

**WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/**

**WPWX**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
MONTHLY REPORT**

**January 1 – 31, 2024**

**Prepared by: Bridgette Hurt**

**WYCA Program Director**

**Public Affairs Host WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX**

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE COMMUNITY ISSUES ASCERTAINED AND RESPONDED TO BY STATIONS WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX FM) WITH SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMMING TREATMENT OF THESE ISSUES FOR THE PERIOD OF

JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> THROUGH JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2024

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### Local

**HAMMOND:** School City of Hammond teachers voiced their frustration over contract negotiations during Tuesday's school board meeting. The district still hasn't reached an agreement with the Hammond Teachers Federation, nearly two months after the state's deadline.

**HAMMOND:** Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr., has announced that due to the extreme cold expected this week, the City of Hammond has identified several buildings as warming centers, including: the Jean Shepherd Center, Hammond Civic Center, and Hammond Sportsplex.

**LANSING:** Some residents in Lansing and the surrounding area have recently been asking themselves, "What's that smell?" Described by many as a gas-like odor, the smell — which was first noticed last week — has caused some to take to social media to seek answers, while others have contacted Village departments, Nicor, and other entities to share their concerns.

**LANSING:** Mt. Zion UFL Center partners with Illinois Partners In Hope to distribute a variety of donated food once or twice a week. These pop-up pantries are open to anyone, and no ID is required.

**CRETE:** Fire Department is hiring. Work in a community that wholeheartedly backs its first responders.

**CRETE:** Due to inclement weather, trash will be picked up a day early

**GENOA:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) announced the allocation of nearly \$2.4 million in grant funding to eight Illinois communities.

**GENOA:** The Genoa Township Park District in DeKalb County received \$102,800 to acquire a 10-acre parcel of farmland by existing parkland.

## Regional

- The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning wants to merge Metra, Pace and the Chicago Transit Authority into one regional agency as part of an attempt to close a \$730 million budget deficit.
- The Illinois House passed a measure that would let legislative staffers at the state Capitol unionize.
- Lawmakers have things to consider besides legislation. As more migrants continue flowing into Chicago and now the suburbs, the need for state resources might change and the legislature could consider what's called a supplemental budget appropriation.
- Residents of Indiana should know about changes to the state's tax policy that took effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

## National

- After a Botched Execution, Alabama Is Trying an Untested Method
- Man Dies In Hawaii As A Result Of Shark Attack
- President Of Harvard, Claudine Gay, Resigns From Her Position
- House Committee Set To Begin Impeachment Proceedings Against Homeland Secretary
- Ohio Lawmakers Vote To Override Governor's Ban On Gender-Affirming Care For Minors

## International

- Countries in the Asia-Pacific region face a shortfall of at least \$800 billion in climate financing.
  - The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled on Wednesday that Russia had violated global anti-terrorism and anti-racial discrimination treaties, but dismissed most of the charges Kyiv brought against Moscow stemming from its 2014 invasion of Ukraine.
  - On the third anniversary of the military coup in Myanmar, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres voiced grave concern over the deteriorating situation in the country.
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**WYCA/WSRB/WYBR/WPWX – HAMMOND, LANSING, CRETE, GENOA, IL**

**MONTHLY COMMUNITY ISSUES REPORT**

**1st QUARTER 2024 - ISSUES/PROGRAM LIST**

**TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES**

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ISSUE: HEALTH                      1/07/24                      6A.M.                      30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ Bridgette Hurt

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

**Lurie’s Children Hospital Mobile Clinic**

I interviewed, Jacinta Staples DNP, MSN, BSN, BS, RN, Director, Community-Clinic Collaborations at Lurie Children’s Hospital. We discussed their new mobile unit. The mobile unit is a doctor’s office on wheels. They can do physicals, check-ups, immunizations, blood pressure checks for children all on this unit.

ISSUE: COMMUNITY                      1/07/24                      6A.M.                      30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ Bridgette Hurt

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

**S.H.E. INC. SISTERS HELPING EACH OTHER**

I interviewed Joyce Dawkins, founder of an organization dedicated to honoring and empowering women, orchestrates captivating event experiences that have captivated and inspired countless women since its inception in 2016. S.H.E Inc, a nonprofit entity, collaborates with like-minded organizations to assist women in transcending their past and focusing on rebuilding their future. Showcasing the accomplishments of Women, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in the industry. The ultimate goal is to educate, empower, and inspire Minority women to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

ISSUE: CRIME

1/03/24

7A.M.

1 MIN

KIRSTEN HEDRICK

WPWX

### **The 10 Most Dangerous Places To Live In Illinois For 2024**

1. Danville
  2. Calumet Park
  3. Peoria
  4. Springfield
  5. Hazel Crest
  6. Carbondale
  7. Alton
  8. Chicago Heights
  9. Rockford
  10. Chicago
- 

ISSUE: RELIGION

1/5/24

8 A.M.

1

MIN

DEB & NORRIS

WYCA

### **Faith-based giving remains strong despite tough economy, expected to increase in 2024**

**DEB & NORRIS REPORTED...INDIANAPOLIS** — Despite the challenges posed by the tough economic climate, faith-based giving continues to hold strong, with an expected increase in 2024. This finding is based on the 2024 *Giving in Faith* report, a collaboration between Givelify, the leading online and mobile giving platform, and Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, a part of the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. The new report provides insights from a national survey of nearly 1,000 faith leaders and 2,000 people of faith, shedding light on emerging trends at the intersection of faith and giving.

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY/MENTAL HEALTH                      1/14/24                      6A.M.                      30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

**DANCARE SERVICES-TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

I interviewed Dr. Darlene Allen - Nichols, MA, LPC, NCC, PHD. The DAN Care Center offers counseling, educational programs, and consulting services tailored for women, youth, and young adults. Our expertise lies in three key areas: Counseling, Connecting, and Consulting

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY (INDIANAPOLIS)                      1/14/24                      6A.M.                      30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

**CARRINGTON AND FRIENDS FOUNDATION**

I interviewed, Lady Carrington Craig, a 15 year old. Born at only 26 weeks and 3 days gestation, Lady Carrington has beaten all of the odds. Weighing only 1lb and 11ozs at birth, Lady Carrington was blessed to never have any complications, no antibiotics and no surgeries. Lady Carrington started a Foundation & Toy Drive for Riley Hospital North-Carmel, IN. and Coburn

Place (a domestic violence survivor family apartment complex) This drive supports children who cannot spend the holidays at home with their families and children whose families have survived domestic violence.

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ISSUE: INTERNATIONAL/EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE      1/14/24      6 A.M.      30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

### **EDUCATION IN CHINA**

I announced that, **Education in China** is primarily managed by the state-run public education system, which falls under the Ministry of Education. All citizens must attend school for a minimum of nine years, known as nine-year compulsory education, which is funded by the government.

Compulsory education includes six years of elementary school, typically starting at the age of six and finishing at the age of twelve,<sup>[5]</sup> followed by three years of middle school and three years of high school.

### **CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE IN ITALY**

I announced that **Healthcare** in Italy for children is free. Also, children in Italy are exempt from co-payments until age 16.

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ISSUE: NATIONAL NEWS      1/15/24      3 P.M.      1MIN

DEB & NORRIS

WYCA

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service 2024**

The King Center's annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Service at Atlanta's Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. This electrifying 4-hour service was packed with Civil Rights Leaders, and many talented guest.

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ISSUE: EDUCATION                      1/21/24                      6 A.M.                      30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYBR/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

**COLLEGE BOARD**

I interviewed Autumn Caviness, Director, RealTalk, BigFuture, College Board. Students want to pursue opportunities after high school that will lead to a fulfilling career, but their options for “what’s next” are often limited to careers they’ve been exposed to in their family, community, or in school. At a time when 57% of high school graduates are starting in a two-year degree and training program, or joining the workforce directly, rather than enrolling in four-year programs, only 20% of students have heard a lot about non-4-year options.

The best way to help all students find and select the best pathway for them is to allow them to explore all their options in one place. BigFuture allows for easier navigation through all options available to students, including but not limited to four-year degrees. Students can explore careers, plan for college, and pay for college with actionable tools that are personalized to them.

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ECONOMY                      1/21/24                      6 A.M.                      30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYBR/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT



## KAPPA LEAGUE

I interviewed Bryan Hurt and Daniel Few. Kappa League is a subset of the Guide Right, our National Service Initiative. Under the chairmanship of Mel Davis, the Los Angeles Alumni Chapter's Social Action Program took the form of training activity for young men of the Alain Leroy Locke High School. Called the Kappa Instructional Leadership League, it was designed to help young men grow, receive, and develop their leadership talents in every phase of human endeavor. It provided both challenging and rewarding experiences, which richly enhanced their lives. Membership was open to male students from the tenth through the twelfth grades. The fraternity sought to help these young men to achieve worthy goals for themselves and make constructive contributions to their community when leadership roles become the responsibility.

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ISSUE: CRIME

1/22/24

7 A.M.

1 MIN

KIRSTEN HEDRICK

WPWX

### **United States Judge Rules That Ban on Guns in Post Offices Is Unconstitutional**

A federal judge in Florida has ruled that the United States law that bars people from possessing firearms in post offices is unconstitutional. Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle concluded and dismissed part of an indictment charging a postal worker with illegally possessing a gun in a federal facility.

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1st QUARTER 2024 - WEEK 3    PREPARED BY Bridgette Hurt– Public Affairs host for WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX)

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ISSUE: MENTAL HEALTH

1/28/24

6 A.M.

30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

### **A Pediatric Psychologist's Guide to Positive Social Media Habits in 2024**

Dr. Ann-Louise Lockhart, Board Certified Pediatric Psychologist. She shares the numerous features that are available to support teens and families. She can discuss how parents and teens can establish positive social media habits together as well as share best practices for teens to manage their time online in a supportive environment.

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ISSUE: HEALTH

1/28/24

6 A.M.

30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

### **PROTECTION FROM COLD, FLU AND COVID SUGGESTIONS**

I interviewed, Licensed Nurse, Tanya Davis. The interview covered...What are the most common symptoms of Covid? Fever, cough, shortness of breath. Who is at risk? We spoke on ages and stages. Where to get tested? And Clinics or at home tests. What to do if you test positive? Isolation and Over the Counter meds. How do we protect ourselves? Frequent hand hygiene including soap and water, as well as 60 % alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

RSV is respiratory virus presenting with cold symptoms but can be more severe in children and elderly or individuals with compromised immune systems.

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ISSUE: CRIME

1/29/2024

2 P.M.

1 MIN

WYCA

Norris Thompson

### **One of The Most Dangerous Places To Live In Illinois For 2024**

Norris announced that, Hazel Crest ranked as the fifth most dangerous place to live in Illinois. With a 731/100k rate of violent crime and a 3,424/100k rate of property crime, residents face significant risks.

Located in Cook County, Hazel Crest's challenges with crime are manageable. The village's strategic position in the state near major transportation hubs like Interstate 80 and the Tri-State Tollway could be leveraged for economic growth, which may aid in reducing crime rates over time.

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1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2024 - WEEK 4

PREPARED BY Bridgette Hurt– Public Affairs host for WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX

**WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/**

**WPWX**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
MONTHLY REPORT**

**February 1 – 29, 2024**

**Prepared by: Bridgette Hurt  
WYCA Program Director**

**Public Affairs Host WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX**

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**Local**

**HAMMOND:** Two elementary schools in Hammond, Indiana, could close their doors as the School City of Hammond school board said officials are looking to fix a \$15 million to \$30 million shortfall.

**HAMMOND:** Man Driving Stolen U-Haul and Fleeing Cops Dies After Crashing Into River

**LANSING:** Police investigating shooting outside south suburban amusement center

**LANSING:** This chart breaks down the different types of calls received by LPD from February 26 – March 10, 2024 for a total of 2181 calls.

**CRETE:** Neal Haemker and Kyle Haemker were sworn in as Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief, respectively, at the Village board meeting on Monday night.

**CRETE:** A domestic dispute in Crete Township escalated to violence early Tuesday morning, February 27, 2024, when a man was shot in the stomach by his girlfriend.

**GENOA:** A new Taco Bell is being built in Genoa IL

**GENOA:** Two EF-0 tornadoes touched down in DeKalb County during Tuesday's severe weather, the National Weather Service reported Wednesday.

**Regional**

- INVESTMENT TOWN HALL MEETINGS-DOLLAR AND SENSE INITIATIVES-ILLINOIS

- **ROD BLAGOJEVICH, FREED BY TRUMP COMMUTATION LEAVES COLORADO PRISON AND RETURNS TO ILLINOIS**
- **INDIANA CENTURY OLD AMUSEMENT PARK CLOSES, WITH MOVING RIDES TO OTHER PARKS**

## National

- **Arkansas' February jobless rate rises year-over-year to 3.6%**
- **Rental prices were down 2.5% in Los Angeles County in February 2024 versus the same month a year before, according to data from Apartment List.**
- **Officials warned of potential mudslides, debris flows and flooding this week as yet another storm hit a region already waterlogged by weeks of heavy rain.**
- **The South Carolina Department of Public Safety announces a preliminary number of 10 people killed on South Carolina roadways during the weekend beginning Friday, February 23**
- **In the most recent lawsuit against Combs, filed on 26 February 2024 in New York, producer Rodney "Lil Rod" Jones, alleged he was "subjected to unwanted advances by associates of Diddy at his direction" and that he was forced to engage in relations with the sex workers Combs had hired.**

## International

- **US-International Air Travel Up 17.1% in February 2024**
  - **At least one in eight people on Earth are living with obesity, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday, citing a newly released global medical study.**
  - **NAIROBI, Feb 29 (IPS) - Deborah Adhiambo (43) has been battling mild asthma since 2022, a condition she describes as "both a health and economic burden." The mother of three lives within Dandora Estate, nine miles east of Kenya's capital, Nairobi. Dandora is home to Kenya's largest open landfill, which receives more than 2,000 metric tonnes of waste daily.**
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ISSUE: COMMUNITY/EDUCATION (ILLINOIS) 2/04/24

6A.M.

30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYBR/WYCA

**NELLIE’S FOUNDATION & CUPBOARD**

I interviewed, Carla Prather. One of the providers at Nellie’s Cupboard (Food Pantry) in Glenwood, IL. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to food security across the U.S. Access to healthy food options and nutrition are important to overall physical and mental health and well-being. We are honored to provide food at no cost to our community. Meats, fruit, milk, eggs, bread, veggies and much more. Tell a friend and join us as we help to feed families in need.

The Foundation side...Nellie Prather Foundation mentoring programs reach out to at-risk kids, helping them develop positive decision-making skills to combat delinquent behavior and make better choices. Nellie Prather foundation mentoring program connects each youth with an older mentor, someone able to provide advice, while sharing positive experience with the youth. While these programs cannot take the place of a missing parent, the positive influence of a caring mentor can make a difference in a kid’s life.

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY (CALIFORNIA) 2/04/24

6A.M.

30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

### **REID FOUNDATION FOR LUPUS**

I interviewed, Bryant Reid, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Reid Foundation for Lupus and a 30+ year entertainment industry executive. He serves as Senior Vice President of A&R at both LaFace and Atlantic Records and I'm credited with finding the Super Bowl Halftime Performer Usher and the foundation for lupus.

As part of our effort to raise funds and awareness for our cause, we embarked on a collaborative effort to compose and release a powerful and beautiful song called "Champion."

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ISSUE: HEALTH 2/04/24

6A.M.

30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

### **WISH OF A LIFETIME HEARING HEALTH**

I interviewed, Monica Murray, a doctor of audiology with United Health Care and nationally recognized hearing expert. About 48 million adults experience some degree of hearing loss. Researchers say half of people between 12-35 are at risk of hearing loss due in part to exposure to loud sounds, including music pumped through personal audio devices. Hearing loss is already a problem among older people, with the condition now experienced by one-third of Americans between 64-75.

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### **FREE BILINGUAL POETRY WORKSHOP**

I shared information about a free bilingual poetry workshop in the city of Chicago at the Brighten Park Branch Library. They provided free poetry programming on the southwest side. They discussed source materials, respond to timed prompts and shared work.

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ISSUE: CRIME 2/07/24

3 P.M.

1 MIN

DEBRA RHODES PETTIGREW

WYCA

**Shootings, Homicides in Chicago Both Down at Least 25% to Start 2024, According to Police**  
Deb reported, according to the Chicago Police Department, there were 31 homicides recorded through the first month of 2024. That's the lowest total for any January since 2019 (23 homicides) and the third-fewest for any such month since 2015.

The homicide total is down 26% compared to the same month last year, while the number of shootings (124 recorded in January 2024) and shooting victims (136), are down 25% and 27% respectively over that same time.

1st QUARTER - WEEK 5

PREPARED BY Bridgette Hurt– Public Affairs host for WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX)

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ISSUE: NATIONAL NEWS/BUSINESS/LEGAL

2/11/24

6A.M.

30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

**TAX ALERT 2024**



I spoke about potentially higher taxes and inflation. If you are like most retirees, you have built up your savings in plans like IRA's, 401 (k)s, 403 (b)s, and TSP plans not knowing that these could be potential ticking tax time bombs waiting to go off. 2024 taxes...how rising national debt could significantly impact your tax burden in retirement.

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ISSUE: NATIONAL/COMMUNITY      2/11/24      6A.M.      30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

**FOSTER CARE CRISIS: URGENT NEED FOR SUPPORTIVE WORKPLACES TO EMPOWER POTENTIAL FOSTER PARENTS**

I INTERVIEWED Jennifer Perry, FosterMore Co-Founder and Children's Action Network Executive Director AND Kristen Pratt, FosterMore Leadership Team. Every day, there are approximately 400,000 children in the United States navigating life within the foster care system – that's more than the population of Tampa. This staggering number reflects a growing crisis: the scarcity of loving and nurturing foster homes in communities across the country. These communities – in every corner of the U.S. – are struggling to find loving and capable foster homes for vulnerable children.

FosterMore's research has uncovered a significant barrier preventing many well-intentioned individuals and families from stepping forward to become foster parents – they are afraid their employer would not support them with necessary time-off or similar benefits offered to other new parents. This fear stops so many potential foster parents from taking this crucial step.

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY      2/11/24      6 A.M.      30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

**LAWNDALE COMMUNITY**

Whittney Smith is the Deputy Director and Counsel for Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC) an organization working to revitalize and develop affordable housing in North Lawndale. Whittney oversees a million-dollar revolving fund that supports the effort to redevelop vacant property and increase the rates of homeownership in North Lawndale. She is also leading an economic development initiative to increase small business ownership through cooperative ownership in North Lawndale.

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2/12/24 3 P.M.

1MIN

WYCA

DEBRA RHODES PETTIGREW

**HOMEOWNERSHIP MIXER**

Deb announced a free community homebuying mixer. Which gives free information on down payment assistance and grants offered to first-time homebuyers. This informational seminar took place in South Holland IL.

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ISSUE: EDUCATION

2/13/24

7A.M.

1 MIN

KIRSTEN HEDRICK

WPWX

**PAY INCREASES**

In Illinois, the minimum wage will increase to \$14 an hour for non-tipped workers, \$8.40 an hour for tipped workers and \$12 an hour for youths under 18 working less than 650 hours per calendar year.

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1st QUARTER 2024 - WEEK 6 PREPARED BY BRIDGETTE HURT– Public Affairs host for WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX)

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**WYCA/WSRB/WYBR/WPWX – HAMMOND, LANSING, CRETE, GENOA, IL**

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*WITH SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMMING TREATMENT OF THOSE ISSUES FOR THE PERIOD OF (FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>.) THROUGH (FEBRUARY 29TH) (2024)*

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ISSUE: EDUCATION/COMMUNITY                      2/18/24                      6 A.M.                      30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYBR/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

**FREE MUSICAL PRESENTATION TO CPS SCHOOLS**

I interviewed Markeyta Sconiers about the Mandala Arts & Riyaz Qawwali & Gospel presentation being offered free to CPS schools. It's an infusion of two styles of music and creating peaceful relationships among different cultures.

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY/EDUCATION                      2/18/24                      6 A.M.                      30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYBR/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

**COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS**

I interviewed Dominique Robinson, founder and CEO of Pretty Me Inc. Mentoring Program, a 501c3 nonprofit organization serving ladies ages 12-22. Our motto is E3 Elevating Mental Health, Empowering Youth, and Educating Families. Pretty Me Inc.'s Inaugural E3 Conference Creates an Empowering Platform and Resources for Moms and teen girls.

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ISSUE: POLITICAL

2/18/20

6 A.M.

30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

### **Political Roundup 2024**

House Speaker Mike Johnson has signaled a strong opposition to a \$95 billion aid package approved by the Senate, aimed at supporting Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. Despite the package receiving substantial bipartisan support in the Senate, Johnson criticized it for not addressing border security concerns, indicating a significant hurdle for its passage in the House.

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ISSUE: ECONOMY/REGIONAL

2/20/24

3 P.M.

1

MIN

WYCA

Norris Thompson

### **ILLINOIS BUDGET**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. -- Gov. JB Pritzker will give his sixth state budget address this week, laying out his plan for a fiscal year that government forecasters in November predicted is on pace for a near-\$900 million deficit unless corrective action is taken.

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1st QUARTER 2024 - WEEK 7 PREPARED BY Bridgette Hurt-- Public Affairs host for WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX)

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<u>ISSUE: EDUCATION/FINANCE/TRAVEL</u>	2/25/24	6 A.M.	30 MIN
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WYCA/WSRB/WYBR/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

**MALCOLM X COLLEGE TRAVELS TO AFRICA ON GRANT FUNDS**

I interviewed David A. Sanders, Doctoral Candidate and President of Malcolm X College in Chicago, IL. He was also lead executive project manager for the \$251 million Malcolm X College and School of Health Science and Career Programs. He was successful in securing a grant that allowed Malcolm X College to take students to Africa on an educational trip. Young men must participate in the mentoring program to be eligible to go on the trip. Renovations are taking place at Malcolm X. There is a food pantry at the college, as well. There are many programs available for people to attend college for free!!

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ISSUE: CRIME 2/25/24

3 P.M.

1 MIN

Debra Rhodes Pettigrew

WYCA

### **Chicago Crime**

One thing Chicagoans can't help but notice when scrolling through news feeds: the number of violent crimes committed by defendants while they were out either on parole, probation or awaiting trial. That's not surprising given the long-term decarcerating trend in Cook County that's left the county's jail population at the lowest level in 40 years. Cook County Chief Judge Tim Evans started a no bail/low cash bail policy in 2017, resulting in a growing number of pretrial defendants out on bond who are then charged with new crimes, as we reported here. The state's new SAFE-T Act has taken that policy even further. In September 2023, Illinois became the first state in the country to eliminate cash bail altogether, while the law also reduced the types of crimes for which defendants could be detained before their trial.

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### **INDIANA STEEL WHEELS**

I announced that Hobart Indiana will host Steel Wheel Indoor BMX for FREE. It's a family outing for beginner bikers only. Ages 4-15 yrs., and moms & dads. This event is supervised by a league coach. Bikers must wear helmets.

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1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2024 - WEEK 8 PREPARED BY Bridgette Hurt– Public Affairs host for WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX

**WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/**

**WPWX**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
MONTHLY REPORT**

**March 1 – 31, 2024**

**Prepared by: Bridgette Hurt  
WYCA Program Director**

**Public Affairs Host WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX**

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MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> THROUGH MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2024

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### Local

**HAMMOND:** During an altercation, a male individual suffered a fatal stab wound to the chest with the victim being pronounced dead at the scene, according Hammond police Lt. Steven Kellogg.

**HAMMOND:** Mayor Thomas M. McDermott, Jr announced an agreement with ShotSpotter, a leading gunshot detection technology provider, to install ShotSpotter in the City of Hammond.

**LANSING:** Village administrators recently conducted a free educational session at the Lansing Public Library so business owners could learn more about how local government functions and how it directly affects their businesses.

**LANSING:** A 24-year-old man was arrested and charged with the death of his 2-month-old daughter in south suburban Lansing this week.

**CRETE:** Monee Elementary enacted the Hold-in-Place and Teach protocol due to a medical emergency involving a student. Paramedics were called to the school.

**CRETE:** Law enforcement teams from Crete and Monee were among the hundreds of participants to take a dip in the icy waters of Lake Manteno for Polar Plunge 2024.

**GENOA:** Police are on the scene after a male suspect went on a mass stabbing spree, injuring numerous people and resulting in multiple fatalities.

**GENOA:** Genoa-Kingston School District 424 will hold open registration for families to enroll their children in Kingston Elementary School classes.

### Regional

- **SPRINGFIELD** – Illinois continues to suffer from a shortage of teachers and other education professionals, although recent efforts by the state to ease the strain have made an impact.



- **Chicago Park District Workers Vote to Authorize Strike as Their Union Calls on Johnson to Intervene in Negotiations**

### National

- **Baltimore bridge collapse victims' family members reflect on their loved ones' lives**
- **Hot air balloon crashes into power lines in Minnesota, sparking a brush fire**
- **Texas man boards Delta flight using photo of another passenger's ticket**
- **California pastor attempted to have daughter's boyfriend killed, police say**
- **The Los Angeles and Miami properties of Sean "Diddy" Combs were raided by the HSI as a part of an ongoing reported sex trafficking investigation.**

### INTERNATIONAL

- **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told a group of US members of Congress that "victory" in Gaza and "getting" Hamas' senior leadership in the enclave are just "a few weeks away."**
- **A Nigerian woman who wrote an online review of a can of tomato puree is facing imprisonment after its manufacturer accused her of making a "malicious allegation" that damaged its business.**
- **Chinese workers killed in suicide bomb blast as Pakistan grapples with attacks on Beijing's interests**

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY/EDUCATION      3/03/24                      6A.M.                      30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

**America's Big Sisters Foundation**

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I interviewed, Tragil Wade Johnson, founder of America's Big Sisters. A Foundation that seeks to empower, encourage, educate, +enlighten young women to become independent, self-sufficient, goal-oriented, positive, individuals who can excel in society by breaking cycles of lack using three empowering programs. (*program 1 She Matters, program 2 ALL Girls Matter, program 3 I Matter*)

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ISSUE: CRIME/LEGAL                                      3/10/24                                      6A.M.                                      30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

**CYBERATTACKS: A GLOBAL IDENTITY CRISIS**

I interviewed Michelle Alvarez, Strategic Threat Analysis Manager, IBM X-Force. A global identity crisis is emerging with a 71% spike in cyberattacks and billions of compromised credentials accessible on the Dark Web. In 2023, cybercriminals saw more opportunities to log in vs. hack into businesses, leveraging users' valid accounts unbeknownst to them. This was one the most popular "ways in" for cybercriminals last year.

There was a 266% rise in info-stealer malware designed to specifically steal credentials for user access to emails, bank accounts, crypto wallets and more. Gaining access to user accounts will become increasingly easier for cybercriminals as they begin to leverage AI for their malicious objectives. Just last year there were over 800,000 posts on the Dark Web focusing on AI and GPT, reaffirming cybercriminals' interest in these technologies.

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY/HEALTH

3/17/24

6 A.M.

30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

### **GRACE CENTRAL OUTREACH**

I interviewed Deborah Brooks, leading lady of Grace Central Outreach. Grace Outreach services 8 communities at their pantry. Maywood, Bellwood, Berkley, Broadview, Northlake, Westchester, Stone Park and Hillside. They are giving away Easter family meals. They are open weekly to serve these awesome communities. They have been open for over 8 years...and growing strong!

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### **Diversity Key to Research to Advance Brain Health**

I interviewed Tish Hevel, CEO, The Brain Donor Project and Patroski Lawson, Founder, Black Men in BioTech. We are headed toward a crisis in brain health if the answers don't start coming faster. Right now, one in five Americans struggle with a devastating neurological condition: Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease or serious mental illness. Combine that with the fact that people are now living longer than ever and the chances of being diagnosed with a brain disorder increase as we age, and clearly something needs to happen.

That something is brain donation for neuroscience research – particularly by communities of color. The speed at which research focused on unraveling the complexities of neurological, neurodevelopmental, and neuropsychiatric disorders can advance depends upon the availability of donated brain tissue. Yet, relative to donations of other organs for transplantation and research, brain donation is severely lagging.

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ISSUE: HEALTH

3/24/24

6 A.M.

30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

### **Dr. Abdullah Pratt**

I interviewed Dr. Abdulla Pratt. He is an ER doctor at UChicago Medicine. They provide Level 1 adult trauma care in 2018, nearly 30 years after discontinuing the program. The academic

medical center has offered Level 1 pediatric trauma care since 1990. The institution is home to the South Side of Chicago's only Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center and the University of Chicago Medicine Aeromedical Network (UCAN), which provides helicopter transportation from the scene of an emergency to our Hyde Park campus or between hospitals within a 200-mile radius.

Dr. Pratt is the founder of MedCeep. Their mission is to address the problems of poor healthcare, low health literacy, violence, lack of access to quality healthcare providers, and systemic injustices that have plagued our communities for generations. We focus on empowering underrepresented minority youth to become trained in recognizing and responding to the most prevalent life-threatening emergency scenarios while being exposed to health-related careers, in hopes of increasing representation in the field of medicine. We aim to sustainably combat pervasive health care disparities that more commonly impact the underserved communities we work with.

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ISSUE: CRIME

3/20/24

8 A.M.

1

MIN

Debra Rhodes Pettigrew

WYCA

**UIC Campus Attack**

A Venezuelan migrant was denied pre-trial release after allegedly following a woman off a train and sexually assaulting her earlier this month on the UIC campus.

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1st QUARTER - WEEK 9

PREPARED BY Bridgette Hurt– Public Affairs host for WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX)

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ISSUE: NATIONAL NEWS/COMMUNITY

3/31/24

6A.M.

30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

### **CAR INSURANCE PREMIUMS ON THE RISE**

I interviewed David A. Sampson, president, and CEO of the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA). It's no surprise to drivers around the country, auto insurance premiums are on the rise. Many drivers are facing double digit increases and as inflation slows down many drivers wonder why their rates have increased.

The answer is for the simple reason that the cost of the things that auto insurance pays for has been rising faster than premiums. This is exacerbated by inflation trends, legal system abuse, and in some states, regulatory uncertainty.

In just the last year, auto claim losses and expenses spiked to more than \$1.12 for every \$1 in premium. U.S. personal auto loss ratios, which compares losses -- excluding expenses the insurer incurs to operate -- to premiums, spiked to 85 percent in the fourth quarter of 2022, reaching the highest quarterly loss ratio in more than 20 years.

Some of the key contributors to rising costs include insurance claims inflation, which has continued to rise faster than the underlying consumer price index (CPI).

Dangerous driving behaviors are also having an impact on costs. As daily driving patterns and traffic volumes rebound from pandemic lows, traffic fatalities remain alarmingly high.

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ISSUE: NATIONAL NEWS/COMMUNITY

3/31/24

6A.M.

30 MIN

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

WPWX/WSRB/WYRB/WYCA

### **47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FIRST LADY'S COMMEMORATIVE EGG TRADITION**

I interviewed Emily Metz; President and CEO of the American Egg Board (AEB). Every spring, eggs are at the center of our cherished celebrations and memories. They make Easter and Passover traditions extra special and are an invaluable part of the season's festivities and staple foods. Continuing a nearly-five-decade tradition, America's egg farmers are presenting Dr. Jill Biden with the 47th First Lady's Commemorative Egg at the White House Easter "EGGucation" Roll on Monday, April 1.

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ISSUE: COMMUNITY

3/31/24

6 A.M.

30 MIN

WYCA/WSRB/WYRB/WPWX

REAL TALK W/ BRIDGETTE HURT

### **FREE EASTER EVENTS**

I announced free Easter Sunday events taking place around the City of Chicago and surrounding suburbs.

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ISSUE: ACCIDENTS/NATIONAL NEWS

3/27/24 3 P.M.

1MIN

WYCA

DEBRA PHODES PETTIGREW

### **Alarms and Order to Drop Anchor Recorded Before Ship Hit Bridge**

Investigators were reviewing the vessel's data recorder for clues about what went wrong. Two bodies were recovered from the water on Wednesday, with four construction workers still missing.

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