

**WNNZ, Westfield, Massachusetts
WNNZ-FM, Deerfield, Massachusetts
WNNU, Great Barrington, Massachusetts
WNNI, Adams, Massachusetts**

Issues/Programs List

October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

During this period, WFCR broadcast programming about local issues during program segments reserved for local feature-length reports, interviews and commentaries, Monday through Friday at (typically) 6:20 a.m., 6:43 a.m., 7:20 a.m., 7:43 a.m., 8:20 a.m. and 8:43 a.m. and 5:44 p.m., or similar times within the morning and afternoon news programs. In addition, local newscasts were broadcast immediately following national newscasts on the hour from 6:00 a.m. through 8:00 a.m. inclusive, and 4:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. inclusive. On Saturday, local issue programming was presented at 8:35 a.m. and 9:35 a.m., and local newscasts followed national newscasts on the hour from 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. On Sunday, local newscasts were broadcast following national newscasts on the hour at 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.

In addition to this programming produced locally, many reports on the same and related subjects were broadcast daily and weekly through WFCR's broadcast of such national news programs as *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Marketplace*, *Here & Now*, *Fresh Air*, *Weekend Edition* and others.

Issues

Arts & Culture
Commentary
Economic Development
Education
Energy/Environment
Justice, Law & Public Safety
Politics/Public Policy
Public Health
Science

Reports on *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, and *Weekend Edition*

Topic	Date	Time	Length	State	Summary
Arts & Culture	10/2	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	5:10	MA	A new collection of songs from the creators of the long-popular book <i>RiseUp Singing</i> , has recently been released. The collection, called <i>Rise Again Songbook</i> , includes some newer music and more diversity. They got permission to publish lyrics and chords from the likes of Taj Mahal, Jeff Tweedy of Wilco, Adele, The Nields, and Hot Tuna.
Arts & Culture	10/7	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	5:23	MA	Later this year cellist Astrid Schween will join the prominent Julliard Quartet. Schween has been a professor at UMass Amherst and Mount Holyoke since 2004. When she joins the quartet, she'll be the first woman and first African American member in its nearly 70 year history.
Arts & Culture	10/8	5:44 p.m.	3:26	MA	The Boston Bruin's season opening game is tonight against the Winnipeg jets. The "B's" are hoping to bounce back this year after missing the playoffs last season, for the first time since 2007. Boston globe sports writer Amalie Benjamin tells us whether last season's disappointing finish puts coach Claude Julien on the hot seat.
Arts & Culture	10/9	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:59	MA	There are many ways to make a movie. Perhaps the most challenging is when you gather up almost four dozen movie-making teams and set them loose. That's been happening around New England. The finished "crowdsourced" product, premieres in Northampton, Massachusetts tomorrow.

Arts & Culture	10/14	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:27	MA	The New England patriots play the colts Sunday in Indianapolis -- the first match up since last January, when the Pats beat the Colts in the AFC championship game -- advancing New England to the super bowl. It's been more than month since a federal judge threw out the NFL's suspension of patriots quarterback Tom Brady, over deflated footballs. It's time to let bygones be bygones. Right? Not for one fan.
Arts & Culture	10/16 10/17	4:44 p.m. 9:35 a.m.	4:11	MA	A documentary about a band making it big is showing tomorrow night at the Williamstown film festival. "Breaking a Monster" is the story of three teenagers, into heavy metal who go from basement jamming in Brooklyn to national stardom... almost.
Arts & Culture	10/24	8:35 a.m. 10:35 a.m.	4:11	MA	Students associate 1776 with the American Revolution. But that's only part of the story, according to author Ray Raphael. His book "The Spirit of '74: How the American Revolution Began" focuses on sixteen months between the Boston Tea Party and Lexington and Concord. Raphael says in this new narrative, Worcester native Timothy Bigelow was important.
Arts & Culture	10/31	8:35 a.m. 10:35 a.m.	3:48	CT	A new study on religion out of UConn began with an old saying: Sunday morning at 11 o'clock is the most segregated hour in America. Researcher Brad Wright wanted to know if that church segregation was due - at least in part - to discrimination'
Arts & Culture	11/5	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:32	MA	The young at heart chorus has wowed audiences around the world. They're based in Northampton, Massachusetts, and they've sung to packed houses in Japan, New Zealand and Europe. Last week, they took part in a project much closer to home...in front of what you might call a "captive" audience. New England public radio's Alden Bourne has the story.

Arts & Culture	11/7	8:35 a.m. 10:35 a.m.	3:54	MA	Bullying, racism and the KKK — that is the childhood described in the memoir of illustrator, designer and Smith College professor Barry Moser. <i>We Were Brothers</i> is his story of growing up in the South in the 1940's.
Arts & Culture	11/11 11/12	5:44 p.m. 7:45 a.m.	1:38	MA	On veterans day, communities across the region paused to remember and honor those who served in the military. In North Adams, MA, ceremonies featured a nod to a current member of the military.
Arts & Culture	11/23	5:32 p.m.	3:12	MA	You can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant - including Arlo Guthrie. The celebrated folk singer is performing live this week at the former Old Trinity Church in Great Barrington, MA, where a ticket he got for littering 50 years ago inspired his classic protest ballad. Guthrie is booked tonight and tomorrow night at the church, which now houses The Guthrie Center.
Arts & Culture	11/26	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:59	MA	Tomorrow there's a good chance you'll be faced with an annual dilemma - what to do with all those leftovers. Great Barrington, Massachusetts, cookbook author Alana Chernila gave us the answer: a rice dish - congee.
Arts & Culture	12/9	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	4:01	MA	Personality tests suggest that up to half of all people are introverts. Despite their numbers, the quietest among us often feel they don't fit... in the standard workplace. But in the last few years, the career counseling field has started to pay closer attention to this personality type.
Arts & Culture	12/11	6:37 a.m. 8:31 a.m.	3:04	CT	Chadors are dark garments that wrap around a woman's body leaving only her face exposed. They are meant to take attention off the women - typically Muslim women - wearing them. But a visiting professor at Trinity College in Hartford was going for the opposite result when she donned a bright red, sequined chador for a piece of performance art.

Arts & Culture	12/15	5:51 a.m. 7:51a.m.	6:50	MA	It's all about the melody. Alice Parker, who turns 90 tomorrow, has an important goal - to return choral music to what she calls "the heart of singing". She uses no electronics and no accompaniment in the workshops she gives throughout this country and in Canada.
Arts & Culture	12/23	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	1:59	MA	Last week the Hartford Symphony Orchestra said it may have to close its doors for good if HSO musicians won't come to the negotiating table to hammer out a new contract. Now the musician's union has responded to those claims.
Arts & Culture	12/30	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	6:36	MA	Sixty five years ago a taxi pulled to a stop in front of the Drew family's home in Easthampton, MA. The cab was empty, no passenger. The driver had a message, a military telegram. It said the family's 18 year old son, Army Corporal Kenneth "Bobby" Drew, after only a few months serving in Korea was missing in action. Larry Parnass editor of the Daily Hampshire Gazette's written about Bobby Drew's disappearance. Parnass says the telegram, the mystery, the loss remains with the family today.
Commentary	12/23	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:38	MA	In the wake of the San Bernadino shootings earlier this month, many public figures - presidential candidates among them - conveyed their "thoughts and prayers" for the victims. Our commentator Steve Metcalf, a music writer by day, says at this point, even the people who utter those thoughts and prayers admit how tired and inadequate the statements can be. And he's wondering whether there's anything meaningful he can do.
Economic Development	10/20	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	1:59	CT	Construction is now underway on a high-frequency rail service that officials say will run from Springfield to New Haven by the end of 2016. The upgrade to create the "Hartford line" will add a second track to an existing rail line. WNPR's Ryan Caron King reports.

Economic Development	10/21	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:24	MA	A communication breakdown. That's how mayor Domenico Sarno describes additional design changes to MGM Springfield's casino resort, and how he learned about them. The changes would reduce the size of the casino complex by about 14 percent.
Economic Development	10/22	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:48	MA	Young adults are leaving Berkshire County at an alarming rate. This is contributing to an already sagging population, down about 10 percent since 1970. Now, officials are trying to figure out why the Berkshires aren't an attractive place for people under 40.
Economic Development	11/11	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	1:51	CT	A new wood product used in construction could help create greater demand for materials from local forests. Some tree buffs say more desire for New England timber could actually be a good thing for preserving the region's woodlands.
Economic Development	11/11 11/12	5:44 p.m. 7:45 a.m.	1:51	CT	The number of Connecticut farms continues to grow - and the federal government is renewing its interest in smaller scale agriculture in the state.
Economic Development	11/19	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	3:02	MA	Springfield city leaders say they're re-assured that recent changes to MGM's casino plans will not hurt the overall project - and may even help. That follows a public meeting yesterday.
Economic Development	12/2	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	5:01	MA	Gasoline stations that had an attendant fill your tank, check your oil and wash your windshield used to be the norm in Massachusetts. But now they are the exception as customers increasingly opt to save a little by pumping their own gas. Northampton will lose one of its two remaining full service stations at the end of this month when Ernie's Garage turns off its pumps.

Economic Development	12/3	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:44	MA	This morning, MGM Springfield will go before the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to present design changes to its casino plan. The most visible change is the elimination of a 25 story hotel tower. At the head of today's meeting - Steve Crosby, chair of the gaming commission. Crosby says he wants to hear the rationale for the changes.
Economic Development	12/4	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:46	MA	MGM continues to defend design changes for its Springfield casino - this time before the MA Gaming Commission, which held a public meeting in the city yesterday. While Commissioners asked MGM for more details, they appeared to accept the company's overall claim - that even though the project has shrunk in size, its essence remains the same.
Economic Development	12/9	6:22 a.m. 8:22a.m.	2:32	MA	For the first time since the great recession ended in 2009, the numbers show that Western MA is seeing a decline in individuals seeking food assistance.
Economic Development	12/14	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	3:55	MA	Bringing high speed internet to rural western Massachusetts has not been easy. A recent dustup between a group of towns and a quasi-state agency threatens to slow the process. NEPR's Adam Frenier reports the so called last mile of the project is turning into the longest.
Education	10/1 10/2	5:50 p.m. 7:22 a.m.	3:12	MA	A longer school day for elementary and middle school students. More decision-making by teachers in classrooms. Staff cuts. These are the main points from the Holyoke public school's turnaround plan, announced yesterday.
Energy /Environment	10/6	5:32 p.m.	1:10	MA	The EPA has released what it calls the intended final cleanup plan to remove PCB's from the Housatonic River. Nancy Cohen reports the plan is a significant step, but not necessarily the final one.

Energy /Environment	11/24	5:51 a.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:17	MA	The company Kinder Morgan has formally filed its application with federal regulators to build a natural gas pipeline that would pass through NY, MA and NH. It's been in the works for well over a year. First, a leader in the vocal opposition to the proposal. Katy Eiseman is president of the Pipeline Awareness Network. Allen fore is a Kinder Morgan spokesperson.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/6	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	5:00	MA	A story of crime, grief, and forgiveness. Just over a year ago Florence Massachusetts resident Tomas Clark, the 25 year old son of Tom and Jeannine Clark, was the passenger in a car driving up Route 9 towards Williamsburg. The driver, Robert Crowther, was high on marijuana and drunk. Crowther faced up to 20 years in pison but ended up with just 2 and a half years. Daily Hampshire Gazette's courthouse reporter Rebecca Everett tells us what happened.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	10/6	4:50 p.m. 6:20 p.m.	7:59	MA	In fall of 2013, Mark Schand walked out of court in Springfield, MA a free man - after 27 years in prison for a murder he says he did not commit. Two years later, Schand is still getting his bearings. He's living with his wife who stood by him - and is trying to find a way forward with a little help from the system that locked him up.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/5	5:45 a.m. 7:45 a.m.	5:00	MA	Private driving schools pay the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles thousands of dollars each year for their students to essentially jump the long line for road tests. That's according to a report out this week by the New England Center for Investigative Reporting. Beth Daley is the author of the report and tells us how she found out about this practice.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/17	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:29	MA	Berkshire County has fewer district court judges based there than it did nearly a decade ago. Members of the legal community say this is slowing down justice.

Justice, Law & Public Safety	11/19	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	2:33	MA	Massachusetts lawmakers have completed much of their work for 2015. Both the state house and senate held their final formal sessions of the year yesterday... with progress on public records reform and social media privacy. Many other big issues however won't be resolved until the new year.
Justice, Law & Public Safety	12/1	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:45	MA	The trial of the last of four defendants accused of raping a UMass Amherst student in her dorm in 2012 abruptly ended yesterday... before it began. Twenty-year old Caleb Womack took a plea deal. Three other men were convicted in the case earlier this year... each of them will spend at least eight years in prison. All of the men lived in Pittsfield at the time of the crime, and were not UMass students.
Politics /Public Policy	10/1	4:50 p.m.	4:06	MA	The Massachusetts commission against discrimination has a backlog of nearly two thousand cases. That number only includes complaints that are at least a year and a half old. This backlog is nothing new. Chairwoman Jamie Williamson says the agency simply lacks enough funding and staff. Williamson says the problem becomes more striking when you look at caseload numbers of civil rights commissions around the northeast
Politics /Public Policy	10/2	7:22 a.m.	3:43	MA	Massachusetts is making changes to its screening process for foster parents. That's in response to the death of a 2 year old girl in a foster home in auburn and the near death of a second child. The department of children and families has just completed its investigation into what happened. WBUR's Fred Thys outlines the agency's findings.

Politics /Public Policy (JL&PS, Edu.)	10/2	5:50 p.m.	8:57	MA	THE SHORT LIST: The Springfield Republican's Ron Chemelis and Rick Hurst, publisher of the newspaper African American Point of View discuss the issues of the week. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination has a backlog of nearly 2,000 cases. And that number only includes complaints that are at least a year-and-a-half old. Holyoke schools are getting new policies, like a longer school day for elementary and middle school students and staff cuts, not to mention shifts in decision making. This comes following a state takeover. Hillary Clinton was in Holyoke this week, at the Delaney House, to raise money for her campaign. Bernie Sanders comes to Springfield tomorrow. Each has raised some \$25-plus million. Western Massachusetts doesn't usually get a lot of visits from presidential candidates. What's different this time?
Politics /Public Policy	10/5	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	4:32	MA	Top lawmakers will speak about the rising cost of health care in Massachusetts today - part of an annual hearing. Numbers released by the state last month show that health care costs grew above the goal set by a 2012 law. State house reporter Matt Murphy says Mass-Health, the state's Medicaid program - is driving up health care expenses.
Politics /Public Policy	10/5	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	2:46	MA	Bernie Sanders brought his campaign for the presidency to Massachusetts this weekend, speaking in Boston and Springfield. In a speech Saturday to a crowd of about 6,000 at the Mass Mutual Center, the US Senator from Vermont addressed an issue he hasn't talked about much: gun control.

Politics /Public Policy (Edu., Econ. Dev)	10/9	5:50 p.m.	8:45	MA	THE SHORT LIST: The Springfield Republican's Ron Chemelis and Matt Szafranski of the Western Mass Politics and Insight Blog discuss the issues of the week. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker wants to expand the number of charter schools in the state's lowest-performing school districts. He's proposing legislation that would allow those districts to add up to twelve new charter schools above existing caps. But some think the state should evaluate existing charter schools first Massachusetts lawmakers have begun reviewing proposals to expand legal protections for transgender people in the state. Two Boston-based online fantasy football businesses, Fan Duel and Draft Kings are raking in the money and bombarding the airwaves with ads.
Politics /Public Policy	10/12	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:55	MA	Governor Charlie Baker's Bill to expand charter schools could bring some tension to Beacon Hill this week. Massachusetts lawmakers are urgent to act on the measure - with charter school proponents also pushing a ballot petition and a lawsuit. Statehouse news reporter Matt Murphy says this is a debate to pay attention to...
Politics /Public Policy	10/15	5:51 a.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:25	MA	Next month voters in cities around the region will elect mayors. That includes Springfield, where incumbent Domenic Sarno faces challenger Sal Circosta. In the first of a series of candidate interviews, we sit down with Mayor Sarno. He's declined invitations to candidate forums and debates.
Politics /Public Policy	10/16	5:51 a.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:25	MA	Mayoral elections are on the November ballot in several cities around the region. In Springfield, Sal Circosta is challenging incumbent Mayor Domenic Sarno. Circosta serves on the city's police community hearing board, and he owned a bakery in Springfield for several years. In last month's preliminary election, Circosta received about one-tenth as many votes as the incumbent.

Politics /Public Policy	10/16	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:32	MA	Holyoke mayoral challenger Fran O'Connell says incumbent Alex Morse has failed to bring about real change to the city....while Morse accuses O'Connell of lacking vision. New England Public Radio's Karen Brown reports on a testy debate about the future of the paper city.
Politics /Public Policy (Pub. Health)	10/16	5:50 p.m.	9:07	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Larry Parnass of The Daily Hampshire Gazette and Natalia Munoz a contributor of El Sol Latino talk about the issues of the week. Springfield Mayor Dominic Sarno announced he's in talks with the owners of the Pawtucket Red Sox about moving to Springfield. He says this would be a big deal since they're the Triple-A Team for the Red Sox. President Obama made a dramatic turn-around with an announcement to keep more troops in Afghanistan. With Westover in our region and many active duty military this could have very real consequences in our region. Congressman Jim McGovern says he was disappointed. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker unveiled legislation yesterday he says will address part of the opioid crisis. One of his proposals: allow medical providers to involuntarily commit drug addicts for 72 hours without a court order. Some medical professionals are skeptical it'll be effective and wonder if there will always be treatment.
Politics /Public Policy	10/19	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:23	MA	State revenues are falling short this year -- that was the word to Massachusetts lawmakers last week from the state's finance secretary Kristen Lepore. 145 million dollars short, to be exact. That's a relatively small portion of the state's 38 billion dollar budget, but the issue could take up lawmakers' time. State house reporter Matt Murphy says lawmakers aren't turning to budget cuts just yet.

Politics /Public Policy	10/20	5:51 a.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:23	MA	We continue our interviews with mayoral candidates from western Massachusetts. Today, Holyoke mayor Alex Morse. He's running for a third two-year term against challenger Fran O'Connell. Earlier this year, the state took over Holyoke public schools after years of under-performance. O'Connell has pointed blame on Morse...for not attending some school committee meetings. Morse says, despite the fact that the district is in receivership, the schools have improved since he took office.
Politics /Public Policy	10/20	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:49	MA	The candidates for Pittsfield mayor squared off in their 2nd debate last night, at Berkshire community college. As New England public radio Adam Frenier reports, Mayor Dan Bianchi and city clerk Linda Tyer really went after each other.
Politics /Public Policy	10/21	5:51 a.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:19	MA	This month, we're talking to candidates in several mayoral races around western Massachusetts. Today, Fran O'Connell, who's challenging incumbent mayor Alex Morse in Holyoke. O'Connell owns a home health care agency. He's never been in politics. Holyoke has struggled economically for years. to improve the city's economy, O'Connell says he would go after federal and state grant money, and push for high-tech and manufacturing businesses to come to Holyoke.
Politics /Public Policy	10/21	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:33	MA	The two candidates for North Adams, Massachusetts mayor sparred last night in a heated debate. NEPR's Adam Frenier reports, incumbent Richard Alcombright and his challenger, former mayor John Barrett, agreed on little.

<p>Politics /Public Policy (Econ. Dev., Pub. Health)</p>	<p>10/23</p>	<p>5:50 p.m.</p>	<p>8:57</p>	<p>MA</p>	<p>THE SHORT LIST: The Reminder's Mike Dobbs and Western Mass Politics and Insight's Matt Szerfranski discuss issues of the week. On the heels of MGM's Springfield casino plan scraping a towering skyscraper and instead building a six story hotel, MGM now says it's reducing the casinos footprint by about 14 percent. This drew the ire of Mayor Sarno and concern from the City Council. Massachusetts prohibits texting while driving, while Connecticut only allows hands-free devices. A new study from AAA finds even hands free-devices can dangerously distract drivers. Western Massachusetts — as a whole — is shrinking and getting older. The young people who do stick around or return do so for traditional reasons like raising families and caring for ailing parents. Part of the problem is a dearth of good jobs.</p>
<p>Politics /Public Policy</p>	<p>10/26</p>	<p>6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.</p>	<p>4:20</p>	<p>MA</p>	<p>This week, Massachusetts gambling regulators will discuss the daily fantasy sports industry. Websites like Boston-based DraftKings have grown rapidly in recent years. They host games where players pick new fantasy teams every day, and offer large cash prizes. State lawmakers have taken notice and started to talk regulation. We check in now with State House reporter Matt Murphy. He says while the Gaming Commission will talk about fantasy sports this week; don't expect any policy recommendations just yet.</p>

Politics /Public Policy	10/28	5:51 a.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:23	MA	We've been talking this month to candidates in several mayoral races around western Massachusetts. Today, we head to Pittsfield, where incumbent mayor Dan Bianchi is being challenged by city clerk Linda Tyer. A few weeks ago, plastics company Sabic, a major employer in Pittsfield, announced it would leave town. Mayor Bianchi says he's working with the state to support any workers that may be laid off. but since many of Sabic's employees are skilled engineers, he says there may be a silver lining.
Politics /Public Policy	10/28	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:17	MA	Many voters will head to the polls next Tuesday for local elections. There are tight races for mayor in some area cities. However that doesn't appear to be the case in Springfield, where eight year incumbent Domenico Sarno is facing a challenge from Sal Circosta, a relative political newcomer.
Politics /Public Policy	10/29	5:51 a.m. 7:51 a.m.	7:20	MA	We've been talking to candidates in several mayoral races around the region the past few weeks. Today, we wrap up with Linda Tyer of Pittsfield. Tyer is Pittsfield's city clerk, and she's challenging incumbent Dan Bianchi. There's a backdrop of economic unease in this campaign, illustrated recently by news that plastics company Sabic will leave town next year. I asked Tyer how she plans to attract new companies to pick up the slack.
Politics /Public Policy	10/29	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	3:10	MA	In two mayoral elections next week in western Massachusetts, it's Deja vu all over again. Familiar names squaring off against each other to lead the cities of North Adams and Chicopee. We begin in Chicopee. Two years ago, Mayor Mike Bissonnette was unseated by a former mayor -- Richard Kos. The two rivals are back at it again.
Politics /Public Policy	10/29	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	2:43	MA	"The second time around" -- a theme song that also works for the mayoral election in North Adams, Massachusetts. From our Berkshire county bureau, NEPR's Adam Frenier reports.

Politics /Public Policy (Econ. Dev., Pub. Health)	10/30	5:50 p.m.	8:48	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Larry Parnass of The Daily Hampshire Gazette and Ron Chimelis of the Springfield Republican discuss the issues of the week. MGM's CEO Jim Murren came to Springfield yesterday to apologize for failing to communicate with city officials about downsized casino plans. Tuesday is election day and the region's got some tight mayoral races. Bad news about processed and red meat from the World Health Organization. What's a consumer to do?
Politics /Public Policy	11/2	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:40	MA	Massachusetts education officials are deciding whether to adopt a new standardized test for the state, known as the PARCC exam, or stick with the MCAS. Opponents to the PARCC test have noted that many other states have dropped it. State House reporter Matt Murphy says lawmakers are lining up in opposition to the PARCC.
Politics /Public Policy	11/4	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	7:34	MA	The 2015 election turned out well for most incumbent mayors in Western MA. First -- to Holyoke, where mayor Alex Morse beat Fran O'Connell. In Springfield, Domenic Sarno handily won re-election over Sal Circosta. Chicopee's Richard Kos and Greenfield's Bill Martin won, as did Worcester's Joseph Petty, Leominster's Dean Mazarella and Gardner's Mark Hawke, according to the telegram and gazette. It was a different story in Pittsfield. City clerk Linda Tyer ousted incumbent Dan Bianchi. Linda Tyer joins other new mayors, including West Springfield's Will Reichelt, Fitchburg's Steve Dinatale and Westfield's Brian Sullivan.

Politics /Public Policy	11/6	5:50 p.m.	8:09	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Western Mass Politics and Insight's Matt Szerfranski and Ron Chimelis of the Springfield Republican discuss the issues of the week. The run up to Election Day usually dominates the news. Looking at Tuesday's results: in Holyoke incumbent mayor Alex Morse beat challenger Fran O'Connell.... Greenfield voters weighed in on some non-binding ballot questions mostly about trash. Residents support a ban on non-biodegradable take out containers, like styrofoam... turnout remained dismal in Springfield. Next year, Massachusetts will allow early voting for the first time.
Politics /Public Policy	11/9	8:45 a.m.	4:45	MA	Massachusetts officials continue to debate exactly how the state should address its opioid crisis. Governor Charlie Baker announced a P-S-A initiative last week aimed at decreasing the stigma around opioid addiction. At the same time, Baker has a much larger proposal before the legislature. It includes a controversial measure to allow doctors to involuntarily hold patients who they suspect of substance abuse. Matt Murphy tells us when Baker's opioid bill might move forward.
Politics /Public Policy	11/11	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	2:32	MA	The low voter turnout in last week's municipal election in Springfield has civic leaders scratching their heads... and wondering how to reverse the trend. One suggestion, revive a get-out-the-vote campaign targeting youth.

Politics /Public Policy	11/13	5:50 p.m.	8:53	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Natalia Munoz a contributor to El Sol Latino and a public relations consultant and the Springfield Republican's Ron Chimelis discuss the issues of the week. Student protests at college campuses around the country and in the region continue. At their heart, concerns about racism and sexism on campus. Starting Thursday, students at Amherst College staged a sit-in, which went through the night in the library. Earlier this week, students protested at UMass Amherst and Smith College. One of issues raised by protesters: mascots. Some UMass students decry the Minuteman, while Amherst College students say Lord Jeff has to go. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker says he's played DraftKings fantasy sports on his phone and doesn't think it's gambling.
Politics /Public Policy	11/16	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:46	MA	Wednesday is the last day of formal sessions for Massachusetts lawmakers before a holiday break. So lawmakers are running out of time to act on legislation in this calendar year -- while several major bills are on the table... bills on opioid addiction, solar energy, and public records among others.
Politics /Public Policy	11/17	5:45 a.m.	3:55	MA	Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker is joining about two dozen other Governors asking the Federal Government to stop resettling Syrian refugees in their states... in light of the terror attacks in Paris. But the Governor says he's willing to reconsider, after gathering more information about how refugees are vetted.

Politics /Public Policy	11/18	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	5:00	MA	This week, Governor Charlie Baker of MA joined about two dozen other Governors - mostly republicans - in calling for a halt to resettling Syrian refugees in the United States. Some refugees have already arrived in Western Massachusetts - including five families aided by Jewish Family Service of Springfield. Deirdre Griffin heads the organization's New Americans program. She says there's diversity among the Syrian families who've settled here.
Politics /Public Policy	11/19	6:22 a.m. 8:22 a.m.	1:23	MA	Hartford Mayor-elect Luke Bronin is gearing up to take office in the early morning hours of January 1st. Bronin announced his transition team yesterday.
Politics /Public Policy (JL&PS, Econ Dev)	11/20	5:50 p.m.	9:06	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Rick Hurst, publisher of African American Point of View and Mike Dobbs of The Reminder discuss the issues of the week. Just days following the terrorist attacks in Paris some politicians, including many governors across the country, called for a temporary halt to letting Syrian refugees into the U.S. Among them: Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker. The debate about sentencing guidelines continues between prosecutors who say they need the mandatory minimums for drug crimes and criminal justice reform advocates who say this just adds to over-incarceration. MGM big-wigs held a meeting in Springfield to explain changes, like the decision not to build a skyscraper and some downsizing of the resort's overall footprint. The public was invited but not allowed to ask questions. The mayor's office sounded cheery afterwards.

Politics /Public Policy	11/23	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:19	MA	Following the Paris terrorist attacks, MA Governor Charlie Baker said he wanted to know more about the federal vetting process before allowing more Syrian refugees into the state. Baker's comments have been more restrained than many other Republican Governors - but the governor took criticism from Democrats... including Congressman Seth Moulton. We check in with State House reporter Matt Murphy, who says refugees could be a political wedge issue.
Politics /Public Policy (JL&PS)	12/4	5:50 p.m.	9:05	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Natalia Munoz, a contributor to El Sol Latino and a public relations consultant, and Matt Szafranski, who runs the Western Mass Politics & Insight Blog discuss issues of the week. Massachusetts has some of the strictest gun rules in the country. Do recent acts of mass violence suggest gun law reform is necessary? A sheriff in Ulster County New York posted a message on Facebook asking anyone who has a firearms license to carry their guns... suggesting that it would make the county safer. A middle school teacher discovered that his neighbor, a Greenfield police Sargent, has a confederate flag hanging in his garage. Private property, but he happens to be the department's liaison on the town Human Rights Commission.
Politics /Public Policy	12/7	6:36 a.m. 8:32 a.m.	4:16	MA	State revenues in MA have fallen slightly short of projections. Governor Charlie Baker has said he wanted to see those numbers before deciding whether or not to make mid-year budget cuts. State House reporter Matt Murphy tells us if Baker's given any indication of when -- or if -- he'll make budget cuts.

Politics /Public Policy	12/14	5:45 a.m. 7:45 a.m.	4:07	MA	When Governor Charlie Baker ran for the office in 2014, he promised to increase local aid to cities and towns at the same rate as the growth of state revenues. This week, top lawmakers will get a look at revenue projections for the coming year. Statehouse reporter Matt Murphy says local leaders could be in line for a boost in state money.
Politics /Public Policy (Econ Dev.)	12/18	5:50 p.m.	7:54	MA	THE SHORT LIST: Matt Szafranski of the Western Mass Politics & Insight blog and The Reminder's Mike Dobbs discuss the issues of the week. With the year in review, Big Headlines for 2015: Voter Turnout, Viaduct Construction. Fewer Headlines in 2015: Chinese-owned CRRC USA Rail Corp., Springfield Historical Commission/Historical Preservation
Politics /Public Policy	12/21	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:28	MA	As 2015 winds down, lawmakers on Beacon Hill are in the early stages of crafting the state's next budget. Last week, a key budget writer in the House said new taxes are off the table next year. Statehouse News Service reporter Matt Murphy tells us if other state leaders will go along with that "no new taxes" plan.
Politics /Public Policy	12/28	4:44 p.m.	3:53	MA	In November, Pittsfield city clerk Linda Tyer was the only challenger in Western MA to defeat an incumbent mayor. When she knocked off Dan Bianchi, she also became the first Pittsfield mayor elected to a four year term. Tyer will officially take office next week. She tells us how she's been preparing for the new job.
Public Health	11/17	7:45 a.m.	4:13	MA	One bill aimed at addressing increased use of heroin and opioids in MA could become law this week. But the more comprehensive plan proposed by Governor Charlie Baker faces some serious opposition and is undergoing a detailed review by lawmakers.

Public Health	12/1	7:51 a.m.	7:07	MA	While heroin use has increased among most demographic groups, the Centers for Disease Control reports a stark increase among women. The CDC says between the two year period of 2002 to 2004 and the two year period of 2011 to 2013 heroin use among women in this country doubled. Many of those women are mothers - which makes treating their substance use even more complicated. WBUR's Deborah Becker recently visited one of the few treatment programs in MA for women and children.
Public Health	12/16	7:45 a.m.	3:34	MA	Cape Cod is the setting of a new documentary about the nation's growing opioid problem. The film premieres later this month on HBO. But as he campaigns for passage of new measures to fight addiction... Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker invited law makers and other involved in the issue to an early screening last night.
Science	10/16	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	1:50	CT	A star is leaving some in the space community scratching their heads. As WNPR's Patrick Skahill reports, the star is normal in lots of ways -- until we look at what's orbiting around it.
Science	11/12	4:35 p.m. 6:20 p.m.	8:33	MA	More people are living to a hundred than ever before -- twice as many as twenty years ago. And they're often living quite well - which is why centenarians have become a popular group to study in the science of aging. NEPR's Karen Brown has been on a quest to meet centenarians in Western Massachusetts, to learn their history, their insights, and the secret to their longevity.
Science	11/13	6:45 a.m. 8:45 a.m.	4:21	MA	Interest in the science of aging has peaked in recent years, as more people than ever are living past 100. A geriatric researcher in Boston shares what makes this population so hearty.

Science	12/17	6:33 a.m. 8:33 a.m.	6:55	MA	For the past decade or so, one buzzword in education has been "executive function." Never mind learning the quadratic formula; let's help kids stay organized, think clearly, stay focused. An industry has popped up called "executive function coaching" - but some educators and researchers wonder if the science behind the approach supports its steep price tag.
Science	12/18	5:50 a.m. 7:50 a.m.	7:30	MA	Over the past decade, the popularity of neuroscience has spawned a number of brain training cottage industries. Today we look at a controversial company that claims to solve a wide range of childhood disorders by "synchronizing" the brain.
Science	12/19	8:35 a.m. 10:35 a.m.	4:14	MA	When you see people with their heads buried in their phones, possibly playing a game like Bejeweled Blitz, don't judge them too harshly. New research finds the visual search and matching app may have potential as a brain training tool. UMass psychologist Susan Whitebourne tells us about her study.