

Quarterly Issues and Programs Report

First Quarter 2024

WHA-TV, Licensed to the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents

During the period, this station, as part of the network that makes up PBS Wisconsin, has served the public interest by producing and broadcasting diverse content which addresses national, statewide and regional issues. The following is a list of some of the produced or acquired programming aired in response to areas of concern to viewers served by PBS Wisconsin.

Issues of community concern:

- Agriculture
- Culture
- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Politics
- Social Issues

1. **Agriculture**

The employment report opens a year of economic snapshots, dramatic changes in mountain snowpacks in the West, high school classwork that returns dividends to the community and more.

- Market to Market, January 7, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

Difficulties in maintaining a workforce, ongoing market swings and uncertainties over an updated Farm Bill are leading a small but growing number of Wisconsin dairy farmers to embrace robotic milking.

- Here & Now, January 12, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 58 seconds

Snow and cold blanket the country, world leaders meet on climate, soil and sustainability, a small insect makes a big impression on the landscape and more.

- Market to Market, January 21, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

Heavy rain replaces arctic air, farmers plant their tractors in front of EU Headquarters, a professor hunts for unintended changes from genetic editing and more.

- Market to Market, January 28, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

Land values defy pressures in rural America, European farmers keep their tractors in the public eye, a look at the expansion of no-till farming practices and more.

- Market to Market, February 4, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

Warmer temperatures take hold across much of the country, a new wave of farmers joins widespread European protests, having the difficult farm transitions talk with your elders and more.

- Market to Market, February 11, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

The economy sends signals that may require the Fed to tap the brakes, the House opens for business on all things USDA, oyster farmers help restore the waters of Long Island Sound and more.

- Market to Market, February 18, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

Host Inga Witscher takes a journey around the state to visit small farms and specialty makers who are finding new ways to preserve traditional agricultural practices. Along the way she meets with a sheep farmer, a maple syrup producer, a beekeeper and several small family farms before hosting a community celebration on her own farm.

- Around the Farm Table Celebrates Small Farms, February 26, 2024 at 7 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

The Smokehouse Creek wildfire has burned more than a million acres in Texas since it began on February 26. As firefighters continue to battle the blazes, we look at the long road of recovery ahead for farmers and ranchers in the Panhandle.

- PBS NewsHour, March 11, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 7 minutes, 1 second

There is a mental health crisis happening for many American farmers. A combination of climate change, the pandemic and the domination of megafarms have contributed to increasing economic uncertainty and isolation. Following four family farms in the Midwest over several years, this is a story of perseverance and survival within the farming industry in the heartland.

- Independent Lens: Greener Pastures, March 25, 2024 at 8 p.m.
- Duration: 2 hours

2. Culture

Discover the secrets behind Edward Hopper's most iconic and enigmatic works. Known for "Nighthawks" and other evocative paintings of American life, Hopper has left a lasting impression on our culture. Meet the man behind the brush and see how his marriage to fellow artist Josephine Nivison Hopper shaped his art and career.

- American Masters: Hopper – An American Love Story, January 2, 2024 at 8 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

Explore the transformation of Stevens Point from the lumber industry that flourished along the Wisconsin River to the bustling brewing company that brought national attention to the city. Today, Stevens Point continues to be shaped by its roots in commerce and investments in higher education, agriculture and conservancy.

- Wisconsin Hometown Stories: Stevens Point, January 2, 2024 at 10 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

Winter has arrived as host Angela Fitzgerald takes on the slopes of Granite Peak, a popular ski hill in snowy Rib Mountain State Park. She gets a beginner ski lesson and learns what makes the hill so attractive to skiers and snowboarders of all abilities. Then she travels to the top of Rib Mountain to take in the panoramic vistas of Wausau and Marathon County.

- Wisconsin Life: Snow, Skis and Stories, January 11, 2024 at 7 p.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

A visit to Bootleggers Lodge introduces Luke to Michelin-Starred chef Håkan Thörnström.

- Wisconsin Foodie: Bootleggers Lodge, January 18, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

Grand Rapids, MI, was once known as Furniture City. Now thanks to craft brewers, it's self-coined as Beer City. The top tourist attraction is probably The Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum. But ArtPrize, Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and Max's South Seas Hideaway help make this city just plain attractive!

- John McGivern's Main Streets: Grand Rapids, MI, February 1, 2024 at 7 p.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

The inspiring story of how six iconic African American female entertainers challenged an entertainment industry deeply complicit in perpetuating racist stereotypes and transformed themselves and their audiences in the process.

- American Masters: How It Feels to Be Free, February 6, 2024 at 8 p.m.
- Duration: 2 hours

Follow the sonic influences of blues and jazz music and the Golden Age of Gospel, from the Lord's music to the mainstream.

- Gospel: The Gospel Train/The Golden Age of Gospel, February 12, 2024 at 8 p.m.
- Duration: 2 hours

Fifty years after Black and white students from different parts of Wisconsin came together to perform a play about race relations during the Civil Rights Movement, the original performers reunite to reflect on their experience and watch as a new generation reprises their performance of Martin Duberman's "In White America."

- The Exchange: Kaukauna & King 50 Years Later, February 19, 2024 at 8 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

Four Wisconsin high school musicians perform with the Madison Symphony Orchestra.

- Wisconsin Young Artists Compete: The Final Forte 2024, March 6, 2024 at 7 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour, 30 minutes

Rhiannon Gibbens shares a musical visit with three lifelong friends: Justin Robinson, a co-founder of the ground-breaking black string band, Carolina Chocolate Drops; her sister, singer Lalenja Harrington; and singer-songwriter Laurelyn Dossett.

- My Music with Rhiannon Gibbens: Old Friends, March 22, 2024 at 11:30 p.m.
- Duration: 30 minutes

3. Economy

Migrant children in the United States are working some of the most dangerous jobs in the country and private auditors assigned to root out unlawful labor practices often overlook child labor. The most common job for migrant children is also one of the most hazardous, roofing and construction, despite laws prohibiting anyone under 18 from doing so.

- PBS NewsHour, January 1, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 7 minutes, 4 seconds

New data shows that inflation ran a little higher at the end of the year than expected but slowed down significantly in 2023. Consumers are still hesitant to embrace the economy's strength, a theme that was consistent throughout last year's strong economic performance.

- PBS NewsHour, January 11, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 32 seconds

The federal child tax credit may soon be expanded as part of an effort by some lawmakers to ensure that more American families can access the benefit. If the proposal becomes law it would gradually increase the credit and allow lower-income families to receive a refundable tax credit for each child.

- PBS NewsHour, January 18, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 4 minutes, 21 seconds

Rallies have driven both the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the much larger S&P 500 to record highs this week. There are several reasons for that, including investors' assessments of the economy right now and where it will be in the months ahead.

- PBS NewsHour, January 23, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 3 seconds

The labor market was running hot again last month as U.S. employers added 353,000 jobs, double what many expected. It's been resilient for months despite predictions of a recession last year. At the same time, the Federal Reserve indicated it's too soon to start lowering interest rates.

- PBS NewsHour, February 2, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 48 seconds

Rental prices are unaffordable for a record number of Americans with half of all renters paying more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities, according to Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies. Hear how these soaring prices are impacting renters' lives.

- PBS NewsHour, February 8, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 8 minutes, 22 seconds

Federal regulators in recent weeks have signaled concerns about commercial real estate, a financial sector that could spell economic trouble. A combination of decreased demand for office space and high interest rates has put pressure on lease holders and smaller banks in particular.

- PBS NewsHour, February 20, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 8 minutes, 10 seconds

Friday's latest jobs report is proof again of a labor market that has been resilient and often stronger than expected. But according to numerous polls, many Americans don't feel the economy is strong overall or helping them or their families.

- PBS NewsHour, March 8, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 7 minutes, 48 seconds

Unlike other social safety net programs that continue to expand, federal housing assistance has shrunk to its lowest level in nearly 25 years, even as homelessness and rental prices have hit historic highs. Today, only one in four households that are eligible for federal housing assistance actually receive it.

- PBS NewsHour, March 18, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 10 minutes, 6 seconds

President Biden took his case for re-election to the swing state of Nevada, where he's touting new proposals aimed at addressing the high cost of housing. It's a problem that has vexed the administration, even while previously high prices in other sectors are on the decline.

- PBS NewsHour, March 19, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 33 seconds

4. Education

Wisconsin's State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jill Underly considers the state of schools in the 2023-24 academic year, from special education to student test scores and absenteeism to teacher turnover.

- Here & Now, January 5, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 48 seconds

The use of generative AI programs is becoming more commonplace in higher education settings, prompting UW teachers and students to learn how to use the rapidly changing technology safely and ethically.

- Here & Now, January 5, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 4 minutes, 7 seconds

At the elite MIT, a Ghanaian alum follows hour African students striving to become agents of positive change back home. Even as their dreams are anchored in the societies they left, their daily realities are defined by America. Each must refine their ideas about the world and about themselves, and ultimately, how to transform youthful ideals into action as adults.

- POV: Brief Tender Light, January 15, 2024 at 9 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour, 30 minutes

Chronic absenteeism is a problem for school districts and students and the situation has grown significantly worse since the pandemic. Nearly 30 percent of students were chronically absent during the 2021-2022 school year, missing at least 10 percent of school days.

- PBS NewsHour, January 17, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 21 seconds

MMDRC research associate Alyssa Ratlege describes impacts of declining higher education access in rural areas as in-person classes end at Universities of Wisconsin campuses in Marinette and elsewhere.

- Here & Now, February 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 7 minutes, 22 seconds

The debate over diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in colleges and universities has been heating up around the country. The political and actual backlash to past DEI programs has been growing.

- PBS NewsHour, February 15, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 10 minutes, 14 seconds

Valor Collegiate Academy in Nashville encourages students to share what's going on in their lives and to accept support, creating what they call a community of care. We hear from high school teacher Natalie Nikitas and Valor students as they give their Brief But Spectacular take on building trust at school.

- PBS NewsHour, February 19, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 47 seconds

The rhythm of mariachi music is known worldwide and becoming even more so. Music teacher Susana Diaz-Lopez shares her insights on its growth and impact in the Austin area. From cultural connections to musical exploration, her students find their place in and out of school.

- PBS NewsHour, February 28, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 2 minutes, 53 seconds

Early Literacy Curriculum Council member Amy McGovern, a reading specialist for 22 school districts in Northern Wisconsin, describes a new law changing how students in the state are taught to read.

- Here & Now, March 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 35 seconds

The death of an administrator at Lincoln University in Missouri and the resignation of Harvard's former president have sparked outrage, concern and dialogue about the treatment of Black women in higher education.

- PBS NewsHour, March 14, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 8 minutes, 14 seconds

5. Environment

Join scientists on the most ambitious Arctic research expedition of all time. Experts from over 20 nations join the voyage of the massive *Polarstern* icebreaker as it's gripped by the polar ice and drifts for nearly an entire year. From this unique research station, they can make long-term observations and perform experiments in unprecedented detail. Facing hungry polar bears, perilous sea ice cracks and brutal cold, the team strives to understand the forces that are changing the region—and the world—forever.

- NOVA: Arctic Drift, January 3, 2024 at 9 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

Last year was the hottest on record by a long shot. Europe's top climate agency released data showing 2023 global temperatures averaged 1.48 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Record-high temperatures are expected to continue this year.

- PBS NewsHour, January 9, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 30 seconds

Clean Wisconsin program director Chelsea Chandler discusses legislation to expand availability of electric vehicle infrastructure around the state and to permit businesses to provide charging stations.

- Here & Now, January 19, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 32 seconds

The Biden administration is hitting the pause button on new projects involving the export of natural gas. While the United States is currently the largest exporter of natural gas in the world, the White House argues the climate effects of these projects are too great to ignore.

- PBS NewsHour, January 29, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 46 seconds

Historically warm conditions over the winter months reflect a global weather phenomenon that is threatening to extend draught conditions in the state and affect the start of a new growing season.

- Here & Now, February 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 2 minutes, 3 seconds

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in a major environmental case over a rule that requires states to stop their air pollution from drifting over to neighboring states. Three states, led by Ohio, are claiming the rule is too costly and they're asking the court to block the so-called "good neighbor" policy.

- PBS NewsHour, February 21, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 7 minutes, 10 seconds

This exploration of Wisconsin's northern forests, lakes, parks and natural areas takes the viewer to widely cherished locales as well as lesser-known secluded spots. Experience the panoramic compilation of our treasured "Up North" wonders.

- Wisconsin Scenic Treasures: Northwoods, February 27, 2024 at 7 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

This documentary explores more than 2,000 miles of the journey Wisconsin's migratory birds make every year, looking at the perils faced by our migratory birds and how people in Wisconsin and Latin America are working to save them.

- Our Birds, An In Wisconsin Special, February 28, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

Scientist Mária Telkes dedicated her career to harnessing the power of the sun. Though undercut and thwarted by her male colleagues, she persevered to design the first successfully solar-heated house in 1948 and held more than 20 patents.

- American Experience: The Sun Queen, March 12, 2024 at 8 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

The World Meteorological Organization issued a red alert warning Tuesday about warming and climate change, saying 2024 is shaping up to be another record year. One of the many worries about how the planet is changing, thanks in part to human activity, is the record-shattering warming of the world's oceans.

- PBS NewsHour, March 19, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 23 seconds

6. Health

After years of pressure from states, lawmakers and consumer advocates, the Food and Drug Administration gave the go-ahead to allow a state to import drugs from Canada for the first time. Florida will be allowed to import certain medications in the hopes of lowering prices.

- PBS NewsHour, January 5, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 11 seconds

Activists and health advocates are pressing the Biden administration to ban menthol cigarettes ahead of an FDA deadline. Black community leaders and public health advocates marched toward the White House and staged a mock funeral for the 45,000 Black lives lost from tobacco-related illnesses each year. But there's a battle over whether the administration should enact a ban.

- PBS NewsHour, January 18, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 7 minutes, 16 seconds

Chippewa Falls Mayor Greg Hoffman considers how closures of two HSHS hospitals and 19 Prevea Health clinics with accompanying layoffs in west-central Wisconsin will impact patients and communities.

- Here & Now, January 26, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 26 seconds

Wisconsin Environmental Health Network Co-President and retired pediatrician Dr. Beth Neary explains why physicians recommend that all one- and two-year-olds be tested for their blood lead levels.

- Here & Now, January 26, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 26 seconds

The number of Americans getting health insurance through the Affordable Care Act has hit a record high with more than 21 million people signed up through the marketplaces. As it has in the past, the law known as Obamacare is becoming an election issue.

- PBS NewsHour, February 1, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 8 minutes, 18 seconds

Since the launch of 988, the three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, millions have made contact with counselors. But the support and services available after someone calls 988 largely depend on which state one lives in.

- PBS NewsHour, February 15, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 9 minutes, 34 seconds

We've long known about racial and ethnic bias in health care, but now we're getting some first-hand knowledge of how pervasive it is through interviews with health care workers in the largest study of its kind.

- PBS NewsHour, February 22, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 24 seconds

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council CEO Byran BainBridge discusses plans to build an Adolescent Recovery and Wellness Center in Oneida County to help teens struggling with addiction and mental health.

- Here & Now, February 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 17 seconds

The story of how the life-saving cervical cancer test became an ordinary part of women's lives is as unusual and remarkable as the coalition of people who ultimately made it possible. Once the test proved effective, the campaign to make pap smears available to millions of women required nothing short of a total national mobilization.

- American Experience: The Cancer Detectives, March 26, 2024 at 8 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

This series examines how public health makes modern life possible, but it is underfunded, undervalued and misunderstood putting our health at risk. Episode one looks at how public health has doubled our life expectancy but the system is in jeopardy.

- The Invisible Shield: The Old Playbook, March 26, 2024 at 9 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

7. Politics

Democratic Gov. Evers reflects on 2023 accomplishments and looks ahead to 2024 prospects for redistricting, abortion and separation of powers lawsuits and working with Republicans.

- Here & Now, January 5, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 11 minutes, 15 seconds

Republican Party of Wisconsin Chair Brian Schimming and Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair Ben Wikler discuss the 2024 election cycle, including redistricting, RNC in Milwaukee and voter priorities.

- Here & Now, January 5, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 4 minutes, 24 seconds

Secretary of State Antony Blinken is back in Israel for his fourth visit since the war with Hamas began three months ago. It's part of a long, regional tour that has Blinken walking a fine diplomatic line as he tries to keep the conflict from spreading.

- PBS NewsHour, January 9, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 4 minutes, 42 seconds

This episode examines the roots and implications of the unprecedented charges against former President Trump in connection with his efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

- Frontline: Democracy on Trial, January 30, 2024 at 8 p.m.
- Duration: 2 hours, 30 minutes

PBS Wisconsin senior political reporter Zac Schultz discusses a report by consultants hired by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to analyze whether legislative district map proposals meet legal criteria.

- Here & Now, February 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 5 seconds

Marquette Law School Poll Director Charles Franklin describes the positions and enthusiasm of Wisconsin voters polled on the 2024 presidential candidacies of Joe Biden, Donald Trump and Nikki Haley.

- Here & Now, February 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 24 seconds

Rock County Clerk Lisa Tollefson describes the growing number of absentee ballots cast in Wisconsin and why there is support among local election officials for legislation allowing earlier processing.

- Here & Now, February 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 53 seconds

Protect Democracy policy strategist and lawyer Edgar Lin discusses development of generative artificial intelligence and the potential for synthetic video and audio in campaign ads to deceive voters.

- Here & Now, February 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 25 seconds

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that individual states cannot remove former President Donald Trump from their ballots based on the 14th Amendment. In an unsigned opinion, the court said only Congress, not states, can disqualify presidential candidates under the Constitution's so-called "insurrection clause."

- PBS NewsHour, March 4, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes, 21 seconds

PBS Wisconsin senior political reporter Zac Shultz discusses implications of the Wisconsin Supreme Court agreeing to reconsider its decision over the use of absentee ballot drop boxes in elections.

- Here & Now, March 15, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 40 seconds

8. Social Issues

This special explores the complex issue of reparations in the United States using a thoughtful approach to history, historical injustices, systemic inequities and critical dialogue on racial conciliation. Through personal narratives, community inquiries and scholarly insights, it aims to inspire understanding of the scope and rationale of the reparations debate.

- America Reframed: The Cost of Inheritance, January 8, 2024 at 9 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour

Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care Director Carrie Poser describes the growing needs and number of people without shelter as government aid dwindles and lawmakers consider punitive politics.

- Here & Now, January 19, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 22 seconds

Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership and Development founder and CEO Dr. Alex Gee discusses educating Black and white communities about systemic racism and holding people in leadership accountable.

- Here & Now, January 19, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 4 minutes, 28 seconds

The United Nations says 1.7 million of Gaza's 2.2 million residents are currently displaced. Martin Griffiths, the U.N.'s Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, discusses the humanitarian situation in Gaza and other humanitarian crises across the world.

- PBS NewsHour, January 23, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 8 minutes, 31 seconds

White Christian nationalism has been in the headlines quite a lot as of late. Brad Onishi is a former evangelical minister who once identified as a Christian nationalist himself. He left the church in 2005 and began studying religion and extremism. Learn about the concept and its reach in American society and politics.

- PBS NewsHour, February 1, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 7 minutes, 17 seconds

Upwards of a thousand migrants from two countries in Latin America have made their way to a southern Wisconsin college town, drawn by hopes of safety and facing legal limbo in their search for work.

- Here & Now, February 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 5 minutes 43 seconds

Who decides which stories get told? A scrappy group of women and LGBTQ+ journalists buck the white male-dominated status quo, banding together to launch *The 19th*, a digital news startup aiming to combat misinformation. A story of an America in flux and the voices often left out of the narrative, this documentary shows change doesn't come easy.

- Independent Lens: Breaking the News, February 19, 2024 at 9 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour, 30 minutes

The murder of George Floyd thrust Minnesota into the center of the debate over police misconduct. One effort coming out of that painful period hopes to make traffic stops safer.

- PBS NewsHour, February 21, 2024 at 6 p.m.
- Duration: 8 minutes, 9 seconds

State Rep. Shannon Zimmerman, R-River Falls, discusses authoring legislation that would provide consumers with rights related to the privacy of personal information collected and sold by data brokers.

- Here & Now, March 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
- Duration: 6 minutes, 8 seconds

A look at how the Asian American community came together to fight against hate after a shooting.

- Rising Against Asian Hate: One Day in March, March 19, 2024 at 9 p.m.
- Duration: 1 hour