service goat program: Germantown's Philly Goat Project, which has programs including education, community wellness, animal-assisted therapy, and teen job training with the help of trained goats. Shara in the City talks to Karen Krivit, Director, and Kelly Corrigan, Therapy and Wellness Director of The Philly Goat Project.

Urban Navigation | MLK's legacy of social justice January 13, 2024

Co-founders Don Jackson and Hameen Diggins describe their community organization Urban Navigation as a GPS for urban youth that points the next generation of non-shooters towards gun education and technician training in the inner city and Philadelphia suburbs. Then, this year is the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and Global Citizen's Founder and President Todd Bernstein describes the many opportunities in which to embrace MLK's legacy of social justice at the 29th Annual Great Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service at Girard College.

Pa. House Speaker Joanna McCClinton | Youth America Grand Prix January 20, 2024

Pa. Speaker of the House Joanna McCClinton looks back on the successes and challenges of her first year as the first woman and the first person of color to hold the gavel. With a razor-thin majority, Speaker McCClinton negotiated tax credits for working families' daycare expenses, violence reduction programs, and a public defender fund. Then, Philly hosts the Youth America Grand Prix, an international student ballet competition that draws about 20,000 dancers whose finalists are selected to win cash prizes and scholarships at top schools and companies.

NJ's doula access law | The Lullaby Project
January 27, 2024

Tammy Murphy, First Lady of New and U.S. Senate candidate, describes the new state law that protects a mother's right to a doula throughout pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. Then, creating a deeper bond between parents and young children through music with the Philadelphia Lullaby Project.

Cecil B. Moore Freedom Fighters | The Colored Girl Museum lives on
February 03, 2024

Philadelphia's civil rights movement included the Cecil B. Moore Freedom Fighters, the "young militants" who protested and helped desegregate Girard College, which was a school intended for "poor, white male orphans." We hear stories of police harassment and songs of freedom from the former teenagers who followed their leader and Philadelphia NAACP branch's president's words: "If you stand together, you can make a difference." Then, Vashti DuBois shares good news about the future of The Colored Girl Museum, which has received a zoning variance to continue living in the Germantown house that is her home and museum.

Are you ready for love? | Little Free(dom) Library
February 10, 2024

Is everyone ready for love? A relationship coach and a social worker discuss the humility, inspiration, and personal growth it takes to make heterosexual, same-sex, and non-traditional couples last. Then, taking and leaving banned books by Black authors at Visit Philly's 13 Little Free(dom) Libraries.

Art for all
February 17, 2024

Fine art should be experienced by all people, according to philanthropic Philadelphia art collector Albert C. Barnes. The Barnes Foundation's Martha Lucy leads a tour of modern art and African masks, demonstrating the founder's legacy of accessible and diverse arts education. Lucy has edited a new book, "The Barnes Then and Now: Dialogues on Education, Installation and Social Justice."

Young Chances Foundation | Preserving Mother Bethel AME Church
February 24, 2024

South Philly's Tyrique Glasgow shares his story about owning his South Philly neighborhood drug corner at 12 to founding the Young Chances Foundation, which provides a clothing bank, educational and feeding programs, and school supplies.

Then, Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler describes how a \$90,000 National Trust for Historic Preservation grant to help preserve Richard Allen's Mother Bethel AME Church, a beacon of hope and inspiration for those resisting white supremacy. The church is still growing in 39 countries and five continents.

PA Youth Vote | Legacy Reclaimed: A 7th Ward Tribute
March 02, 2024

PA Youth Votes' Angelique Hinton, Kamryn Davis, and a high school senior explain how they engage future leaders with education and events programming to connect the dots between the issues they care about, voting, and holding elected officials accountable. Then, artists and curators lead a tour of the collective public art initiative, "Legacy Reclaimed: A 7th Ward Tribute," encompassing the blocks between 6th and 23rd Streets and Spruce and South Streets, whose residents once included Richard Allen, Octavius Catto, and W.E.B. Du Bois.

Marian Anderson Hall | Restoring Marian Anderson's home
March 09, 2024

Marian Anderson Hall will soon be the home of the Philadelphia Orchestra. President and CEO of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Matias Tarnopolsky, explains how updating the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall should reflect the diversity and demographics of Philadelphia. Then, a tour of the repair and restoration of the Marian Anderson Museum and Historical Society with its CEO, Jillian Patricia Pirtle. She has been working to put the museum back together after a flood to keep Marian Anderson's music and contributions to the Civil Rights Movement alive.

Evoluer House | Girls Auto Clinic
March 16, 2024

Former fashion editor Cheryl Ann Wadlington has been mentoring urban girls to rise above their circumstances to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty for 20 years at Evoluer House with workforce, professional, and personal development programs. Then, engineer Patrice Banks leads a tour of her Girls Auto Clinic in Upper Darby – an auto repair service - that caters to women where she can get a manicure and car maintenance tips while waiting for her car.

PA School funding | Uncle Bobbie's Coffee & Books

March 23, 2024

How can Pennsylvania public school students who live in a lower-income school district receive an equitable and adequate education like their affluent counterparts? Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Hughes and education advocate Priyanka Reyes-Kaura discuss how state legislators must work with Governor Shapiro and his budget proposal to invest in our communities. Then, we hear why regulars and new guests at Germantown's home-grown, black-owned Uncle Bobbie's Coffee and Books come for the vibe, books, coffee, and stay for music and community.

March 30, 2024

As childcare wait lists grow many busy families are opening their homes to a young person from another country as an affordable care alternative. Cultural Care Au Pair's Natalie Jordan describes their multi-step screening process and cultural exchange benefits. Then, as roller skating returns across the nation, Great On Skates' co-founder India Bernadino creates accessible and affordable "Dope Skate Classes In Philadelphia" at three locations for all skill levels.

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I'm Listening - Q1 January, February, March 2024

I'm Listening / January / Mental Health Seg 1

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Contact: David O'Leary, Host

Airdate: January 28, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones. We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

I'm Listening / January / Mental Health Seg 2

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Contact: David O'Leary, Host

Airdate: January 28, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones. We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Audacy Conversations-State of the Entertainment Industry / February / Seg 1

Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA

Contact: KNX Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson-Hosts

Airdate: February 15, 2024 at 7pm

Category: Media/Entertainment

Description: Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

Audacy Conversations-State of the Entertainment Industry / February / Seg 2

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I'm Listening / March / Mental Health Seg 1

Guest: Victor Armstrong-AFSP, Steve Siple-AFSP Contributor

Contact: David Glover, Host

Airdate: March 17, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Men. Men are less likely to talk about their mental health struggles than women, which is why it's so important to break down stigma and open the door for these conversations. Community and friendships are huge protective factors against suicide. We seek to emphasize the critical role that asking someone directly about suicide plays in suicide prevention and demonstrate how to have supportive conversations with loved ones about mental health and suicide prevention.

I'm Listening / March / Mental Health Seg 2

Guest: Alex Silva-AFSP, Dan Miller-Wounded Warrior Project and Dr. Erin Fletcher-Wounded Warrior Project

Contact: David Glover, Host

Airdate: March 17, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Military and Veterans. Veteran populations face difficulties transitioning from military life and have higher rates of suicide compared to the civilian population. We seek to Understand how Veteran and military culture contributes to existing stigmas is essential to being open about mental health challenges and encouraging those who need it to seek help. Support and resources are available for Veterans that can make a major difference to save lives.

###

KYW-AM/WIP-HD2 PHILADELPHIA, WPHI-FM JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
QUARTERLY SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS REPORT

January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2024

Station KYW (AM) provides an all-news radio service to Philadelphia and the surrounding metropolitan area at 1060kHz AM, with simulcasts on the FM dial on WPHI-FM at 103.9 MHz and WIP-FM-HD2 at 94.1 MHz HD2. By its very nature, this service deals with and is responsive to significant community issues on a regular basis. A variety of program elements ranging from reports of breaking news events to in-depth reports and public service announcements on matters of concern to the community are included.

This report was prepared and placed in the station's public inspection file on **March, 27th, 2024.**

The report was prepared and reviewed by Newsroom Operations Manager, Dennis Edward.

Bridging Philly is KYW Newsradio's half-hour public affairs show that airs Saturdays at 9:30p and Sundays at 8:30a

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Gun Crimes and Public Safety - Page 67

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CHILDREN AND HUMAN SERVICES

JANUARY

With the holidays over, COVID-19, RSV and flu cases on the rise

January 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, RSV, and the flu have been on the rise, and health officials expect them to shoot up even more now that holiday gatherings have wrapped up.

Most states have “moderate” to “very high” levels of respiratory illnesses, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. New Jersey is at the “very high” level, while Pennsylvania is “high.” Delaware is one of the handful of states that is “low.”

COVID-19 hospitalizations were up — close to 17% — and deaths were up 10% in the week ending on Dec. 23, according to the CDC.

Health experts are urging people to take precautions to protect themselves and those around them.

“If you can work from home if you’re feeling a little bit sick, that’s a great thing to do,” said Dr. John Russell, chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Jefferson Abington Hospital. “I think people should consider putting masks on again. Not forever and ever, but I think in a time when we’re having so much of this respiratory illness going around, especially if you are vulnerable, wearing a mask in public is not a bad thing.”

At least five states in other parts of the country currently have mask requirements at healthcare facilities. There are no such mandates in the greater Philadelphia area, but in western Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center has one in effect, as of Dec. 20.

Health officials are also urging people to get vaccinated. The CDC released a health advisory in December saying not enough people were getting their shots.

“Low vaccination rates, coupled with ongoing increases in national and international respiratory disease activity caused by multiple pathogens, including influenza viruses, SARS-CoV-2 (the

virus that causes COVID-19), and RSV, could lead to more severe disease and increased healthcare capacity strain in the coming weeks,” the advisory says.

Less than 20% of Americans received the updated COVID-19 vaccine, according to the latest figures released by the CDC. That number is on par with the RSV vaccine, which the CDC recommends for adults 60 and older.

An estimated 42% of U.S. adults received the flu shot. Russell said there is still time to get one.

“The majority of flu activity over the last 35 years in the United States has been around February, so it’s not too late,” he assured. “So your doctor, I’m sure, still has the flu vaccine in the refrigerators.”

Record 410,000 Pa. residents have health coverage through Pennie — but some 700,000 don't, and time is running out

January 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — An estimated 700,000 Pennsylvanians currently have no health insurance, and there are just 10 days left to get affordable coverage through the state’s online health insurance marketplace, known as Pennie.

The Jan. 19 deadline for Pennie health plans is actually an extension. Normally, the final deadline is Jan. 15, but that’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day, so state officials added four extra days to give people until next week Friday.

Announcing the extension at Beckett Life Center, a North Philadelphia community center, Pennie Executive Director Devon Trolley pushed back on the three most common reasons people give for not signing up.

First, to those who think they don’t need insurance because they’re young and healthy: Accidents happen, she says. “Think about health insurance as protection against what you can’t control and can’t see coming.”

Second, for those who think they can't afford insurance: There are a variety of plans available, and the cost will never be more than 8.5% of your income. "What you pay for Pennie is based on your income — so, if you make less, you pay less."

She notes some plans cost \$0 a month.

Third, for those who are simply overwhelmed by the process and the options: Help is available, she says. "We have call center representatives that are both English- and Spanish-speaking, and we even have in-person help throughout the commonwealth."

Carol Zachary Smith, Beckett's executive director, says she used to pay \$1,100 per month for a family insurance plan. Now she enrolls through Pennie and gets the same coverage for free.

"It can be a little challenging, but they know a lot," she said. "So I implore you, once you give them the information that they need, they can help you through it."

On the upside, Trolley says, a record 410,000 Pennsylvanians have health coverage for 2024 through Pennie.

All plans cover essentials, including primary care visits, hospitalizations, immunizations, and mental health treatment.

Deptford Mall enforces policy requiring chaperone for teens on weekends

January 17, 2024

DEPTFORD, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Teens must now be accompanied by an adult chaperone on weekend evenings at the Deptford Mall.

A robust retail shopping scene is the lifeblood of Deptford's local economy, and Mayor Paul Medany said he wants to be proactive in preventing theft and any other kind of nuisance behavior.

"We know people are stealing, regretfully, but we want them to know: You come to Deptford, you're going to get caught and you're going to get punished," he said.

Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 25 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, starting at 5 p.m. The over-25 adult can supervise up to four minors.

There will also be more police on patrol at the mall.

Medany said there wasn't a specific incident that prompted the strict policy, but after a meeting with police and mall security, they all decided a curfew would be the best way to avoid potential problems moving forward.

"I want to be proactive," he said. "I don't want any issues or problems. I don't want to wait until something happens and then we react to it."

Medany noted there haven't been any arrests either. "We stemmed any issues. We go up to the kids and tell them 'Listen, you're misbehaving and you have to leave.'"

Other malls, including Cherry Hill Mall and the Fashion District in Philadelphia, have used similar policies off and on in the past.

The whole country is dealing with a rise in retail theft and social media meetups that sometimes get out of hand, Medany added, which he finds unacceptable. He said he wants the township and local businesses to know that they will "aggressively" work to curb retail theft.

"Don't come to the Deptford Mall and do something stupid," he warned.

New law requires NJ schools to issue reports on students' mental health January 24, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Gov. Phil Murphy has signed a new bill into law that requires schools to report on child mental health, as the state is seeing an uptick in teen mental illness and suicide.

The law's sponsor, Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, says it is essential to better understand what kids are going through and why there has been an increase in depression and other mental health disorders in young people.

The goal is to save lives by learning about the best ways of preventing suicide. She said it “focuses on trying to capture what each one of our school districts are actually doing in the schools as it pertains to suicide prevention.”

She says they want to identify some of the best practices being used by schools and find ways to share that with others to hopefully save lives.

“It really helps to formulate what can you do, what’s in our control to do. And these are the things that are definitely in our control, that we can act upon to minimize the negativity around mental health,” Lampitt said.

“We need to increase opportunities for people to find mental health providers.”

According to national statistics, the suicide rate among children ages 12 to 17 increased 16% between 2008 and 2020.

FEBRUARY

New teen center in South Philly offers youth a safe space to gather

February 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A teen center is officially open in South Philadelphia, a place where organizers say kids can be engaged and safe.

Downstairs at the Caring People Alliance, located at 15th and West Porter streets, the South Philadelphia Boys and Girls Club space now has a fresh coat of paint and tables full of activities, ready to welcome local teenagers.

“It’s exciting,” said Jewel Felder-James, director of teen programming. “I just can’t wait to see it fully functioning, seeing kids having fun, and music playing and kids just doing what they want to do.”

She said when she was a teen, she got involved in activities of her own, and they stuck with her years later. “I started caring,” she recalled. “I started wanting to get up in the morning. I wanted to get up and go do those things.”

At Wednesday afternoon’s ribbon-cutting, speakers reminded the audience that the space needed a major clean-up. The 3,350-square-foot, multi-level teen center has new areas for them to hang out and activities ranging from art, technology, podcasting, and more.

“It is a needed place. It helps the kids grow,” said 19-year-old Shakeem Smith, who has participated in the program in North Philly since he was 14. He has since been hired as a mentor for kids coming into the program.

“It gives kids the opportunities to experience what they really want to be in life,” he said. “They can stay away from outside drama, the drugs, the shootings, and everything out there. And also to have a place to experience their talents and become a better person.”

Local parent Teresa Jack helped get support and backing for the space. She said there's a void citywide for teen programming, as well as space to accommodate youth in the city — especially as they age out of activities.

“Having a space where teenagers want to come and be here and be with their peers, be with trusted adults,” she said, “it’s critical, but as a parent, it’s really heartwarming.”

The free center will be open until 8 p.m. every school night.

The space is done, but officials need some help filling it. Caring People Alliance is fundraising to get more equipment and other supplies on its wish list.

Delco’s newest state-of-the-art support center caters to young victims of sexual assault

February 7, 2024

MEDIA, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A new state-of-the-art support center in Delaware County is helping young sexual assault victims get the help they need, while also helping put sex offenders behind bars.

The Family Support Line provides a crucial resource for court cases involving children, especially those who are sexual abuse victims, according to their executive director Sarah Gibbons. She says their new 13,000-square-foot space in Chester Heights, equipped with bright lights, plush seats, and comforting toys, allows them to better serve some of the county’s most vulnerable residents.

“We provide 360 comprehensive child sexual abuse education, prevention education, therapy, and also advocacy,” she said.

Their new children’s advocacy center is critical for their forensic interviewers who are tasked with sitting with children and speaking with them about what trauma they might have experienced. Many of those interviews are used in court to help convict sex offenders.

Gibbons says having a safe, comfortable space is crucial to helping those young witnesses who otherwise might be too intimidated to talk.

“A child having to go to a courthouse or a law enforcement office to testify around what has happened to them is very trauma intensive,” she said.

According to Gibbons, in the last fiscal year, the support line provided more than 400 forensic interviews and saw over 700 kids in the county. So far this year, they’re on pace to see even more in their new space.

Gibbons says they’re using a \$100,000 grant to create a room that provides medical exams, so families don’t have to go to various places and relive their trauma.

Philly Dems raise awareness of new child care tax credit amid filing season

February 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Members of the Pennsylvania House Delegation visited the Early Learning Literacy Academy in Philadelphia Thursday to discuss the expansion of one of Pennsylvania’s tax credit programs.

Pennsylvania’s Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit was created to help ease the costs for working families. Eligible families can claim the credit when they file tax returns.

And now, since the state's credit is the same as the federal credit, Pennsylvania will provide a 100% match to the tax credit. It was previously 30%.

Households with two or more children will see a state credit of up to \$2,100 — and households with one child, up to \$1,050. According to the Department of Revenue, the credit cap phases down as income levels increase.

State Representative Morgan Cephass says childcare plays a pivotal role in the lives of working parents.

“For millions of families across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, particularly here in the City of Philadelphia when we are dealing with a startling 25% poverty rate, access to reliable and affordable childcare is not just a convenience, it's a lifeline,” Cephass said.

Latoya Monroe, owner and director of the Early Learning Literacy Academy, says working just to be able to afford childcare is no way to live.

“The tireless effort that the Pennsylvania House delegation put in to increase this child tax credit will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for many families.”

More than 27,000 working Philadelphians will see their tax credit triple for daycare costs when they file their taxes this year.

Philadelphia City Councilmember goes to battle for better health outcomes for Black women in pregnancy

February 29, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City Council Majority Leader Katherine Gilmore Richardson has awarded a foundation of \$250,000 to address the crises of maternal mortality and homelessness among Black women in Philadelphia.

Richardson had her own scare in 2016 while giving birth to her son, she explains. She was in the worst pain of her life, knew something was wrong, and she demanded a caesarian section as she advocated for herself.

“Little did I know at that time, my uterus had ruptured while I was in labor, and if it had been any longer, things may not have ended well,” she said.

Hers is just one of many horror stories Black women experience when they face life-threatening problems during the birthing process.

The \$250,000 will go to the A Home From Shana Foundation, which honors the life and legacy of LaShana Gilmore, who died in 2019 at age 34, while giving birth to her second child.

“I never had the opportunity to know her,” Richardson said of Gilmore. “And I remember hearing about her story. And I said we cannot let her story go, because it happens to too many of us. And I said when I have the opportunity to do something about this issue, we are going to do just that.”

They will establish the first and only maternity safe haven in the United States, called LaborLiveLove, staffed with birth doulas.

“Being pregnant, and giving birth, while Black can possibly be one of the most traumatic experiences that one would ever endure,” said founder Cleopatra Robinson. “As of today, we are still being sent home with chest pain, high fever, excessive bleeding, incisions that show no sign of healing, bad headaches, trouble breathing.”

Robinson was Shana’s best friend and is now, herself, a doula. Statistics show Black women are about four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.

“A lot of people are scared. A lot of people don't know resources, and a lot of people don't know where to begin to ask for help. Some people are scared to ask for help,” said Nina Winfield, a Philadelphia mother who was previously unhoused. “I wasn't and I hope that nobody else will be either.”

Winfield received help from A Home From Shana Foundation.

State Rep. Gina Curry, co-founder of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, says they plan to introduce the Pennsylvania Momnibus on March 18. The bill package covers maternal health community funds, commercial insurance coverage for blood pressure cuffs, and commercial insurance coverage for doula services, among other necessities.

MARCH

Former director of the Office of Homeless Services welcomes investigations into overspending under her leadership

March 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Liz Hersh, the former director of Philadelphia’s Office of Homeless Services (OHS), said she welcomes an outside audit and an inspector general’s investigation of cost overruns while she was in charge.

Hersh ran OHS for nearly eight years, from 2016 to October 2023, and faced unprecedented challenges — the opioid crisis, the pandemic, the Parkway encampment — and she’s proud of her record.

“I make no apologies for prioritizing life-saving services throughout my administration and especially throughout the pandemic, the opioid crisis,” she told KYW Newsradio in an interview this week. “Unlike cities across the country, where they stopped providing those life-giving services [during the pandemic], we never closed our doors and we bucked national odds. In Philadelphia, homelessness went down by 22 % between 2018 and 2022.”

City officials say cost overruns began during the 2020 pandemic and accumulated until they totaled \$14 million over four years.

Hersh attributes them to new funding streams that confounded the city’s financial system: federal money the city had never received before, new state grants, all with different rules and timetables, she said.

Overruns are not uncommon. The Philadelphia Fire Department went over budget by \$14 million in one year, in 2023. Fleet services went \$17 million over and subsidies to the Community College of Philadelphia were \$16 million higher than budgeted that year alone.

OHS, though, also postponed payments to providers for months at a time. Hersh says she worked with the providers so they always had what they needed even as she grappled with accounting issues brought on by the pandemic.

“We would all get on the phone sometimes every day, every week, every month, whatever it took to resolve the issues,” Hersh said.

That's why she said she welcomes the scrutiny of her spending.

“I hope it will accelerate the city’s ability to respond to these emergencies when they arise so that the next time the people who are charged with saving lives have the tools that they need,” Hersh said.

City Council is conducting its own investigation. Council member Katherine Gilmore Richardson has even proposed a charter change to create an ombudsman just for OHS.

That is not on Hersh’s list of what the office needs.

“What the Office of Homeless Services needs is enough money to house every single person who is experiencing homelessness, and enough money to pay the providers so their employees aren’t making just \$15 an hour and they can recruit and retain qualified people,” she said. “What I think the Office of Homeless Services needs is a modern financial infrastructure and staffing that supports the kind of complex funding situation we have in getting grants from local, state, and federal dollars.

“And what I think the Office of Homeless Services needs is to be supported in investing in the men, women, and children who are experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia — 70% of whom, in 2022, had never been homeless before. Let’s keep our eye on the ball.”

Federal budget dispute over LIHEAP is putting low-income families in Pa. at risk of utility shutoff

March 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With three weeks remaining for low-income families to get help with utility bills through a well-known utility assistance program, Pennsylvania is running out of money because Congress is withholding any remaining funds.

Some states contribute to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP which helps low-income households pay heating bills and restore service. Since hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians depend on it, the hold-up in releasing the funds would impact the most vulnerable residents.

But Pennsylvania runs its entire program on federal funds so the budget dispute in Washington means a \$2 million shortfall.

Department of Human Services Secretary Val Arkoosh has announced the state is pausing cash grants till the situation is resolved but will not shorten the season and will continue to issue crisis payments for those in imminent danger of a heat shut-off.

Lydia Gottesfeld, Managing Attorney of Community Legal Services Health and Independence Unit, says although she's pleased the state is continuing applications and crisis grants, the situation shows the need for the state to put money into the program.

"We've pushed Pennsylvania to expand our LIHEAP programs so we cover not only heating season but cooling season and to put state funds in the program," she said. "Having state funds in the program would mitigate this crisis that we're dealing with right now."

Gottesfeld expects the budget dispute to be resolved before LIHEAP closes on April 5th.

As child care waitlists balloon, some parents turn to au pairs

March 18, 2024

LAWNDALE (KYW Newsradio) — In 2023, it was reported that more than 35,000 children in Pennsylvania are on waiting lists for day care centers. It's the product of COVID-19 staffing shortages that are still impacting child care services across the country, and it's forced some parents to find other options.

Caroline Bright is one of those parents. She lives in the Lawndale section of Philadelphia, is a flight attendant and is also pursuing her master's degree in Divinity. Her husband is a JAG officer in the Army National Guard and also works for the City of Philadelphia.

They're two parents with very hectic schedules, and when their first child was 18 months old, her husband suggested an au pair.

Bright wasn't buying her husband's proposal at first.

"And I said, No, no, there's no way we can afford that. It's way too expensive. That is not something that we have no way like our house is too small," she said.

The notion that au pairs are only for wealthy families is a common misconception. Au pairs are young people between the ages of 18 and 26 from foreign countries that arrive in the U.S. on J-1 visas to stay with American families and care for their children.

The State Department oversees the program that welcomes au pairs to the U.S. It began as a cultural exchange visa program in 1986. Regulations require au pairs to receive a weekly stipend, room and board, and three meals a day. For Bright, that's a weekly cost of just over \$400.

After some persuading, Bright caved, and now she and her husband are on their second au pair, Issy from the U.K., who they welcomed in October 2022.

"I am not exaggerating when I say that Issy is truly the little sister I never had," said Bright. "And in fact my daughter is very possessive of Issy, and it's really special but we've had so many adventures with Issy."

She said Issy also allows her to have the flexibility that daycare wouldn't allow her. Bright's sentiment was echoed by Natalie Jordan, senior vice president of Cultural Care Au Pair, a designated sponsor of the federal au pair program.

"The au pair program offers an alternative option where families can have accessible care that they can have flexibility to be able to create a schedule that works well for them and for the au pair," she said.

But Jordan did warn that parents must be willing to share space, culture, and traditions with the au pair for it to be successful. Parents that only want someone to take care of their kids should stay away.

"If you're willing to fully embrace a young person coming into your home, and learning some things that might really be brand new to them," said Jordan, citing the metric system or driving on the other side of the road as examples. "These are small things that we might take for granted, but are differences that need patience and time to work through."

According to the State Department, there are approximately 29,000 au pairs currently working in the U.S.

Child advocates already seeking changes to mayor's budget, including more money for schools and pre-K

March 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's budget was not even a week old when advocates began lobbying City Council for changes to her \$6.3 billion spending plan.

The child advocacy organization Children First went office to office last week asking council members to back four changes in the budget: more money for schools, pre-schools, out-of-school time, and diversion programs to keep kids out of the criminal justice system.

Parker did propose an increase in the percentage of city taxes that go to schools, from 55% to 56%, but parent Jazmin Banks said it should be 58%.

“We cannot afford any cuts to the school district budget so that the gains the district has made these last few years are not lost, because the district is facing a fiscal cliff,” she said.

Parker’s budget holds the number of free pre-K seats steady, but parent Savon Almodovar said that number should grow.

“We want 250 more PHL pre-K seats. My child is in one of them, and I thank God for it,” Almodovar said. “Our district is facing a fiscal cliff and our kids cannot afford to move backward.”

Council members say they are open to the advocates’ requests and will keep them in mind as they rework the budget over the next few months. Councilmembers Jaime Gauthier and Rue Landau welcomed the proposals.

“These are things that I support and I’m just looking into the budget to see how the proposal relates to these requests,” Gauthier said.

“Anything we can do to support young people in schools, after-school programs, and in any way in our city, I’m all for it,” Landau added.

ARTS AND CULTURE

JANUARY

**Philly Loves Bowie Week is back — alongside a new exhibit on music’s ability to bring change
January 6, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Nobody gets David Bowie like Philly, especially in early January. It’s the time of year when the city comes together for a week of Bowie-inspired celebrations.

Philly Loves Bowie Week is an annual festival honoring the rock icon, who died of liver cancer on Jan. 10, 2016, just two days after his 69th birthday. There are tribute performances, dance parties, gallery exhibitions, and even a Bowie-focused karaoke night.

Everyone has a story of how they found Bowie, but few have a story like Patti Brett.

“I discovered him when I was 17 years old,” I saw him live in December of ‘72, and seeing that show changed my life.”

Later, Brett was one of the “Sigma Kids” standing outside Sigma Sound Studios as Bowie recorded his legendary album “Young Americans” in Philadelphia. He invited them in to hear the unedited tracks, inspired heavily by the Philly soul sound he’d fallen in love with during his “Diamond Dogs” tour.

Bowie’s bond with the city would grow deeper over the years, not only through regular touring appearances but also a pair of live albums — “David Live,” recorded at the Tower Theater and “Stage,” recorded in part at the Spectrum. Notably, Bowie also narrated a 1978 recording of “Peter and the Wolf,” performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In 2017, Brett, a bartender at Doobies in South Philly, found other Bowie lovers to inaugurate a week of Bowie celebrations in the city. This year, the annual Philly Loves Bowie Week runs now through Jan. 13.

On Friday night, The National Liberty Museum kicked off the festivities with its fourth annual Bowie Bash.

“Oh, who isn’t a Bowie fan?” asked museum CEO Alaine Arnott. The event this year comes alongside the opening of the museum’s “Amplified” exhibit, which showcases the power of art and music to spur social change.

“A lot of people come and they expect it to be about protest music or big events and what we really found is that it’s really most important to talk about the personal connections,” said Aaron Billheimer, the museum’s director of exhibitions.

“The nostalgia the people have, the way they’re moved by the music, that’s what actually empowers them to cause the social movements.”

For Billheimer, the late singer-songwriter evokes both nostalgia — but also empowerment, through his ever-shifting styles and personas. “He was a person who was fluid and kind of traveled through different social norms and sort of represents all of us,” he said, alluding to how the singer elided the boundaries of gender during the 1970s.

Brett, for her part, couldn’t be happier to pair the Bowie Week kickoff with the “Amplified” exhibit, which runs through April 8. “I think it’s a perfect match ... I think he would be blown away by it,” she said.

“He’s been so influential to so many people with, you know, being who you are, don’t care about what people think, do what you want to do.”

Or as Bowie himself — as Ziggy Stardust — summed it up, “Let all the children boogie.”

Rowan University to build healing arts center thanks to \$1M donation

January 6, 2024

GLASSBORO, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Rowan University will be the site of a new healing arts center, thanks to a donor who says painting helped change his outlook on life after he was paralyzed.

A \$1 million gift from Dr. James George will fund the creation of the healing arts center in his name. George worked for decades as an emergency medicine physician, until a fall paralyzed him. He says painting became a passion during his recovery at Magee Rehabilitation Center in Philadelphia.

“When I was in Magee rehab hospital, just barely beginning to recover some movement on my left side, I could just put marks on paper. And then after a couple of weeks of that, I discovered color, and I ended up painting every day when I was at Magee,” he said.

“That, for me, has been a miraculous gift of art in my life after my accident.”

George says he’s right-handed but gained function in his left side first, and he found joy and inspiration in learning something new. He says this turned into the passion that helped push his limits of mental and physical recovery.

He now hopes to share this experience with others through the creation of the new center, “which would collaborate with a wider and wider network of healthcare institutions, community groups, Rowan students, and other folks,” he explained.

“It gave and gives me great personal satisfaction and it keeps me active,” George said, “so all of those things are reasons why I decided to do this.”

Rowan’s Creative Arts and Communications Dean Sanford Tweedie says the Dr. James George & Family Healing Arts Center will be available to patients, their families, students, and just about anyone else they can help.

“He hasn’t used this phrase yet but he’s said it before: he sees this opportunity for the healing arts as a weapon of mass improvement,” Tweedie shared.

Rowan President Dr. Ali Houshmand says George is a longtime member of the Rowan community who leads by example — and helping to unlock the healing power of creativity may be the greatest gift of all.

Philly Art Commission gives final, unanimous approval to Harriet Tubman statue project January 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia’s new Harriet Tubman statue is one step closer to taking its place outside of City Hall, as officials gave final approval to the project.

The Philadelphia Art Commission unanimously approved the commission at a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, allowing the city to begin the contracting process with artist Alvin Pettit. The Jersey City-based Pettit was chosen last October to create the statue after an open call to artists was narrowed down to five finalists.

All five finalists were presented to the public in an online survey that received nearly 3,000 responses. Pettit’s design scored the highest in every category, including likeness, essence, and emotional and educational qualities.

The statue will be titled “A Higher Power: The Call of a Freedom Fighter,” and will stand on the northeast apron of City Hall upon its completion. According to the city’s Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy, it is inspired by Tubman’s Civil War heroism, including an 1863 battle where she led 150 Black Union soldiers and rescued more than 700 enslaved people. Tubman was the first woman to lead an armed military operation in the U.S.

“As the first ever woman mayor of Philadelphia, I am thrilled that the first piece of public art to be approved under this administration will be this statue of a Black woman who fought for freedom here in Philadelphia,” said Mayor Cherelle Parker.

OCT. 30, 2023

Pettit says the statue, which depicts Tubman with a rifle across her arm and her hands clasped in prayer, is also inspired by a 1975 painting of George Washington at Valley Forge. “Since [George Washington] is considered by most to be the primary founding father of our nation, I

feel it is only fitting to reimagine this famous image with Harriet as the founding mother of freedom,” said the artist.

A permanent Tubman statue has been in the works since 2022 after a traveling statue of the abolitionist received positive feedback from Philadelphians. The Kenney administration commissioned that statue’s creator, Wesley Wofford, to create the permanent work.

However, the choice of Wofford, a white sculptor from North Carolina, received pushback from many Black artists from the area, who were upset that the city automatically chose to move forward with Wofford rather than offer local artists, including those of color, the opportunity to submit their own designs.

Curtain up! Ensemble Arts Philly takes center stage as presenting brand for former Kimmel Cultural Campus

January 14, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — What’s in a name? Ask the Kimmel Cultural Campus, which has changed its name to Ensemble Arts Philly.

The Kimmel Cultural Campus may have been known as the centerpiece of performance on the Avenue of the Arts, but the name was difficult to distinguish from the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, which is a single venue within the campus.

“What we were finding was that people were showing up with a ticket to the Academy of Music at the beautiful Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts,” said President and CEO Matías Tarnopolsky.

The organization is hoping to clear that up by making Ensemble Arts Philly the presenting brand for shows at the Kimmel Center, Miller Theater, Academy of Music, and Forrest Theater. The newly named Ensemble Arts Philly will present just about every performance that would play before on the Kimmel Cultural Campus.

The musical “Ain’t Too Proud” currently running at the Academy of Music, “Girl From the North Country” coming to the Forrest Theatre, and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra coming to Verizon Hall inside the Kimmel Center, are all Ensemble Arts Philly shows.

Ensemble Arts Philly will also present “Hamilton” in 2024 and “MJ the Musical” in 2025.

The Philadelphia Orchestra, which performs at the Kimmel Center, will maintain its own brand and website, but tickets will also be available on the Ensemble Arts Philly website.

“For the first time ever, you could buy a ticket for a Broadway show and a Philadelphia Orchestra performance in the same shopping cart,” Tarnopolsky said.

Tarnopolsky says the new name is all about bringing people together.

“Ensemble is a warm embrace. It's a unifying concept. Ensemble Arts Philly is about bringing the audiences, the communities, of Philadelphia together with the great artists and performances of our day in our beautiful venues.”

FEBRUARY

Black cinema classics take center stage this weekend at Philadelphia Film Center February 3, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Classics of Black cinema, as well as movies that flew under the radar are on display this weekend at the Philadelphia Film Center in Center City.

The five-night Black Cinema Weekend series kicked off Black History Month on Thursday with a screening of Zeinabu Irene Davis’ 1991 romantic drama “A Powerful Thang.” The Philadelphia Film Society, which operates the Film Center, followed that on Friday with that same year’s seminal coming-of-age story “Boyz N the Hood.”

The Film Center also has a series of events scheduled over the weekend before the films, including everything from a celebration of Black women filmmakers to a family-fun trivia night. Black Cinema Weekend runs through Sunday.

“What I love about film in particular is that it has a power to spark conversation, show you something, and have you grapple with it as a community,” said Joshua Campbell, director of education for PFS. He worked alongside education and programming coordinator Yace Sula to assemble the lineup.

“What I love about this program specifically, it’s a plethora of varying narratives of Blackness that aren’t necessarily explicitly about Blackness,” shared Sula. “It’s just about being a person in this world and navigating the things you navigate in life, but you can’t separate Blackness from that.”

The selected films also honor the achievements of their creators, like “Boyz N the Hood” director John Singleton. Singleton made the movie right out of film school and received Oscar nominations for Best Original Screenplay and Best Director — becoming not only the youngest, but also the first Black director to be nominated.

“The best way to honor the likes of a John Singleton is to continue that work, and to continue uplifting Black filmmakers and filmmakers of color, and giving them the opportunity to continue the work that he did,” said Sula.

The movie’s themes of gun violence, police brutality, and family are just a few that some of the other films this weekend will grapple with while showcasing the complexity of Blackness. “It’s asking us, in this moment, ‘Have we really grown, have we really learned, have we really evolved if this thing is still happening?’” said Campbell.

Several dozen Black creatives gathered Friday evening for a cocktail hour before entering the theater to see the Singleton classic. Jae Rich was the mind behind the cocktails, and she has a whole slate of them to go with every movie being shown across Black Cinema Weekend.

“We called it Sweet Cinematics, and that was infusing flavor with film, and I decided to theme all of the drinks around the movies,” said Rich, who called Friday’s drink “Concrete Jungle.”

“We came up with these amazing ideas,” she added. “How can we help people experience all of the amazing things that the Philadelphia Film Society has?’ Just movies, but they also have an amazing bar experience here.”

Six other movies will be showcased this weekend, including “Sweet Sweetback’s Baadasssss Song,” credited with kicking off the Blaxplotation wave of the ‘70s, and 1982’s “Losing Ground,” the first movie directed by a Black woman since the 1920s.

Also on the schedule are the supernatural drama “Eve’s Bayou,” starring Samuel L. Jackson, and the boxing biopic “Big George Foreman.”

Camden County College unveils exhibition highlighting legacy of Black baseball figures

February 5, 2024

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — A new exhibition now open at Camden County College showcases the impact Black athletes had on baseball.

The exhibition, “A League Apart,” focuses on the importance of breaking barriers with a series of historic photos and stories about Philadelphia Negro League baseball, as well as five Black individuals whose impact on the game is immeasurable.

Camden County Commissioner Jon Young says this is a great way to teach Black kids about the Black heroes of baseball.

“I think these stories and these types of exhibits really highlight baseball at a time where baseball is kind of teetering a little bit and trying to find some new identity,” Young said.

Visitors will find Octavius Catto in the exhibit. “He founded the second Black baseball team in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Pythons,” Young said.

South Philadelphia Little League phenom Mo’ne Davis is also there. “Everyone knows that great story and how she broke some boundaries,” Young said.

Also on the roster are Ed Bolden, Pop Lloyd, and Phillies legend Dick Allen.

“Dick Allen belongs in the Hall of Fame. We all know that. The guy was a hell of a slugger,” Young said.

Admission to the exhibit is free at Camden County College’s Cherry Hill campus, and it will be open until May 20.

Banned books by Black authors get new life in Little Free(dom) Libraries

February 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Visit Philadelphia has launched a new initiative for Black History Month to make hundreds of banned books by Black authors available to readers.

The Little Free(dom) Library project is aimed at encouraging Philadelphians to explore Black history. Together with the Free Library of Philadelphia and Little Free Library, Visit Philadelphia placed boxes in 13 visitor hubs across the city. More than 1,500 books by Black authors are distributed through those boxes.

According to free speech nonprofit PEN America, more than 30 states have banned certain books by Black authors. As Visit Philadelphia's CEO Angela Val says, the Little Free(dom) Library initiative demonstrates Philadelphia's commitment to making these stories accessible to both visitors and residents.

“We understand that our history in America can be complex but we celebrate it here in Philadelphia,” said Val, “and we do that by also telling Black stories — which are also American history stories.”

Loraine Carter and her two daughters spent the weekend visiting Philly museums, historic houses, and the Little Free(dom) Libraries. She calls the project outstanding but warns the books are going fast.

“We took books and when we came back ... many were already taken. They were gone,” she said.

The Little Free(dom) Libraries can be found throughout the city at the following locations:

1. Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street
2. Columbia North YMCA, 1400 N. Broad Street
3. Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, 2027 Fairmount Avenue
4. Faheem's Hands of Precision, 2100 S. 20th Street
5. Frankford Community Development Corporation, 4667 Paul Street
6. Franklin Square, 200 N. 6th Street

7. Historic Germantown, 5501 Germantown Avenue
8. Johnson House Historic Site, 6306 Germantown Avenue
9. Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, 419 S. 6th Street
10. Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
11. The Independence Visitor Center, 599 Market Street
12. The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, 300 S. Broad Street
13. South Street Off Center, 407 South Street

Marian Anderson Museum and historic church to present one-day pop-up exhibit, 'Faith, Music and Community'

February 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Marian Anderson Museum is partnering with the historic Tindley Temple United Methodist Church on Broad Street for a Black History Month event honoring two very special people in the singer's life.

Jillian Patricia Pirtle, a National Marian Anderson Scholar artist with the museum, says faith, music, and community are at the heart of the pop-up exhibit experience: "Faith Music & Community."

"They are important because they foster the story of the Black community in Philadelphia," said Pirtle.

The exhibit examines the lives of Rev. Charles A. Tindley and opera singer Marian Anderson — both connected to Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Center City.

"The reason why this is so significant is because Marian Anderson's mother was a lifetime member of the church. And because of that, Marian Anderson had several meaningful concerts there during her lifetime and career in honor of her mother."

Tindley headed the church during the civil rights movement of the 20th century. Both Anderson and Tindley were integral in the church's involvement in civil rights and in lifting up the Black community.

“It’s a brand-new experience. Philadelphia has never seen it before. An exhibition that features Rev. Charles Tindley and everything he did to build a bridge of faith for the Black community in the 1800s into the 20th century — and Marian Anderson’s significant role with that and her family.”

Pirtle says the one-day event — Sunday, Feb. 25, at 1 p.m. — will include recordings and live performances.

On display, visitors will find photos, artifacts, and sheet music from Marian Anderson and the church’s historic collections, showcasing the essential roles faith, music, and community played in American history.

“These things are a rich part of the story of what makes Black Philadelphia the experience it has been since 1663.”

MARCH

After decades in the dark, historic Lansdowne Theater set to reopen as a concert venue this fall

March 14, 2024

LANSDOWNE, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — The last time the Lansdowne Theater hosted guests was Independence Day 1987 for a showing of “Beverly Hills Cop II.” An electrical fire damaged the theater and the owner walked away, leaving it untouched for more than 35 years.

Now, tickets are available at the historic Delaware County theater, but not for movies on the silver screen. It is being converted into a live music venue.

Construction started in August 2023 and is expected to be completed by the fall of this year. The Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation used grant money and donations from the community to transform the former movie theater into a state-of-the-art concert hall.

“The borough forgave some of the building permits, so that saved us money. The county has made a significant financial investment in the building, as has the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government,” said Matt Schultz, executive director of the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation.

The building, which opened in 1927, has old but strong bones, Schultz said. He is in charge of preserving its character, and he's doing so by keeping some pieces intact, like the projection booth equipment.

"This is how they controlled all the lights in the theater, through this board," he described. "It's disconnected. We're just going to keep it as a relic of the days that movies were shown here."

Concertgoers can expect new seating that resembles the theater's original chairs, a cash bar, and a stage that can support bands and their equipment.

"We're going to extend the stage overtop of what was the orchestra pit," he said. "When movies would be delivered to the theaters, sheet music would be delivered [too], so the organ would play along. We're not sure how frequently they did it, but there would be a pit orchestra here of maybe four or five people playing along with the organ."

The theater tested out the stage with a performance by a capella group Straight No Chaser. Schultz said the size of the venue made it an intimate show.

"I got to introduce them," he said, "and when I stepped out on the stage and looked at this big auditorium, I felt like I was standing in my living room. Because when you have that many people, it just makes it tiny, which makes it a great place to see a show."

The theater's first official acts will be Hot Tuna, Don McLean, Will Downing, and Southside Johnny in December.

Concertgoers can see the venue's progress for themselves on April 13 at an open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the theater's old ticket booth for \$20.

Ensemble Arts promises big hits and even bigger names in 2024-25 Broadway season

March 18, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Ensemble Arts, the new presenting brand of The Philadelphia Orchestra and The Kimmel Cultural Campus, announced its 2024-25 Broadway season full of current and past hits that have captivated audiences.

As Francis Egler with Ensemble Arts highlighted, among heavy hitters like “Les Miserables” (which kicks off the season on Aug. 27) and “Hamilton” (beginning on Oct. 29) is a Philly classic.

“We’re really excited to showcase the amazing new revival of ‘The Wiz’ and [it] has everything from home and [a] brand new day, so many songs that we haven’t had a chance to present on stage in Philly,” she said.

“The Wiz” began its pre-Broadway tour in Philly at the Forrest Theatre in 1974. It would hit Broadway in 1975.

On the whole, the season will feature 12 shows and run between Aug. 27, 2024 and July 27, 2025. The caper in July of next year is “Life of Pi.” During the holiday season there’s also a variety of exclusive touring productions and children’s favorites like “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

Philly’s Jewish history museum could become part of the Smithsonian

March 21, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Bipartisan-backed legislation was introduced in Congress to try to make Philadelphia’s Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History a part of the Smithsonian Institution.

Lawmakers want to establish a commission of nine people to “study the feasibility of transferring” the Weitzman to the Smithsonian, a press release from the Jewish museum says.

If integrated, the Weitzman would become the 22nd museum under the Smithsonian but would remain in Philadelphia.

“Our museum’s location here on Independence Mall, here in Philadelphia is very intentional,” said Chief Public Engagement Officer Emily August. “A lot of people have asked us over the years, ‘Why aren’t you in D.C.? Why aren’t you in New York?’ And the answer seems so clear to us.

“When you come to a museum and explore American Jewish stories in that location and look out the windows across at the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall and Independence Hall, it’s a really powerful feeling.”

After the commission process, another round of legislation would be needed to officially make the transfer. August said it would be an exponential opportunity for the Weitzman to tell American Jewish stories on the Smithsonian’s level.

The legislation was introduced in the House by U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and backed by several other lawmakers, including Pennsylvania Rep. Brendan Boyle and Sens. Bob Casey and John Fetterman.

‘We are all Jonathan Larson’ — In ‘Rent’ composer’s ‘other show,’ a tribute to Philly’s creative community

March 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Theatre Horizon’s production of the rock concert-style musical “Tick, Tick... Boom!” in April is an exercise in autobiography on a couple of levels.

The musical, written by the late Jonathan Larson — who later won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award for “Rent” — is about a composer who’s about to turn 30 and struggling to get a show produced.

Robi Hager, who directs and stars in Theatre Horizon’s production, is a lyricist and composer himself. He has performed on Broadway, but he always returns home to Philadelphia, where he says he has found a strong theater community.

“I think there’s a sense of community here, that everybody is in on the same plane, that we all collaborate together to make art. And that’s been really, really exciting,” Hager said. And he says his aim with this production is to use Larson’s story to pay homage to the people of that community.

“And as many, many, many composers — even here in Philadelphia, that I know, that are friends of mine — that part of what I want to do with this show in this version is to represent them as well — as what it takes for young composers to step away from being a ‘young promising composer’ [to become] a composer that is making a living off of it.”

Hager says the echoes of Philadelphia’s creative community show up in more concrete ways on the stage, as well.

“We decided to add a little bit of that touch in our set — of other composers that have inspired me, and composers who are still on the rise who are friends of mine. We have some of their sheet music put in decoupage, on the wall in the back to be like: We all are, in some way, a version of Jonathan Larson.”

In “Tick, Tick... Boom!” the main character, Jon, sees his friend succeeding at a corporate job and has to decide if he wants to keep struggling and pursuing his art, or turn to something more lucrative but less fulfilling.

“I’m excited to do the show, because I’m kind of hitting that wall a little bit. You know, the arts is the first thing to go when it comes to funding. So that’s the thing — like, I love doing this so much. I love performing. I love writing,” Hager says.

“But how much longer do I have it in me when I see other people stepping away from that art form and getting that house, getting that car, getting all these things? Not that it’s a material thing that I’m looking for, but it’s stability.”

Hager wrote a musical in 2021 called “Little Duende,” which had a reading in New York City but was not picked up by any producers. He’s now working on another musical, “Siluetas,” that will be produced in Philadelphia by Power Street Theatre.

“Tick, Tick... Boom!” is co-directed by Steve Pacek and also stars Angel Sigala and Montgomery County native Elena Camp. It opens April 4 and runs through April 14. Tickets are available on Theatre Horizon’s website.

EDUCATION

JANUARY

Education advocates say boosting Pa. school funding by billions would meet the Commonwealth Court mandate

January 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As Gov. Josh Shapiro prepares his budget proposal, education advocates are recommending how Pennsylvania should fund K-12 schools in a way that would meet last year's court mandate.

Last year, the Commonwealth Court ruled that Pennsylvania's system of funding education was unconstitutionally inadequate and inequitable. A coalition of groups called PA Schools Work has released a recommendation on how to satisfy the court.

Dan Urevick-Ackelsberg, senior attorney with the Public Interest Law Center, said adding \$6.2 billion to the state's education budget over the next five years — with a \$2 billion increase in the first year — would meet the court's directive.

“They have to fill this \$6.2 billion adequacy gap within five years. It's a big number,” he said. “We don't pretend that it's not a big number, but it's also an urgent problem.”

Donna Cooper, executive director of the nonprofit Children First, said Shapiro should step up when he delivers his budget address next month.

“We know and hope that he agrees with us that this is the right time, this year, to right the unconstitutional wrong,” she said.

A bipartisan panel called the Basic Education Funding Commission is expected to present its school funding recommendations to the governor and state Legislature next week.

New PA legislation to require mandatory financial literacy course for high school graduation

January 15, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Pennsylvania high school students will soon be required to take a personal finance course in order to graduate.

“While it’s important to understand biology and history, they’re not going to be using them in their day-to-day living,” said Cindy Axelrod, a finance professor at Temple University’s Fox School of Business.

She says teaching financial literacy at a young age will set students up for success.

“When you graduate high school you’re 18 years old and you’re suddenly thrust out into the world and you don’t have the financial tool to be able to succeed financially. Suddenly, you have bills to pay, you have independence.”

The new graduation requirement will be implemented in the 2026-2027 school year.

According to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, a school entity or nonpublic school must provide a mandatory course in personal financial literacy worth at least half of a credit.

Students will have to complete the course once during their high school career. Ed Nelling, head of the finance department at Drexel University’s LeBow College of Business, says it’s been considered taboo to talk about money in the past, but sharing financial successes and failures with your children can help them in the future.

Pennsylvania is one of 25 states to pass legislation requiring financial literacy courses for high schoolers.

Murphy calls for Camden School Board president to resign amid sexual assault allegations

January 19, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Camden’s School Board president has taken a leave of absence amid allegations of sexual assault of a student in the 1990s. New Jersey’s governor is asking for him to resign immediately.

Wasim Muhammad was a social studies teacher at Cooper B. Hatch Middle School in Camden when the victim, in eighth grade at the time, says he began calling her beautiful and grooming her for a sexual relationship.

Her attorney, Jeff Fritz, says Muhammad had sexual encounters with her for years — in classrooms, at motels, and at his home, which is near the school. Fritz says he claimed her as one of his multiple wives when she turned 18 in 1997.

“Mr. Muhammad is claiming that she was a wife of his, a spiritual wife, through the Islamic faith. She denies that,” Fritz said.

Camden School District is also named as a defendant in the civil suit. Fritz says there’s reason to believe administrators knew about this relationship.

“She was unable to come forward for years, in fact, decades, due to embarrassment, humiliation, and a fear that she wouldn’t be believed.”

A spokesperson for the district says their top priority continues to be the safety and well-being of students.

Gov. Phil Murphy says the allegations are heinous and believes Muhammad should resign.

Muhammad’s attorney has not responded to a request for comment.

Expected \$400M budget shortfall has Philly district delaying year-round schools pilot
January 31, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — With a big budget deficit looming, the School District of Philadelphia is taking a more cautious approach to its pilot program for year-round schools.

Superintendent Tony Watlington has made a pilot of up to 10 year-round schools part of his five-year “Accelerate Philly” plan, with a projected cost of about \$25 million. However, with a projected budget shortfall of \$400 million next year, Watlington tells KYW Newsradio that the district is backing off of the accelerator.

“We want to make sure that we have the resources not just to do this, but to do this well,” Watlington said, “so we’ve delayed a communication about next steps until we see what the budget looks like.”

Mayor Cherelle Parker — who talked about her desire for year-round schools during her campaign — clarified her position on Tuesday, at Watlington’s “State of the Schools” address.

“Some people refer to it as out of school time. I called it year-round school during the campaign,” she said. “You can call it whatever you want to call it, but I want our young people to have access to those opportunities year-round.”

Watlington says he’ll have a more complete picture of any year-round school pilot later this semester.

FEBRUARY

Philadelphia School District hires administrator to help reduce dropout rate

February 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Thousands of Philadelphia public school students drop off the rolls each year, with no explanation. A new administrator is joining the Philadelphia School District with the sole focus of preventing dropouts.

At the end of last school year, 3,600 students had disappeared from the district's attendance rolls, with no information about why they weren't in school anymore.

As of December 2023, the district listed more than 1,900 dropouts for the current school year. That's about 900 fewer than December 2022, but Superintendent Tony Watlington said it's still too many.

So, he's hiring someone to tackle the issue.

"We're going to bring aboard a new assistant superintendent who will focus exclusively on coordinating our dropout efforts across the school district," Watlington said.

Dr. Melvin Marshall, a former high school principal in Guilford County, North Carolina, will become the district's latest assistant superintendent. Marshall was an assistant principal at Dudley High School in Greensboro — the same school where Watlington served as principal two decades ago.

"It's a school where we had a significant improvement in student achievement and significant decreases in the dropout rate," Watlington said. "He has experience significantly improving student outcomes, including for children of color, and for significantly reducing the dropout numbers and increasing the four-year graduation rates."

Watlington said Marshall will work with the city, the Philadelphia Housing Authority, and other agencies to keep students in school.

"We have a very tightly coordinated intergovernmental strategy, and we won't stop until we get the dropout numbers down to zero," he pledged.

Watlington pointed to a study that determined every dropout costs the city \$405,000. Because students who drop out generally don't have good life outcomes, he said keeping students in school is a moral issue for the district.

Marshall comes to Philadelphia from North Carolina, but Watlington noted that he has promoted several assistant superintendents from within the Philadelphia School District in recent months.

Community College of Philadelphia scholarship offers financial boost to LGBTQ, under-represented minority students

February 4, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A historic nonprofit and the Community College of Philadelphia are working together to give LGBTQ students a financial boost for higher education.

“We love our community and we want to make sure that all of our community get the opportunities that everyone else has,” says Christopher Cirillo, with the nonprofit Philly AIDS Thrift at Giovanni's Room.

The goal is to help bridge a gap in resources for LGBTQ students.

“They're discriminated against — not always just by their peers but also their families — so they don't always have the opportunities that a lot of other people have,” Cirillo said.

The Ed Hermance Scholarship was established to create opportunities for LGBTQ and under-represented minority students pursuing higher education at the Community College of Philadelphia.

“Last year was our 50th anniversary, and we decided one of the best ways to celebrate was to honor one of the longest-standing managers of Giovanni's Room itself — that's Ed Hermance. So they decided to start a scholarship in his name.”

Annually the scholarship fund will offer \$1,000 to 50 incoming and current full- and part-time students in good standing at the Community College of Philadelphia, Cirillo said. Applications for the scholarship are being accepted now. The deadline is June 30.

Philly AIDS Thrift at Giovanni's Room supports organizations fighting against HIV and AIDS. Giovanni's Room is the oldest LGBTQ and feminist bookstore in the country.

Study: Philly schools outpacing other urban districts in pandemic recovery
February 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A recent study shows Philadelphia schools are outpacing other urban districts in recovering from the pandemic.

The report by Harvard University's Center for Education Policy Research and the Educational Opportunity Project said, compared to other large and poor urban districts, Philadelphia's math scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress tests have recovered from the pandemic the fastest, and its reading scores showed more post-COVID growth than only Chicago.

Schools Superintendent Tony Watlington touted the Harvard study at the school board's Goals and Guardrails meeting Thursday night.

"Anytime the School District of Philadelphia can get in first place in terms of rebound and improvement, we should celebrate and applaud our students and staff," he said.

Overall, of the urban districts that took the tests, Philadelphia ranked near the bottom. Watlington, though, told the board that it's important to recognize growth.

"It validates that we're on the right track. We're making some significant progress, and yet, we have a long way to go and a lot of work to do," he said.

"We should not immediately say, 'Well, the test scores are too low anyway.'"

He says they need to let teachers and students know that success begets more success.

“We've got to start looking at the glass as half full and not just always half empty.”

One way to address the teacher shortage: Pay student-teachers for their time, lawmaker suggests

February 27, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Pennsylvania State Sen. Vincent Hughes, union leaders and administrators gathered at Science Leadership Academy at Beeber Monday to discuss ways to ease the state’s teacher shortage.

The Philadelphia School District started the current year short of more than 200 teachers. Superintendent Tony Watlington says it’s a reflection of the fact that between 2011 and 2022, there’s been a huge drop — about 71% — in people seeking teaching careers.

Recognizing the decline, Science Leadership Academy started a course for students seeking teaching careers.

“The pipeline program is doing what it has set out to do: To spark that interest,” said Instructor Njemele Anderson.

But beyond interest there are financial obstacles, said Melody Dorsainvil, a Temple University senior majoring in early childhood education.

“From tuition to books to transportation, there were very few days where I wasn’t anxious about how I’d be able to keep going,” she said. “During a majority of my college career, I’ve had to work two or three jobs to try and stay afloat.”

One strategy promoted by Hughes is to pay student-teachers for their time. Pennsylvania State Education Association President Aaron Chapin endorsed the idea.

“Paying our student-teachers a modest stipend will remove a significant barrier in becoming an educator and help ease the staff shortages in the years ahead,” he said.

Last year, lawmakers approved \$10 million to pay student-teachers up to \$10,000 each. Gov. Josh Shapiro is looking to expand the program in his current budget proposal.

MARCH

Philadelphia School Board VP resigns ahead of new board nominations

March 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As Mayor Cherelle Parker prepares to pick a new Philadelphia School Board, one influential member is taking her name out of the running.

School Board Vice President Mallory Fix-Lopez had applied to be considered by Parker for reappointment, but she has since withdrawn her name and announced her resignation, effective April 18.

Her decision to step down isn't political, she said. It's personal. With two young children in school and a medical procedure coming up, she said she couldn't commit to a new four-year term.

"When I started this, I had one child that was 3 years old. Now I have two that are 8 and 4. Both of them will be in school this fall and I really want to be deeply committed to their school and engaged," she said. "When I really thought about that much more deeply, over the past couple of weeks in particular, I had to be honest with myself that I don't have four more full years."

Fix-Lopez, who teaches at the Community College of Philadelphia, has been a member of the school board since 2018 when the district returned to local control.

"We had to build this board from scratch. I think just helping it have a structure, have governance policies is huge," she said.

Among her accomplishments, Fix-Lopez lists the expansion of multilingual services, a renewed board focus on academic achievement, and a policy supporting trans and nonbinary students. The latter led to mandatory training across the district and the creation of gender-neutral bathrooms in schools — something "the policy called for, but never existed," she said.

"I feel like I really helped set things in motion for the next board to carry through and to bring their own ideas and new lenses to it," Fix-Lopez added. "But it's my time to go to focus on my family."

Board President Reginald Streater has said he would like to continue on the board. The Educational Nominating Panel on March 12 is expected to give the mayor 27 names, from whom she can pick nine to serve on the new school board.

**Gov. Shapiro discusses his higher education ‘blueprint’ at West Chester University
March 7, 2024**

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Gov. Josh Shapiro on Thursday shared his vision for the future of higher education in the commonwealth. Speaking at West Chester University, he proposed significant tuition drops for lots of students.

According to Shapiro, Pennsylvania ranks 49th in the U.S. in state investment in higher education, and 48th for affordability. He said he wants to change those numbers.

With a placard on the podium in front of him reading “Freedom to chart your own choice,” the governor delivered his new “blueprint for higher education,” focusing on competition and workforce development, as well as access and affordability.

“My plan builds a strong pipeline between our community colleges and our [Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education] universities and invests in the future of our students and our colleges,” Shapiro said.

The governor unveiled his plan in January, ahead of last month’s budget address. Under the initiative, state system universities and community colleges will unite under a new governance system, and Pennsylvanians making up to the median income will pay no more than \$1,000 in tuition and fees per semester at those schools.

“We need to make sure that they have a low-cost, high-quality higher education at any one of our Pennsylvania colleges or universities,” he said.

Shapiro told lawmakers that his plan, if passed, would take Pennsylvania from 49th in the nation in higher education investment to 22nd place.

He also encouraged lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to give their input on his blueprint. “We put forth a thoughtful plan that we are now giving to lawmakers and others,” said Shapiro, “to allow them to help inform that plan so that we can get it done together.”

Republican lawmakers were cool to his plan, however. Pa. Rep. Seth Grove, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said the plan lacked key details, particularly on financing. He also claimed it would open families and businesses to significant future tax hikes, and that it funds institutions over students.

Bipartisan legislators call for overhaul of New Jersey’s school funding formula

March 19, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are calling for an overhaul of New Jersey’s school funding formula, as they say it is too unpredictable year to year and leaves many school districts caught off guard.

School funding will increase by \$900 million, totaling \$11.7 billion for the next budget year. Despite this massive increase, more than 130 districts are seeing reductions in state aid.

Democratic state Sen. Vin Gopal, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said one of the schools in his district lost \$10 million from last year’s aid total.

“We need to make sure there is at least three- to five-year budgeting so a district is not on the hook all of a sudden, like Long Branch, where they’re down \$10 million and they got three weeks to figure out how to cut \$10 million from their budget,” he said. “That’s layoffs. That’s real people.”

Year to year, districts often don’t know what to expect from the state, with millions of dollars in fluctuations. Over the last several years, Gopal said increased transportation and special education costs have put districts in a tough spot.

This is the last year for the current funding formula. Republican state Sen. Owen Henry agrees with the need for multi-year budgeting.

“And now we have the opportunity to fix this,” he said. “Some districts need relief now. We need to do some short-term solutions, but at the end of the day, long-term solutions. These districts need to be stabilized.”

Both senators also believe that the state isn’t doing enough to support students with special needs. Currently, the state funds about 70% of special education, but there is no headcount of the total special needs students in each district. Instead, funding is estimated by a census formula based on population.

“It has to be tiered,” Henry suggested. “What are the needs for every individual special needs [student]? Is it a tier one? Is it a tier five, where that student needs to be placed out of district?”

Special education advocate John Mulholland said magnet schools do the best job with special education under the current system, adding to a district’s costs.

“If you create fair funding that actually supports students where they are, it doesn’t disincentivize districts from trying to do the right thing,” he added.

Principal at Edison High uses award money to open e-sports room for students

March 19, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Students at Philadelphia’s Edison High School who behave well and get good grades can earn time in the school’s new e-gaming room.

Principal Lillian Izzard used the \$20,000 she received last year as a Lindback award winner to outfit a little-used school room with flat screens, arcade games, furniture, and a colorful mural with a comic book vibe. She made the decision after speaking to her students.

“When I was awarded the \$20,000, this would have been the best thing for them – to have a place for them to be able to gather,” Izzard told KYW Newsradio.

There’s only room for 15 students or so, in a school of nearly 1,000 students. So they earn game time by having good attendance, performing well academically and staying out of trouble. Senior Kevon Cottle says he spends about a half hour each week in the room. “Since I’m a senior, it’s like really stressful now. And the fact that I get to play some games inside school makes it fun.”

Students are rewarded with time in the game room by scoring points through the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support system. "I do my classwork, homework. Sometimes I just help other teachers just so they would give me points," Cottle said.

Senior Damyan Santiago interrupted his Spider-Man game to say the game room provided a welcome break to bond with friends. "I'm often, like, trudging away on my senior project," he said. "Coming into a nice place to release some steam is really great."

The eSports room is purely for fun now, but Izzard hopes to eventually incorporate computer science education into the new game room.

ELECTIONS & POLITICS

JANUARY

The new year brings a flurry of new laws to Philly region, including wage bumps in NJ and Del. — but not Pa.

January 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — As the calendar flipped from '23 to '24, new laws took effect in nearly every state. A higher minimum wage in Delaware and New Jersey and criminal justice reform in Pennsylvania are among the new laws now taking effect.

Nearly 10 million American minimum wage workers stand to benefit in 22 states that are adopting laws to pump up paychecks. Raises range from a 35-cents-an-hour hop in some states to big leaps of more than a 1 dollar for workers in Maryland, Hawaii, and Nebraska.

The minimum wage in New Jersey increased by \$1 when the clock struck midnight, taking it to \$15.13 per hour. Delaware raised its minimum wage to \$13.25, with another planned increase that will put it at \$15 per hour next year.

Pennsylvania's minimum wage remains at \$7.25. That's the federal minimum wage — which hasn't budged since 2009, despite a 40% jump in inflation since then. In all, 20 states remain at that baseline minimum wage.

The Keystone State did, however, pass a flurry of new laws aimed at criminal justice reform before the legislative session ended, last month.

Incarcerated people in Pennsylvania will now have an easier road to returning home. Under two new laws taking effect, criminal records for non-violent drug convictions can now be sealed, so people leaving jail can return to the community more easily, and offenders will stay on probation for shorter periods of time.

Incarcerated women in Pennsylvania now have more protections. Male guards can no longer do full body searches on them and pregnant inmates can't be put in solitary confinement.

The state is also cracking down on people who steal packages left outside homes. A third offense will now be a felony.

The Pennsylvania attorney general's power to prosecute local offenses has expanded, especially in Philadelphia, where a new law puts the AG in charge in the case of crimes on or near SEPTA property. District Attorney Larry Krasner has denounced the new law as taking away his prosecutorial discretion.

And Pennsylvania dog owners, be aware: All dogs must now be licensed by the time they're 3 months old.

Pennsylvania and Delaware now join New Jersey in allowing automatic voter registration when drivers receive or renew their licenses.

In Delaware, guns are banned at polling places, schools and recreation zones. And the First State gave tenants the right to legal representation during eviction proceedings and legalized marijuana, allowing heavily regulated sales of the drug.

New Jersey eased access to birth control (women can now get self-administered birth control without a doctor's prescription), mandated menstrual products in schools and expanded protection-from-abuse orders to include victims who have no dating or familial relationship with an abuser.

And telemarketers calling New Jerseyans now have 30 seconds to identify themselves and the reason for their call.

New federal guidelines will end highway signs deemed 'too edgy' and distracting for drivers

January 17, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has updated its manual of regulations governing street and highway signs, and those made with pop culture references or intended humor are no longer allowed.

It means classic quips made on New Jersey signs — “Nice car. Did it come with turn signals?” — and PennDOT holiday warnings — “Only Rudolph should drive lit.” — are banned from use beginning in 2026.

New Jersey Transportation Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti told KYW in November that the FHWA believed the signs could be misunderstood by drivers.

“FHWA a year ago was concerned that the signs may have been too edgy or too distracting,” she said.

But Gutierrez-Scaccetti shot back that the humorous approach can make the message more memorable.

“I think when people see something that catches their eye, that they chuckle over — or they go home and tell their kids — yeah, you remember it,” she said. “Does it make them slow down? I hope in the moment it does.”

Under the new guidelines, only “simple, direct, brief, legible and clear” messages are permitted.

In a statement to KYW, the FHWA emphasized that “the safety of all road users is the priority,” and said it supported the use of “changeable message signs” operated by state transportation departments.

“States are expected to exercise good judgment in how and when they use changeable message signs for traffic safety messages, and in their specific wording of the messages,” it continued.

The FHWA then pointed to its manual when considering the nature of those messages.

Moratorium on New Jersey brewery restrictions extended by 2 weeks

January 2, 2024

TRENTON, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Brewery owners in New Jersey have temporary relief from some restrictions on events and menu offerings, and they hope a permanent solution is close.

A bill to remove the restriction on the number of events a brewery can host was passed by the state legislature, then conditionally vetoed by Gov. Phil Murphy. A six-month moratorium on enforcement expired at the start of the new year, but Alcoholic Beverage Control extended the moratorium by two weeks.

While Murphy hoped for a larger overhaul of New Jersey's liquor laws, that hasn't happened yet and brewery owners are stuck in the middle.

"Those restrictions though are set to go back into place on Jan. 16," said Eric Orlando, executive director of the Brewers Guild of New Jersey. He said the group is hopeful a new bill will be on the agenda in Trenton in the next few days.

"Based on the conversations that we have had with both the legislature and the governor's office, I think there is a commitment to try to get rid of these restrictions within the next few weeks," said Orlando.

"I'm hoping that possibly this Thursday there will be action on that legislation with the hopes of getting it on the governor's desk by next week."

Orlando said the constant fits and starts with the bill have been difficult to digest, but he's happy to see removing regulations that are harmful to breweries seems to be a priority in Trenton. However, as this is a lame duck session, Orlando acknowledges that brings some uncertainty to the table for an issue he wishes was already settled.

What to know about abortion rulings, bills and campaigns as the US marks Roe anniversary

January 22, 2024

Since the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling on Jan. 22, 1973, the time around the anniversary has always been marked by rallies, protests and political pledges.

This time, after the 2022 ruling that overturned the nationwide right to abortion that *Roe* provided, there's a flurry of activity as state policy gets decided by courts, lawmakers and voters.

It's also giving Democrats, including President Joe Biden's reelection campaign, a chance to rally voters around abortion access.

Abortion opponents also rallied last week in Washington with a context that's different from past editions of the annual March for Life. There's no longer a nationwide right to abortion and 14 states have bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy. But the political fallout has boosted their opponents more than them.

There were still some traditional anti-abortion rallies, including one in St. Paul, Minnesota, where an estimated 2,000 people attended, with many placing what organizers described as life-size models of fetuses on the steps of the state Capitol in protest of policies that protect abortion access.

Here's what to know about several developments.

Ballot drive launches in Colorado, campaign in Maryland

At least a hundred people gathered on the steps of the Colorado Capitol on Monday to launch a signature campaign for a ballot measure to enshrine abortion rights in the state's constitution. A cardboard sign read, "Someone you love has had an abortion," as state lawmakers and the Colorado attorney general bunched around a microphone and the crowd cheered.

Colorado's legislature passed abortion protections last year, but "if we don't enshrine it in the constitution, we will be at the whim of lawmakers," said Nicole Hensel, executive director of New Era Colorado, one of the coalition of groups behind the Coloradans for Protecting Reproductive Freedom campaign.

Colorado has become an island of abortion protections as surrounding states installed restrictions after Roe was overturned. The Cobalt Abortion Fund based in Colorado spent six times the amount helping people get abortions in 2023 as they did in 2021.

Advocates in Maryland also used Monday's Roe v. Wade anniversary to begin their campaign to support the ballot measure to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution that's already on the ballot there for November.

The only other state where a statewide vote on abortion rights in 2024 is sure to happen is New York, where the proposed amendment includes protecting reproductive freedom.

But similar votes are under consideration in more than a dozen states.

Since 2022, abortion rights supporters have prevailed on all seven statewide ballot measures.

Lawmakers in Wisconsin, and Maine consider ballot measures

Lawmakers in two states scheduled hearings for Monday as first steps to ask voters to change abortion policy. Both face uphill battles.

In Maine, Democrats are pushing for a measure that would protect reproductive autonomy in the state constitution.

Democrats control both chambers of the Legislature and the governor's office and, under state law, abortion is allowed at any point throughout pregnancy, if it's deemed necessary by a doctor.

But advancing a measure to voters would require the approval of two-thirds of both legislative chambers. To reach that, several Republicans would have to vote in favor of asking the public to vote.

In Wisconsin, a GOP proposal would ban abortion after 14 weeks of pregnancy.

Republicans control the legislature there, but Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, would likely veto the measure if it passed.

Currently, abortion is available in Wisconsin until fetal viability, but there's litigation over whether an 1849 law that conservatives interpreted as banning abortion should apply.

Missouri activists choose an amendment to support

A coalition of abortion rights supporters in Missouri decided last week which of 11 amendment proposals to support.

They went with one that would allow lawmakers to restrict abortion access only after viability — generally considered to be around 23 or 24 weeks gestation age — when a fetus might survive outside the uterus.

The decision from groups including the state ACLU chapter and Planned Parenthood chapters is one solution to a debate advocates have been having on whether to support measures that allow some abortion restrictions.

The Missouri measure would allow abortion later in pregnancy to protect the life and physical and mental health of the woman.

Some moderate Republicans are pushing a competing amendment, which would allow abortion up to 12 weeks in most cases, and between then and viability only in pregnancies resulting from rape or incest or in medical emergencies.

Under Missouri law, abortion is banned at all stages of pregnancy, with an exception to protect the life of the woman — but not in cases of rape or incest.

Biden Administration sides with Oklahoma hospital

In a decision made in October but not revealed publicly until last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that an Oklahoma hospital did not violate federal law when doctors told a woman with a nonviable pregnancy to wait in a parking lot until her condition declined enough for her to qualify for an abortion under the state's strict ban.

The ruling was the latest in what's emerged as a major legal question as most Republican-controlled states have imposed abortion bans: When do exceptions apply?

In other situations, the same federal agency has maintained that hospitals would violate federal law by turning away women seeking an abortion amid medical emergencies.

Pending lawsuits from women who assert they were wrongly denied an abortion address the issue.

Even as the Biden administration ruled in favor of the hospital in the Oklahoma case, it's planning to help people file complaints under the law that's intended to ensure emergency health care access.

FEBRUARY

Former Atlantic City politician charged with ballot fraud in 2022 general election

February 1, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — South Jersey political operative Craig Callaway has been charged with submitting fraudulent mail-in ballots in the 2022 general election.

Federal authorities allege Callaway, a former City Council president in Atlantic City, gathered vote-by-mail ballots and cast them in the 2022 election, in the names of people who said they never voted.

U.S. Attorney Philip Sellinger said Callaway, about a month before the election, paid messengers between \$30 and \$50 each to gather applications from people who supposedly wanted to vote by mail. But according to Sellinger, after the applications were processed, the messengers took the mail-in ballots from the Atlantic County clerk and gave them to Callaway.

Under the law, messengers are required to deliver mail-in ballots directly to the people who requested them. Callaway, 64, is charged with one count of fraudulently procuring and casting ballots.

“Holding free and fair elections is a bedrock principle of our democracy,” Sellinger said in a statement. “As alleged in the complaint, the defendant attempted to deprive New Jersey residents

of a fair election by fraudulently procuring and casting ballots. Today's charges reflect our office's commitment to hold to account those who try to undermine the electoral process."

Callaway previously served 3 1/2 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to bribery in 2006.

City Councilmember introduces affordable housing legislation, but one measure could hurt public schools

February 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Councilmember Jamie Gauthier plans to introduce a package of bills at Thursday's meeting aimed at increasing access to affordable housing.

Gauthier is proposing several measures. One would beef up the language in the Fair Practices Ordinance to specify that landlords cannot discriminate against renters using housing vouchers.

It already prohibits "source of income" discrimination, but she said that hasn't stopped landlords from refusing to accept vouchers. Her bill would not only clarify that vouchers are included but would make it easier for renters to seek a legal remedy if they're denied.

Another bill involves the money paid by developers so they can build more densely than zoning allows. Gauthier proposes that it get redistributed to parts of the city seeing the biggest increases in development, to provide funds for affordable housing.

A third proposal would freeze property tax increases for people making under \$33,000 a year. That, though, would hurt the School District of Philadelphia, since it receives most of the property tax revenue and is already facing a \$400 million deficit next year.

NJ bill would prohibit cable service termination fees for customers moving to long-term care facilities

February 6, 2024

NEW JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — Early termination fees are built into many contracts for cable, phone and internet service. A new bill advancing in the New Jersey Senate would prohibit service providers from imposing those fees on certain people suffering hardships.

The financial distress experienced by people who need extended medical treatment at long-term care facilities shouldn't be made worse by burdensome utility fees, according to bill sponsor, Sen. Robert Singer.

"This will affect thousands of people because, unfortunately, we have an aging population in New Jersey," Singer said.

The senator says some people are paying \$250 a month for cable, phone and internet bundles and there should be no red tape preventing them from canceling the service if they are moving into a nursing home.

"The fact of it is, if you terminate your gas or your electric, it ends that month. Cable should be the same thing."

He says this would apply to anyone who will be out of their home for at least 90 days for medical reasons.

The bill has received committee approval, and Singer hopes it'll be up for a full vote next month.

City Council committee votes to advance bill that would outlaw casino-style gaming machines in Philly stores

February 25, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City Council is back to in-person hearings for the first time in nearly four years, and the very first one — last week — showed how different it can be from a Zoom hearing.

After a long and sometimes heated hearing, the Public Safety Committee voted to advance a bill that would prohibit so-called skill game machines in corner stores and other spots where they may create a nuisance. The machines operate like arcade video games but can pay out like casino games. They are totally unregulated and untaxed.

Sponsor Curtis Jones said the machines create a dangerous environment, drawing would-be thieves lying in wait for someone to win.

“It’s a preponderance of things: When you sell loosie cigarettes; when you sell liquor by the drink and when you have these kinds of gambling machines, it almost creates a watering hole for prey.”

The bill has already passed City Council once, but Mayor Jim Kenney pocket-vetoed it by not signing it before leaving office, so this is the second hearing on the matter. The first one, last year, on Zoom, was quick with no opposition. This one took 3 ½ hours and was dominated by opponents like store owner Akash Patel, who said his store would suffer without the income from the machines.

“Why are you punishing honest, hard-working, tax-paying constituents?” he said in testimony.

Ari Marshand, who owns Xtreme Skill Games, Inc., said regulation is needed but not a ban.

“Right now, Philadelphia is known around the country as the Wild West of skills games. It’s an absolute atrocity what is happening in Philadelphia,” said Marshand, who has proposed turning the machines into revenue generators for the city by requiring permits that would also allow the city to track numbers and locations of the machines.

Supporters of the bill, such as Andy Toy of the Community Development Corporations Association, testified they create an unsavory atmosphere.

“Because of the amounts of cash at these locations and people hanging out for hours, they can become hostile and potentially unsafe places for others in the community,” Toy said.

Patel got into sometimes heated exchanges with councilman Jeff Young, attending his first hearing as a Council member.

“Should we as a city allow people to shoot dice outside your business establishment?” Young asked.

“Absolutely not. That would be very dangerous,” said Patel.

“My point is about the loitering that happens in these communities where these machines are,” said Young.

While City Council grapples with the issue, Gov. Josh Shapiro has recently proposed imposing state taxes on the machines.

In the end, the committee voted unanimously to advance the bill. It now goes to the full Council for a vote.

MARCH

New Jersey businessman pleads guilty and agrees to cooperate in Sen. Bob Menendez's corruption case

March 1, 2024

NEW YORK (AP) — A New Jersey businessman pleaded guilty Friday to trying to bribe U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, admitting that he gave the senator's wife a car to influence him and agreeing to a deal with prosecutors that calls for him to testify in the corruption case against the powerful Democrat.

Jose Uribe, of Clifton, New Jersey, entered the plea in Manhattan federal court to seven charges, including conspiracy to commit bribery from 2018 to 2023, honest services wire fraud, obstruction of justice and tax evasion.

As he described his crimes in court, Uribe told Judge Sidney H. Stein that he conspired with several people, including Nadine Menendez, to provide her with a Mercedes-Benz in return for her husband “using his power and influence as a United States senator to get a favorable outcome and to stop all investigations related to one of my associates.”

He said he also hoped the gift would, if necessary, stop a “possible investigation into another person who I considered to be a member of my family,” according to a transcript of the proceeding, which the media was not told about before it happened.

Uribe said he made certain payments on the Mercedes “in a manner to conceal my involvement because I knew it was wrong. I knew that giving a car in return for influencing a United States senator to stop a criminal investigation was wrong, and I deeply regret my actions.”

According to a plea agreement, Uribe could face up to 95 years in prison, though he could win leniency by cooperating and testifying against the other defendants, which he's agreed to do. He also agreed to forfeit \$246,000, representing proceeds traceable to his crimes.

Uribe was among three businessmen charged in the corruption case against Menendez and his wife, which was revealed last fall. Authorities say the couple accepted bribes of cash, gold bars and the luxury car in exchange for his help and influence over foreign affairs.

The defendants have pleaded not guilty.

Uribe remains free on a \$1 million bond, which was set when he was arrested. His plea deal, dated Thursday, was signed by him on Friday.

Uribe's attorney, Daniel Fetterman, declined to comment. David Schertler, a lawyer for Nadine Menendez, declined to comment. Lawyers for the senator did not immediately comment.

Menendez, his wife and the two other New Jersey businessmen are scheduled to go on trial in May.

Federal prosecutors allege that Menendez, the former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, used his position to take actions that benefited foreign governments in exchange for bribes paid by associates in New Jersey.

An indictment contends that Menendez and his wife took gold bars and cash from a real estate developer, and that the senator used his clout to get that businessman a multimillion-dollar deal with a Qatari investment fund.

Menendez is also accused of helping another New Jersey business associate get a lucrative deal with the government of Egypt. Prosecutors allege that in exchange for bribes, Menendez did things that benefited Egypt, including ghostwriting a letter to fellow senators encouraging them to lift a hold on \$300 million in aid.

Menendez also has been charged with using his international clout to help a friend get a multimillion-dollar deal with a Qatari investment fund, including by taking actions favorable to Qatar's government.

Uribe was accused of buying a luxury car for Nadine Menendez after her previous car was destroyed when she struck and killed a man crossing the street. She did not face criminal charges in connection with that crash.

The indictment has said the senator helped Uribe by trying to persuade prosecutors to go easy on one of his business associates who was the subject of a criminal investigation.

Uribe provided more information about his involvement in obstruction of justice crimes from June 2022 to 2023 during his plea hearing Friday, saying that after investigators sent him a subpoena related to the probe of the senator, Nadine Menendez contacted him through another individual.

He said he met with her later that afternoon at a Marriott hotel, where she asked him what he was going to say if somebody asked him about the car payments.

“I told her that I would say a good friend of mine was in a financial situation and I was helping that friend to make the payments on the car, and when she was financially stable, she will pay me back. Nadine says something like: ‘That sounds good,’” Uribe told the judge.

He said he later told his attorneys the same version of what happened and they transmitted that “false story” to prosecutors with his approval.

“Late in 2022, I received a check from Nadine paying me back for the car payments. I then deposited the check,” he said.

Rare public spat among City Council members breaks out in Thursday meeting

March 21, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia City Council members got into a rare public tiff at Thursday’s meeting when the Council president refused to allow a woman to speak about the war in Gaza during the public comment period.

The rules of Council say the public can only comment on legislation that’s up for a vote. The war in Gaza was not on the agenda, so when Kate Perez began speaking about Gaza, Council President Kenyatta Johnson interrupted her.

“I think I should be allowed my full two minutes to talk about Palestine,” Perez protested.

“Ms. Perez, could we just speak what’s on the actual bill?” asked Johnson, before ultimately cutting off her microphone and calling for the next speaker.

That prompted a rare public rebuke from Councilman Curtis Jones.

“When there is something egregious that is happening, we don’t want to fight the Middle East war here in City Council but doggone it, we have to be fair,” he said. “This is Ramadan. (I could) introduce a bill to allow her to speak. We can do it privately or we can do it real public.”

Jones went back and forth with Johnson until Council’s majority leader, Katherine Gilmore Richardson called for “orders of the day,” which means debate must stop. After the session, Jones and Johnson both said there were no hard feelings.

“There’s no bad blood,” Jones said, with Johnson adding, “For the record, this is us just having a spirited conversation.”

Council passed three significant bills at the meeting. One prohibits corner store gambling machines, which Council members say have become a nuisance and even a potential danger in vulnerable neighborhoods. Another bill outlaws devices that flip license plates, allowing drivers to evade police. The third imposes a curfew on businesses in Kensington that sponsor Quetcy Lozada says are problematic.

“This is just another tool we’re going to be able to use to respond to some of the illegal and disruptive activity that occurs after 11 p.m.,” said Lozada.

All three bills create new enforcement challenges for police and the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

New Parker administration policy requires city spokespeople get permission from mayor's press office before speaking to media

March 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker's administration has imposed strict controls on her staff's interaction with reporters, which can hinder coverage of city government.

In January, KYW Newsradio contacted the fire department to confirm the address of a fire, in order to tell listeners to avoid the area. The spokesperson said she could not provide the information without first getting permission from the managing director's office and the mayor's press office.

This policy had been laid out in an email from Managing Director Adam Thiel saying — in capital letters — “NO MEDIA INTERVIEWS, SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS, OR STATEMENTS OF ANY KIND UNTIL/UNLESS APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS.” It immediately ran into trouble from librarians who alerted patrons they might not be able to post information about events or changes to hours.

At the time, the mayor's spokesman Joe Grace said the email had been misinterpreted. A short time later, police, fire, and the Office of Emergency Management were permitted to speak without advance permission.

However, the gag stayed on others, even cabinet-level commissioners, stifling the flow of information that reporters depend on to give the public an accurate picture of how the government performs.

The control of the message extends beyond limiting who can say what. Last month, after the press office sent out an email saying the mayor had no public events, it invited two — and only two — media outlets to a public event, effectively excluding all other coverage.

Grace says he is done talking about the policy because it is, in his words, “inside baseball,” meaning it isn't of interest to anyone except reporters. But privately, communications staff in other departments complain it adds time and extra steps to their job of keeping the public aware of what their government is doing.

Supreme Court seems likely to preserve access to the abortion medication mifepristone

March 26, 2024

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday seemed likely to preserve access to a medication that was used in nearly two-thirds of all abortions in the U.S. last year, in the court's first abortion case since conservative justices overturned *Roe v. Wade* two years ago.

In nearly 90 minutes of arguments, a consensus appeared to emerge that the abortion opponents who challenged the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the medication, mifepristone, and subsequent actions to ease access to it lack the legal right, or standing, to sue.

Such a decision would leave the current rules in place that allow patients to receive the drug through the mail, without any need for an in-person visit with a doctor, and to take the medication to induce an abortion through 10 weeks of pregnancy.

Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, the Biden administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, said the court should make clear that the anti-abortion doctors and organizations that challenged the FDA's relaxation of restrictions on mifepristone don't "come within 100 miles" of having the legal right, or standing, to sue.

Even three justices who were in the majority to overturn *Roe* posed skeptical questions about standing to the lawyer for the abortion opponents. Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch, and Brett Kavanaugh are former President Donald Trump's three Supreme Court appointees.

Barrett, for example, seemed to doubt that the doctors identified by lawyer Erin Hawley could show that they were actually harmed by the FDA's actions, one of the requirements for showing standing.

"The difficulty, to me, is that the affidavits do read more like conscience objections," Barrett said.

Abortion opponents are asking the justices to ratify a ruling from a conservative federal appeals court that would limit access to mifepristone, one of two drugs used in medication abortions.

The FDA approved mifepristone in 2000. Over the last quarter-century, the agency has made accessing the drug easier, most recently in 2021, when they allowed providers to send the pill through the mail amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The high court's return to the abortion thicket is taking place in a political and regulatory landscape that was reshaped by the abortion decision in 2022 that led many Republican-led states to ban or severely restrict abortion.

That ruling had immediate political consequences, and the outcome in the new case, expected by early summer, could affect races for Congress and the White House.

The scene outside the Supreme Court was lively Tuesday morning, with demonstrators occupying the streets surrounding the court and groups on both sides of the issue marching and chanting. The police blocked traffic surrounding the court as well.

The practical consequences of a ruling for abortion opponents would be dramatic, possibly halting the delivery of mifepristone through the mail and at large pharmacy chains, reducing the period in pregnancy when it can be used from 10 to seven weeks and ending increasingly popular telehealth visits at which the drug can be prescribed.

Rachel Rebouché, dean of Temple University Law School, says government agencies have typically been trusted to regulate as they see fit. She, along with President Joe Biden's administration and drug manufacturers, warn that such an outcome also could undermine the FDA's drug approval process more widely by inviting judges to second-guess the agency's judgments.

“If the Supreme Court decides the FDA erred, it will shake a tenet of administrative law that we defer to expert agencies and their reliance on evidence, science and research,” said Rebouché.

Anti-abortion doctors and medical organizations argue that the FDA's decisions in 2016 and 2021 to relax restrictions on getting the drug were unreasonable and “jeopardize women's health across the nation.” The Democratic administration and New York-based Danco Laboratories, which makes mifepristone, respond that the drug is among the safest the FDA has ever approved.

“This would be different if it was just a question in the abstract — ‘Is medication abortion safe?’ We know it is,” said Rebouché, “and there’s a disturbing pattern here of ‘The sky isn’t blue and water isn’t wet.’”

In one possible resolution, the justices could avoid touching on the more politically sensitive aspects of the case while preserving access to mifepristone. The administration and Danco argue that the challengers, represented by the conservative Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, lack the legal right, or standing, to sue. If the high court agrees, it would essentially dismiss the case and erase the appellate ruling.

Another abortion case already is on the docket. Next month, the justices will hear arguments over whether a federal law on emergency treatment at hospitals must include abortions, even in states that have otherwise banned them.

The mifepristone case began five months after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Abortion opponents initially won a sweeping ruling nearly a year ago from U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, a Trump nominee in Texas, which would have revoked the drug’s approval entirely. The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals left intact the FDA’s initial approval of mifepristone. But it would reverse changes regulators made in 2016 and 2021 that eased some conditions for administering the drug.

The Supreme Court put the appeals court’s modified ruling on hold, then agreed to hear the case, though Justices Samuel Alito, the author of the decision overturning *Roe*, and Clarence Thomas would have allowed some restrictions to take effect while the case proceeded.

Mifepristone is one of two drugs, along with misoprostol, used in medication abortions. Their numbers have been rising for years. More than 6 million people have used mifepristone since 2000. Mifepristone is taken first to dilate the cervix and block the hormone progesterone, which is needed to sustain a pregnancy. Misoprostol is taken 24 to 48 hours later, causing the uterus to contract and expel pregnancy tissue.

Researchers at the Guttmacher Institute estimate that there were more than 1 million abortions in the U.S. last year and that nearly two-thirds of them were from medication. Both those numbers are up since the high court overturned *Roe v. Wade*.

Health care providers have said that if mifepristone is no longer available or is too hard to obtain, they would switch to using only misoprostol, which is somewhat less effective in ending pregnancies.

KYW Newsradio's Vik Raghupathi contributed to this story.

GUN CRIMES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

JANUARY

More than 1,600 gun victims in Philadelphia in 2023 — down by about 600, police say January 1, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Though gun violence continues to plague the city, the numbers have declined a bit from the prior year. More than 1,600 people were shot in the city in 2023 — about 375 of them fatally. Violent crime across Philadelphia is down about 7%, and police say they took about 6,000 guns off the street.

“I think it is a good indication that we are moving in a positive direction. I don’t think it is the norm to see any city drop 100 homicides in one year,” said interim Police Commissioner John Stanford.

He says they are trying to chip away at the city’s gun violence.

“Shooting victims are down 27%,” he said. That’s almost 600 fewer people shot in the city over the past year.

Stanford says the clearance — or solve — rate for homicides jumped a bit to about 60%, but for victims who were shot and injured: only about 1/3 of cases were solved.

“Our shooting clearance rate is 28%,” he said. “Still working to increase both of those numbers but have to tip our hat off to the investigators that have been working diligently on bringing in the people responsible for homicides and those who are responsible for shootings.”

He says communication between investigators working the cases and boots on the ground has been key — “both in solving some of these cases and clearing some of these cases but also in helping to prevent future incidents by trying to get in front of any type of retaliatory incidents we could possibly see.”

Stanford says the number of officers in the department is at a deficit, there are about 800 open spots.

“To see that we are making significant progress considering that we are down in staffing, it just is a testament to the dedication of everyone involved, and everyone committed to reducing gun violence in this city.”

There were about 30% fewer carjackings than in 2022, but car thefts were up more than 70%. About 23,000 cars were stolen in Philadelphia in 2023.

“We recovered 20,000 vehicles. Our folks are recovering vehicles just about the same rate that they are being stolen,” Stanford said.

He said most of the cars were found fairly quickly, and thieves mostly took the stolen cars on joyrides — “and then you have some folks that are stealing vehicles to commit other crimes.”

Retail theft was up about 27% from this time a year ago, he said.

Stanford credits community groups with helping to intervene in some of the issues on the streets. He will continue his career with the department, after Kevin Bethel is sworn in as the city’s new commissioner on Tuesday.

16-year-old shot in head on Center City subway platform

January 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A 16-year-old boy is in critical condition at the hospital after he was shot in the head on a SEPTA subway platform in Center City Thursday night.

It happened at the 15th Street Station along the Market-Frankford Line around 9:30 p.m.

Investigators are still combing through surveillance video. They say it shows the shooter and victim had some sort of interaction at the City Hall Station on the Broad Street Line. They then walked over to the 15th Street Station, and that's where the shooting happened.

SEPTA Police Chief Charles Lawson says there didn't appear to be any apparent dispute between the two.

"They didn't enter together and we haven't found an interaction between the two yet, prior to the shots ringing out."

What Lawson does know is that the presence of police did not stop the shooting.

He says there were three transit police officers on the platform when the shooting occurred.

An 18-year-old and a 16-year-old have been arrested, according to Philadelphia police. Lawson says both of them have criminal histories. One was arrested on weapons charges two years ago and then again for using a stolen car last year.

SEPTA plans to beef up security gates in South Broad concourse

January 23, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — SEPTA plans to erect more substantial fencing in the concourse under City Hall, by replacing chain link fencing in the South Broad concourse between 13th and 15th streets with steel panels and gates.

SEPTA has had chain link fencing up in the South Broad concourse since the pandemic. Spokesman Andrew Busch says the transit agency determined the subway concourse near City Hall, and one at 8th and Market streets, required a more secure structure.

“We did a full evaluation of the concourse and identified these locations where we thought it was appropriate to add gating,” said Busch. “It’s not limiting service or taking away any part of the concourse that is not currently closed off. We’re just trying to make it more secure.”

He says SEPTA maintains the South Broad concourse under an agreement with the city and that more secure gates would allow maintenance crews to do overnight work without disruption. The gates would close overnight when the Market-Frankford Line isn’t running, to discourage people experiencing homelessness from disrupting cleaning operations.

“It gives them security that there’s not going to be anybody coming into the concourse when they’re down there cleaning,” he said. “It’s not safe for anyone if the concourse area or our stations are being used as a shelter.”

The SEPTA board will vote Thursday on a \$795,000 contract to acquire the gates, which would be delivered by September.

Police searching for 17-year-old who escaped from custody at Children's Hospital

January 24, 2024

Last updated on Jan. 25, 7:45 a.m.

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Police are looking for a juvenile detainee who escaped from custody while at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Wednesday afternoon. The U.S. Marshals Service said he may be driving a stolen blue Ford F-150 with a Pennsylvania license plate ZTS-0503.

“He was wearing a dark-colored blue sweatsuit at the time of his escape,” said Deputy Police Commissioner Frank Vanore. “He's about 180 pounds, 5-foot-7. He has braids in his hair that are pulled over on both sides.”

He was last seen wearing slides or flip-flops when he escaped.

According to authorities, juvenile justice officers brought 17-year-old Shane Pryor to the hospital for a hand injury just before noon on Wednesday.

Surveillance video shows his escape.

"When staff pulled up into the driveway of Children's Hospital, we know now, through video evidence, as the male was exiting that car, he was able to escape from staff and run from this area on foot," said Vanore.

Officials said he was not handcuffed.

After fleeing officers at CHOP, police say Pryor headed toward the area of University Avenue and Civic Center Boulevard. "He left from this driveway," Vanore told reporters, "and crossed the boulevard and ran [from] building to building, pretty much."

Vanore said police searched parking garages, buildings and surrounding areas.

Pryor has been detained at the Juvenile Justice Services Center since he was 14 years old. "It's a murder charge," Vanore said. "He's been in custody from that point, still awaiting trial."

Pryor's attorney Paul DiMaio said his client and another teen were charged in a homicide case, in which a woman was killed in October 2020.

"He's always maintained his innocence. I think he's scared. He doesn't know what's going to happen," DiMaio said. "Getting to know Shane in the past year, he's actually kind of a mild-mannered kid. I don't know why he escaped. I don't know why he walked off."

Although he was not armed at the time of his escape, police say Pryor is nonetheless considered dangerous. Anyone who sees him is cautioned not to approach him but to call 911 or 215-686-TIPS.

The U.S. Marshals Service is also taking tips at 877-WANTED-2.

"If he's out there and listening, he needs to turn himself in," DiMaio said. "We can fight this case. I know he's scared, but the best thing he can do ... if I was to talk to him, I would tell him, 'You need to turn yourself in.'"

A judge recently denied Pryor's request to be tried as a juvenile. DiMaio thinks that may be why he fled. Investigators have not determined a reason for his escape.

Stay with KYW Newsradio for more as this story develops.

FEBRUARY

City Council push against 'stop-and-go' corner stores renewed after police-involved shooting

February 5, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The recent shooting in which a Philadelphia police officer was wounded and the suspect killed has renewed city council's push to regulate stop-and-go liquor stores and gambling machines.

Philadelphia police released a video of the Jan. 26 shooting that showed the location, called Jennifer Tavern, didn't look like a tavern at all.

"You know, when I look at the video of what happened last Friday night, it just all came back because here was an establishment that's supposed to be a tavern, it's supposed to have seating for patrons, it's supposed to be an asset to the neighborhood, where people can purchase a meal and come in and eat — and it was none of these things."

Jennifer Tavern is a type of liquor store known as a "stop-and-go," which sells shots and other alcohol "to go," even though its license requires food service and dine-in space. Councilmember Cindy Bass targeted the stores as neighborhood nuisances in 2017, but she says seeing video of the incident made her realize that they are still operating with impunity.

"I'm calling out the departments to do the enforcement that we called upon many, many years ago. In seven years you can't get it done? This is absolutely ridiculous that we allow these folks to operate in ways that are detrimental. They are a blight on our community."

Bass proposed, and Council approved, hearings on the matter. The incident also touched a nerve with Councilmember Curtis Jones, who has been trying to regulate gambling machines in corner stores. There are three evident in the video of the shooting.

"They are in every neighborhood in the city of Philadelphia. We don't know how many there are. We don't know how much money they make. Nobody regulates them, nobody taxes them, so they are totally disrespecting the city of Philadelphia.

Jones has reintroduced a bill to outlaw the machines, which passed last session but was pocket-vetoed by Mayor Jim Kenney on his way out of office.

Temple police looking for suspect who fired gunshots into the air during huge teen gathering near Broad Street
February 12, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Temple University Police are trying to identify the person who they said fired two gunshots into the air during a gathering of hundreds of young people on Broad Street Saturday night.

Temple police released images of the suspect from the weekend gathering. Hundreds of young people met up in the area of Broad Street and Cecil B. Moore Avenue, close to Temple's campus — a gathering that was organized on social media, police said.

Temple police were aware of the meetup ahead of time and alerted Philadelphia police, according to Jennifer Griffin, Temple's vice president and chief for public safety.

Initially, there were no issues. But around 5:30 p.m., several fights broke out. A TUalert was issued to students, telling them to avoid the area.

Then just before 6 p.m., police heard a gunshot as they were trying to disperse the crowd. Minutes later, there was a second shot, according to police.

Investigators believe the shooter fired the shots into the air and no one was hit. Within an hour, the crowd was gone.

"I saw the moment when a gunshot went off and they all scattered. It was crazy," Gage Bernstein, a Temple junior, told NBC10. "I haven't seen anything like that before."

Seven teens, ranging in age between 13 and 16, were taken into custody in connection with the incident. They were cited for disorderly conduct, police said.

As police search for the alleged shooter, they are also looking at surveillance and cellphone footage to see if anyone else caused trouble during the gathering.

New Philly top cop Kevin Bethel talks reducing gun violence, helping the city's youth, stop-and-frisk, and more with KYW

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel being interviewed by KYW Crime and Justice

February 16, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW NEWSRADIO) — Philadelphia Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel has been on the job a little over a month and has inherited a number of ongoing problems in the city, such as gun violence, retail theft, low recruitment, and a rising youth violent crime rate, to name a few.

But with a new administration at his back, Bethel projected confidence on a recent visit to KYW to talk through his plans.

On gun violence — the issue that remains at the top of his list — Bethel said he would continue to focus efforts on the districts where the most gun violence occurs.

“We have about 10 districts that represent about 80% of the violence in our city,” Bethel said.

Youth charged with violent crimes have also increased over the last few years, and Bethel's past experience working as Chief of School Safety at the Philadelphia School District could make him more apt than others to stem the trend.

For him, it starts with parents.

“Being in their lives is the first part,” said Bethel. “Having a positive adult in a child's life we know works, so don't cast that away.”

When it comes to the police department's often fraught relationship with District Attorney Larry Krasner, Bethel struck a conciliatory tone and acknowledged that he and Krasner may not always agree, but could hit a “reset” on the relationship.

Community members push to keep Jenkintown PD independent as its future remains uncertain

February 26, 2024

JENKINTOWN, PA (KYW Newsradio) — The future of Jenkintown's Police Department is at the center of an ongoing conversation between taxpayers and officials. The borough says the rising costs of running it are outpacing population growth.

"I want you all to show me by hands how many of you know our police officers? All 10? How about five police officers?" said Jenkintown Police Chief Thomas Scott.

Jenkintown Police Department is under the borough's general fund, currently taking up about 51% of the budget, according to officials.

During a presentation at a community meeting inside a crowded Jenkintown High School auditorium Monday, town leaders mentioned the financial strains of running the borough, noting several instances of mismanagement with a previous administration and the stress of catching up on tax revenue from the impact of the pandemic.

"How are we going to provide the best service while also being financially responsible?" Scott asked.

He says no decision has been made, but they are exploring other options, like contracting with officers from other towns.

"Our goal is to provide the best public safety to our citizens. If it's sustaining the police department the way it is, then we'll work through that. If it's looking at other options, we'll look at that."

Community members expressed their fears of losing officers they are familiar with if a contractor does take over. They say they want the police department to remain independent

"They are here, they are constantly patrolling," a community member said. "That would not happen with Abington. I'm not discouraging Abington or Cheltenham, but we should not lose such a valuable asset."

MARCH

New Jersey recognized by national study for its efforts to curb firearm deaths

March 2, 2024

SOUTH JERSEY (KYW Newsradio) — A new study gave New Jersey top marks for efforts to curb gun violence, one of only four states to earn this status.

The national report from the nonprofit Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence found that in 2023, no firearms dealers in New Jersey were cited by the federal government for selling a high volume of guns that were later used in crimes. It's the second year in a row the state received this recognition.

"New Jersey is a leader on gun safety policies, with some of the strongest gun laws in the country — and the third-lowest rate of firearm deaths," read the report.

"Last year we had the lowest number of shootings in New Jersey since we've been tracking them," said Attorney General Matt Platkin. For him, the report proves all of his office's hard work is paying off.

"We have the strongest gun laws in the country, and I'm proud of that. We have successfully defended them against every single challenge that has come our way, and we will continue to do so," he said.

Platkin says his office has approached gun violence from every angle they can think of, including strong laws, enforcement, policing, community engagement, and holding manufacturers accountable.

"Then we use those laws," he said. "We use them to hold accountable violent, serially violent people who are causing havoc in our communities."

Platkin said he's also encouraged by a recent study that proves the viability of microstamping technology, which gives law enforcement additional tools to match guns with shell casings found at the scene of a crime. He urged gun manufacturers to adopt the technology and make it widely available.

More than a dozen shots fired near The Met, injuring 2 men

March 6, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Two men were shot near The Met Philadelphia on North Broad Street early Wednesday morning.

It happened around 1 a.m. near Broad and Poplar Streets. Police said the shooting stemmed from a party up the block.

Someone fired at least 18 shots, striking two men, ages 41 and 42. One was shot in the leg, and the other was shot in the eye. Their conditions are unknown.

Several cars parked on the street were also hit by gunfire. Two of the bullets hit The Met building.

Police have not made any arrests. Police search for suspect in string of Camden robberies

March 7, 2024

CAMDEN, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — Police in Camden say the same man is responsible for eight robberies since the start of the year and they need help tracking him down.

Investigators believe 53-year-old Mark Long has stolen thousands of dollars from local businesses and caused thousands more in damage from breaking in.

“This individual was gaining access using prying tools and then using the prying tools to open up the register,” said Deputy Police Chief Janel Simpson.

They say Mark Long is believed to be homeless, but is known to frequent the Fairview neighborhood and Mount Ephraim Corridor.

Police want to hear from anyone with information on his whereabouts.

SEPTA ends pilot program that used artificial intelligence to detect guns on the system

March 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Amid a rash of gun crimes, SEPTA has ended a pilot program that used artificial intelligence to detect guns on the system.

Without fanfare, the 10-month pilot program with the Conshohocken-based firm ZeroEyes ended in December. ZeroEyes used artificial intelligence to scan real-time security camera feeds to alert police about people with guns.

SEPTA spokesperson Andrew Busch said only a few guns were spotted during the pilot, which monitored 300 analog and digital cameras on the Broad Street and Market-Frankford lines.

“What we decided was that it wasn’t the right fit for SEPTA police at this time,” Busch said. “There were only a few instances that we saw where the system alerted police to someone with a firearm.”

Sam Alaimo, ZeroEyes co-founder and chief revenue officer, said SEPTA’s mostly analog cameras were largely incompatible with the AI software.

“They’re very old. They’re ineffective. They’re grainy,” Alaimo said. “We built a cutting-edge AI technology to leverage digital cameras, which most institutions have nowadays.”

Alaimo said ZeroEyes’ software is being used at schools, colleges, and federal and commercial facilities in 40 states.

“Our new technology simply does not work well on old security cameras,” he added, “so neither SEPTA nor us [sic] were satisfied with our performance.”

Busch said SEPTA did a blind test with plainclothes officers carrying guns. The transit agency tested 20 digital cameras and 20 analog cameras that were part of the program, but the cameras didn’t detect the armed officers.

Alaimo said SEPTA asked ZeroEyes to figure out a way to use the AI software on the transit agency’s existing cameras. “SEPTA was adamant that they wanted us to function on the analog

cameras,” he said. “While we became slightly better, it was still a degraded performance that we were not comfortable deploying on, and SEPTA was not comfortable deploying on.”

From SEPTA’s standpoint, Busch said it’s not a matter of analog versus digital. “Because we do have a mix” of cameras, he said. “We’ve been bringing cameras online for well over a decade.”

SEPTA received a \$5 million state grant to be used for the ZeroEyes program. The firm approached SEPTA about using some of that money to replace more of its analog cameras with digital ones, but “that was not an acceptable solution,” Alaimo said.

Instead, SEPTA is asking the state to reallocate \$2 million of the grant for camera upgrades and another \$2 million for police overtime related to a separate technology that SEPTA may pursue, Busch said.

SEPTA’s Virtual Patrol Unit, which uses retired police officers to monitor live video feeds from its 31,000 cameras, has helped make arrests in several recent high-profile crimes, Busch noted, including the stabbing death of a Center City Macy’s guard in December 2023.

ECONOMY

JANUARY

Home mortgage rates expected to fall in 2024, but not until the second half of the year, says economist

January 2, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — It could cost less to borrow money in 2024 after years of interest rate hikes, but that doesn't mean it's going to be less expensive to buy a home. Economists believe the Federal Reserve won't cut interest rates until summer.

The Fed has hiked interest rates 11 times since March of 2022, and the national average for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage hit 8% last year.

"Interest rates took the elevator going up the past couple of years, but they're going to take the stairs coming down," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst with Bankrate.

The national average is now hovering around 7%, and McBride expects the Fed to cut rates no earlier than June.

"Most of that is going to come in the back half of the year, and that's contingent on inflation," he said. "From an interest rate perspective, later in the year will be better than earlier in the year. But the offset to that is if mortgage rates come down sharply, home prices are likely to go up in response."

McBride says inflation needs to continue to come down in order for the Fed to feel comfortable to start to trim interest rates.

"If inflation is stubbornly high, that's going to limit how much the Fed can cut interest rates this year. That's why I only expect to be able to cut rates twice."

McBride says more sellers may list their homes this year as rates come down, but buyers will still have a tough time.

“It’s not really going to do much to ease the affordability pressures because, with the limited inventory and high home prices, those are really going to persist. We might see some modest improvement on the inventory front but affordability is still going to be an issue.”

Buyers may feel pressure to overpay for a home or waive inspection, but McBride says if the competition is that heated, just walk away.

“Making the biggest financial decision of your life under duress is rarely a recipe for success.”

Mortgage rates aren’t all that is expected to drop. Savings rates are also due, he said.

“So if you’ve had your eye on a CD, now is the time to lock in. I wouldn’t expect those to improve as the year progresses.”

Broad Street reopens through Navy Yard after 18-month, \$22M reconstruction project January 9, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — It’s a straight drive through the Philadelphia Navy Yard again, as Broad Street has reopened after 18 months of construction.

Four lanes of Broad Street between Crescent Drive and Intrepid Avenue reopened Monday after a \$22 million reconstruction project. Broad Street had been built on top of a wooden bridge constructed in the 1800s that connected League Island to the mainland. By 2006, that timber bridge had weakened to the point that two lanes of Broad Street and the sidewalks near the reserve basin were closed for safety concerns.

“Just in the natural course of things, it had deteriorated over time and that resulted in subsidence and cracking in the sidewalk and the travel lanes,” said Kate McNamara, senior vice president for the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC) at the Navy Yard.

“Everybody understood that Broad Street needed to be reconstructed — that it was a super-important safety issue and convenience issue and we had to make sure that it was done right.”

With Broad Street reopened, the Navy Yard will need to tweak the software for the driverless employee shuttle it’s preparing to introduce. “What threw us for a loop is the reopening of Broad Street, which we were able to get done. And that just meant that we had to program the shuttle for that piece of the route,” McNamara said. “We couldn’t do it until the road was actually open, so it added a little bit of extra time to the programming for the shuttle.”

The autonomous shuttle should launch in late January or early February, according to McNamara. In addition to the newly-opened travel lanes, a bicycle lane and pedestrian walkway were also built.

Construction also continues on a mixed-use development project that includes 614 apartments. It would mark the first residential development at the Navy Yard since the base closed in 1996.

Philly Water Department receives \$25M grant for improvement projects January 24, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — City and state officials on Wednesday celebrated \$25 million in grants to the Philadelphia Water Department for projects to improve drinking water, reduce flooding and make the Delaware River cleaner.

The award was announced by state legislators at the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plant in Port Richmond. The money comes from \$200 million in federal funds that were awarded to the state for distribution. State Rep. Jordan Harris says Philadelphia is getting more than 10% of the total.

“Philadelphia is one of the oldest cities in the country and because of that, we have an old and aging infrastructure and that infrastructure must be addressed,” Harris said.

Some of the grant money will go to expanding the capacity of the Germantown pumping station to reduce sewer overflow and flooding. Another chunk will go to a long-term plan to improve drinking water quality at the Queen Lane plant in East Falls. The largest share will go to the Port Richmond plant.

Water Commissioner Randy Hayman says the grants will have a big impact. “These are improvements that will touch the lives of Philadelphians. Each of these projects will make our city cleaner, greener and safer and show people how support from the state and federal government can improve the lives of our residents,” he said.

Harris promised more help would be coming from Harrisburg, which delighted Mayor Cherelle Parker.

“Thank you for not bringing home slogans,” she said. “Slogans won’t help us fix our aging infrastructure.”

Elevated Darby Creek Trail project receives \$226K in state funding to finish design phase January 25, 2024

DELAWARE COUNTY, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A new trail that will let hikers walk among the treetops in Delaware County is one step closer to becoming a reality.

A \$226,900 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development is pushing the Darby Creek Trail project into its phase 2 final design, “which means engineering an elevated trail,” said Gina Burritt, the county’s director of planning.

“It’s not your typical trail, but this will really be a neat design feature and a unique section of trail that will be up in the trees.”

Burritt says the trail will span about a half-mile, from Upper Darby through Lansdowne and into Clifton Heights. The project also takes into consideration how the weather affects the creek.

“Because of the land uses and the creek being right there, obviously that is also a feature but it can lead to some flooding concerns,” she said, “so having an elevated trail that will not be as prone to flooding is a big deal.”

Part of the grant will go into figuring out just how this trail will look. “It will give people just a different viewpoint, a different perspective than what they typically see on your standard trail,” Burrit said.

The final design phase has an estimated price tag of \$850,000. According to Burritt, the county hopes to have it wrapped up in the next three years. Construction of the elevated trail, however, won’t come cheap.

“Because of this feature, it will be expensive. We’re at this point thinking somewhere in the \$5 million range,” said Burritt. Right now, there is no timetable on when the project as a whole will be finished.

FEBRUARY

\$1.47M federal grant a boost to Philadelphia's growing electric vehicle workforce February 13, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia received a \$1.47 million federal grant to develop a workforce program that will train a new generation of workers in the electric vehicle industry.

Through the Plug In Philly initiative, workers will complete a pre-apprenticeship program, which will help launch them into full-time or union jobs in the field. They will learn to build, install, and maintain charging stations for electric cars.

“This grant is going to be used to create 45 job placements,” Mayor Cherelle Parker said, “and at the same time, it’s going to expand the use of electric vehicles in our great city of Philadelphia.”

The long-term goal is to create a more diverse electrician workforce, said Lily Reynolds, director of federal infrastructure strategy for the Philadelphia Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability.

“Today, women and people of color are underrepresented in the trades and in all types of infrastructure careers,” she said. “Meanwhile, new federal investments in infrastructure mean an increase of job opportunities with family-sustaining wages.”

The announcement was made Monday at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 98 training facility at the Navy Yard.

“What we believe now is that if we care about our children, we invest in their future. We don’t just give them jobs — we give them careers,” said union business manager Mark Lynch Jr.

Philadelphia Managing Director Adam Thiel said the city is committed to a safe, clean and green infrastructure installation.

“We need more folks to represent our community who are trained and certified to do the work, and this program will help do that,” he added.

The program aims to enroll the first group of participants in late summer or early fall.

Federal transit officials announce \$317M for new rail cars on SEPTA's Market-Frankford Line

Updated on February 21, 2024

UPDATED: 4:25 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — SEPTA has received a big boost from the federal government to pay for hundreds of new rail cars on the Market-Frankford Line.

Nuria Fernandez, head of the Federal Transit Administration, issued SEPTA a check for \$317 million at a press conference Wednesday, at 69th Street Transportation Center in Upper Darby. “It is the largest single grant that SEPTA has ever received,” said SEPTA General Manager and CEO Leslie Richards.

“About 175,000 riders a day are now going to get better and more reliable service,” said Fernandez.

The grant will fund 200 new cars for the El. The cities of Baltimore and Chicago also received funding.

SEPTA has been looking to modernize the Market-Frankford Line, which the agency calls the “workhorse” of its system. The M-4 cars that are running now have been around for at least 25 years, which Fernandez acknowledged brings them to the end of their useful lives. “It has become challenging to keep those rail cars in service,” said the FTA administrator.

“Constant maintenance and downtime are limiting the number of trains that we can put out on the line every day. It’s preventing SEPTA from providing the frequency and reliability to support the needs of our customers and this region,” explained Richards.

“Replacing these rail cars is our highest priority and this grant could not have come at a more critical time for SEPTA.”

Richards said the transit agency plans to award the contract for a company to build the new M-5 rail cars this summer, and hopes to start using them within the next few years.

This round of federal money comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rail Vehicle Replacement Program, which stems from the bipartisan infrastructure bill that was signed in 2021.

Any bit of money helps, and SEPTA has a huge backlog of projects. Issues have been popping up — last week, a wheel on a work train came off the tracks near Huntingdon Station. That led to a service disruption, and shuttle buses were needed.

Financially, SEPTA faces a fiscal cliff when pandemic relief cash runs out later this year. SEPTA and transit advocates are pushing for Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget proposal, which would increase state public transportation funding. The agency is warning, though, that there could be service cuts and fare hikes if the budget hole is not filled.

Philadelphia tourism made some progress in 2023, but economic impact is still not what it was before pandemic

February 22, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Tourists still are not flocking to the Philadelphia region like they did before the pandemic lockdowns, but the city's tourism sector last year did manage to make some improvements over the year before.

In 2023, Philadelphia and its five surrounding counties welcomed just under 43 million visitors, and tourists spent just over \$7.5 billion, leading to an estimated economic impact of \$12.4 billion. That's according to a new outlook for 2024 put out by Visit Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Here in Philadelphia, we should be proud of the city that we have," said Angela Val, president and CEO of Visit Philadelphia.

The numbers are slight increases in tourism for the region compared to 2022, but still not at their pre-pandemic levels, which were at a record high for visitors in the region.

"We have definitely made year-to-year progress, so everything is headed in the right direction, although there is definitely room to grow," Val said.

The depletion of some of the savings people were able to grow during the pandemic when travel was restricted is one headwind facing further tourism growth in the city, she added. "So, although demand for travel is still really great, we do expect it to slow down a bit, but not decrease."

The hotel sector, especially, in 2023, still lagged behind pre-pandemic figures in occupancy rate, demand for rooms, and revenue.

“I think one of the things that is impacting the slow recovery in occupancy is that we grew the number of rooms here in Philadelphia County, specifically in the downtown area, about 2,000 additional rooms out of the pandemic.”

Leaders still have an optimistic outlook for 2024, however, two years before the 2026 FIFA World Cup shines an international spotlight on the city and draws throngs of soccer fans from around the world.

“We have a lot of work to get prepared for 2026, but I anticipate that we would’ve reached our 2019 benchmarks by the first quarter of ’25 and definitely 2026,” Val said.

Center City Philadelphia continues to attract new residents, which is helping overall recovery downtown
February 26, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — The number of people moving into Philadelphia’s core continues to grow, according to a Center City District report released Monday.

Foot traffic in the district is still slightly less than it was before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the report shows the number of full-time residents has grown by 6% in the last three years. Unlike many parts of Philadelphia, more people are moving into Center City than are moving out.

Residential growth has been a crucial part of ongoing economic recovery from the pandemic in every sector, says Prema Gupta, who recently took over as CCD president.

“More residents means steady foot traffic, which attracts restaurants and retailers, increases economic activity, and contributes to safety and security,” Gupta says.

“Where we see it very directly is with new retailers in Center City. We’ve heard national experts call Walnut Street one of the preeminent locations for digital-native brands which, frankly, cater to a younger, Millennial, Gen Z crowd.”

Gupta says it also helps with the return to work since CCD has found that employees are far more likely to go into an office if it’s within two miles of their home, and Center City remains the largest job center.

“This report is really optimistic,” says Gupta. “We feel really good that this relationship between new inventory and population follow each other really closely.”

CCD's economic development manager, Lauren Smith, says most of the new residents are coming from other parts of Pennsylvania, but 15% have come from New York City. The majority of Center City residents are 22 to 34 years old, and 80% have college degrees.

"We're looking at affluent young professionals, many of them coming from universities nearby," she said.

Philadelphia leads the nation in converting office space to residential, thanks in part to the 10-year tax abatement — though, Smith adds, candidates for the conversion are dwindling.

"There are very specific things that are needed for a residential building — like windows and elevator access — so identifying those buildings will be important for the future," Smith said.

Center City added nearly 3,000 residential units last year, the highest number in the last five years, according to the report. Smith says there are 7,000 more in the pipeline, and she expects demand to keep up with the new supply.

MARCH

Are you eligible for Pa.'s Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program? Find out at an info session this month.

March 11, 2024

MEDIA, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — With the expansion this year of Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, many thousands of seniors and adults with disabilities are newly eligible for relief up to \$1,000. To help Delaware County residents access the program and find out if they are eligible, several senior centers this month are hosting a series of in-person information sessions.

Starting in 2024, for tax year 2023, the household income limit for both property tax rebates and rent rebates increased to \$45,000, and the maximum standard rebate increased from \$650 to \$1,000. Those changes opened the program up to thousands and as much as doubled the rebate for many who were already eligible.

Applications for 2023 Property Tax/Rent Rebates are due by June 30, 2024.

The Department of Revenue has more information online, as well as this tutorial video:

Delaware County Council Chair Dr. Monica Taylor says she wants residents to know about the expanded program so they don't miss out. The one-on-one sessions are meant to get residents access to the information they need, determine their eligibility, and fill out the application.

"It's just very important, when you look at the strains that are on our residents — especially our individuals who are older adults, and those with disabilities," said Taylor.

"You can just come to that senior center to get support."

The relief comes at a good time, too, she says, as property taxes rise and household budgets continue to adjust to the realities of inflation.

"Being able to take at least a little bit of the burden off and being able to provide some relief in terms of property tax and rent rebate — it's really going to have an impact for our community," Taylor said.

Residents are advised to call ahead of time to confirm availability for any of the following upcoming sessions and to schedule an appointment:

March 12 from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Wayne Senior Center
108 Station Rd., Wayne, PA 19087
610-688-6246

March 13, 20 and 27, and April 3 and 10 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Good Neighbor Senior Center
1085 Hook Rd., Sharon Hill, PA 19079
610-586-8170

March 19 from 9 a.m. – noon
Friendship Circle Senior Center
1515 Lansdowne Ave., Darby, PA 19023
610-237-6222

March 21 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Schoolhouse Senior Center
600 Swarthmore Ave., Folsom, PA 19033
610-237-8100

'Chinatown Stitch' now fully funded with federal grant to heal community divided for decades

March 11, 2024

PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia has received full funding to put a cap over the Vine Street Expressway. The project is known as the Chinatown Stitch because its purpose is to reconnect the two sides of the neighborhood that were divided when the section of I-676 was built about 30 years ago.

The project will build a park over a two-and-a-half block stretch of the expressway between 10th and 13th streets. Construction is expected to take three or four years.

“This is truly a transformative day in the history of Philadelphia,” said Congressman Brendan Boyle Monday.

He and members of the city’s congressional delegation had gathered to announce that nearly \$160 million from the Infrastructure Bill has been designated for the Chinatown Stitch.

“We will finally be repairing a historic wrong, an injustice that was done to a community.”

When the Vine Street Expressway was built in the late 1980s and early '90s, state and city officials considered dividing Chinatown an acceptable cost. Decades did not heal the community’s scar, but John Chin of the Chinatown Development Corporation says this project will.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of my heart,” said Chin.

He says he was moved to tears when members of the city’s congressional delegation announced the full \$160 million cost would be covered.

Chin has helped the community work with PennDOT for nearly two years on a design for the cap.

“Chinatown’s relationship with PennDOT has come full circle from 60 years ago when it was in charge of constructing that highway and dividing our community,” he said.

“The Chinatown Stitch is transformative. You will no longer see the highway. And it will provide green space and amenities that our community never had.”

Mayor Cherelle Parker applauded the project, which was begun during the Jim Kenney administration — but fitting in with her vision of unity.

“We are going to ensure that we really are one city, because we are bringing together a community that people across our city take great pride in,” the mayor said.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2028.

It has taken more than 30 years to repair the damage done to Chinatown by the expressway. The community is now concerned that a proposed arena on its south side poses another threat.

Delco borough awarded \$425K for much-needed sewer restoration project
March 13, 2024

DELAWARE COUNTY, Pa. (KYW Newsradio) — A small borough in Delaware County is getting \$425,000 towards a sanitation project aimed at fixing a flooding problem plaguing the area for years.

Colwyn is less than a mile wide but unlike other areas in the region, the town owns its sewer system. But Borough Manager Richard Knox says after many decades, it’s now under pressure and out of date.

“Piping and things change over time,” he said. “We actually have a company going around now replacing the sewer system so we won’t get rainwater into the system which causes overflow and causes us to pay fines if we don’t maintain.”

Flooding from Darby Creek which happens multiple times a year, heavily impacts their neighborhood and sanitary pipes.

“When these outlets get clogged up and we don’t have the proper things in place to receive the amount of water we get from floods it causes that damage to the system,” Knox said.

Knox says he believes the money will go a long way and provide immediate help for residents when the creek inevitably floods.

“Having that updated piping so we don’t get the breaks, we don’t get the collapses in the streets, all the different things that can happen when those pipes are compromised,” he said.

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Bridging Philly: Q1 January, February & March 2024

Prepared by Patty McMahon

Benefits of Dry January | The Philly Goat Project January 06, 2024

Dry January has become an annual international event inspiring all kinds of drinkers to leave the bottles on the shelf for 31 days. The market for mocktails, non-alcohol spirits, wines, and beer is growing, and there are "safe spaces" for those who choose not to drink, but still want to be social. We learn about the benefits of temporary abstaining and the resources people can use to help them overcome their habit. Guests are Erin Goodhart, Executive Director of Core Programming, Pennsylvania at Caron Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centers; Fergie Carey, proprietor of several bars and restaurants in Philadelphia; and Drew Davis, co-founder of Pitman New Jersey's no-alcohol bottle shop and pop-up bar, Gem Life + Bar.

Then, an introduction to the only city-based multi-service goat program: Germantown's Philly Goat Project, which has programs including education, community wellness, animal-assisted therapy, and teen job training with the help of trained goats. Shara in the City talks to Karen Krivit, Director, and Kelly Corrigan, Therapy and Wellness Director of The Philly Goat Project.

Urban Navigation | MLK's legacy of social justice January 13, 2024

Co-founders Don Jackson and Hameen Diggins describe their community organization Urban Navigation as a GPS for urban youth that points the next generation of non-shooters towards gun education and technician training in the inner city and Philadelphia suburbs. Then, this year is the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, and Global Citizen's Founder and President Todd Bernstein describes the many opportunities in which to embrace MLK's legacy of social justice at the 29th Annual Great Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service at Girard College.

Pa. House Speaker Joanna McCClinton | Youth America Grand Prix January 20, 2024

Pa. Speaker of the House Joanna McCClinton looks back on the successes and challenges of her first year as the first woman and the first person of color to hold the gavel. With a razor-thin majority, Speaker McCClinton negotiated tax credits for working families' daycare expenses, violence reduction programs, and a public defender fund. Then, Philly hosts the Youth America Grand Prix, an international student ballet competition that draws about 20,000 dancers whose finalists are selected to win cash prizes and scholarships at top schools and companies.

NJ's doula access law | The Lullaby Project
January 27, 2024

Tammy Murphy, First Lady of New and U.S. Senate candidate, describes the new state law that protects a mother's right to a doula throughout pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. Then, creating a deeper bond between parents and young children through music with the Philadelphia Lullaby Project.

Cecil B. Moore Freedom Fighters | The Colored Girl Museum lives on
February 03, 2024

Philadelphia's civil rights movement included the Cecil B. Moore Freedom Fighters, the "young militants" who protested and helped desegregate Girard College, which was a school intended for "poor, white male orphans." We hear stories of police harassment and songs of freedom from the former teenagers who followed their leader and Philadelphia NAACP branch's president's words: "If you stand together, you can make a difference." Then, Vashti DuBois shares good news about the future of The Colored Girl Museum, which has received a zoning variance to continue living in the Germantown house that is her home and museum.

Are you ready for love? | Little Free(dom) Library
February 10, 2024

Is everyone ready for love? A relationship coach and a social worker discuss the humility, inspiration, and personal growth it takes to make heterosexual, same-sex, and non-traditional couples last. Then, taking and leaving banned books by Black authors at Visit Philly's 13 Little Free(dom) Libraries.

Art for all
February 17, 2024

Fine art should be experienced by all people, according to philanthropic Philadelphia art collector Albert C. Barnes. The Barnes Foundation's Martha Lucy leads a tour of modern art and African masks, demonstrating the founder's legacy of accessible and diverse arts education. Lucy has edited a new book, "The Barnes Then and Now: Dialogues on Education, Installation and Social Justice."

Young Chances Foundation | Preserving Mother Bethel AME Church
February 24, 2024

South Philly's Tyrique Glasgow shares his story about owning his South Philly neighborhood drug corner at 12 to founding the Young Chances Foundation, which provides a clothing bank, educational and feeding programs, and school supplies.

Then, Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler describes how a \$90,000 National Trust for Historic Preservation grant to help preserve Richard Allen's Mother Bethel AME Church, a beacon of hope and inspiration for those resisting white supremacy. The church is still growing in 39 countries and five continents.

PA Youth Vote | Legacy Reclaimed: A 7th Ward Tribute
March 02, 2024

PA Youth Votes' Angelique Hinton, Kamryn Davis, and a high school senior explain how they engage future leaders with education and events programming to connect the dots between the issues they care about, voting, and holding elected officials accountable. Then, artists and curators lead a tour of the collective public art initiative, "Legacy Reclaimed: A 7th Ward Tribute," encompassing the blocks between 6th and 23rd Streets and Spruce and South Streets, whose residents once included Richard Allen, Octavius Catto, and W.E.B. Du Bois.

Marian Anderson Hall | Restoring Marian Anderson's home
March 09, 2024

Marian Anderson Hall will soon be the home of the Philadelphia Orchestra. President and CEO of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Kimmel Center, Matias Tarnopolsky, explains how updating the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall should reflect the diversity and demographics of Philadelphia. Then, a tour of the repair and restoration of the Marian Anderson Museum and Historical Society with its CEO, Jillian Patricia Pirtle. She has been working to put the museum back together after a flood to keep Marian Anderson's music and contributions to the Civil Rights Movement alive.

Evoluer House | Girls Auto Clinic
March 16, 2024

Former fashion editor Cheryl Ann Wadlington has been mentoring urban girls to rise above their circumstances to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty for 20 years at Evoluer House with workforce, professional, and personal development programs. Then, engineer Patrice Banks leads a tour of her Girls Auto Clinic in Upper Darby – an auto repair service - that caters to women where she can get a manicure and car maintenance tips while waiting for her car.

PA School funding | Uncle Bobbie's Coffee & Books

March 23, 2024

How can Pennsylvania public school students who live in a lower-income school district receive an equitable and adequate education like their affluent counterparts? Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Hughes and education advocate Priyanka Reyes-Kaura discuss how state legislators must work with Governor Shapiro and his budget proposal to invest in our communities. Then, we hear why regulars and new guests at Germantown's home-grown, black-owned Uncle Bobbie's Coffee and Books come for the vibe, books, coffee, and stay for music and community.

March 30, 2024

As childcare wait lists grow many busy families are opening their homes to a young person from another country as an affordable care alternative. Cultural Care Au Pair's Natalie Jordan describes their multi-step screening process and cultural exchange benefits. Then, as roller skating returns across the nation, Great On Skates' co-founder India Bernadino creates accessible and affordable "Dope Skate Classes In Philadelphia" at three locations for all skill levels.

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I'm Listening - Q1 January, February, March 2024

I'm Listening / January / Mental Health Seg 1

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Contact: David O'Leary, Host

Airdate: January 28, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones. We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

I'm Listening / January / Mental Health Seg 2

Guest: Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Contact: David O'Leary, Host

Airdate: January 28, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones. We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Audacy Conversations-State of the Entertainment Industry / February / Seg 1

Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA

Contact: KNX Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson-Hosts

Airdate: February 15, 2024 at 7pm

Category: Media/Entertainment

Description: Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

Audacy Conversations-State of the Entertainment Industry / February / Seg 2

Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA

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I'm Listening / March / Mental Health Seg 1

Guest: Victor Armstrong-AFSP, Steve Siple-AFSP Contributor

Contact: David Glover, Host

Airdate: March 17, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Men. Men are less likely to talk about their mental health struggles than women, which is why it's so important to break down stigma and open the door for these conversations. Community and friendships are huge protective factors against suicide. We seek to emphasize the critical role that asking someone directly about suicide plays in suicide prevention and demonstrate how to have supportive conversations with loved ones about mental health and suicide prevention.

I'm Listening / March / Mental Health Seg 2

Guest: Alex Silva-AFSP, Dan Miller-Wounded Warrior Project and Dr. Erin Fletcher-Wounded Warrior Project

Contact: David Glover, Host

Airdate: March 17, 2024 at 5:30am

Category: Mental Health

Description: Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Military and Veterans. Veteran populations face difficulties transitioning from military life and have higher rates of suicide compared to the civilian population. We seek to Understand how Veteran and military culture contributes to existing stigmas is essential to being open about mental health challenges and encouraging those who need it to seek help. Support and resources are available for Veterans that can make a major difference to save lives.

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QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

WCBS-AM

(WCBS-AM provides full simulcast on WCBS-FM HD2)

2nd Quarter, 2024
(April 1st- June 30th 2024)

Prepared by:

Ray Martel – Executive Producer of Programming and Operations

**Issues of Concern to New York City
Addressed in Responsive Programming in the Quarter**

Public Safety

- SEVERAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN OUR AREA TAKE PART IN A CRACKDOWN ON DISTRACTED DRIVING STARTING TODAY...
- THREE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED YESTERDAY DURING A RAID AT A BRONX HOME WHERE A GROUP OF DRUG DEALING SQUATTERS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ARRESTED...
- A NEW REPORT IS COMING OUT IN SUFFOLK COUNTY WITH PROPOSED CHANGES FOR THE HANDLING OF CHILD ABUSE COMPLAINTS, FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF THOMAS VALVA
- STARTING FRIDAY NIGHT, NEWARK WILL IMPLEMENT A CURFEW FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18...
- CONNECTICUT IS SET TO EXPAND WHO CAN ACCESS JUVENILE RECORDS FOR GUN BACKGROUND CHECKS
- NYPD OFFICERS IN RIOT GEAR BREAK UP THE PROTESTS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TAKING BACK CONTROL OF HAMILTON HALL
- THE HOUSE APPROVES A BILL MANDATING THE CREATION OF SAFETY STANDARDS FOR LITHIUM ION BATTERIES USED FOR SCOOTERS AND E-BIKES...
- AS THE POOLS AND BEACHES OPEN FOR THE SUMMER, NEW YORK ANNOUNCES A PLAN TO SPEND FIVE MILLION DOLLARS TO HIRE LIFESAVERS...
- NEW YORK CITY LOWERS SOME LIFEGUARD STANDARDS IN AN EFFORT TO DEAL WITH A SHORTAGE
- A BEAR IS EUTHANIZED AFTER RANSACKING A HOME IN CONNECTICUT.....BEAR SIGHTINGS HAVE ALSO INCREASED IN NORTH JERSEY...
- THE NYPD WILL BE OUT IN FORCE AT TODAY'S ISRAEL DAY PARADE ON FIFTH AVENUE AS MAYOR ADAMS WARNS ANY PROTESTERS TO KEEP IT PEACEFUL
- LONG ISLAND MAIL CARRIERS WERE ATTACKED BY DOGS 65 TIMES LAST YEAR

- A BOIL WATER ADVISORY IS IN EFFECT FOR THOUSANDS IN NASSAU COUNTY

CRIME

- THE FBI IS ONCE AGAIN SEARCHING FARMS IN ORANGE COUNTY, LOOKING FOR A SUSPECTED GAMBINO GRAVEYARD...
- THE LATEST POLICE STATS SHOW NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY CRIMES TICKING DOWN A BIT
- ON LONG ISLAND POLICE ARE LOOKING INTO A STRING OF ROBBERIES TARGETING HOMES AND BUSINESSES
- ON LONG ISLAND...POLICE ARE SEARCHING A WOODED AREA NEAR MANORVILLE. IT'S REPORTEDLY PART OF THE GILGO BEACH SERIAL MURDER INVESTIGATION
- POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF A BABY ON STATEN ISLAND
- TWO PEOPLE ARE NOW CHARGED WITH MURDER...IN THE BETHPAGE BODY PARTS CASE
- DOZENS OF PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS BROKE INTO AN ACADEMIC BUILDING AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TAKING IT OVER EARLY THIS MORNING, BARRICADING THEMSELVES INSIDE
- DOZENS OF DEMONSTRATORS ARE ARRESTED AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY AFTER STAYING ON CAMPUS PAST AN 11-PM DEADLINE TO LEAVE.....
- THE GILGO BEACH INVESTIGATION IS EXPANDING TO INCLUDE OTHER UNSOLVED MURDERS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY
- COPS ARE LOOKING FOR A BRONX MAN ACCUSED OF THROWING A BELT AROUND A WOMAN'S NECK BEFORE RAPING HER
- NYPD OFFICERS SHOT DEAD AN ARMED SUSPECT IN EAST FLATBUSH
- THE NYPD IS SEARCHING FOR THE PERSON WHO PUNCHED STEVE BUSCEMI IN THE FACE IN AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK IN KIPS BAY...
- A FEMALE TOURIST IS STABBED BY A MAN ON A WHEELCHAIR IN HELL'S KITCHEN...

- A SUSPECT IS BEING QUESTIONED IN THE FATAL SHOOTING OF A 16 YEAR OLD LAST WEEK IN SOHO
- POLICE IN NEW JERSEY ARE HUNTING FOR SCAMMERS WHO ARE TRYING TO EXTORT MONEY FROM PEOPLE BY CLAIMING THEY MUST PAY A FINE FOR MISSING JURY DUTY
- ONE MAN IS DEAD AFTER A POLICE INVOLVED SHOOTING IN OVERNIGHT IN BUSHWICK. ALSO IN BROOKLYN, COPS SAY AN ARMED SUSPECT TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THEM DURING A CHASE WAS STRUCK BY A POLICE CAR
- TWO NYPD OFFICERS ARE RECOVERING AT ELMHURST HOSPITAL AFTER BEING SHOT OVERNIGHT IN QUEENS...
- A MAN IS IN STABLE CONDITION AFTER BEING SLASHED IN THE NECK IN A RANDOM, UNPROVOKED ATTACK IN THE EAST VILLAGE...
- A 17 YEAR OLD IS RECOVERING AFTER BEING SHOT AT A PROM PARTY IN A LUXURY HIGH RISE IN BROOKLYN...
- A MAN IS CHARGED WITH KIDNAPPING A WOMAN AND A CHILD, AFTER HE'S ARRESTED ON THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE...
- NEW JERSEY POLICE ARE TRYING TO LOCATE THE FATHER OF A BABY WHO TOOK THE CHILD WITH HIM 12 DAYS AGO AND NEVER RETURNED...
- A TENSE HOSTAGE SITUATION IN BROOKLYN ENDED PEACEFULLY AFTER MORE THAN TWO HOURS LAST NIGHT. AN ARMED MAN TOOK A WORKER AND A CUSTOMER HOSTAGE INSIDE A MONEY TRANSFER STORE AT IRVING AVENUE AND LINDEN STREET IN BUSHWICK AROUND 9PM...
- BURGLARS IN FLORHAM PARK USE WI-FI JAMMERS TO PREVENT VICTIMS FROM REACHING POLICE FOR HELP...
- A 13 YEAR OLD IS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AT KISSENA PARK IN FLUSHING...

Economy/Jobs

- JAKE'S 58 IS BREAKING GROUND TODAY ON A HUGE EXPANSION THAT WILL DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF BETTING TERMINALS AND MAKE IT A LOT EASIER FOR VISITORS TO FIND A PLACE TO PARK
- STREET VENDORS HAVE BEEN RALLYING IN LOWER MANHATTAN TODAY .CALLING FOR EASIER ACCESS TO PERMITS THAT ALLOW THEM TO SELL THEIR WARES
- NEW YORK'S NEW STATE BUDGET INCLUDES AN EXTENSION OF EXTENDS MAYORAL CONTROL OF CITY SCHOOLS AND A CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL POT SHOPS
- A FINAL \$237 BILLION STATE BUDGET WAS APPROVED NEARLY THREE WEEKS LATE
- NEW YORK'S EMBATTLED CANNABIS LEADER IS STEPPING DOWN... CHRIS ALEXANDER, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE OFFICE OF CANNABIS MANAGEMENT TOLD GOVERNOR HOCHUL HE'S LEAVING - HIS JOB IN TWO WEEKS

Transportation

- AS CONGESTION PRICING ROLLS TOWARD A POSSIBLE JUNE ROLL OUT, OFFICIALS IN ROCKLAND ARE PLEADING: DON'T FORGET ROCKLAND AND BERGEN COMMUTERS...
- NEW JERSEY'S LAWSUIT LOOKING TO BLOCK CONGESTION PRICING IS BEING HEARD IN FEDERAL COURT IN NEWARK TODAY
- INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTIONS ARE CONTINUING THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND AFTER INITIAL SURVEYS FOUND NO DAMAGE TO SUBWAYS, BRIDGES AND TUNNELS
- A GOOD CHUNK OF THE BQE IS SHUTTING DOWN FOR REPAIRS ALL WEEKEND
- THE CITY'S SPEED LIMIT MAY DROP TO 20 MILES AN HOUR
- THE MTA IS TRYING TO GET DRIVERS TO SWITCH TO THE TRAINS WITH A FARE BREAK. THE AGENCY IS SET TO OFFER A TEN PERCENT DISCOUNT TO MONTHLY LIRR AND METRO NORTH RIDERS ON FARES WITHIN THE CITY

- I-95 IN BOTH DIRECTIONS IN NORWALK WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR DAYS, AFTER A FIERY TANKER TRUCK CRASH DAMAGED AN OVERPASS
- CONNECTICUT ROAD CREWS ARE WORKING TO DEMOLISH THE I-95 OVERPASS IN NORWALK THAT WAS SCORCHED BY THURSDAY'S TANKER TRUCK FIRE
- WRONG WAY CRASHES HAVE CLAIMED 11 LIVES IN CONNECTICUT THIS YEAR, INCLUDING FOUR YESTERDAY IN A CRASH THAT SHUT DOWN THE MERRITT FOR HOURS...
- SOME NEW MASS TRANSIT OPTIONS WILL BE PART OF A PILOT PROGRAM IN ORANGE AND ROCKLAND, JUST AHEAD OF CONGESTION PRICES...
- ROUTE 80 IS STILL A MESS THIS MORNING, AFTER A FIERY COLLISION IN HACKENSACK JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT THAT INVOLVED AT LEAST TWO TRUCKS
- THERE MAY BE CONTINUING TRAIN ISSUES TODAY BETWEEN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S OVERHEAD WIRES MESS...
- UP TO THREE MILLION PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO PASS THROUGH AIRPORT CHECKPOINTS TODAY, MAKING THIS THE BUSIEST DAY FOR TRAVEL IN NEARLY 20 YEARS...
- THE LIRR IS ROLLING OUT SATURDAY DISCOUNTS FOR MONTHLY RIDERS THIS SUMMER...
- THE BQE HAS FULLY RE-OPENED -- NEARLY 24 HOURS EARLIER THAN EXPECTED
- GOVERNOR HOCHUL IS REPORTEDLY HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART AND IS LOOKING TO DELAY CONGESTION PRICING...
- GOVERNOR HOCHUL HAS INDEFINITELY DELAYED THE START OF CONGESTION PRICING - WHICH WAS SET TO BEGIN JUNE 30TH
- ALBANY LAWMAKERS ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE TODAY ON A BILL THAT WOULD GIVE THE MTA A ONE BILLION DOLLAR BAILOUT, TO COVER THE MONEY THAT WOULD'VE COME IN FROM CONGESTION PRICING...
- PART OF THE FDR IS CLOSED THIS WEEKEND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

- THE HEAD OF THE MTA SAYS NOW THAT CONGESTION PRICING IS OFF THE TABLE, THE FOCUS IS ON KEEPING THE SYSTEM RUNNING, AND THAT COULD MEAN SOME PROJECTS GET NIXED...

Health

- A RACCOON TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES AFTER BEING KILLED BY SIX DOGS IN FAIRFIELD...
- AS THE SUPREME COURT PREPARES TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN A CASE THAT WILL DECIDE THE FUTURE OF ACCESS TO AN ABORTION DRUG, A LOCAL LAWMAKERS IS INTRODUCING A BILL TO PROTECT THAT ACCESS..
- THE CITY WANTS TO SLAP SUGAR WARNINGS ON FOOD AND DRINKS AT FAST FOOD JOINTS AND COFFEE SHOPS
- WHAT'S BEING CALLED A MIRACLE DRUG IS CREDITED WITH SAVING A BRONX FIREFIGHTER WHO COLLAPSED WHILE BATTLING A BLAZE
- A NEW STUDY FINDS 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS WHO DIDN'T WEAR PROTECTIVE GEAR AT GROUND ZERO HAD A HIGHER DEMENTIA RISK

Environment

- A 4.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE ROCKS NEW JERSEY AND THE METRO AREA - IT COULD BE FELT AS FAR SOUTH AS BALTIMORE, AND AS FAR NORTH AS MASSACHUSETTS
- MORE AFTERSHOCKS ARE POSSIBLE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AFTER A DOZEN IN THE WAKE OF FRIDAY'S 4.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE WITH MORE POSSIBLE INTO NEXT WEEK
- IT'S ECLIPSE DAY. MILLIONS WILL BE LOOKING TO THE SKY THIS AFTERNOON FOR A RARE SOLAR ECLIPSE...
- IN CONNECTICUT IT'S SHAPING UP TO BE A BRUTAL TICK SEASON...
- THE BATTLE OVER LARGE SCALE BATTERY FARMS ARE HEATING UP, WITH OFFICIALS IN THE LOWER HUDSON VALLEY CALLING ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS...

Sports

- UCONN WINS ITS SECOND CONSECUTIVE NCAA TITLE BEATING PERDUE BY 15 IN THE MEN'S FINAL...
- NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE BRUCE BLAKEMAN VOWS TO APPEAL AFTER A FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSED THE COUNTY'S LAWSUIT AGAINST STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL LETITIA JAMES IN THEIR ONGOING BATTLE OVER NASSAU'S TRANSGENDER SPORTS BAN
- JOHN STERLING ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT AS THE VOICE OF THE YANKEES... HE WILL BE HONORED IN THE BRONX ON SATURDAY...
- THE KNICKS TAKE A 2-0 LEAD OVER THE PACERS THANKS TO A DRAMATIC SECOND HALF PERFORMANCE BY JALEN BRUNSON WHO RETURNED FROM AN EARLY GAME INJURY...
- A JUDGE STRIKES DOWN A NASSAU COUNTY BAN ON TRANSGENDER ATHLETES IN WOMEN'S SPORTS
- SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER TEED OFF ON TIME THIS MORNING AFTER HE WAS ARRESTED ON HIS WAY TO THE PGA CHAMPIONSHIP...
- PLAYOFF HOPES END FOR THE KNICKS AFTER A CRUSHING GAME 7 LOSS TO THE PACERS AT THE GARDEN
- IN SPORTS....THE METS CUT RELIEVER JORGE LOPEZ AFTER A MELTDOWN ON AND OFF THE MOUND...
- THE BIG GAME AT THE T-20 CRICKET WORLD CUP AT EISENHOWER PARK ENDS WITH A WIN FOR INDIA OVER PAKISTAN

Politics

- THE MAYOR DEFENDS TOP RANKING NYPD OFFICIALS WHO USED THEIR OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS TO GO AFTER CRITICS - INCLUDING REPORTERS
- THE CORRUPTION TRIAL OF SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ WILL START ON TIME NEXT MONTH...BUT HIS WIFE'S TRIAL WILL BE DELAYED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS
- FORMER CONGRESSMAN GEORGE SANTOS HAS DECIDED HE WILL NOT RUN FOR CONGRESS THIS YEAR...

- PRESIDENT BIDEN IS SET TO TRAVEL TO WESTCHESTER FOR A HIGH PRICED FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY ACTOR MICAEL DOUGLAS AND CATHERINE ZETA JONES
- FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL IN NEW JERSEY, HOLDING A BIG RALLY ON THE BEACH IN WILDWOOD
- DISAGREEMENTS OVER THE MIDEAST AND WHAT REPRESENTS HATE SPEECH PLAYED A BIG ROLE IN LAST NIGHT'S CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DEBATE IN WESTCHESTER...
- THIS IS PRIMARY DAY IN NEW JERSEY, WHERE SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ CONFIRMS HE WILL BE RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION AS AN INDEPENDENT..
- .
- FORMER CONGRESSMAN MONDAIRE JONES WILL ENDORSE GEORGE LATIMER FOR CONGRESS, BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS WITH CONGRESSMAN JAMAAL BOWMAN OVER THE WAR IN GAZA...

Terrorism

- MORE THAN A THOUSAND PEOPLE PROTEST OUTSIDE A TEANECK SYNAGOGUE DURING A CEREMONY HONORING THE VICTIMS OF LAST OCTOBER'S HAMAS ATTACK IN ISRAEL...
- FAMILIES OF HOSTAGES BEING HELD IN GAZA AND NEW YORK AREA JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS GATHERED ON THE EAST SIDE TO URGE THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF LOVED ONES AND THOSE HELD CAPTIVE BY HAMAS
- NEW JERSEY OFFICIALS ARE CONDEMNING THE VANDALISM DISCOVERED AT A CENTER FOR MUSLIM STUDENTS AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY DURING A CELEBRATION FOR THE END OF RAMADAN...
- IRAN HAS LAUNCHED A DRONE ATTACK ON ISRAEL AND AIR RAID SIRENS HAVE SOUNDED IN JERUSALEM AS A SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD IN THE SKIES. US DEFENSE SAYS US CONTINUES TO "SHOOT DOWN IRANIAN-LAUNCHED DRONES"
- AS THE WORLD BRACES FOR ISRAEL'S RESPONSE TO IRAN'S MISSILE AND DRONE ATTACK, NEW YORK CITY'S COUNTER TERRORISM TASK FORCE IS AT THE READY FOR ANY TROUBLE HERE...

- THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS AN EMERGENCY MEETING CALLING FOR RESTRAINT IN RESPONSE
- ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN NEW JERSEY MORE THAN DOUBLED LAST YEAR..
- POLICE STEP UP PATROLS AT SYNAGOGUES ACROSS THE FIVE BOROUGHS AHEAD OF PASSOVER
- A YALE STUDENT IS RECOVERING AFTER SHE WAS STABBED IN THE EYE WITH A PALESTINIAN FLAG DURING A PROTEST AT THE IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL... POLICE ARE SEARCHING FOR THE SUSPECT
- THE NYPD IS INVESTIGATING THREATS AGAINST THREE SYNAGOGUES IN MANHATTAN AND ONE IN BROOKLYN
- FOUR TEENAGERS IN RAMAPO ARE CHARGED WITH HATE CRIMES FOR ALLEGEDLY ATTACKING JEWS DURING THE SABBATH...
- NASSAU COUNTY WILL BE STEPPING UP SECURITY AFTER A PRO-ISIS GROUP REPORTEDLY POSTED A GRAPHIC IMAGE OF THE LONG ISLAND VENUE HOSTING THE CRICKET WORLD CUP NEXT MONTH..
- A MAN HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH HATE CRIMES AFTER YELLING ANTISEMITIC STATEMENTS AND TRYING TO MOW DOWN PEDESTRIANS OUTSIDE AN ORTHODOX JEWISH SCHOOL IN BROOKLYN...
- NEARLY THREE DOZEN PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS ARE ARRESTED TRYING TO BREAK INTO THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM

Justice

- FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP WILL BECOME THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO FACE A CRIMINAL TRIAL WHEN JURY SELECTION BEGINS TOMORROW IN HIS HUSH MONEY CASE
- DOZENS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISMISSED BECAUSE THEY SAID THEY COULD NOT BE IMPARTIAL...
- ACCUSED GILGO BEACH SERIAL REX HEURMANN APPEARED IN COURT TODAY AS 7 THOUSAND PAGES OF EVIDENCE WERE TURNED OVER TO HIS LAWYERS...

- FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP FACES POSSIBLE CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR POSTING ABOUT THE CASE ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- THE MANHATTAN DA LOOKING TO RE-TRY HARVEY WEINSTEIN AFTER A NEW YORK APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS HIS 2020 RAPE CONVICTION
- DONALD TRUMP IS FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF COURT FOR VIOLATING THE GAG ORDER IN HIS HUSH MONEY CASE
- TRUMP'S BEEN FINED NINE-THOUSAND DOLLARS...AND THREATENED WITH JAIL IF HE KEEPS VIOLATING THE GAG ORDER
- THE MAN ACCUSED OF FATALLY SHOOTING NYPD DETECTIVE JONATHAN DILLER HAS BEEN ARRAIGNED ON MURDER CHARGES
- JURY SELECTION RESUMES TODAY IN SENATOR BOB MENENDEZ' CORRUPTION TRIAL...
- A MAN WHO SPENT 23 YEARS IN PRISON FOR A MURDER HE DIDN'T COMMIT...HAS HIS CONVICTION THROWN OUT
- A FEDERAL JUDGE WILL HEAR ARGUMENTS TODAY IN LAWSUITS TRYING TO BLOCK CONGESTION PRICING...
- "SON OF SAM" KILLER DAVID BERKOWITZ HAS BEEN DENIED PAROLE AFTER HIS TWELFTH BOARD APPEARANCE
- THE FIRST CRIMINAL TRIAL AGAINST A FORMER PRESIDENT GOES TO THE JURY TODAY, AS 12 NEW YORKERS BEGIN TO DECIDE DONALD TRUMP'S FATE IN HIS HUSH MONEY TRIAL...
- FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY ON ALL 34 FELONY COUNTS OF FALSIFYING BUSINESS RECORDS
- MICHELE TROCONIS GETS 14 YEARS IN PRISON THE JENNIFER DULOS KILLING IN CONNECTICUT
- THE NYPD MAKES AN ARREST IN THE STABBING DEATH OF A BRONX WOMAN NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO...

Education

- NEW YORK'S COURT SYSTEM WANTS TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT HOW AI MAY BE USED IN CASES...
- MORE THAN 100 PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTERS GET ARRESTED AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
- LONG ISLAND SCHOOLS GET A BOOST IN STATE AID
- COLUMBIA GIVES STUDENTS THE OPTION OF REMOTE LEARNING AFTER FIVE DAYS OF PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTS
- PRO-PALESTINIAN NYU STUDENTS WALKED OUT OF CLASSES TODAY IN SOLIDARITY WITH DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE ARRESTED LAST NIGHT. THIS, AS COLUMBIA SETS UP A SECURITY CHECKPOINT TO KEEP NON-STUDENTS AND STAFF OFF THE CAMPUS
- NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR DAVID BANKS IS ON CAPITOL HILL THIS MORNING TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS ABOUT HOW HE IS HANDLING ANTISEMITISM IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM...
- STONYBROOK PLANS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR MAIN GRADUATION CEREMONY ON MAY 17TH...
- A DARIEN MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR AN ALLEGED LESSON ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST THAT PUT A POSITIVE SPIN ON HITLER...

Weather

- WE CONTINUE TO TRACK THOSE BIG STORMS THAT HAVE BEEN MOVING ACROSS OUR AREA THIS MORNING, INCLUDING A REPORT OF AN UNCONFIRMED TORNADO THAT MAY HAVE TOUCHED DOWN IN ORANGE COUNTY...
- HE WET WEATHER IS AFFECTING THINGS IN THE AIR, AS WELL AS ON THE GROUND – MORE FROM LAGUARDIA... SEVERAL TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE AREA HAD TO CANCEL THEIR MEMORIAL DAY PARADES TODAY BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER. IN NEW JERSEY, THOSE INCLUDED WAYNE, SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, CRANFORD, AND WESTFIELD ... AND IN CONNECTICUT, RIDGEFIELD, WILTON, NEW CANAAN, KENT, AND LITCHFIELD

- A LINE OF THUNDERSTORMS IS HEADING IN OUR DIRECTION
- A DANGEROUS HEAT WAVE EXPECTED TO UNFOLD FROM THE MIDWEST TO THE NORTHEAST THIS WEEK, BRINGING 90-DEGREE WEATHER TO NEW YORK CITY
- TEMPERATURES WILL BE CLIMBING INTO THE NINETIES THIS WEEK, WITH NO RAIN IN THE FORECAST. MAYOR ADAMS AND GOVERNOR HOCHUL INCREASE RESOURCES TO HELP NEW YORKERS DEAL WITH THE HEAT, INCLUDING OPENING COOLING CENTERS
- HEAT ADVISORIES HAVE BEEN ISSUED AS TENS OF MILLIONS PREPARE TO DEAL WITH INTENSE HEAT THIS WEEK...
- WESTCHESTER IS OPENING POOLS AND BEACHES EARLY THIS WEEK TO HELP RESIDENTS BATTLE THE HEAT...

Housing/Homelessness/Immigration

- NEW YORK STATE WILL TRANSFORM A 13 ACRE SITE ON LONG ISLAND INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- ONE IN FIVE NEW YORK CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY... THE HIGHEST RATES ARE IN THE BRONX AND BROOKLYN..ACCORDING TO A NEW STATE REPORT
- TODAY IS THE DAY THE CITY IS BEGINNING TO EVICT MIGRANTS FROM SHELTERS. THE FIRST WAVE WILL AFFECT ADULT MIGRANTS WHO WERE GIVEN 30-DAY NOTICES A MONTH AGO. IT'S PART OF THE CITY'S PUSH TO ENFORCE STRICTER TIME LIMITS ON SHELTER STAYS
- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 15 YEARS, NEW YORK FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP PAYING FOR RENT CAN APPLY FOR A FEDERAL VOUCHER PROGRAM KNOWN AS SECTION EIGHT...
- TWO PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AT A HOTEL IN YONKERS SERVING AS A SHELTER FOR MIGRANTS AFTER A WORKER AT THE HOTEL CALLED POLICE TO SAY SOMEONE WAS ACTING VIOLENTLY...
- THE RENT GUIDELINES BOARD IS SET TO TAKE A FINAL VOTE TONIGHT TO APPROVE INCREASES FOR RENT-STABILIZED APARTMENTS

- FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR, TENANTS IN RENT STABILIZED APARTMENTS WILL SEE THEIR RENTS GO UP...
- THIS LAST FULL DAY OF SPRING WILL PUSH TEMPERATURES IN THE CITY NEAR THE 90 DEGREE MARK...
- HUNDREDS OF COOLING CENTERS WILL BE CLOSED TODAY IN OBSERVANCE OF JUNETEENTH...
- NO RELIEF IN SIGHT, NOT YET, WITH ANOTHER DAY WHERE HEAT AND HUMIDITY WILL COMBINE TO MAKE IT FEEL LIKE 100 OR MORE...

**WCBS AM Programs That Address Community Issues
(Regularly Scheduled Public Affairs Programs)**

	<u>Public Affairs Program</u>	<u>Schedule and Description</u>
	The Opening Bell Report	Weekday mornings at 930am, a full half hour of business news focused on consumer issues
	CBS 60 Minutes	Simulcast of CBS News Program Sunday nights at 7pm
	Health and Well Being	Daily feature focusing on a wide variety of medical topics including medicine, diet, mental health, and proper eating
	The Small Business Report with Ed Walsh	Daily Small Business minutes providing tips and tools for business owners and operators.
	Eye On Travel	Peter Greenberg discusses travel issues and navigating through the post pandemic world. Updates on restrictions and procedures
	Eye on Veterans	Daily Report focusing on stories about and important to United States Military Veterans
	All Well and Good	Daily Report focusing on health and ways to improve your daily attitude, energy and well being.

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: WCBS Small Business Reports DATE OF BROADCAST: Daily TIME OF BROADCAST: VARIES DAILY DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 1 minute
	PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Business Reporter Ed Walsh delivers a daily report on a small business trend or personality on recovery, survival, and resilience. https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/podcasts/small-business-report-with-joe-connolly-196

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Business/Small Business
	PROGRAM NAME: Small Business Spotlight DATE OF BROADCAST: Wednesday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple airing across the day and online DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: Audio/Video PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Weekly series highlighting the inspiring stories of individual business owners and entrepreneurs focused tightly in the past year to helping inspire the pandemic recovery https://wcbs880.radio.com/categories/small-business-spotlight

Most Significant Issue-Responsive Programming

ISSUE:	Community Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Difference Makers DATE OF BROADCAST: Monday's TIME OF BROADCAST: multiple times across the day DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 2 minute features
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: News stories focused on members of the community doing something to contribute to the greater good during the pandemic https://www.audacy.com/wcbs880/difference-makers	

ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Weekend Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Sunday's TIME OF BROADCAST: 5am DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Locally produced, weekly public affairs show focusing on local issues, Veterans issues, health and well being and issues that affect the local broadcast area as well as national stories of local interest and importance https://www.audacy.com/seattlewolf/hosts/conversations	

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ISSUE:	Public Affairs
	PROGRAM NAME: Audacy Conversations DATE OF BROADCAST: Quertery TIME OF BROADCAST: 7pm, Second Thursday of Feb DURATION OF PROGRAMMING: 60 Minutes
PROGRAMMING DESCRIPTION: Nationally produced public affairs “Town Hall” format program focusing on topics that affect everyone. From Downtowns, Youth Sports, Entertainment & Public Tolling, Audacy Conversations brings experts and public officials together to talk about issues affecting the post pandemic world. https://www.audacy.com/kywnewsradio/topic/the-state-of-entertainment	

Public Service Announcements

Throughout the quarter, the station aired weekly/periodic PSAs providing information on a variety of local community activities and issues. Representative examples of such PSAs include the following:

Audacy 1 Thing
Emergency Prep
Fatherhood Involvement
Vaccinate Your Family
Alzheimers Awareness
US DOH
Animal Adoption
FDA Drug Disposal
Ending Hunger
Drugged Driving
Distracted Driving
Type 2 Diabetes
Supporting Pets
American Psychiatric Assoc.
Love Has No Labels
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
NJ Dept. Human Svcs/CBVI
NYSBA
Valerie Fund

1ST QUARTER 2024 ISSUES AND PROGRAMS – WXBK-FM NEW YORK CITY (94.7)

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

1.3.24 Air Date: 1.7.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Marsha Coleman Jr.- Financial Expert

In the New Year of 2024, we are taking an intentional look at best practices to set a consistent foundation for our finances. This includes understanding how to recognize when you have a lot of debt and how to create a plan to address it. The importance of building your credit score and being reasonable about the time to do so, and the critical nature of preparing for your retirement through savings, and employer 401K and 403B plans.

Without access to good financial advice, you will continue to repeat past mistakes. You must create a relationship with you and money that builds, grows, and expands with others.

Earning additional income aka “side hustle” is not a bad idea. There are quite a few opportunities that could be beneficial to your income. It requires you to research. One listed was [hotbreadkitchen.com](https://www.hotbreadkitchen.com).

Here are some additional tips:

Live within your means.

Ask yourself if your spending habits are putting you in a difficult position financially. Living within your means can be achieved by creating and sticking to a budget and understanding how debt can impact you.

Start saving and investing.

Start tracking how much you save each year and aim to save 10% to 15% of your income as an “investment” in yourself.

Retirement savings - being proactive in preparation for our golden years (know your limits for 2024). This includes taking advantage of your 401k or 403B Plan. In addition to Social Security, which should not be a standalone option for your retirement, you must build a plan to secure your retirement future.

Building financial stability and wealth can be challenging — especially for many Black Americans, who also face the aftereffects of decades of inequality.

But to close the wealth gap, we must participate in positioning ourselves for success.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy

Recorded: 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.14.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute

Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Ayanna Horsford- Afro Latina- STEM Medical Field

Ayanna is a proud Afro-Latina pursuing a career in the healthcare profession and completed my B.S. in Biology with a minor in chemistry at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y. Passionate about the sciences, she has been able to experience both wet-lab and clinical research. At Manhattan College, and able to further develop her research skills such as lab safety, pipetting, mastering concentration conversation to make samples, qPCR, in situ-hybridizations, etc.

Now, at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, she works in a clinical research setting. Interacting with patients and improving health conditions through her current role has truly impacted her ambition towards a career in medicine. Familiarity in both areas of research has allowed her to grow fonder of medicine and become aware of the several steps involved in developing healthcare. Ayanna now works with uninsured populations at NYU Langone, where she is responsible for recruiting and enrolling patients with hypertension to participate in a cardiology research study.

Here are some STEM Education Statistics for Black Women:

- While women make up half of the U.S. population and dominate undergraduate enrollment, they still are only little more than a third of those employed in STEM. occupations.
- And while Black and white students enter STEM majors at the same rate, Black students leave those majors at a rate of 40%, compared with 29% percent of white students.
- Only 5.7% of U.S. doctors are Black, with Black women accounting for half of that population.
- Black workers make up 9-10% of the total STEM workforce, with Hispanic workers representing 15%.

Health Disparities Statistics :(sources: CDC, Health, United States, 2020-21, KFF).

- In the first quarter of 2023, 1 in 4 Hispanic adults ages 18-24 lacked health insurance, a greater percentage than Black, non-Hispanic adults (10.1%), White, non-Hispanic adults (6.9%), and Asian, non-Hispanic adults (2.7%).

- Non-Hispanic Black people are more likely than people in other racial and ethnic groups to die of heart disease.
- At birth, AIAN and Black people had a shorter life expectancy (65.2 and 70.8 years, respectively) compared to White people (76.4) as of 2021, and AIAN, Hispanic, and Black people experienced larger declines in life expectancy than White people between 2019 and 2021.
- Black infants were more than two times as likely to die as White infants (10.4 vs. 4.4 per 1,000), and AIAN infants were nearly twice as likely to die as White infants (7.7 vs. 4.4 per 1,000) as of 2021. Black and AIAN women also had the highest rates of pregnancy-related mortality.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:
 1.9.24 Air Date: 1.21.24
 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
 Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Georey Roehm - Executive Director – Runway Green Education Collective

Floyd Bennett Field was the site of NYC’s first municipal airport. For the last 50 years, these 1,300 acres of ecologically rich National Park Service land have gone mostly unused. A nonprofit organization called Runway Green Education Collective—in partnership with the National Park Service—is developing a 7-acre experiential education campus at Floyd Bennett Field.

Runway Green will support 50,000 students, in grades K-12, from hundreds of NYC public schools each year with world-class resources and opportunities to learn skills and mindsets focused on sustainability, to solve real-world problems, and to earn job credentials in the careers of the future. This once-in-generation project was conceived to help advance solutions to major challenges—including educational inequity, economic injustice, and climate change—by empowering young people from under-served communities to forge pathways to careers in which they will attain economic freedom and build a better world.

The campus is envisioned as a “learning ecosystem” – a community-based approach to education that offers deeply personalized opportunities to all students, with learning taking place at a nurturing home base, at learning hubs, and at real-world field sites—versus set in singular school buildings.

Georey Roehm recently gave a presentation about learning ecosystems at a conference hosted by Education Reimagined. Nothing like this exists in New

York City. Open year-round, the campus will provide students opportunities to learn, work, and intern with an ecosystem of partner nonprofit organizations. Facilities and nonprofit partnerships include: • A solar panel workshop, where students will earn job credentials while building sustainable energy sources to operate the net zero campus with Solar One. • A three-acre farm, where students will gain skills for careers in sustainable agriculture and feed our neighbors with

The Campaign Against Hunger. • World-class science labs built and operated by NY Sun Works, preparing students for careers in local agriculture and hydroponic farming. • A ropes course and campsites, where students will build self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills with NYC Outward Bound Schools. • Access to Jamaica Bay where students will learn skills to save our oceans and prepare for careers in marine biology and advocacy with Billion Oyster Project.

A partnership with Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy with whom students will become environmental stewards, engaging in advocacy to preserve and improve the surrounding shorelines and parklands. • A partnership with the City University of New York's Science + Resilience Institute, with which students will conduct hands-on research about coastal resiliency and the impacts of climate change. • An amphitheater where students will experience performing arts, including the history, movement, and beauty of African Diasporic culture with Asase Yaa.

Additionally, the campus will feature a new 240-student high school operated by Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School that will be built through a gut renovation of Floyd Bennett Field's Building 272. Runway Green, in partnership with the eco-friendly transit provider Circuit, is committed to sustainable forms of transportation to and from Floyd Bennett Field, ensuring accessibility for all. The Collective views the 7-acre campus as just the first phase in an even larger reimagining of Floyd Bennett Field as the preeminent hub of education, research, innovation, and workforce development. Floyd Bennett Field (1,300 acres) is more than twice the combined size of Brooklyn Navy Yard (300 acres), Governor's Island (175 acres), and Industry City (35 acres). The Collective recently brought on board three high-profile advisors with extensive connections and experience on big projects: Kathy Wylde, President, and CEO of the Partnership for New York; Stephen Cockrell, CEO of the Fund for Public Schools; and Carl Weisbrod, former Chairman of the New York City Planning Commission and Director of the New York City Department of Planning. The design of Runway Green has been developed by three renowned firms: SCAPE, ARO, and Colloqate.

Their work on this project has been informed by extensive input from Brooklyn community members. Funding and timeline Runway Green Education Collective has a fully negotiated lease with the National Park Service to develop and construct the 7-acre campus and is currently conducting a capital fundraising campaign to finalize the financing. Thus far, the Collective has secured \$27 million in funding for the campus from the City, State, and Federal governments, banks, foundations, and individual donors. The City of New York's September 2023 lease with the National Park Service to build a migrant shelter at Floyd Bennett Field included language requiring the construction of the campus and giving the project \$2.5 million. The Collective plans to finish its capital campaign in 2024 and begin construction, starting with the renovation of Building 272, in the first quarter of 2025. The first part of the campus—including the high school, farm, and ropes course—will open in 2026. The campus will be completed by 2028.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.18.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to
9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host:
Patricia Robinson

Guest: Michael T. Pugh- President & CEO LISC

Michael has worked for the most local to the largest financial institutions, which makes him well-qualified to discuss financial mobility. He also praises the role of good financial advice and forecasts how AI can create alternative methods for building credit.

Community organizations and resident leaders have the resources they need to actualize changes envisioned by the community. They can build on their strengths and have strong and diverse networks to maximize their capacity and achieve greater impact.

In this equitable journey, Michael works to preserve and develop affordable housing as part of neighborhood revitalization plans, to protect residents from displacement and meet community needs for affordable, equitable, and mixed-use housing options. We offer project-based technical assistance, recoverable grants, financing, and equity to help

community partners innovate, solve problems, and build capacity to achieve their housing goals.

CDFIs have an opportunity because of the connection to the community, and the lived experience that allows them to connect with members of the community. Cdfi's are more understanding, and acknowledging, of the issues present in BIPOC communities and the importance of connecting small businesses to capital.

Compound interest is a fundamental tenet of finance that greatly facilitates your ability to accumulate wealth, especially by leaning into the 401k pretax opportunities in the workplace.

Financial Education should start early in any home, as a foundation to train young people in the understanding of what they need vs what they want and to support incentives on how they earn those opportunities.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 2.7.24 Air Date: 2.25.24 Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Andrey Yancey- Assistant Brand Manager – 94.7 FM The Block

Transformational leadership in unique workspaces requires a special skillset.

Transformational leaders are full of energy, passion, and drive. It is not a surprise that these qualities can be the things that can make or break an organization.

When you have a lot of people who are looking to enter the industry, the importance on navigating that advice on how they show up to present themselves is important. It should reflect a connection to purpose first versus, a look at what the industry can do for you.

Coaching talent in the industry takes on different spheres of life and experiences but being able to support talent who have been through

many different work experiences in different spaces , some trauma associated, and helping them to feel included and safe allows them to exercise their best potential.

Continual communication is needed in the media space, because it is where you get your feedback and one should not expect that it is always unfavorable, but a redirecon or an assessment to get talent in alignment with staons repertoire.

A transformaonal leadership style can only be successful if you maintain open lines of communicaon with team members to transfer the vision of a task.

Continual communication is needed in this industry because transformational leadership style can only be successful if you maintain open lines of communication with team members to transfer the vision of a task.

Have the humility to know that there's much you do not know about others' experiences. Getting comfortable with discomfort and embracing risk are key to successful inclusive leadership.

Taking care of yourself, a healthy diet, resting, will help you to avoid burnout, and set realistic expectations for yourself.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

2.27.24 Air Date: 3.3.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Leah Rambo- President- Non-Traditional Employment for Women

Leah Rambo has been named the President of Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW). The pioneering nonprofit prepares, trains, and places women in careers in the skilled construction, utility, and maintenance trades, helping women build meaningful careers, and achieve economic independence and a secure future for themselves and their families. NEW also provides a pipeline of qualified workers to industries that build, move, power, green, and maintain New York.

NEW was founded in 1978 and has since increased the number of women participating in trade careers from two percent to seven percent.

The organization runs two flagship programs out of its Manhattan (Chelsea) and Brooklyn (Industry City) locations, preparing about 350 women annually to work as carpenters, electricians, ironworkers, laborers, plumbers, and operating engineers, and more. Graduates earn starting hourly wages of over \$19/hour and typically receive comprehensive benefits through their employer.

“This role presents an opportunity for me to advance my commitment to drive gender diversity and equality in the construction trades. It is an honor to be named president of NEW, an organization I have long admired for its leadership and network of opportunity for women. I’m looking forward to furthering the organization’s legacy in partnership with staff, the Board of Directors, unions and other workforce development leaders.

Leah’s interest in the building trades dates to her adolescence, when, at the age of 10, she asked for a tool set, rather than a doll, for a present. She attended high school at Brooklyn Tech and then launched a 35-year career in the labor movement. In addition to her role at the Women’s Bureau and several roles at Local 28, she also served on the Sheet Metal Air Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) International’s Women’s Committee, Recruitment and Retention Council, and was an instructor for the International Training Institute, where she trained sheet metal instructors from across the country. She is also a certified OSHA Outreach Instructor. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Labor Education from the National Labor College.

About Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW)

NEW is a nonprofit organization that prepares, trains, and places women in careers in the skilled construction, utility, and maintenance trades. For over 40 years, NEW

has increased the number of women represented in trade careers in New York City and helped women achieve economic independence.

For more information, visit <https://www.new-nyc.org/>.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:

2.29.24 Air Date: 3.10.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:

Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Marsha Coleman Jr. -Founder MCJ Dynasty – Financial Expert

Building a financially secure retirement is a challenge for many Americans, but it's especially steep if you are Black.

The numbers paint a glaring picture. Black workers ages 51 to 64 are the least likely among all racial and ethnic groups to have a retirement account, according to a July 2023 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Income is one of the most important factors affecting how much money people can save for retirement, and Black workers in the U.S. earn less than their white counterparts. African Americans who are aging now, the boomer generation, a lot of them didn't seek that financial advice.

However, Marsha suggests that you need to participate in your 401k/403b plan, and when and if you receive a raise-allocate a portion of that raise to your retirement plan.

Some tips include:

Make sure you evaluate your withdrawal rate with your financial professional at least annually to ensure that you are not drawing too much or too little and are taking life changes into account.

Look for financial wellness counseling, either from work or the community. Some companies offer employees counseling for debt management, budgeting, and emergency savings.

Some of the benefits of a retirement plan are :

- It allows you to invest now for financial security when you retire. • It provides tax advantages and incentives for you and your employees (if applicable).
- It reduces your stress and gives you peace of mind before and during retirement.
- It helps you make informed decisions and get on the same page with your spouse or partner.
 - It offers returns on investment and cost savings over time.
 - It protects you from emergencies and inflation.
 - It gives you a source of income if you have no pension.
 - It enables you to leave a legacy for your loved ones.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block –
Audacy Recorded: 3.12.24 Air Date: 3.17.24
Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30
Minute Type: Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia
Robinson

Guest: Sean Ebony Cole- Founder & Executive Director- Destination
Tomorrow

Destination Tomorrow, a Black Trans-led LGBTQ+ center in Atlanta, is a grant recipient of the City of Atlanta's largest investment in the Transgender community.

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens announced \$55,000 in funding to be allocated to three on-the ground community organizations. With the ongoing attacks on the Transgender community, specifically seen in the recent murders of Trans Black women in Atlanta, there is an urgent need for governing leaders to be held accountable for implementing safeguards for the community.

Sean Ebony Coleman, the center's founder, and executive director and the only Black Trans Grantmaker nationally, will be using these funds to open a new LGBTQ+ mentoring pilot program to provide critical support for Transgender individuals who are notoriously underrepresented in the region.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman announced a lawsuit Wednesday against New York Attorney General Letitia James. It comes after James issued a cease-and-desist order against Blakeman over Nassau County's ban affecting transgender athletes. Blakeman issued an executive order on Feb. 22 banning sports organizations from county run athletic facilities if they allow transgender girls and women to compete on female teams.

The order specifically requires any sports teams, leagues, programs, or organizations seeking a permit from the county's parks and recreation department to "expressly designate" whether they are male, female, or coed based on their members' "biological sex at birth."

The order, which went into effect immediately, impacts more than 100 sites, from ballfields to basketball and tennis courts, swimming pools and ice rinks across the suburban New York City region, which is located just east of Queens and is the state's wealthiest county. This is not precluding anybody from participating in sports," said Blakeman.

"What it is, it's identifying that there are women and girls who spend a tremendous amount of time and effort to excel and compete in their sports that are women's sports.... And it is an unfair advantage for someone who is a biological male to compete against a biological female."

Sean recognizes the harm being done by this executive order and will continue to build his scale of advocates to support equal and fair rights for the transgender community. He states that education should begin with understanding the terminology of the LGBTQ+ community, recognizing their humanity, and understanding the issues that they face. While some progress is being made in this direction Transgender individuals still face a greater risk of violence when using public spaces due to their gender identity, including being verbally harassed, physically assaulted, or sexually assaulted. This is unacceptable.

Conversations On the Block 94.7 FM The Block – Audacy Recorded:
3.11.24 Air Date: 3.24.24

Time Aired: 8:30 am to 9:00 am Duration: 30 Minute Type:
Interview | Open Forum Host: Patricia Robinson

Guest: Dr. Oadinma McGeachy- Board Certified Physician

Research shows that most health outcomes for black patients are better when they are treated by black doctors. That research is critical given that African Americans in the United States experience poorer health outcomes across a variety of diseases and conditions. — regardless of income level.

Dr. Ogadinma McGeachy is a board-certified Family Medicine Physician with over 15 years of experience. She serves as an adjunct professor at Molloy University, LIU, and NYU School of Nursing. She has worked in Brooklyn and Queens for over a decade and now has a private practice (GOAL Family Medical) in Lynbrook NY.

The practice's mission is to provide the highest quality medical service by offering comprehensive and compassionate care. Their vision includes working with the community to achieve the best health possible. This is accomplished through educating people about safe and healthy lifestyles, preventive medicine, screening/early detection of illnesses, and prompt management of diseases when they do occur. They are inclusive and take pride in caring for people from all levels of society.

It is important to do a self-check annually to make sure you are identifying silent illnesses, and you are ahead of any health problems. Black women often are in the mode of being “superwoman” and with that comes self-care neglect. It is encouraged

that you find time to balance yourself, so you are well-abled to continue being great in your field.

As a Black physician, discrimination still exists even at this level. Dr. McGeachy experiences exclusion in the medical facility in which her practice exists. She is not respected as a physician even in the space where she has committed to care for the community. She recognizes this and pushes forward with positive momentum and discernment about referrals to those who exhibit discriminatory behaviors.

All stakeholders with an interest in advancing medicine and research must commit to prioritizing health equity.

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

AUDACY-DC PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
1st Quarter
(1/01/24 – 3/31/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Education/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jimmie Williams, WLC president and CEO

Title: Adults with Literacy concerns in D.C.

Washington Literacy Center has a new program called, “Jumpstart to Success.” It offers participants career-skills betterment and enhancement. In addition, the program’s Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) exams provide an opportunity for WLC to have conversations with students about the value of improved reading and math skills. These conversations then result in low-level readers taking part in enrichment classes. In addition, WLC’s Digital Literacy allows for its educators to connect reading skills to students’ desire to learn about computers and technology. It’s also accomplished this, in part, with support from Capitol Hill employees who volunteer with low-level readers and English learners.

Issues: Government/Economy/Culture/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Yadavan Mahendraraj, Head of US & Canada Merchant Operations at Uber

Title: Grants for Business

Uber and Visa announced Grants for Growth, a program administered by Local Initiatives Support Corporate (LISC). They will provide \$1M in grant funding to small businesses currently active on Uber Eats across the United States. Focused on restaurant recovery and entrepreneurship, the program was created to support merchants when they need it most. Merchants active on Uber Eats since January 1, 2022, in various cities to include D.C. are eligible to apply for the program. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive search process by LISC. LISC will give preference to veteran, minority, women, and LGBTQIA+ business owners. Through Grants for Growth, 100 merchants will receive grants of \$10,000, which can be used toward immediate needs like meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, upgrading technology infrastructure, and other immediate operational costs. In addition to financial support, merchants will receive placement in the Uber Eats app and disaster recovery and resiliency guides from Uber and LISC.

Issues: Community News/Education

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Brad Pfiher, Executive Director of the Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Title: Proper Training of a Dog for Safety and Awareness

The CCPDT is the leading certification body for the dog training profession. For National Train Your Dog Month, they offer some tips for the many dog parents whose pups bark, jump, beg, and otherwise could benefit from a few lessons in good manners and safe behavior. It is important to receive training from a certified trainer.

Issues: Culture/Youth/Education/Community News/

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leslie Boissiere, VP of External Affairs at Annie E. Casey Foundation

Title: Race for Results

2024 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, unveils a stark reality: over half of Black, American Indian, and Latino children live below the poverty line. The United States is failing its children in several areas, especially kids of color. The report standardizes scores across 12 indicators representing well-being milestones from cradle to career.

Issues: Political/Culture/Government

Date: 1/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Allen Buchanan, PhD

Title: “A Divided America: Tribal Conflicts and the New America”

Is tribalism the political and cultural divisions between Us and Them—an inherent part of our basic moral psychology? Many scientists link tribalism and morality, arguing that the evolved “moral mind” is tribalistic. Any escape from tribalism, according to this thinking, would be partial and fragile, because it goes against the grain of our nature. In this book, Allen Buchanan offers a counterargument: the moral mind is highly flexible, capable of both tribalism and deeply inclusive moralities, depending on the social environment in which the moral mind operates.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Women/Community News/Political

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Phylicia Woods, Chair Commissioner, Providence District, Virginia

Title: Women Making a Difference

The Fairfax County Commission for Women advises the Board of Supervisors on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County. Established in 1971, the Commission has been an active voice for women in areas such as domestic violence, educational equality, and progress in the workplace. The Commission is part of a national network of state and local Commissions for Women.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

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Issues: Human service/Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Scott Adzick, Fetal Surgeon, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Title: Understanding Birth Defects and Hopeful Solutions

January's Birth Defects Awareness Month prompts an urgent conversation: 1 in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect, yet awareness remains limited. Dr. Scott Adzick, a pioneering fetal surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will offer insights on tackling the stigma surrounding birth defects, shedding light on available treatments and crucial considerations for parents-to-be

Issues: Human Service

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Host David O'Leary with Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Title: Mental Health (Segment 1 & 2) Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones.

We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Julie Gralow, Chief Medical Officer at American Society of Clinical Oncology

Title: Ground Breaking Cancer Care

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) symposia will focus on pioneering GI and and Genitourinary oncology research and care. The GI Cancers Symposium is leading global forum for the latest high-impact science and solution-focused strategies in the GI cancers field and expected to garner 4,000 attendees. Research results will include pioneering research on

circulating tumor DNA and immunotherapy, with highlights including six studies on new GI cancer treatments and groundbreaking research on prostate and kidney cancers.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kerry O'Brien, Regional Representative, Federal Trade Commission

Title: Identity Prevention Week

The FTC is the federal government's one-stop resource that helps people learn how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft and other scams. The agency manages IdentityTheft.gov, a free resource to help people who experience identity theft start their recovery. Each year, the FTC gets more than a million reports of identity theft, but the fact is only a fraction of people who experience identity theft, report it.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Government/Political

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jules Christian, Chaplain, Volunteers of America

Title: More than Thoughts and Prayers

Volunteers of America will be hosting a spiritual colloquium in Washington D.C. to discuss gun violence in the city, specifically Wards 7&8. The colloquium will also provide a platform for community leaders and citizens to derive solutions that benefit families and the community as a whole.

Issues: Political/Government/Culture

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome USA

Title: Legal Entry into the United States via the Department of State

Representing one of the boldest innovations to U.S. refugee resettlement in 40 years, the State Department launched the Welcome Corps in 2023 to create new ways for Americans to play a direct role in resettling refugees. In groups of five or more adults, Americans take on essential tasks and help refugees during their first 90 days in the United States. This includes securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugees at the airport, helping adults find employment, enrolling children in school, and serving as local guides to enable refugees to forge ties in their new communities.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Laura Cheever

Title: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase awareness of HIV care and treatment services for Black/African Americans facing stigma and HIV-related health disparities. The day also encourages those who are undiagnosed to get tested for HIV and, if they test positive, to get appropriate care and medication. More than 13,000 people are living with HIV in Washington D.C. according to recent data (aidsvu.org).

Issues: Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Reasa Currier, Director Animal Sheltering

Title: Chief vs Chief

The Fairfax County Police Chief, Kevin Davis has challenged Fairfax County Fire Chief, John Butler to raise funds and awareness to animals in need. All proceeds go to the Fairfax County Virginia animal shelter. The shelter has two locations; the newest one in the southern end of the county recently opened its doors. The shelters can house between 4,000 and 5,000 animals throughout the year.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Education

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leandris Liburd, Acting Director for CDC’s Office of Health Equity (OHE) and Tara Robinson, Founder/CEO of the Black Heart Association

Title: Black Women: Bearing the Brunt of Heart Disease

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in this country, and the odds of dying from it are even higher if you’re an African American woman. Ways to reduce the risks and support are provided by the collaboration of the OHE and the Black Heart Association.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Economy

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Jason Porter, Thoracic Medical Oncologist at West Cancer Center and Janet Freeman-Daily, Survivor/Co-founder/President of The ROS1ders

Title: New Therapy May Bring Hope for Specific Lung Cancer Patients

There may be new hope for those with a tough-to-treat form of lung cancer. The disease is called *ROS1*-positive (*ROS1+*) a non-small cell lung cancer; and it tends to be aggressive and can often spread to the brain. The FDA recently approved a new medication specific to this cancer.

Issues: Human Service

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Hosts (KNX) Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson with Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA.

Title: “Audacy Conversations: State of the Entertainment Industry” (Segment 1&2)

Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

(Audacy, Inc. “I’m Listening Series”)

Issues: Environment/Youth/Education/Culture

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director, Seed Your Future.

Title: Green Careers

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, STEM, design are a few career paths that are available to candidates that may not want to attend a traditional university.

Issues: Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Tammuella Chrisentery-Singleton, Chief Science Officer for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network

Title:

More than 30,000 U.S. adults are estimated to be living with severe hemophilia A, a genetic condition where blood does not clot properly. Those living with the condition face a lifelong burden involving frequent infusions and a high risk of health complications, including uncontrolled bleeding and irreversible joint damage. To help, there is a new gene therapy to provide a new option for patients that may grant them freedom from regular preventative injections and painful bleeding incidents.

Issues: Human Service/Education/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone - Katrin Werner-Perez, Health Programs Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Title: Heart Valve Disease Awareness

As many as 11 million Americans are affected by heart valve disease (HVD), yet an awareness survey found that three out of four adults know little to nothing about it. HVD involves damage to one or more of the heart's four valves, and while some types are not serious, others can lead to major complications, including more than 25,000 deaths attributed to HVD in the U.S. each year. HVD can be successfully treated in patients of all ages if detected and treated in time. The most common risk factor is age.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Community News/Economy

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rebecca Kinney, Director of the Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at the Administration for ☐ Community ☐ Living

Title: Medicare Help

Medicare can be incredibly confusing, but the good news is that there are people available to help. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has counselors in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SHIP provides unbiased,

one-on-one, confidential Medicare benefits counseling and assistance and their services are free. The counselors have been trained and certified as Medicare experts and many are Medicare beneficiaries themselves.

Issues: Youth/Education/Political

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jill Murphy, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Distribution at Common Sense Media

Title: Mobile Phone Safety for Kids with Tech-Savvy Parents

Most parents discuss phone safety with their kids several times a week, but experts say blind spots persist. A new survey from Cox Mobile found nearly one in three parents (31%) said their children have been contacted by a stranger on their phone, and 1 in 4 (28%) said the stranger referenced their child's location. The survey also found parents extremely worried about cyberbullying, one of the top three things keeping them up at night. Parents are most concerned about their child encountering predatory or inappropriate behavior (39%) and content (23%) on their phones.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Economy/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – U.S. Air Force Veteran, Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Associate National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis

Title: Female Veterans in Crisis

In the last decade, our nation has asked a lot of our service members and, as a result, many are coming back with visible and invisible wounds of war. One nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is working hard to support America's disabled veterans in positive, life-changing ways by helping them access benefits they earned, like health care, education and disability, and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. With nearly 1,300 chapters across the country, DAV provides a national support network for veterans and their families; particularly women veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Elizabeth Ann Bridgwaters, Living Legend (Women's History Month)

Title: Making a Difference in Lives and Supporting a Community

Elizabeth Bridgwaters was recently designated as a Living Legend in Bloomington, Indiana. Her contributions as an African American historian, has given citizens the opportunity to learn of not only their ancestry, but of those who helped shape the future of their community.

Issues: Youth/Education/Culture/Community News

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jodi Rubin, reading is Fundamental Senior VP, Marketing and Partnerships

Title: Reading is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's leading children's literacy non-profit. As I shared this past fall, we launched the third year of our annual six-month reading campaign called Rally to Read 100 offering free monthly themes with read-alouds from popular authors and fun and engaging reading activities for elementary school aged children all available at RallytoRead.org.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Education/Culture

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Lisa C. Richardson, Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Title: Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Routine colorectal cancer screening can mean cancer prevention. Because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its recommendation in 2021 that adults 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. In the last few years, many adults missed or delayed screenings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When screenings are delayed, or people wait until they have symptoms to be checked, this can lead to more advanced and harder-to-treat colorectal cancer.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Economy/Human Service/Government

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Theodore Caputi, MPH, Public Health Research Consultant

Title: Are All CBD Products Safe?

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has released new research that reveals the various tactics cannabidiol (CBD) companies use to thwart the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process and make misleading statements that their therapeutic claims are backed by science. The research illustrates the need for stronger FDA oversight and guidance to address the risks to consumers and patients alike when companies exploit research for marketing purposes. The findings reveal nearly 1,000 health claims touting CBD's ability to mitigate symptoms or treat mental health, autism, pain, sexual health, AIDS, cancer, COVID-19, and more, providing just a snapshot of the current, unregulated market and shady tactics companies use to mislead the public. There is only one CBD product that has been approved by the federal government.

Issues: Community News/Education/Youth/Economy

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sue Mairena, Board President Annandale Christian Community for Action & Isabel Ballivian, Executive Director/Program Director for the Child Development Center

Title: Sustaining a Community and Educating the Children

Annandale Christian Community for Action is a non-profit providing early childhood education since 1965. Later the organization found there was a great need to service the entire community. They provide a multitude of services to include: financial assistance, short term housing, food and clothing. Since the pandemic, they have seen the need for services grow exponentially.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Education

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Laura Mayer, Program Director, Crisis Link

Title: Help is a Call or Text Away

PRS, a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises, has received two major grants to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's hotline and chat line from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). PRS has operated Northern Virginia's hotline and text line through its CrisisLink program for years and is now part of the subnetwork of crisis centers answering overflow calls and chats from around the nation.

Issues: Community News/Economy/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jim Link, the Chief HR Officer of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Title: Workplace Behavior Under Scrutiny

SHRM believes we'll see a significant increase in incivility in the workplace this year as we near a highly divisive election, but SHRM also believes that honest and civil conversations can bridge divides, build understanding, and shape better workplaces and a better world. But, the need is now. Embracing Diversity, Encourage Empathy, Active Listening, and mitigating abusive conduct are key factors to getting the workplace back to civility.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Sara Kinsman is the Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Title: Poison Prevention Week

Most poisonings are unintentional and happen at home. They usually do not require a trip to the hospital and can be treated with a call to poison control. In fact, more than 4 out of 5 (83%) of poison exposures are nontoxic or minimally toxic and do not require 911 or an ambulance. If a child or adult is alert, acting normally and breathing well, calling Poison Help and reaching your local poison center is the best first step and can give you advice right away.

Issues: Community News/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Tina Johnson, President, Loudoun First Responder Foundation

Title: Supporting Those Who Support the Community

Firefighters in Loudoun County recently experienced a tragedy that took the life of a firefighter while combating a fire. Another firefighter sustained injuries that require attention and the road to recovery will be long. Loudoun First Responder Foundation is a non-profit organization that focuses all of its energy to supporting those firefighters and family members. 97% of donations go directly to those who are in need.

Issues: Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Major Kathleen (Kate) Rubins, an Astronaut and Innovation Officer, U.S. Army Reserve

Title: Herstory (Women's History Month)

Major Rubins is one of nine people selected to attend the 20th NASA astronaut class in July 2009 and has since become the 60th woman ever to fly in space and the first person to sequence DNA in space. To date, she has completed two missions to space. Major Rubins wanted to be an astronaut since she was a child but first started pursuing a career in molecular biology and infectious disease and worked as a microbiologist in the Army Reserve as a Microbiologist.

Issues: Transportation/Environment/Economy

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Morgan Dean, Manager, Public & Government Affairs, AAA

Title: Spring Break Travel and Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy

Detours are now up after the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. AAA is urging Spring Break travelers who have plans to travel to or through the Baltimore area to double check their plans. The tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has shut down a vital artery for travelers getting around and through the Baltimore metro area. According to Maryland Department Transportation Authority (MDTA), more than 30,000 vehicles used that bridge every day. Those drivers will now be looking for alternate routes. Maryland Transportation officials urge drivers to use I-95 and I-895 as alternate routes. Spring Break travelers going both north and south along the corridor could find more backups than normal as commuter, holiday traffic, and trucking/freight traffic shift to the alternate routes.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores and Partner with American Heart Association

Title: National Walking Day April 3, 2024

Physical activity is one of the best ways to improve overall health and manage stress. Yet, 1 in 4 U.S. adults are sedentary for more than eight hours each day, which can have negative consequences on physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day.

Issues: Community News/Environment

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Daniel Paden, Vice President of Evidence Analysis for PETA

Title: Safe Animal Blood Transfusions

Animals that need blood transfusions are often very ill or injured, and their owners are led to believe the blood they will receive is healthy and uncontaminated. But blood purchased from animal blood banks may have been taken from sick, injured or medicated animals, putting

animals on both sides at further risk. A groundbreaking PETA investigation into captive animal blood banks reveals dogs and cats that are confined to barren kennels and crowded pens, where they are forced to spend their lives as living blood bags even when they are ill or suffering from infections or cancer.

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

AUDACY-DC PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
1st Quarter
(1/01/24 – 3/31/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Education/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jimmie Williams, WLC president and CEO

Title: Adults with Literacy concerns in D.C.

Washington Literacy Center has a new program called, “Jumpstart to Success.” It offers participants career-skills betterment and enhancement. In addition, the program’s Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) exams provide an opportunity for WLC to have conversations with students about the value of improved reading and math skills. These conversations then result in low-level readers taking part in enrichment classes. In addition, WLC’s Digital Literacy allows for its educators to connect reading skills to students’ desire to learn about computers and technology. It’s also accomplished this, in part, with support from Capitol Hill employees who volunteer with low-level readers and English learners.

Issues: Government/Economy/Culture/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Yadavan Mahendraraj, Head of US & Canada Merchant Operations at Uber

Title: Grants for Business

Uber and Visa announced Grants for Growth, a program administered by Local Initiatives Support Corporate (LISC). They will provide \$1M in grant funding to small businesses currently active on Uber Eats across the United States. Focused on restaurant recovery and entrepreneurship, the program was created to support merchants when they need it most. Merchants active on Uber Eats since January 1, 2022, in various cities to include D.C. are eligible to apply for the program. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive search process by LISC. LISC will give preference to veteran, minority, women, and LGBTQIA+ business owners. Through Grants for Growth, 100 merchants will receive grants of \$10,000, which can be used toward immediate needs like meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, upgrading technology infrastructure, and other immediate operational costs. In addition to financial support, merchants will receive placement in the Uber Eats app and disaster recovery and resiliency guides from Uber and LISC.

Issues: Community News/Education

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Brad Pfiher, Executive Director of the Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Title: Proper Training of a Dog for Safety and Awareness

The CCPDT is the leading certification body for the dog training profession. For National Train Your Dog Month, they offer some tips for the many dog parents whose pups bark, jump, beg, and otherwise could benefit from a few lessons in good manners and safe behavior. It is important to receive training from a certified trainer.

Issues: Culture/Youth/Education/Community News/

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leslie Boissiere, VP of External Affairs at Annie E. Casey Foundation

Title: Race for Results

2024 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, unveils a stark reality: over half of Black, American Indian, and Latino children live below the poverty line. The United States is failing its children in several areas, especially kids of color. The report standardizes scores across 12 indicators representing well-being milestones from cradle to career.

Issues: Political/Culture/Government

Date: 1/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Allen Buchanan, PhD

Title: “A Divided America: Tribal Conflicts and the New America”

Is tribalism the political and cultural divisions between Us and Them—an inherent part of our basic moral psychology? Many scientists link tribalism and morality, arguing that the evolved “moral mind” is tribalistic. Any escape from tribalism, according to this thinking, would be partial and fragile, because it goes against the grain of our nature. In this book, Allen Buchanan offers a counterargument: the moral mind is highly flexible, capable of both tribalism and deeply inclusive moralities, depending on the social environment in which the moral mind operates.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Women/Community News/Political

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Phylicia Woods, Chair Commissioner, Providence District, Virginia

Title: Women Making a Difference

The Fairfax County Commission for Women advises the Board of Supervisors on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County. Established in 1971, the Commission has been an active voice for women in areas such as domestic violence, educational equality, and progress in the workplace. The Commission is part of a national network of state and local Commissions for Women.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

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Issues: Human service/Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Scott Adzick, Fetal Surgeon, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Title: Understanding Birth Defects and Hopeful Solutions

January's Birth Defects Awareness Month prompts an urgent conversation: 1 in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect, yet awareness remains limited. Dr. Scott Adzick, a pioneering fetal surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will offer insights on tackling the stigma surrounding birth defects, shedding light on available treatments and crucial considerations for parents-to-be

Issues: Human Service

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Host David O'Leary with Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Title: Mental Health (Segment 1 & 2) Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones.

We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Julie Gralow, Chief Medical Officer at American Society of Clinical Oncology

Title: Ground Breaking Cancer Care

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) symposia will focus on pioneering GI and and Genitourinary oncology research and care. The GI Cancers Symposium is leading global forum for the latest high-impact science and solution-focused strategies in the GI cancers field and expected to garner 4,000 attendees. Research results will include pioneering research on

circulating tumor DNA and immunotherapy, with highlights including six studies on new GI cancer treatments and groundbreaking research on prostate and kidney cancers.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kerry O'Brien, Regional Representative, Federal Trade Commission

Title: Identity Prevention Week

The FTC is the federal government's one-stop resource that helps people learn how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft and other scams. The agency manages IdentityTheft.gov, a free resource to help people who experience identity theft start their recovery. Each year, the FTC gets more than a million reports of identity theft, but the fact is only a fraction of people who experience identity theft, report it.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Government/Political

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jules Christian, Chaplain, Volunteers of America

Title: More than Thoughts and Prayers

Volunteers of America will be hosting a spiritual colloquium in Washington D.C. to discuss gun violence in the city, specifically Wards 7&8. The colloquium will also provide a platform for community leaders and citizens to derive solutions that benefit families and the community as a whole.

Issues: Political/Government/Culture

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome USA

Title: Legal Entry into the United States via the Department of State

Representing one of the boldest innovations to U.S. refugee resettlement in 40 years, the State Department launched the Welcome Corps in 2023 to create new ways for Americans to play a direct role in resettling refugees. In groups of five or more adults, Americans take on essential tasks and help refugees during their first 90 days in the United States. This includes securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugees at the airport, helping adults find employment, enrolling children in school, and serving as local guides to enable refugees to forge ties in their new communities.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Laura Cheever

Title: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase awareness of HIV care and treatment services for Black/African Americans facing stigma and HIV-related health disparities. The day also encourages those who are undiagnosed to get tested for HIV and, if they test positive, to get appropriate care and medication. More than 13,000 people of living with HIV in Washington D.C. according to recent data (aidsvu.org).

Issues: Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Reasa Currier, Director Animal Sheltering

Title: Chief vs Chief

The Fairfax County Police Chief, Kevin Davis has challenged Fairfax County Fire Chief, John Butler to raise funds and awareness to animals in need. All proceeds go to the Fairfax County Virginia animal shelter. The shelter has two locations; the newest one in the southern end of the county recently opened its doors. The shelters can house between 4,000 and 5,000 animals throughout the year.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Education

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leandris Liburd, Acting Director for CDC’s Office of Health Equity (OHE) and Tara Robinson, Founder/CEO of the Black Heart Association

Title: Black Women: Bearing the Brunt of Heart Disease

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in this country, and the odds of dying from it are even higher if you’re an African American woman. Ways to reduce the risks and support are provided by the collaboration of the OHE and the Black Heart Association.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Economy

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Jason Porter, Thoracic Medical Oncologist at West Cancer Center and Janet Freeman-Daily, Survivor/Co-founder/President of The ROS1ders

Title: New Therapy May Bring Hope for Specific Lung Cancer Patients

There may be new hope for those with a tough-to-treat form of lung cancer. The disease is called *ROS1*-positive (*ROS1+*) a non-small cell lung cancer; and it tends to be aggressive and can often spread to the brain. The FDA recently approved a new medication specific to this cancer.

Issues: Human Service

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Hosts (KNX) Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson with Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA.

Title: “Audacy Conversations: State of the Entertainment Industry” (Segment 1&2)

Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

(Audacy, Inc. “I’m Listening Series”)

Issues: Environment/Youth/Education/Culture

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director, Seed Your Future.

Title: Green Careers

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, STEM, design are a few career paths that are available to candidates that may not want to attend a traditional university.

Issues: Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Tammuella Chrisentery-Singleton, Chief Science Officer for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network

Title:

More than 30,000 U.S. adults are estimated to be living with severe hemophilia A, a genetic condition where blood does not clot properly. Those living with the condition face a lifelong burden involving frequent infusions and a high risk of health complications, including uncontrolled bleeding and irreversible joint damage. To help, there is a new gene therapy to provide a new option for patients that may grant them freedom from regular preventative injections and painful bleeding incidents.

Issues: Human Service/Education/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone - Katrin Werner-Perez, Health Programs Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Title: Heart Valve Disease Awareness

As many as 11 million Americans are affected by heart valve disease (HVD), yet an awareness survey found that three out of four adults know little to nothing about it. HVD involves damage to one or more of the heart's four valves, and while some types are not serious, others can lead to major complications, including more than 25,000 deaths attributed to HVD in the U.S. each year. HVD can be successfully treated in patients of all ages if detected and treated in time. The most common risk factor is age.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Community News/Economy

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rebecca Kinney, Director of the Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at the Administration for ☐Community ☐Living

Title: Medicare Help

Medicare can be incredibly confusing, but the good news is that there are people available to help. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has counselors in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SHIP provides unbiased,

one-on-one, confidential Medicare benefits counseling and assistance and their services are free. The counselors have been trained and certified as Medicare experts and many are Medicare beneficiaries themselves.

Issues: Youth/Education/Political

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jill Murphy, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Distribution at Common Sense Media

Title: Mobile Phone Safety for Kids with Tech-Savvy Parents

Most parents discuss phone safety with their kids several times a week, but experts say blind spots persist. A new survey from Cox Mobile found nearly one in three parents (31%) said their children have been contacted by a stranger on their phone, and 1 in 4 (28%) said the stranger referenced their child's location. The survey also found parents extremely worried about cyberbullying, one of the top three things keeping them up at night. Parents are most concerned about their child encountering predatory or inappropriate behavior (39%) and content (23%) on their phones.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Economy/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – U.S. Air Force Veteran, Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Associate National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis

Title: Female Veterans in Crisis

In the last decade, our nation has asked a lot of our service members and, as a result, many are coming back with visible and invisible wounds of war. One nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is working hard to support America's disabled veterans in positive, life-changing ways by helping them access benefits they earned, like health care, education and disability, and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. With nearly 1,300 chapters across the country, DAV provides a national support network for veterans and their families; particularly women veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Elizabeth Ann Bridgwaters, Living Legend (Women's History Month)

Title: Making a Difference in Lives and Supporting a Community

Elizabeth Bridgwaters was recently designated as a Living Legend in Bloomington, Indiana. Her contributions as an African American historian, has given citizens the opportunity to learn of not only their ancestry, but of those who helped shape the future of their community.

Issues: Youth/Education/Culture/Community News

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jodi Rubin, reading is Fundamental Senior VP, Marketing and Partnerships

Title: Reading is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's leading children's literacy non-profit. As I shared this past fall, we launched the third year of our annual six-month reading campaign called Rally to Read 100 offering free monthly themes with read-alouds from popular authors and fun and engaging reading activities for elementary school aged children all available at RallytoRead.org.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Education/Culture

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Lisa C. Richardson, Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Title: Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Routine colorectal cancer screening can mean cancer prevention. Because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its recommendation in 2021 that adults 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. In the last few years, many adults missed or delayed screenings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When screenings are delayed, or people wait until they have symptoms to be checked, this can lead to more advanced and harder-to-treat colorectal cancer.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Economy/Human Service/Government

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Theodore Caputi, MPH, Public Health Research Consultant

Title: Are All CBD Products Safe?

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has released new research that reveals the various tactics cannabidiol (CBD) companies use to thwart the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process and make misleading statements that their therapeutic claims are backed by science. The research illustrates the need for stronger FDA oversight and guidance to address the risks to consumers and patients alike when companies exploit research for marketing purposes. The findings reveal nearly 1,000 health claims touting CBD's ability to mitigate symptoms or treat mental health, autism, pain, sexual health, AIDS, cancer, COVID-19, and more, providing just a snapshot of the current, unregulated market and shady tactics companies use to mislead the public. There is only one CBD product that has been approved by the federal government.

Issues: Community News/Education/Youth/Economy

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sue Mairena, Board President Annandale Christian Community for Action & Isabel Ballivian, Executive Director/Program Director for the Child Development Center

Title: Sustaining a Community and Educating the Children

Annandale Christian Community for Action is a non-profit providing early childhood education since 1965. Later the organization found there was a great need to service the entire community. They provide a multitude of services to include: financial assistance, short term housing, food and clothing. Since the pandemic, they have seen the need for services grow exponentially.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Education

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Laura Mayer, Program Director, Crisis Link

Title: Help is a Call or Text Away

PRS, a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises, has received two major grants to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's hotline and chat line from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). PRS has operated Northern Virginia's hotline and text line through its CrisisLink program for years and is now part of the subnetwork of crisis centers answering overflow calls and chats from around the nation.

Issues: Community News/Economy/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jim Link, the Chief HR Officer of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Title: Workplace Behavior Under Scrutiny

SHRM believes we'll see a significant increase in incivility in the workplace this year as we near a highly divisive election, but SHRM also believes that honest and civil conversations can bridge divides, build understanding, and shape better workplaces and a better world. But, the need is now. Embracing Diversity, Encourage Empathy, Active Listening, and mitigating abusive conduct are key factors to getting the workplace back to civility.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Sara Kinsman is the Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Title: Poison Prevention Week

Most poisonings are unintentional and happen at home. They usually do not require a trip to the hospital and can be treated with a call to poison control. In fact, more than 4 out of 5 (83%) of poison exposures are nontoxic or minimally toxic and do not require 911 or an ambulance. If a child or adult is alert, acting normally and breathing well, calling Poison Help and reaching your local poison center is the best first step and can give you advice right away.

Issues: Community News/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Tina Johnson, President, Loudoun First Responder Foundation

Title: Supporting Those Who Support the Community

Firefighters in Loudoun County recently experienced a tragedy that took the life of a firefighter while combating a fire. Another firefighter sustained injuries that require attention and the road to recovery will be long. Loudoun First Responder Foundation is a non-profit organization that focuses all of its energy to supporting those firefighters and family members. 97% of donations go directly to those who are in need.

Issues: Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Major Kathleen (Kate) Rubins, an Astronaut and Innovation Officer, U.S. Army Reserve

Title: Herstory (Women's History Month)

Major Rubins is one of nine people selected to attend the 20th NASA astronaut class in July 2009 and has since become the 60th woman ever to fly in space and the first person to sequence DNA in space. To date, she has completed two missions to space. Major Rubins wanted to be an astronaut since she was a child but first started pursuing a career in molecular biology and infectious disease and worked as a microbiologist in the Army Reserve as a Microbiologist.

Issues: Transportation/Environment/Economy

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Morgan Dean, Manager, Public & Government Affairs, AAA

Title: Spring Break Travel and Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy

Detours are now up after the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. AAA is urging Spring Break travelers who have plans to travel to or through the Baltimore area to double check their plans. The tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has shut down a vital artery for travelers getting around and through the Baltimore metro area. According to Maryland Department Transportation Authority (MDTA), more than 30,000 vehicles used that bridge every day. Those drivers will now be looking for alternate routes. Maryland Transportation officials urge drivers to use I-95 and I-895 as alternate routes. Spring Break travelers going both north and south along the corridor could find more backups than normal as commuter, holiday traffic, and trucking/freight traffic shift to the alternate routes.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores and Partner with American Heart Association

Title: National Walking Day April 3, 2024

Physical activity is one of the best ways to improve overall health and manage stress. Yet, 1 in 4 U.S. adults are sedentary for more than eight hours each day, which can have negative consequences on physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day.

Issues: Community News/Environment

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Daniel Paden, Vice President of Evidence Analysis for PETA

Title: Safe Animal Blood Transfusions

Animals that need blood transfusions are often very ill or injured, and their owners are led to believe the blood they will receive is healthy and uncontaminated. But blood purchased from animal blood banks may have been taken from sick, injured or medicated animals, putting

animals on both sides at further risk. A groundbreaking PETA investigation into captive animal blood banks reveals dogs and cats that are confined to barren kennels and crowded pens, where they are forced to spend their lives as living blood bags even when they are ill or suffering from infections or cancer.

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

AUDACY-DC PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
1st Quarter
(1/01/24 – 3/31/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Education/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jimmie Williams, WLC president and CEO

Title: Adults with Literacy concerns in D.C.

Washington Literacy Center has a new program called, “Jumpstart to Success.” It offers participants career-skills betterment and enhancement. In addition, the program’s Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) exams provide an opportunity for WLC to have conversations with students about the value of improved reading and math skills. These conversations then result in low-level readers taking part in enrichment classes. In addition, WLC’s Digital Literacy allows for its educators to connect reading skills to students’ desire to learn about computers and technology. It’s also accomplished this, in part, with support from Capitol Hill employees who volunteer with low-level readers and English learners.

Issues: Government/Economy/Culture/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Yadavan Mahendraraj, Head of US & Canada Merchant Operations at Uber

Title: Grants for Business

Uber and Visa announced Grants for Growth, a program administered by Local Initiatives Support Corporate (LISC). They will provide \$1M in grant funding to small businesses currently active on Uber Eats across the United States. Focused on restaurant recovery and entrepreneurship, the program was created to support merchants when they need it most. Merchants active on Uber Eats since January 1, 2022, in various cities to include D.C. are eligible to apply for the program. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive search process by LISC. LISC will give preference to veteran, minority, women, and LGBTQIA+ business owners. Through Grants for Growth, 100 merchants will receive grants of \$10,000, which can be used toward immediate needs like meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, upgrading technology infrastructure, and other immediate operational costs. In addition to financial support, merchants will receive placement in the Uber Eats app and disaster recovery and resiliency guides from Uber and LISC.

Issues: Community News/Education

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Brad Pfiher, Executive Director of the Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Title: Proper Training of a Dog for Safety and Awareness

The CCPDT is the leading certification body for the dog training profession. For National Train Your Dog Month, they offer some tips for the many dog parents whose pups bark, jump, beg, and otherwise could benefit from a few lessons in good manners and safe behavior. It is important to receive training from a certified trainer.

Issues: Culture/Youth/Education/Community News/

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leslie Boissiere, VP of External Affairs at Annie E. Casey Foundation

Title: Race for Results

2024 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, unveils a stark reality: over half of Black, American Indian, and Latino children live below the poverty line. The United States is failing its children in several areas, especially kids of color. The report standardizes scores across 12 indicators representing well-being milestones from cradle to career.

Issues: Political/Culture/Government

Date: 1/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Allen Buchanan, PhD

Title: “A Divided America: Tribal Conflicts and the New America”

Is tribalism the political and cultural divisions between Us and Them—an inherent part of our basic moral psychology? Many scientists link tribalism and morality, arguing that the evolved “moral mind” is tribalistic. Any escape from tribalism, according to this thinking, would be partial and fragile, because it goes against the grain of our nature. In this book, Allen Buchanan offers a counterargument: the moral mind is highly flexible, capable of both tribalism and deeply inclusive moralities, depending on the social environment in which the moral mind operates.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Women/Community News/Political

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Phylicia Woods, Chair Commissioner, Providence District, Virginia

Title: Women Making a Difference

The Fairfax County Commission for Women advises the Board of Supervisors on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County. Established in 1971, the Commission has been an active voice for women in areas such as domestic violence, educational equality, and progress in the workplace. The Commission is part of a national network of state and local Commissions for Women.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

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Issues: Human service/Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Scott Adzick, Fetal Surgeon, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Title: Understanding Birth Defects and Hopeful Solutions

January's Birth Defects Awareness Month prompts an urgent conversation: 1 in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect, yet awareness remains limited. Dr. Scott Adzick, a pioneering fetal surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will offer insights on tackling the stigma surrounding birth defects, shedding light on available treatments and crucial considerations for parents-to-be

Issues: Human Service

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Host David O'Leary with Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Title: Mental Health (Segment 1 & 2) Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones.

We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Julie Gralow, Chief Medical Officer at American Society of Clinical Oncology

Title: Ground Breaking Cancer Care

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) symposia will focus on pioneering GI and and Genitourinary oncology research and care. The GI Cancers Symposium is leading global forum for the latest high-impact science and solution-focused strategies in the GI cancers field and expected to garner 4,000 attendees. Research results will include pioneering research on

circulating tumor DNA and immunotherapy, with highlights including six studies on new GI cancer treatments and groundbreaking research on prostate and kidney cancers.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kerry O'Brien, Regional Representative, Federal Trade Commission

Title: Identity Prevention Week

The FTC is the federal government's one-stop resource that helps people learn how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft and other scams. The agency manages IdentityTheft.gov, a free resource to help people who experience identity theft start their recovery. Each year, the FTC gets more than a million reports of identity theft, but the fact is only a fraction of people who experience identity theft, report it.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Government/Political

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jules Christian, Chaplain, Volunteers of America

Title: More than Thoughts and Prayers

Volunteers of America will be hosting a spiritual colloquium in Washington D.C. to discuss gun violence in the city, specifically Wards 7&8. The colloquium will also provide a platform for community leaders and citizens to derive solutions that benefit families and the community as a whole.

Issues: Political/Government/Culture

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome USA

Title: Legal Entry into the United States via the Department of State

Representing one of the boldest innovations to U.S. refugee resettlement in 40 years, the State Department launched the Welcome Corps in 2023 to create new ways for Americans to play a direct role in resettling refugees. In groups of five or more adults, Americans take on essential tasks and help refugees during their first 90 days in the United States. This includes securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugees at the airport, helping adults find employment, enrolling children in school, and serving as local guides to enable refugees to forge ties in their new communities.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Laura Cheever

Title: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase awareness of HIV care and treatment services for Black/African Americans facing stigma and HIV-related health disparities. The day also encourages those who are undiagnosed to get tested for HIV and, if they test positive, to get appropriate care and medication. More than 13,000 people of living with HIV in Washington D.C. according to recent data (aidsvu.org).

Issues: Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Reasa Currier, Director Animal Sheltering

Title: Chief vs Chief

The Fairfax County Police Chief, Kevin Davis has challenged Fairfax County Fire Chief, John Butler to raise funds and awareness to animals in need. All proceeds go to the Fairfax County Virginia animal shelter. The shelter has two locations; the newest one in the southern end of the county recently opened its doors. The shelters can house between 4,000 and 5,000 animals throughout the year.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Education

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leandris Liburd, Acting Director for CDC's Office of Health Equity (OHE) and Tara Robinson, Founder/CEO of the Black Heart Association

Title: Black Women: Bearing the Brunt of Heart Disease

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in this country, and the odds of dying from it are even higher if you're an African American woman. Ways to reduce the risks and support are provided by the collaboration of the OHE and the Black Heart Association.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Economy

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Jason Porter, Thoracic Medical Oncologist at West Cancer Center and Janet Freeman-Daily, Survivor/Co-founder/President of The ROS1ders

Title: New Therapy May Bring Hope for Specific Lung Cancer Patients

There may be new hope for those with a tough-to-treat form of lung cancer. The disease is called *ROS1*-positive (*ROS1+*) a non-small cell lung cancer; and it tends to be aggressive and can often spread to the brain. The FDA recently approved a new medication specific to this cancer.

Issues: Human Service

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Hosts (KNX) Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson with Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA.

Title: "Audacy Conversations: State of the Entertainment Industry" (Segment 1&2)

Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

(Audacy, Inc. "I'm Listening Series")

Issues: Environment/Youth/Education/Culture

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director, Seed Your Future.

Title: Green Careers

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, STEM, design are a few career paths that are available to candidates that may not want to attend a traditional university.

Issues: Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Tammuella Chrisentery-Singleton, Chief Science Officer for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network

Title:

More than 30,000 U.S. adults are estimated to be living with severe hemophilia A, a genetic condition where blood does not clot properly. Those living with the condition face a lifelong burden involving frequent infusions and a high risk of health complications, including uncontrolled bleeding and irreversible joint damage. To help, there is a new gene therapy to provide a new option for patients that may grant them freedom from regular preventative injections and painful bleeding incidents.

Issues: Human Service/Education/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone - Katrin Werner-Perez, Health Programs Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Title: Heart Valve Disease Awareness

As many as 11 million Americans are affected by heart valve disease (HVD), yet an awareness survey found that three out of four adults know little to nothing about it. HVD involves damage to one or more of the heart's four valves, and while some types are not serious, others can lead to major complications, including more than 25,000 deaths attributed to HVD in the U.S. each year. HVD can be successfully treated in patients of all ages if detected and treated in time. The most common risk factor is age.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Community News/Economy

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rebecca Kinney, Director of the Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at the Administration for ☐Community ☐Living

Title: Medicare Help

Medicare can be incredibly confusing, but the good news is that there are people available to help. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has counselors in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SHIP provides unbiased,

one-on-one, confidential Medicare benefits counseling and assistance and their services are free. The counselors have been trained and certified as Medicare experts and many are Medicare beneficiaries themselves.

Issues: Youth/Education/Political

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jill Murphy, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Distribution at Common Sense Media

Title: Mobile Phone Safety for Kids with Tech-Savvy Parents

Most parents discuss phone safety with their kids several times a week, but experts say blind spots persist. A new survey from Cox Mobile found nearly one in three parents (31%) said their children have been contacted by a stranger on their phone, and 1 in 4 (28%) said the stranger referenced their child's location. The survey also found parents extremely worried about cyberbullying, one of the top three things keeping them up at night. Parents are most concerned about their child encountering predatory or inappropriate behavior (39%) and content (23%) on their phones.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Economy/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – U.S. Air Force Veteran, Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Associate National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis

Title: Female Veterans in Crisis

In the last decade, our nation has asked a lot of our service members and, as a result, many are coming back with visible and invisible wounds of war. One nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is working hard to support America's disabled veterans in positive, life-changing ways by helping them access benefits they earned, like health care, education and disability, and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. With nearly 1,300 chapters across the country, DAV provides a national support network for veterans and their families; particularly women veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Elizabeth Ann Bridgwaters, Living Legend (Women's History Month)

Title: Making a Difference in Lives and Supporting a Community

Elizabeth Bridgwaters was recently designated as a Living Legend in Bloomington, Indiana. Her contributions as an African American historian, has given citizens the opportunity to learn of not only their ancestry, but of those who helped shape the future of their community.

Issues: Youth/Education/Culture/Community News

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jodi Rubin, reading is Fundamental Senior VP, Marketing and Partnerships

Title: Reading is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's leading children's literacy non-profit. As I shared this past fall, we launched the third year of our annual six-month reading campaign called Rally to Read 100 offering free monthly themes with read-alouds from popular authors and fun and engaging reading activities for elementary school aged children all available at RallytoRead.org.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Education/Culture

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Lisa C. Richardson, Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Title: Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Routine colorectal cancer screening can mean cancer prevention. Because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its recommendation in 2021 that adults 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. In the last few years, many adults missed or delayed screenings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When screenings are delayed, or people wait until they have symptoms to be checked, this can lead to more advanced and harder-to-treat colorectal cancer.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Economy/Human Service/Government

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Theodore Caputi, MPH, Public Health Research Consultant

Title: Are All CBD Products Safe?

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has released new research that reveals the various tactics cannabidiol (CBD) companies use to thwart the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process and make misleading statements that their therapeutic claims are backed by science. The research illustrates the need for stronger FDA oversight and guidance to address the risks to consumers and patients alike when companies exploit research for marketing purposes. The findings reveal nearly 1,000 health claims touting CBD's ability to mitigate symptoms or treat mental health, autism, pain, sexual health, AIDS, cancer, COVID-19, and more, providing just a snapshot of the current, unregulated market and shady tactics companies use to mislead the public. There is only one CBD product that has been approved by the federal government.

Issues: Community News/Education/Youth/Economy

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sue Mairena, Board President Annandale Christian Community for Action & Isabel Ballivian, Executive Director/Program Director for the Child Development Center

Title: Sustaining a Community and Educating the Children

Annandale Christian Community for Action is a non-profit providing early childhood education since 1965. Later the organization found there was a great need to service the entire community. They provide a multitude of services to include: financial assistance, short term housing, food and clothing. Since the pandemic, they have seen the need for services grow exponentially.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Education

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Laura Mayer, Program Director, Crisis Link

Title: Help is a Call or Text Away

PRS, a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises, has received two major grants to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's hotline and chat line from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). PRS has operated Northern Virginia's hotline and text line through its CrisisLink program for years and is now part of the subnetwork of crisis centers answering overflow calls and chats from around the nation.

Issues: Community News/Economy/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jim Link, the Chief HR Officer of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Title: Workplace Behavior Under Scrutiny

SHRM believes we'll see a significant increase in incivility in the workplace this year as we near a highly divisive election, but SHRM also believes that honest and civil conversations can bridge divides, build understanding, and shape better workplaces and a better world. But, the need is now. Embracing Diversity, Encourage Empathy, Active Listening, and mitigating abusive conduct are key factors to getting the workplace back to civility.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Sara Kinsman is the Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Title: Poison Prevention Week

Most poisonings are unintentional and happen at home. They usually do not require a trip to the hospital and can be treated with a call to poison control. In fact, more than 4 out of 5 (83%) of poison exposures are nontoxic or minimally toxic and do not require 911 or an ambulance. If a child or adult is alert, acting normally and breathing well, calling Poison Help and reaching your local poison center is the best first step and can give you advice right away.

Issues: Community News/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Tina Johnson, President, Loudoun First Responder Foundation

Title: Supporting Those Who Support the Community

Firefighters in Loudoun County recently experienced a tragedy that took the life of a firefighter while combating a fire. Another firefighter sustained injuries that require attention and the road to recovery will be long. Loudoun First Responder Foundation is a non-profit organization that focuses all of its energy to supporting those firefighters and family members. 97% of donations go directly to those who are in need.

Issues: Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Major Kathleen (Kate) Rubins, an Astronaut and Innovation Officer, U.S. Army Reserve

Title: Herstory (Women's History Month)

Major Rubins is one of nine people selected to attend the 20th NASA astronaut class in July 2009 and has since become the 60th woman ever to fly in space and the first person to sequence DNA in space. To date, she has completed two missions to space. Major Rubins wanted to be an astronaut since she was a child but first started pursuing a career in molecular biology and infectious disease and worked as a microbiologist in the Army Reserve as a Microbiologist.

Issues: Transportation/Environment/Economy

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Morgan Dean, Manager, Public & Government Affairs, AAA

Title: Spring Break Travel and Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy

Detours are now up after the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. AAA is urging Spring Break travelers who have plans to travel to or through the Baltimore area to double check their plans. The tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has shut down a vital artery for travelers getting around and through the Baltimore metro area. According to Maryland Department Transportation Authority (MDTA), more than 30,000 vehicles used that bridge every day. Those drivers will now be looking for alternate routes. Maryland Transportation officials urge drivers to use I-95 and I-895 as alternate routes. Spring Break travelers going both north and south along the corridor could find more backups than normal as commuter, holiday traffic, and trucking/freight traffic shift to the alternate routes.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores and Partner with American Heart Association

Title: National Walking Day April 3, 2024

Physical activity is one of the best ways to improve overall health and manage stress. Yet, 1 in 4 U.S. adults are sedentary for more than eight hours each day, which can have negative consequences on physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day.

Issues: Community News/Environment

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Daniel Paden, Vice President of Evidence Analysis for PETA

Title: Safe Animal Blood Transfusions

Animals that need blood transfusions are often very ill or injured, and their owners are led to believe the blood they will receive is healthy and uncontaminated. But blood purchased from animal blood banks may have been taken from sick, injured or medicated animals, putting

animals on both sides at further risk. A groundbreaking PETA investigation into captive animal blood banks reveals dogs and cats that are confined to barren kennels and crowded pens, where they are forced to spend their lives as living blood bags even when they are ill or suffering from infections or cancer.

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

AUDACY-DC PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
1st Quarter
(1/01/24 – 3/31/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Education/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jimmie Williams, WLC president and CEO

Title: Adults with Literacy concerns in D.C.

Washington Literacy Center has a new program called, “Jumpstart to Success.” It offers participants career-skills betterment and enhancement. In addition, the program’s Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) exams provide an opportunity for WLC to have conversations with students about the value of improved reading and math skills. These conversations then result in low-level readers taking part in enrichment classes. In addition, WLC’s Digital Literacy allows for its educators to connect reading skills to students’ desire to learn about computers and technology. It’s also accomplished this, in part, with support from Capitol Hill employees who volunteer with low-level readers and English learners.

Issues: Government/Economy/Culture/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Yadavan Mahendraraj, Head of US & Canada Merchant Operations at Uber

Title: Grants for Business

Uber and Visa announced Grants for Growth, a program administered by Local Initiatives Support Corporate (LISC). They will provide \$1M in grant funding to small businesses currently active on Uber Eats across the United States. Focused on restaurant recovery and entrepreneurship, the program was created to support merchants when they need it most. Merchants active on Uber Eats since January 1, 2022, in various cities to include D.C. are eligible to apply for the program. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive search process by LISC. LISC will give preference to veteran, minority, women, and LGBTQIA+ business owners. Through Grants for Growth, 100 merchants will receive grants of \$10,000, which can be used toward immediate needs like meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, upgrading technology infrastructure, and other immediate operational costs. In addition to financial support, merchants will receive placement in the Uber Eats app and disaster recovery and resiliency guides from Uber and LISC.

Issues: Community News/Education

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Brad Pfiher, Executive Director of the Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Title: Proper Training of a Dog for Safety and Awareness

The CCPDT is the leading certification body for the dog training profession. For National Train Your Dog Month, they offer some tips for the many dog parents whose pups bark, jump, beg, and otherwise could benefit from a few lessons in good manners and safe behavior. It is important to receive training from a certified trainer.

Issues: Culture/Youth/Education/Community News/

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leslie Boissiere, VP of External Affairs at Annie E. Casey Foundation

Title: Race for Results

2024 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, unveils a stark reality: over half of Black, American Indian, and Latino children live below the poverty line. The United States is failing its children in several areas, especially kids of color. The report standardizes scores across 12 indicators representing well-being milestones from cradle to career.

Issues: Political/Culture/Government

Date: 1/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Allen Buchanan, PhD

Title: “A Divided America: Tribal Conflicts and the New America”

Is tribalism the political and cultural divisions between Us and Them—an inherent part of our basic moral psychology? Many scientists link tribalism and morality, arguing that the evolved “moral mind” is tribalistic. Any escape from tribalism, according to this thinking, would be partial and fragile, because it goes against the grain of our nature. In this book, Allen Buchanan offers a counterargument: the moral mind is highly flexible, capable of both tribalism and deeply inclusive moralities, depending on the social environment in which the moral mind operates.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Women/Community News/Political

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Phylicia Woods, Chair Commissioner, Providence District, Virginia

Title: Women Making a Difference

The Fairfax County Commission for Women advises the Board of Supervisors on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County. Established in 1971, the Commission has been an active voice for women in areas such as domestic violence, educational equality, and progress in the workplace. The Commission is part of a national network of state and local Commissions for Women.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

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Issues: Human service/Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Scott Adzick, Fetal Surgeon, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Title: Understanding Birth Defects and Hopeful Solutions

January's Birth Defects Awareness Month prompts an urgent conversation: 1 in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect, yet awareness remains limited. Dr. Scott Adzick, a pioneering fetal surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will offer insights on tackling the stigma surrounding birth defects, shedding light on available treatments and crucial considerations for parents-to-be

Issues: Human Service

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Host David O'Leary with Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Title: Mental Health (Segment 1 & 2) Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones.

We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Julie Gralow, Chief Medical Officer at American Society of Clinical Oncology

Title: Ground Breaking Cancer Care

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) symposia will focus on pioneering GI and and Genitourinary oncology research and care. The GI Cancers Symposium is leading global forum for the latest high-impact science and solution-focused strategies in the GI cancers field and expected to garner 4,000 attendees. Research results will include pioneering research on

circulating tumor DNA and immunotherapy, with highlights including six studies on new GI cancer treatments and groundbreaking research on prostate and kidney cancers.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kerry O'Brien, Regional Representative, Federal Trade Commission

Title: Identity Prevention Week

The FTC is the federal government's one-stop resource that helps people learn how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft and other scams. The agency manages IdentityTheft.gov, a free resource to help people who experience identity theft start their recovery. Each year, the FTC gets more than a million reports of identity theft, but the fact is only a fraction of people who experience identity theft, report it.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Government/Political

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jules Christian, Chaplain, Volunteers of America

Title: More than Thoughts and Prayers

Volunteers of America will be hosting a spiritual colloquium in Washington D.C. to discuss gun violence in the city, specifically Wards 7&8. The colloquium will also provide a platform for community leaders and citizens to derive solutions that benefit families and the community as a whole.

Issues: Political/Government/Culture

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome USA

Title: Legal Entry into the United States via the Department of State

Representing one of the boldest innovations to U.S. refugee resettlement in 40 years, the State Department launched the Welcome Corps in 2023 to create new ways for Americans to play a direct role in resettling refugees. In groups of five or more adults, Americans take on essential tasks and help refugees during their first 90 days in the United States. This includes securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugees at the airport, helping adults find employment, enrolling children in school, and serving as local guides to enable refugees to forge ties in their new communities.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Laura Cheever

Title: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase awareness of HIV care and treatment services for Black/African Americans facing stigma and HIV-related health disparities. The day also encourages those who are undiagnosed to get tested for HIV and, if they test positive, to get appropriate care and medication. More than 13,000 people of living with HIV in Washington D.C. according to recent data (aidsvu.org).

Issues: Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Reasa Currier, Director Animal Sheltering

Title: Chief vs Chief

The Fairfax County Police Chief, Kevin Davis has challenged Fairfax County Fire Chief, John Butler to raise funds and awareness to animals in need. All proceeds go to the Fairfax County Virginia animal shelter. The shelter has two locations; the newest one in the southern end of the county recently opened its doors. The shelters can house between 4,000 and 5,000 animals throughout the year.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Education

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leandris Liburd, Acting Director for CDC's Office of Health Equity (OHE) and Tara Robinson, Founder/CEO of the Black Heart Association

Title: Black Women: Bearing the Brunt of Heart Disease

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in this country, and the odds of dying from it are even higher if you're an African American woman. Ways to reduce the risks and support are provided by the collaboration of the OHE and the Black Heart Association.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Economy

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Jason Porter, Thoracic Medical Oncologist at West Cancer Center and Janet Freeman-Daily, Survivor/Co-founder/President of The ROS1ders

Title: New Therapy May Bring Hope for Specific Lung Cancer Patients

There may be new hope for those with a tough-to-treat form of lung cancer. The disease is called *ROS1*-positive (*ROS1+*) a non-small cell lung cancer; and it tends to be aggressive and can often spread to the brain. The FDA recently approved a new medication specific to this cancer.

Issues: Human Service

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Hosts (KNX) Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson with Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA.

Title: "Audacy Conversations: State of the Entertainment Industry" (Segment 1&2)

Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

(Audacy, Inc. "I'm Listening Series")

Issues: Environment/Youth/Education/Culture

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director, Seed Your Future.

Title: Green Careers

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, STEM, design are a few career paths that are available to candidates that may not want to attend a traditional university.

Issues: Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Tammuella Chrisentery-Singleton, Chief Science Officer for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network

Title:

More than 30,000 U.S. adults are estimated to be living with severe hemophilia A, a genetic condition where blood does not clot properly. Those living with the condition face a lifelong burden involving frequent infusions and a high risk of health complications, including uncontrolled bleeding and irreversible joint damage. To help, there is a new gene therapy to provide a new option for patients that may grant them freedom from regular preventative injections and painful bleeding incidents.

Issues: Human Service/Education/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone - Katrin Werner-Perez, Health Programs Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Title: Heart Valve Disease Awareness

As many as 11 million Americans are affected by heart valve disease (HVD), yet an awareness survey found that three out of four adults know little to nothing about it. HVD involves damage to one or more of the heart's four valves, and while some types are not serious, others can lead to major complications, including more than 25,000 deaths attributed to HVD in the U.S. each year. HVD can be successfully treated in patients of all ages if detected and treated in time. The most common risk factor is age.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Community News/Economy

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rebecca Kinney, Director of the Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at the Administration for ☐ Community ☐ Living

Title: Medicare Help

Medicare can be incredibly confusing, but the good news is that there are people available to help. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has counselors in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SHIP provides unbiased,

one-on-one, confidential Medicare benefits counseling and assistance and their services are free. The counselors have been trained and certified as Medicare experts and many are Medicare beneficiaries themselves.

Issues: Youth/Education/Political

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jill Murphy, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Distribution at Common Sense Media

Title: Mobile Phone Safety for Kids with Tech-Savvy Parents

Most parents discuss phone safety with their kids several times a week, but experts say blind spots persist. A new survey from Cox Mobile found nearly one in three parents (31%) said their children have been contacted by a stranger on their phone, and 1 in 4 (28%) said the stranger referenced their child's location. The survey also found parents extremely worried about cyberbullying, one of the top three things keeping them up at night. Parents are most concerned about their child encountering predatory or inappropriate behavior (39%) and content (23%) on their phones.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Economy/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – U.S. Air Force Veteran, Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Associate National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis

Title: Female Veterans in Crisis

In the last decade, our nation has asked a lot of our service members and, as a result, many are coming back with visible and invisible wounds of war. One nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is working hard to support America's disabled veterans in positive, life-changing ways by helping them access benefits they earned, like health care, education and disability, and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. With nearly 1,300 chapters across the country, DAV provides a national support network for veterans and their families; particularly women veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Elizabeth Ann Bridgwaters, Living Legend (Women's History Month)

Title: Making a Difference in Lives and Supporting a Community

Elizabeth Bridgwaters was recently designated as a Living Legend in Bloomington, Indiana. Her contributions as an African American historian, has given citizens the opportunity to learn of not only their ancestry, but of those who helped shape the future of their community.

Issues: Youth/Education/Culture/Community News

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jodi Rubin, reading is Fundamental Senior VP, Marketing and Partnerships

Title: Reading is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's leading children's literacy non-profit. As I shared this past fall, we launched the third year of our annual six-month reading campaign called Rally to Read 100 offering free monthly themes with read-alouds from popular authors and fun and engaging reading activities for elementary school aged children all available at RallytoRead.org.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Education/Culture

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Lisa C. Richardson, Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Title: Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Routine colorectal cancer screening can mean cancer prevention. Because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its recommendation in 2021 that adults 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. In the last few years, many adults missed or delayed screenings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When screenings are delayed, or people wait until they have symptoms to be checked, this can lead to more advanced and harder-to-treat colorectal cancer.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Economy/Human Service/Government

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Theodore Caputi, MPH, Public Health Research Consultant

Title: Are All CBD Products Safe?

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has released new research that reveals the various tactics cannabidiol (CBD) companies use to thwart the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process and make misleading statements that their therapeutic claims are backed by science. The research illustrates the need for stronger FDA oversight and guidance to address the risks to consumers and patients alike when companies exploit research for marketing purposes. The findings reveal nearly 1,000 health claims touting CBD's ability to mitigate symptoms or treat mental health, autism, pain, sexual health, AIDS, cancer, COVID-19, and more, providing just a snapshot of the current, unregulated market and shady tactics companies use to mislead the public. There is only one CBD product that has been approved by the federal government.

Issues: Community News/Education/Youth/Economy

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sue Mairena, Board President Annandale Christian Community for Action & Isabel Ballivian, Executive Director/Program Director for the Child Development Center

Title: Sustaining a Community and Educating the Children

Annandale Christian Community for Action is a non-profit providing early childhood education since 1965. Later the organization found there was a great need to service the entire community. They provide a multitude of services to include: financial assistance, short term housing, food and clothing. Since the pandemic, they have seen the need for services grow exponentially.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Education

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Laura Mayer, Program Director, Crisis Link

Title: Help is a Call or Text Away

PRS, a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises, has received two major grants to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's hotline and chat line from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). PRS has operated Northern Virginia's hotline and text line through its CrisisLink program for years and is now part of the subnetwork of crisis centers answering overflow calls and chats from around the nation.

Issues: Community News/Economy/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jim Link, the Chief HR Officer of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Title: Workplace Behavior Under Scrutiny

SHRM believes we'll see a significant increase in incivility in the workplace this year as we near a highly divisive election, but SHRM also believes that honest and civil conversations can bridge divides, build understanding, and shape better workplaces and a better world. But, the need is now. Embracing Diversity, Encourage Empathy, Active Listening, and mitigating abusive conduct are key factors to getting the workplace back to civility.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Sara Kinsman is the Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Title: Poison Prevention Week

Most poisonings are unintentional and happen at home. They usually do not require a trip to the hospital and can be treated with a call to poison control. In fact, more than 4 out of 5 (83%) of poison exposures are nontoxic or minimally toxic and do not require 911 or an ambulance. If a child or adult is alert, acting normally and breathing well, calling Poison Help and reaching your local poison center is the best first step and can give you advice right away.

Issues: Community News/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Tina Johnson, President, Loudoun First Responder Foundation

Title: Supporting Those Who Support the Community

Firefighters in Loudoun County recently experienced a tragedy that took the life of a firefighter while combating a fire. Another firefighter sustained injuries that require attention and the road to recovery will be long. Loudoun First Responder Foundation is a non-profit organization that focuses all of its energy to supporting those firefighters and family members. 97% of donations go directly to those who are in need.

Issues: Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Major Kathleen (Kate) Rubins, an Astronaut and Innovation Officer, U.S. Army Reserve

Title: Herstory (Women's History Month)

Major Rubins is one of nine people selected to attend the 20th NASA astronaut class in July 2009 and has since become the 60th woman ever to fly in space and the first person to sequence DNA in space. To date, she has completed two missions to space. Major Rubins wanted to be an astronaut since she was a child but first started pursuing a career in molecular biology and infectious disease and worked as a microbiologist in the Army Reserve as a Microbiologist.

Issues: Transportation/Environment/Economy

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Morgan Dean, Manager, Public & Government Affairs, AAA

Title: Spring Break Travel and Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy

Detours are now up after the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. AAA is urging Spring Break travelers who have plans to travel to or through the Baltimore area to double check their plans. The tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has shut down a vital artery for travelers getting around and through the Baltimore metro area. According to Maryland Department Transportation Authority (MDTA), more than 30,000 vehicles used that bridge every day. Those drivers will now be looking for alternate routes. Maryland Transportation officials urge drivers to use I-95 and I-895 as alternate routes. Spring Break travelers going both north and south along the corridor could find more backups than normal as commuter, holiday traffic, and trucking/freight traffic shift to the alternate routes.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores and Partner with American Heart Association

Title: National Walking Day April 3, 2024

Physical activity is one of the best ways to improve overall health and manage stress. Yet, 1 in 4 U.S. adults are sedentary for more than eight hours each day, which can have negative consequences on physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day.

Issues: Community News/Environment

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Daniel Paden, Vice President of Evidence Analysis for PETA

Title: Safe Animal Blood Transfusions

Animals that need blood transfusions are often very ill or injured, and their owners are led to believe the blood they will receive is healthy and uncontaminated. But blood purchased from animal blood banks may have been taken from sick, injured or medicated animals, putting

animals on both sides at further risk. A groundbreaking PETA investigation into captive animal blood banks reveals dogs and cats that are confined to barren kennels and crowded pens, where they are forced to spend their lives as living blood bags even when they are ill or suffering from infections or cancer.

Audacy Radio
WJFK FM 106.7
WJFK HD2, WJFK HD3
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Manassas Virginia, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WJFK-AM TheBet1580
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WDCH FM 99.1
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs
Audacy Incorporated, Bowie Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WIAD FM 94.7
WIAD HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Bethesda Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WPGC HD2
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Morningside Maryland, Washington, D.C.

Audacy Radio
WTEM-AM
QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

1st Quarter

January 1st thru March 31st 2024

Prepared by:
Stevie Bridgwaters
Community Affairs

Audacy Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

AUDACY-DC PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

WASHINGTON REORT: (Sundays, 06:00:00 and 07:00:00)

A pre-recorded two segment 60 minute Public Affairs program that highlights local concerns and issues within the entire Metropolitan Region which includes Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Quarterly Issues
Program Report – Washington Report
1st Quarter
(1/01/24 – 3/31/24)
All Programs are hosted by Stevie Bridgwaters

Issues: Education/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jimmie Williams, WLC president and CEO

Title: Adults with Literacy concerns in D.C.

Washington Literacy Center has a new program called, “Jumpstart to Success.” It offers participants career-skills betterment and enhancement. In addition, the program’s Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) exams provide an opportunity for WLC to have conversations with students about the value of improved reading and math skills. These conversations then result in low-level readers taking part in enrichment classes. In addition, WLC’s Digital Literacy allows for its educators to connect reading skills to students’ desire to learn about computers and technology. It’s also accomplished this, in part, with support from Capitol Hill employees who volunteer with low-level readers and English learners.

Issues: Government/Economy/Culture/Community News

Date: 01/07/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Yadavan Mahendraraj, Head of US & Canada Merchant Operations at Uber

Title: Grants for Business

Uber and Visa announced Grants for Growth, a program administered by Local Initiatives Support Corporate (LISC). They will provide \$1M in grant funding to small businesses currently active on Uber Eats across the United States. Focused on restaurant recovery and entrepreneurship, the program was created to support merchants when they need it most. Merchants active on Uber Eats since January 1, 2022, in various cities to include D.C. are eligible to apply for the program. Grant recipients will be selected through a competitive search process by LISC. LISC will give preference to veteran, minority, women, and LGBTQIA+ business owners. Through Grants for Growth, 100 merchants will receive grants of \$10,000, which can be used toward immediate needs like meeting payroll, paying outstanding debt to vendors, upgrading technology infrastructure, and other immediate operational costs. In addition to financial support, merchants will receive placement in the Uber Eats app and disaster recovery and resiliency guides from Uber and LISC.

Issues: Community News/Education

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Brad Pfiher, Executive Director of the Council for Professional Dog Trainers

Title: Proper Training of a Dog for Safety and Awareness

The CCPDT is the leading certification body for the dog training profession. For National Train Your Dog Month, they offer some tips for the many dog parents whose pups bark, jump, beg, and otherwise could benefit from a few lessons in good manners and safe behavior. It is important to receive training from a certified trainer.

Issues: Culture/Youth/Education/Community News/

Date: 01/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leslie Boissiere, VP of External Affairs at Annie E. Casey Foundation

Title: Race for Results

2024 Race for Results report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, unveils a stark reality: over half of Black, American Indian, and Latino children live below the poverty line. The United States is failing its children in several areas, especially kids of color. The report standardizes scores across 12 indicators representing well-being milestones from cradle to career.

Issues: Political/Culture/Government

Date: 1/14/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Allen Buchanan, PhD

Title: “A Divided America: Tribal Conflicts and the New America”

Is tribalism the political and cultural divisions between Us and Them—an inherent part of our basic moral psychology? Many scientists link tribalism and morality, arguing that the evolved “moral mind” is tribalistic. Any escape from tribalism, according to this thinking, would be partial and fragile, because it goes against the grain of our nature. In this book, Allen Buchanan offers a counterargument: the moral mind is highly flexible, capable of both tribalism and deeply inclusive moralities, depending on the social environment in which the moral mind operates.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

Purpose Toys was created out of a need to have dolls that children can relate to; specifically children who are non-white. There have been other dolls that are non-white, but Purpose Dolls provides cultural information with the doll. The dolls also represent aspects like natural hair and authentic facial features. Currently there are dolls that represent African American and Latin American. Purpose Toys will also be launching Asian American and other ethnicities in the near future.

Issues: Women/Community News/Political

Date: 01/21/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Phylicia Woods, Chair Commissioner, Providence District, Virginia

Title: Women Making a Difference

The Fairfax County Commission for Women advises the Board of Supervisors on ways to promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County. Established in 1971, the Commission has been an active voice for women in areas such as domestic violence, educational equality, and progress in the workplace. The Commission is part of a national network of state and local Commissions for Women.

Issues: Youth/Culture

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dee Dee Wright-Ward, Founder, Purpose Toys

Title: A Doll that Looks Like You

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Issues: Human service/Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Scott Adzick, Fetal Surgeon, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Title: Understanding Birth Defects and Hopeful Solutions

January's Birth Defects Awareness Month prompts an urgent conversation: 1 in every 33 babies is born with a birth defect, yet awareness remains limited. Dr. Scott Adzick, a pioneering fetal surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, will offer insights on tackling the stigma surrounding birth defects, shedding light on available treatments and crucial considerations for parents-to-be

Issues: Human Service

Date: 01/28/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Host David O'Leary with Dr. Christine Moutier, AFSP and Paul Augustyniak, AFSP

Title: Mental Health (Segment 1 & 2) Talk Away the Dark: How to Have Open and Honest Conversations with Loved Ones.

We speak with Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Paul Augustyniak about how to have open and honest conversations with loved ones about suicide, suicidal ideation. Through a series of open and honest conversations we demonstrate the importance of talking to people directly about suicide and show what those conversations help to prevent suicide and give people hope.

Issues: Human Service/Culture/Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Julie Gralow, Chief Medical Officer at American Society of Clinical Oncology

Title: Ground Breaking Cancer Care

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) symposia will focus on pioneering GI and and Genitourinary oncology research and care. The GI Cancers Symposium is leading global forum for the latest high-impact science and solution-focused strategies in the GI cancers field and expected to garner 4,000 attendees. Research results will include pioneering research on

circulating tumor DNA and immunotherapy, with highlights including six studies on new GI cancer treatments and groundbreaking research on prostate and kidney cancers.

Issues: Government/Community News

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Kerry O'Brien, Regional Representative, Federal Trade Commission

Title: Identity Prevention Week

The FTC is the federal government's one-stop resource that helps people learn how to spot, avoid, and report identity theft and other scams. The agency manages IdentityTheft.gov, a free resource to help people who experience identity theft start their recovery. Each year, the FTC gets more than a million reports of identity theft, but the fact is only a fraction of people who experience identity theft, report it.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Government/Political

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jules Christian, Chaplain, Volunteers of America

Title: More than Thoughts and Prayers

Volunteers of America will be hosting a spiritual colloquium in Washington D.C. to discuss gun violence in the city, specifically Wards 7&8. The colloquium will also provide a platform for community leaders and citizens to derive solutions that benefit families and the community as a whole.

Issues: Political/Government/Culture

Date: 02/04/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Nazanin Ash, CEO, Welcome USA

Title: Legal Entry into the United States via the Department of State

Representing one of the boldest innovations to U.S. refugee resettlement in 40 years, the State Department launched the Welcome Corps in 2023 to create new ways for Americans to play a direct role in resettling refugees. In groups of five or more adults, Americans take on essential tasks and help refugees during their first 90 days in the United States. This includes securing and preparing initial housing, greeting refugees at the airport, helping adults find employment, enrolling children in school, and serving as local guides to enable refugees to forge ties in their new communities.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Laura Cheever

Title: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase awareness of HIV care and treatment services for Black/African Americans facing stigma and HIV-related health disparities. The day also encourages those who are undiagnosed to get tested for HIV and, if they test positive, to get appropriate care and medication. More than 13,000 people of living with HIV in Washington D.C. according to recent data (aidsvu.org).

Issues: Community News

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Reasa Currier, Director Animal Sheltering

Title: Chief vs Chief

The Fairfax County Police Chief, Kevin Davis has challenged Fairfax County Fire Chief, John Butler to raise funds and awareness to animals in need. All proceeds go to the Fairfax County Virginia animal shelter. The shelter has two locations; the newest one in the southern end of the county recently opened its doors. The shelters can house between 4,000 and 5,000 animals throughout the year.

Issues: Culture/Human Service/Education

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Leandris Liburd, Acting Director for CDC’s Office of Health Equity (OHE) and Tara Robinson, Founder/CEO of the Black Heart Association

Title: Black Women: Bearing the Brunt of Heart Disease

Heart Disease is the number one killer of women in this country, and the odds of dying from it are even higher if you’re an African American woman. Ways to reduce the risks and support are provided by the collaboration of the OHE and the Black Heart Association.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Economy

Date: 02/11/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Jason Porter, Thoracic Medical Oncologist at West Cancer Center and Janet Freeman-Daily, Survivor/Co-founder/President of The ROS1ders

Title: New Therapy May Bring Hope for Specific Lung Cancer Patients

There may be new hope for those with a tough-to-treat form of lung cancer. The disease is called *ROS1*-positive (*ROS1+*) a non-small cell lung cancer; and it tends to be aggressive and can often spread to the brain. The FDA recently approved a new medication specific to this cancer.

Issues: Human Service

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Audacy, Inc. Hosts (KNX) Charles Feldman and Mike Simpson with Guest: Ron Perlman, Cynthia Littleton-Variety, Karina Manashil-Mad Solar Productions, Patrick Gomez-Entertainment Weekly, Duncan Crabtree Ireland-SAG/AFTRA.

Title: “Audacy Conversations: State of the Entertainment Industry” (Segment 1&2)

Hollywood has always reflected the changing world around it. But we are at a reflection point, coming off a 6 month strike. Streaming services are on the rise and older business models are falling. We discuss what the future of what the entertainment industry looks like and what it means for what we will see and consume.

(Audacy, Inc. “I’m Listening Series”)

Issues: Environment/Youth/Education/Culture

Date: 02/18/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jazmin Albarran, Executive Director, Seed Your Future.

Title: Green Careers

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills. Agriculture, Floriculture, Horticulture, STEM, design are a few career paths that are available to candidates that may not want to attend a traditional university.

Issues: Human Service/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Tammuella Chrisentery-Singleton, Chief Science Officer for the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network

Title:

More than 30,000 U.S. adults are estimated to be living with severe hemophilia A, a genetic condition where blood does not clot properly. Those living with the condition face a lifelong burden involving frequent infusions and a high risk of health complications, including uncontrolled bleeding and irreversible joint damage. To help, there is a new gene therapy to provide a new option for patients that may grant them freedom from regular preventative injections and painful bleeding incidents.

Issues: Human Service/Education/Community News

Date: 02/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK HD2, HD3, HD4, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, HD3)

Source: Phone - Katrin Werner-Perez, Health Programs Manager, Alliance for Aging Research

Title: Heart Valve Disease Awareness

As many as 11 million Americans are affected by heart valve disease (HVD), yet an awareness survey found that three out of four adults know little to nothing about it. HVD involves damage to one or more of the heart's four valves, and while some types are not serious, others can lead to major complications, including more than 25,000 deaths attributed to HVD in the U.S. each year. HVD can be successfully treated in patients of all ages if detected and treated in time. The most common risk factor is age.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Community News/Economy

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Rebecca Kinney, Director of the Office of Healthcare Information and Counseling at the Administration for ☐ Community ☐ Living

Title: Medicare Help

Medicare can be incredibly confusing, but the good news is that there are people available to help. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) has counselors in every state, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SHIP provides unbiased,

one-on-one, confidential Medicare benefits counseling and assistance and their services are free. The counselors have been trained and certified as Medicare experts and many are Medicare beneficiaries themselves.

Issues: Youth/Education/Political

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jill Murphy, Editor-in-Chief and Head of Distribution at Common Sense Media

Title: Mobile Phone Safety for Kids with Tech-Savvy Parents

Most parents discuss phone safety with their kids several times a week, but experts say blind spots persist. A new survey from Cox Mobile found nearly one in three parents (31%) said their children have been contacted by a stranger on their phone, and 1 in 4 (28%) said the stranger referenced their child's location. The survey also found parents extremely worried about cyberbullying, one of the top three things keeping them up at night. Parents are most concerned about their child encountering predatory or inappropriate behavior (39%) and content (23%) on their phones.

Issues: Human Service/Government/Economy/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – U.S. Air Force Veteran, Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Associate National Legislative Director Naomi Mathis

Title: Female Veterans in Crisis

In the last decade, our nation has asked a lot of our service members and, as a result, many are coming back with visible and invisible wounds of war. One nonprofit, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), is working hard to support America's disabled veterans in positive, life-changing ways by helping them access benefits they earned, like health care, education and disability, and connecting them to meaningful employment opportunities. With nearly 1,300 chapters across the country, DAV provides a national support network for veterans and their families; particularly women veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Issues: Culture/Community News/Education

Date: 03/03/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Elizabeth Ann Bridgwaters, Living Legend (Women's History Month)

Title: Making a Difference in Lives and Supporting a Community

Elizabeth Bridgwaters was recently designated as a Living Legend in Bloomington, Indiana. Her contributions as an African American historian, has given citizens the opportunity to learn of not only their ancestry, but of those who helped shape the future of their community.

Issues: Youth/Education/Culture/Community News

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jodi Rubin, reading is Fundamental Senior VP, Marketing and Partnerships

Title: Reading is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental, the nation's leading children's literacy non-profit. As I shared this past fall, we launched the third year of our annual six-month reading campaign called Rally to Read 100 offering free monthly themes with read-alouds from popular authors and fun and engaging reading activities for elementary school aged children all available at RallytoRead.org.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Education/Culture

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Dr. Lisa C. Richardson, Director of CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control

Title: Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Routine colorectal cancer screening can mean cancer prevention. Because colorectal cancer cases are on the rise among young and middle-aged people, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its recommendation in 2021 that adults 45 to 75 be screened for colorectal cancer. In the last few years, many adults missed or delayed screenings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When screenings are delayed, or people wait until they have symptoms to be checked, this can lead to more advanced and harder-to-treat colorectal cancer.

Issues: Community News/Culture/Economy/Human Service/Government

Date: 03/10/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Theodore Caputi, MPH, Public Health Research Consultant

Title: Are All CBD Products Safe?

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs has released new research that reveals the various tactics cannabidiol (CBD) companies use to thwart the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) review process and make misleading statements that their therapeutic claims are backed by science. The research illustrates the need for stronger FDA oversight and guidance to address the risks to consumers and patients alike when companies exploit research for marketing purposes. The findings reveal nearly 1,000 health claims touting CBD's ability to mitigate symptoms or treat mental health, autism, pain, sexual health, AIDS, cancer, COVID-19, and more, providing just a snapshot of the current, unregulated market and shady tactics companies use to mislead the public. There is only one CBD product that has been approved by the federal government.

Issues: Community News/Education/Youth/Economy

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Sue Mairena, Board President Annandale Christian Community for Action & Isabel Ballivian, Executive Director/Program Director for the Child Development Center

Title: Sustaining a Community and Educating the Children

Annandale Christian Community for Action is a non-profit providing early childhood education since 1965. Later the organization found there was a great need to service the entire community. They provide a multitude of services to include: financial assistance, short term housing, food and clothing. Since the pandemic, they have seen the need for services grow exponentially.

Issues: Human Services/Community News/Education

Date: 03/17/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone - Laura Mayer, Program Director, Crisis Link

Title: Help is a Call or Text Away

PRS, a local nonprofit that helps individuals living with serious mental health issues and facing life crises, has received two major grants to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's hotline and chat line from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). PRS has operated Northern Virginia's hotline and text line through its CrisisLink program for years and is now part of the subnetwork of crisis centers answering overflow calls and chats from around the nation.

Issues: Community News/Economy/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Jim Link, the Chief HR Officer of Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

Title: Workplace Behavior Under Scrutiny

SHRM believes we'll see a significant increase in incivility in the workplace this year as we near a highly divisive election, but SHRM also believes that honest and civil conversations can bridge divides, build understanding, and shape better workplaces and a better world. But, the need is now. Embracing Diversity, Encourage Empathy, Active Listening, and mitigating abusive conduct are key factors to getting the workplace back to civility.

Issues: Human Service/Youth/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Dr. Sara Kinsman is the Director of the Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Title: Poison Prevention Week

Most poisonings are unintentional and happen at home. They usually do not require a trip to the hospital and can be treated with a call to poison control. In fact, more than 4 out of 5 (83%) of poison exposures are nontoxic or minimally toxic and do not require 911 or an ambulance. If a child or adult is alert, acting normally and breathing well, calling Poison Help and reaching your local poison center is the best first step and can give you advice right away.

Issues: Community News/Culture

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Tina Johnson, President, Loudoun First Responder Foundation

Title: Supporting Those Who Support the Community

Firefighters in Loudoun County recently experienced a tragedy that took the life of a firefighter while combating a fire. Another firefighter sustained injuries that require attention and the road to recovery will be long. Loudoun First Responder Foundation is a non-profit organization that focuses all of its energy to supporting those firefighters and family members. 97% of donations go directly to those who are in need.

Issues: Culture/Education/Community News

Date: 03/25/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Major Kathleen (Kate) Rubins, an Astronaut and Innovation Officer, U.S. Army Reserve

Title: Herstory (Women's History Month)

Major Rubins is one of nine people selected to attend the 20th NASA astronaut class in July 2009 and has since become the 60th woman ever to fly in space and the first person to sequence DNA in space. To date, she has completed two missions to space. Major Rubins wanted to be an astronaut since she was a child but first started pursuing a career in molecular biology and infectious disease and worked as a microbiologist in the Army Reserve as a Microbiologist.

Issues: Transportation/Environment/Economy

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Morgan Dean, Manager, Public & Government Affairs, AAA

Title: Spring Break Travel and Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy

Detours are now up after the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. AAA is urging Spring Break travelers who have plans to travel to or through the Baltimore area to double check their plans. The tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge has shut down a vital artery for travelers getting around and through the Baltimore metro area. According to Maryland Department Transportation Authority (MDTA), more than 30,000 vehicles used that bridge every day. Those drivers will now be looking for alternate routes. Maryland Transportation officials urge drivers to use I-95 and I-895 as alternate routes. Spring Break travelers going both north and south along the corridor could find more backups than normal as commuter, holiday traffic, and trucking/freight traffic shift to the alternate routes.

Issues: Human Service/Community News/Culture

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Lauren Culbertson, Chief Marketing Officer for Sheehy Auto Stores and Partner with American Heart Association

Title: National Walking Day April 3, 2024

Physical activity is one of the best ways to improve overall health and manage stress. Yet, 1 in 4 U.S. adults are sedentary for more than eight hours each day, which can have negative consequences on physical and mental health. The American Heart Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, established National Walking Day to encourage people to move more throughout their day.

Issues: Community News/Environment

Date: 03/31/2024 (WJFK FM 106.7, WJFK AM 1580, WJFK HD2, HD3, WDCH FM 99.1, WIAD FM 94.7 WIAD HD2, WPGC HD2, WTEM AM)

Source: Phone – Daniel Paden, Vice President of Evidence Analysis for PETA

Title: Safe Animal Blood Transfusions

Animals that need blood transfusions are often very ill or injured, and their owners are led to believe the blood they will receive is healthy and uncontaminated. But blood purchased from animal blood banks may have been taken from sick, injured or medicated animals, putting

animals on both sides at further risk. A groundbreaking PETA investigation into captive animal blood banks reveals dogs and cats that are confined to barren kennels and crowded pens, where they are forced to spend their lives as living blood bags even when they are ill or suffering from infections or cancer.