

CBS RADIO INC.

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT

FOR

WWJ NEWSRADIO 950

FOURTH QUARTER 2013

October 1st through December 31st, 2013

WWJ NEWSRADIO 950
ISSUES OF CONCERNS TO METRO DETROITERS
ADDRESSED IN RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING IN THE
FOURTH QUARTER 2013
October 1st – December 31st, 2013

1. **Public Safety/Law Enforcement**

Crime. Police staffing and training. Private security firms. Initiatives against crime. Courts. Prison facilities.

2. **Education**

Public schools and school reform. Private education. Colleges and University enrollment and development. Technology in the classroom. Job training. Continuing education for adults. School safety.

3. **Environment/Energy**

Land Use. Pollution. Preserving open space and recreational areas. Status of the Great Lakes. Alternative Energy sources. Energy efficiency. Sustainability.

4. **Health and Medicine**

Personal health and fitness. Child health. Medical facilities. Insurance, affordability and access issues. Costs of prescription drugs. Development and adoption of new life-saving techniques. Victim support. Alcohol and substance abuse.

5. **Leadership/Politics/Elections**

Political leadership. Corporate leadership. Corporate citizenship. Energizing voters. Public participation in the electoral process. Local government. Effective government. Developing future leaders.

6. **Homeland Security**

Emergency preparedness. Security measures. Protection against terrorist attack. Border security. Foreign nationals. Immigration. Government funding.

7. **Labor/Workforce**

Union negotiations. Corporate and labor relations. Worker training. Layoffs. Worker preparation. Jobs and job creation. Worker benefits. Retirees.

8. **Race Relations**

Racism. Civil Rights. Discrimination. Equal access. Racial profiling. Neighborhood segregation.

9. **Regional Revitalization**

Taxes, infrastructure, support for business start-ups and company attraction. Sports facilities. Affordable housing. Commercial development. Attracting people downtown. Economic climate.

10. **Transportation/Logistics**

Road construction. Traffic. Airport development. Light rail. Mass transit. New technologies for cars.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS
WWJ NEWSRADIO 950
PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS COMMUNITY ISSUES

Made in Michigan

Airs Wednesdays at 9:52am, 2:52pm, 8:52pm and Saturday at 4:52am, 9:52am, and 4:53pm. One minute in length. Marie Osborne profiles companies who make products people can buy while trying to emphasize the jobs and business success each company has. (See topics attached)

Difference Maker in the Community

Airing the last Monday of each month, WWJ profiles someone in the community who has made a difference to benefit others. These people have inspired positive change and made an impact in the community. Feature airs at 6:40am, 8:40am, 10:40am, 12:40pm, and 3:40pm. (See topics attached)

What's Hot around Town?

Airs Thursday and Friday at 10:23am, 2:23pm, 4:53pm, 7:53pm, 10:43pm and Saturday at 8:23am, 10:23am, 12:23pm, 3:23pm. One minute in length. Roberta Jasina highlights a fun or unique event taking place in Southeast Michigan, with a special focus on Arts and Cultural Organizations.

Making the Grade

Airs Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:53am, 2:53pm, 8:53pm and Sunday at 9:52am, 1:52pm, 4:52pm, 10:21pm. One minute in length. Greg Bowman highlights innovations, achievements and interesting stories from the classroom, featuring students, teachers and administrators. (See topics attached)

Automotive Insight

Airs Monday-Friday at 5:53am, 6:53am, 7:53am, and 11:53am. One minute in length. John McElroy provides two unique insights daily into the business of making cars, and designing the cars of the future.

Car Chronicles

Airs Monday-Friday at 12:53pm, 3:53pm, 5:53pm, and 6:53pm. One minute in length. Jeff Gilbert highlights people and lesser-known stories from the automotive business, as well as critiquing new products as they come out from the manufacturers. (See topics attached)

The Feldman Report

Airs Monday-Friday 8:53am, 10:53am, 3:23pm, 6:23pm, and 9:53pm. Each report runs one minute. Murray Feldman provides insights for small business, discusses the general business climate, and highlights business leaders. He also provides advice for consumers.

Staying in Touch

Airs Saturday at 6:23am, 9:43am, 11:23am, 12:53pm, and 9:53pm. One minute in length. Ron Dewey highlights special events going on in the Southeast Michigan region. (See topics attached)

Caregivers Resource Guide

Airs Monday and Fridays at 9:52am, 2:52pm, 8:51pm. One minute in length. Pat Sweeting reports on issues about preparing or answering the need of a parent facing a health concern, undergoing changes in their economic situation, or who are dealing with a prolonged illness or death. (See topics attached)

News Stories Addressing Community Issues

PUBLIC SAFETY/LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

10/1/13

11:32am

Russ McNamara reporting

Bank Robber on the Loose

A daring daytime bank robbery has police on the hunt in Oakland County. Two men - one with a handgun - stormed into the Oxford Bank on Ortonville Road and demanded money. They fled on foot with an unknown amount of cash. The Sheriff's department will be going over surveillance video for clues. The F-B-I has been called in to assist in the investigation.

10/1/13

3:05pm

Jon Hewett reporting

Prosecutor to Endorse Sheriff in Election

Benny Napoleon's bid to become Detroit's next mayor gets a boost from Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy. Worthy joined other law enforcement leaders -- representing thousands of police officers and sheriff's deputies -- at a news conference today to announce their endorsement of Napoleon's candidacy.

10/2/13

6:06am

Scott Ryan reporting

Sheriff Warns of Early Releases for Jail Inmates

Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon says budget belt-tightening means that when overtime money is used up, county jails will be understaffed. The lack of staffing would go against a court order requiring minimum staffing levels--and possibly force the Wayne County Commission to fund any overtime deficits. Napoleon says county jails have about 23-hundred inmates--about 500 more than what they're budgeted for. If the issue can't be resolved, some inmates could be released early.

10/2/13

6:03pm

Stephanie Davis reporting

Police Chief Re-thinks Raid near School

Detroit Police Chief James Craig says a drug raid near an elementary school yesterday should not have happened. Students at Pasteur Elementary were outside on the playground when officers executed a search warrant at a house across the street. Shots were fired at a pair of pit bull dogs and no one was hurt.

10/3/13

11:33am

Laura Bonnell reporting

Van Filled with Drugs Stolen

Royal Oak police need the public's help to find the men who stole a van full of prescription drugs. A van full of \$20,000 in prescription drugs was stolen from in front of the Meijer on Coolidge north of 14 mile road. Royal Oak police Lt. David Clemens says it happened last week...the delivery driver, following company protocol left \$30,000 in payroll checks and the drugs unlocked when he went into a Meijer store to make a delivery to the pharmacy.

10/4/13

6:04am

Ron Dewey reporting

Local Police Worry about Budget Shutdown

Roads, campgrounds and tourist centers at popular national parks are closed because of the partial government shutdown, but the tourists, who planned their trips in advance, have still been coming, only to find their vacation plans scrubbed by politics. Around Metro Detroit, city halls and local police and fire departments are hoping more than anyone for a quick end to the shutdown in Washington. Royal Oak firefighter Cary Thompson--who doubles as a grant writer for area departments-- says FEMA informed them they cannot process any more grant requests while they are on furlough.

10/4/13

6:41am

Mike Campbell reporting

Local Business Owner Ready for Burglars

Detroit police Chief James Craig is issuing a "Call to Action" this weekend--urging residents to take back their streets in an effort to fight crime. But one business owner isn't waiting for a formal announcement--he's already gone into vigilante mode by arming himself inside his store.

10/5/13

12:04pm

Beth Fisher

Police Chief Issues Call to Action

Detroit's new police chief, James Craig, held his first community event "Call to Action", to get residents involved with making the city safer. He wants to see a change in "no snitching" by some residents. Belinda Lee, of Northwest Detroit, liked the ideas she heard from the chief. Craig encouraged residents to join neighborhood watch groups, Detroit 300 and other groups.

10/23/13

10:03pm

Stephanie Davis reporting

Police Investigate EMU Student's Murder

Ypsilanti police investigating the shooting death of Eastern Michigan University football player Demarius Reed say they continue to follow several solid leads -- but are once again appealing to the public for help. Reed was found shot multiple times early Friday morning in what police say may have been a robbery.

10/28/13

10:30am

Newsroom

Teen Missing In Plymouth Township

Plymouth Township police say they're looking for a missing teen that could be in danger. 15-year old Emily Lalinsky was last seen Sunday in Northville Township with 37-year old Robert Messer. They left behind notes expressing their love for each other. Investigators don't think they have any money or cell phones with them. The couple was last seen in a two-tone brown 1991 pickup truck.

10/31/13

2:33pm

Mike Campbell reporting

Angels Night Patrols in Detroit

Tonight is the last night for the Angel's Night patrols in Detroit. Detroit firefighters were on the scene of some fires this morning. WWJ's Mike Campbell spoke with Detroit Fire Captain Mark Kossarek about stretching fire hoses a couple of blocks at an abandoned house fire at Racine and Nashville. Kossarek says they were busy on the overnight shift and he's hoping for a quieter day and night today

11/1/13

12:04am

Stephanie Davis reporting

Angels Night Patrols Successful This Year

Thousands of volunteers, equipped with two-way radios, flashlights, and rain coats braved the wind and rain last night, in an effort to prevent arson fires in the city. Detroit officials won't release official fire numbers until Friday, but crews battled several fires all across the city. The mayor says the effort appears to be another success.

11/4/13

11:32am

Beth Fisher reporting

Man Charged with Abusing Child

A Mount Clemens man will be arraigned this afternoon for allegedly abusing his baby daughter...leaving her with serious injuries. Macomb County Sheriff Tony Wickersham says 29-year-old Lance Finner has been charged with first degree child abuse after child protective services called them about the three week old being in the hospital with 18 broken bones.

11/5/13

5:13pm

Brian Larsen reporting

Warren Cops Move to 12 Hour Shifts

It was tried in the city of Detroit. Now, Warren police are working 12-hour shifts instead of the traditional eight-hour ones. The change is part of the current three-year union contract that took effect over the summer. Officers will work two or three consecutive days, followed by two days off. Both sides will review the new shifts next year to see if they want to continue it.

11/7/13

7:03am

Mike Campbell reporting

Ten Shot at Barbershop

Police say they're not sure if a Detroit barbershop's reputation for gambling had anything to do with a shooting at a barbershop on the east side. When the gunfire stopped -- two people were dead and 8 injured. This morning -- we're being told that one of those victims has died.

11/15/13

12:06pm

Chrystal Knight reporting

Detroit Police Crackdown on Crime in Apartment Complex

Detroit Police Chief James Craig is escorting his officers on a major police raid on the city's east-side. Police say a cluster of apartment buildings near Jefferson and Cadillac streets is one of the most problematic areas in the whole city. Chief Craig says the raid drew strong support from residents.

11/15/13

12:31pm

Marie Osborne reporting

Murder Charges Filed Against Homeowner

Wayne County prosecutor Kym Worthy charged a Dearborn Heights homeowner with second-degree murder and manslaughter in the death of 19-year-old Renisha McBride, who was shot in the face on his porch. 54-year-old Theodore Wafer was also charged with possession of a firearm.... and will be arraigned at 2pm this afternoon in Dearborn Heights.

11/17/13

5:05pm

Zahra Huber reporting

Cops Accused of Harassing African Americans

A big controversy in Grosse Pointe Park, after some city police officers are accused of harassing African Americans. The Grosse Pointe Park police department opened an investigation following a blogger post showing photos and videos of the officers. Adolph Mongo, a Detroit political consultant, says he is shocked. We have calls into the Grosse Pointe Police department for comment.

11/27/13

6:03pm

Stephanie Davis reporting

Cops Disciplined in Harassment Case

After an investigation -- several Grosse Pointe Park police officers will be disciplined for their role in the making of a video showing an officer humiliating a mentally-challenged African American man.

12/1/13

6:05pm

Stephanie Davis reporting

Police Officers to Undergo Sensitivity Training.

The entire Grosse Pointe Park Police Department is expected undergo cultural sensitivity training soon---this in response to a group of officers who recorded and circulated a video tape making fun of a mentally challenged African-American man. Five officers are facing up to 60-days suspension without pay as a consequence. The department upholds its position that it does not discriminate against black people.

12/1/13

8:07pm

Brooke Allen reporting

Teens Admit To Texting and Driving

According to a national study by Toyota and the University of Michigan nearly half of all teens admit using a cell phone while they are driving. Not surprising, parents play a key role in helping teens become safer drivers. Tina Sayer with Toyota's collaborative safety research center says children often model their parent's risky behavior--right down to texting and driving.

12/13/13

11:33am

Beth Fisher reporting

Detroit Police Looks to Hire Civilian Dispatchers

Detroit Police are hiring 15 new civilian emergency service operators, who will undergo 40 hours of training. Detroit Police Chief James Craig says they've reduced response time in the past several months from 50 minutes to eight or nine minutes for emergency calls. Craig says it will take time, but he hopes to eventually have about 100 civilian dispatchers hired.

12/28/13

10:03am

Beth Fisher reporting

Prison Escape in Detroit

Detroit police along with Michigan State Police are searching for a prisoner who escaped this morning. Police know who they are searching for and are following up on tips.

12/29/13

7:12am

Kathryn Larson reporting

Hugs Not Bullets to Ring in New Year

Ring in the New Year WITHOUT gunfire... For the tenth year now -- the "Hugs, Not Bullets" campaign is urging Detroiters to celebrate safely. Frank McGhee, the head of the Neighborhood Service Organization's Youth Initiative's Project says for a decade now, the group has joined with police and others to encourage Detroiters to ditch their guns on New Year's Eve. McGhee says there have been improvements over the years, especially when it comes to awareness about the problem.

EDUCATION ISSUES

10/11/13

4:06pm

Kathryn Larson reporting

Detroit Charter School Closing

Detroit Public Schools are closing one of their charters at the end of the month. The district is shutting the doors to Aisha Shule because it's no longer financially sound. School officials say the charter school is unable to provide needed resources to students while maintaining a safe learning environment. Parents will be responsible for enrolling their children in new schools.

10/26/13

7:33am

Kathryn Larson

Cleaning Up Around Schools

Vacant houses near two Detroit schools will be boarded up as part of a blight-elimination program. Volunteers also will gather at 9 a.m. Saturday to remove debris and other trash from properties near Dixon Educational Learning Academy and Cody high school on the city's west side. The cleanup is part of the national "Make a Difference Day." Detroit Public Schools officials say the goal is to improve safety for students.

10/27/13

5:13am

Tawana Holly reporting

Debate Over EAA Schools

Some Eastern Michigan University faculty members want the university to cut ties with the state's Education Achievement Authority. EMU's College of Education Council says they have had no input in the E-A-A and they oppose the way it is being operated. The E-A-A is a public school district created by Governor Snyder to help low-performing schools. And Eastern Michigan is the only school that partnered with the controversial district, which consist of 15 Detroit Public schools.

10/30/13

2:12pm

Ron Dewey

Common Core Standards Will Help, But?

Now that Common Core Curriculum standards have finally been adopted by state lawmakers for schools, what's next? Sharlonda Buckman of the Detroit Parent Network says she is excited by a uniform standard for math and reading standards under Common Core, but says it does not address the fundamentals keeping Detroit kids from learning...like safety, transportation and hunger.

11/6/13

10:33am

Chrystal Knight reporting

Bond Issue for Schools Fails

Farmington Schools Superintendent Susan Zurvalec has released a statement in the aftermath of voters choosing not to support a bond that would go towards school renovations and classroom upgrades. Zurvalec says although she is disappointed, she will not allow this to cloud her vision and the district will continue to provide a world class education. She says it's much too soon to discuss steps going forward. Zurvalec thanked staff, parents and volunteers who supported the bond.

11/8/13

5:22am

Scott Ryan

Cuts Coming to Pontiac Schools

The Pontiac School District is poised for big cuts. The district is planning to slash expenses--or else face the prospect of pay and benefits cuts for employees. Superintendent Kelley Williams blames the shaky finances on declining enrollment, a loss in state aid, and a tax ruling that cost Pontiac schools millions of dollars. The state is asking the district to come up with a workable budget.

11/11/13

6:04pm

Zahra Huber reporting

Tuition Help for Vets

Military veterans can now qualify for in-state tuition from any of Michigan's 15 public universities regardless of where they live. The University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Michigan Technological University recently changed their tuition policies for veterans living out of state. All Michigan universities already were providing in-state tuition to active-duty military members and their dependents. State lawmakers earlier this year proposed constitutional amendments to force schools to give veterans in-state or in-district tuition rates.

11/18/13

1:11pm

Tim Skubick reports

State Gives Up Financial Control of Detroit Schools

After 5 years of systematic improvements in its administrative and financial procedures, the state department of education has announced that they no longer consider the Detroit Public Schools to be on a federal high risk status.

11/18/13

6:11pm

Pat Sweeting reporting

Union Boss Responds To State Loosening Reins on DPS

Detroit Federation of Teachers President Keith Johnson is pleased about news that the State Department of Education has removed the Detroit Public Schools from its list of high risk school districts. But, Johnson hopes that steps are taken to place tighter controls on financial decision by Detroit's superintendent of schools. While the state will continue monitoring some operations by DPS, the district does now have greater control over its administrative and financial choices.

12/4/13

4:07pm

Brian Larsen

DFT President Reacts to Comments Regarding EAA

The President of the Detroit Federation of Teachers isn't at all surprised by the push from Eastern Michigan University faculty to sever the school's ties to the state's Education Achievement Authority. EAA was charged with the task of taking over low-performing schools. EMU faculty questions the EAA's teaching practices, and fear the state-wide school district is trying to bust unions by forcing teachers to re-apply for their jobs.

12/4/13

9:06pm

Tim Skubick Reporting

New Way to Rate Schools?

How to rate your local schools? Proposed legislation would change the rating system.

12/6/13

3:04pm

Tim Skubick reports

2 More Years for State School Superintendent

The state school superintendent Mike Flanigan will be leaving the job -- but not until 2015. Flanagan said he still has ideas and issues he wants to finish.

12/9/13

9:05am

Scott Ryan reporting

DPS to Survey Residents

It's a first for the Detroit Public Schools. Today, the district will be sending an automated phone poll to more than 30-thousand families. The survey asks questions about customer service, program offerings, school safety and other issues. Those who participate are eligible to win a shopping spree. Online and paper versions of the poll will also be made available.

12/9/13

9:06am

Rob Sanford reporting

Pontiac Students May Go To Class All Year

Students in a troubled Oakland County school district may soon be going to classes' year around. Kelley Williams, the superintendent of Pontiac Schools has put together what's called her academic action plan, and part of the 6 point document is the recommendation for year round classes. It also calls for more online classes and the use of tutors.

12/10/13

2:35pm

Newsroom

State to Move More Schools to EAA?

Michigan Superintendent Mike Flanagan says he'll be moving more failing schools into a statewide district. Flanagan announced that "many more" than 10 schools should join 15 Detroit schools in the Education Achievement Authority as early as next month. He previously said fewer than 10 schools would go into the district.

12/18/13

5:13pm

Greg Bowman

Failing Grades for DPS

A new national report card has failing grades for the Detroit Public Schools. Detroit students scored the lowest in the nation among big-city school districts in math. And they tied for lowest in reading. DPS trailed 20 other big cities that took part in the National Urban District Assessment, which compares fourth and eighth graders' reading and math scores.

ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

10/1/13

Various

Matt Roush reporting

More Wind Turbines Expected in Michigan's Thumb

The grid is now ready for more wind power from Michigan's thumb. Novi-based ITC Holdings says it has fired up the first phase of its 140-mile-long Thumb Loop high voltage transmission line. ITC says the Thumb Loop will serve as the backbone of a system designed to meet the identified maximum wind energy potential of the Thumb region. It will be capable of supporting a maximum capacity of about 5,000 megawatts. ITC says it will also boost electric system reliability.

10/3/13

5:22pm

Jayne Bower reporting

Environmentalists Voice Concern about Fracking

State lawmakers will be getting a visit next week from dozens of Michigan environmentalists concerned about fracking and clean energy. Mike Berkowitz from the Michigan Sierra Club says the group is pushing a bill that would put stricter regulations on fracking operations in the state. Berkowitz says several lawmakers from both sides of the political fence have agreed to one-on-one meetings.

10/7/13

3:33pm

Jayne Bower reporting

Ad Campaign Critical of Clean Energy Policy

Michigan environmentalists have launched an ad campaign aimed at D-T-E Energy...claiming the utility's reluctance to commit to "clean energy" is costing jobs. The Sierra Club is pushing for new state regulations REQUIRING energy companies to produce a minimum amount of clean energy. The current regulations expire in less than two years. They plan a big protest outside D-T-E's Detroit headquarters tomorrow morning.

10/8/13

5:52am

Scott Ryan reporting

Michigan Leaders Push Keystone Pipeline

Michigan's business and labor leaders are calling on the Obama administration to approve the Keystone pipeline. The long-delayed project to carry oil from Canada's oil sands to Texas Gulf Coast refineries has become a flashpoint in the climate change debate. The pipeline wouldn't run through Michigan, but supporters say it would help the U-S economy and be a step toward North American energy independence.

10/10/13

Various

Newsroom

Wind Power Project Approved

More Wind Power is coming to Michigan. A \$50 million dollar wind power project in Huron County in the tip of Michigan's thumb region has the go-ahead. The 10 turbine wind farm is expected to serve DTE customers. The 20 megawatt project will create enough energy to power roughly 9,000 homes. DTE hopes the wind farm will be operational by the end of next year.

11/7/13

5:22am

Matt Roush

Conference Shows Off Sensors That Harvest Energy

Future wonders of electronics at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Southeastern Michigan fall conference. Included were robots you control with your mind using a single electrode on a headband you wear, Smartphone apps that keep you healthy, battery management systems that let millions of electric cars make the electrical grid more efficient and reliable and sensors in tank armor that give soldiers instant information about the health of the armor -- oh, and by the way, those sensors also detect radar and harvest energy from the environment.

11/9/13

9:06pm

Beth Fisher reporting

Energy Assistance Day in Detroit

It's Energy Assistance Day in Detroit as D-T-E Energy teamed up with THAW to make some 200 homes in the Bagley neighborhood more energy efficient. D-T-E's Zenobia Grace says it kicks off a week to raise and distribute 1-million dollars in energy assistance to those in need in Michigan. As part of today's effort, D-T-E is replaced old inefficient refrigerators with efficient Energy Star refrigerators for qualifying customers.

11/11/13

7:13pm

Rob Mason reports

Deconstruction Project Could Affect Environment

A pilot project in Detroit's Springwells Village is underway to evaluate the environmental effects and cost-worthiness of using partial deconstruction as a way of eliminating dangerous structures in Detroit. Partial deconstruction is tears down portions of structures to salvage materials prior to demolition. Next Energy program manager Erin Kelly says the outcomes from this project will be poised to mobilize other projects that wish to enlist deconstruction into the demolition process.

11/21/13

5:34pm

Russ McNamara

Power Out for Thousands

People across the area are seeing their lights come back on following a round of severe weather and strong winds over the weekend. D-T-E Energy says just 98-hundred customers remain without electricity in Metro Detroit. Everyone should have their power back on by tomorrow evening. At its peak, the winds had knocked out power to over 300-thousand. D-T-E crews are working 16-hour shifts to get the electricity on once again. This was the 12th largest storm in the power company's 110-year history.

12/9/13

3:36pm

Newsroom

Governors Push for Tighter Air Pollution Regulations

The governors of eight Northeastern states are petitioning the E-P-A to force tighter air pollution regulations on Michigan and eight other Midwest states. Ohio, Michigan and other states have been knocked for lenient rules on pollution from coal-fired power plants, factories and tailpipes. Michigan Congressman Fred Upton, who chairs the House Energy and Commerce Committee, says the cross-state air rule will mean higher power bills, less reliability and job losses.

12/17/13

3:07pm

Newsroom

2 States Work To Cut Energy Costs

Michigan and Ohio are working together on an effort to reduce energy costs and waste in homes and businesses. The Michigan-Northeastern Ohio Regional Clean Energy Roadmap Project has received more than \$700,000 in funding, including \$400,000 from the federal government. The project aims to foster growth in the clean-energy sector in both states while promoting technologies to improve energy efficiency.

12/19/13

12:07pm

Pat Sweeting reporting

Governor Outlines Energy Goals

Michigan residents should spend less on their combined electric and gas bills this year. So says Governor Snyder in a talk today on energy. Snyder says he's focusing on setting goals for 2025. On the agenda, eliminating energy waste as well as reducing coal and replacing it with cleaner technologies.

HEALTH/MEDICINE

10/1/13

5:23am

Sean Lee reporting

Never Too Late to Exercise

More evidence it's never too late to start exercising. Spanish researchers put a small group of seniors -average age 93 - on a strength training program, and found after only 12 weeks, participants showed significant improvement in balance, fall risk, walking speed, and their capacity for getting out of chairs.

10/3/13

5:21pm

Sean Lee reporting

New Sleep Study

Is there such a thing as getting too much sleep? The answer is "yes", according to a new study published in the journal Sleep Medicine, found getting too little or too much sleep raises the risk of coronary heart disease, diabetes, anxiety and obesity. But the risk is higher in people who sleep too long. The researchers studied about 50-thousand people over 45, and found almost a third got six hours of sleep or less- they're short sleepers. Two thirds were optimal sleepers - they got 7 to 9 hours a night.

10/4/13

Various

Sean Lee reporting

Shutdown Threatens Medical Treatments

It's a battle over budgets and controversial legislation, but the federal shutdown means a critical delay in potentially-life saving cancer treatment for one Metro Detroit man. Doctors at U of M are so concerned with the spread of Mark Howell's skin cancer, they recommended the 31 year-old Brighton man, undergo an aggressive treatment at the National Institute of Cancer in Maryland. But that's not an option right now, because of the federal shutdown. Instead, Howell will head to M-D Anderson Cancer Center in Texas for a less aggressive form of the same treatment.

10/4/13

6:12pm

Sean Lee reporting

Breakthrough in Fight against Pancreatic Cancer

A potential breakthrough in the fight against one of the world's deadliest cancers. University of Cincinnati researchers have discovered a biomarker for pancreatic cancer that could be targeted, potentially creating treatment for a condition that has a small survival rate. Biomarkers are sort of medical clues diseases leave that they're present.

10/16/13

9:52pm

Sean Lee reporting

New Test to Detect Cancer

Finding cancer may one day be as simple as a blood test, according to new research. Doctors at Cleveland Clinic say they've developed a blood test that can detect some cases of early stage lung and prostate cancer. The test's accuracy rate is about 70-percent for detecting patients with and without cancer. Providence oncologist Dr. Michael Kraut says it's a step in the right direction. The next step for the researchers is to keep track of blood test results after surgery to see if they pick up recurrences of cancer.

10/18/13

Various

Sean Lee

National Mammography Day

It's a day to remind women to get the screening that could save their lives, but for one Metro Detroiter, today is extra special. Most people know October is breast cancer awareness month, but you may not know that today is National Mammography Day. Established in 1993, it's a day to remind women to get that annual mammogram.

11/4/13

5:52pm

Sean Lee reporting

Major Donation to Beaumont Hospital

A Metro Detroit hospital gets a big gift to help families get a happy, healthy start in life. Pete and Danialle Karmanos are donating five million dollars to Beaumont Health System to create the Karmanos Natural Center for Birth. Danialle Karmanos says the center will offer families the option of a birth experience without drugs or interventions.

11/5/13

12:06pm

Sean Lee reporting

Checking Facebook Friends Pages Bad for Your Health

Flipping through your friends' Facebook profiles could do more than make you jealous. It could be bad for your health, according to one relationship expert. Author Zoe Strimpel thinks single women should ditch Facebook because the seemingly 'perfect lives' of their friends are bad for their mental well-being. Strimpel, who wrote the book 'Man Diet: One Woman's Quest to End Bad Romance', says the social media site bombards single women with pictures of 'perfect' weddings and babies which causes envy and voyeurism.

11/8/13

12:11pm

Sean Lee reporting

Women Have Smaller Lungs

A new Canadian study says women have more severe shortness of breath than men during exercise basically because our lungs are smaller. Researchers looked at 50 healthy, nonsmoking men and women ages 20 to 40. The study participants worked out on a stationary bicycle while researchers monitored their heart, lung and other body functions. The volunteers also rated their levels of breathlessness at various intervals during the workout.

11/21/13

2:06pm

Sean Lee Reporting

Mercury Levels in Women Drop

New numbers out today on mercury levels in women. This new report from the Environmental Protection Agency shows mercury levels in American women of childbearing age have dropped about a third over the past decade. Federal health officials think the drop is due to women making more informed choices about what types of seafood are safer to eat.

12/4/13

2:34pm

Newsroom

Holidays Lead to Spike in Illness

Health officials say there's been a reported increase in stomach illness over the past week in Michigan. The Kent County Health Department say some of the cases appear to be noro-virus, which is highly contagious and causes flu-like symptoms including nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramping. Beaumont infectious disease expert Doctor Matthew Sims says it's not surprising to see a spike in cases right after a long holiday weekend.

12/16/13

4:07pm

Sean Lee reporting

A New Drug to Treat Diabetes?

Can well-known Diabetes drug help treat another serious condition in kids? Oregon researchers say treating obese children with the diabetes drug metformin results in a modest reduction in body mass index (B-M-I) when combined with lifestyle changes like diet and exercise. Metformin is approved by the F-D-A to treat type two Diabetes in adults and children over 10 years old, but doctors have used it off-label in recent years to treat childhood obesity.

12/16/13

5:12pm

Sean Lee reporting

Concern Over Anti-Bacterial Soap

For years, there've been questions about whether antibacterial soaps are safe and any more effective than plain old soap and water at preventing infection. Now the F-D-A says soap makers will actually have to prove their products are better at stopping the spread of bacteria. Saint John infectious disease expert Doctor Natasha Bagdasarian says the ingredient triclosan, found in most antibacterial soaps, is what's causing concern.

12/19/13

4:07pm

Sean Lee reporting

Deadline Approaches for Health Care Reform Signup

It'll be a big shopping weekend for last minute gifts, but there's also a big deadline to beat if you're shopping for health insurance. If you need coverage under Obamacare, you have until Monday to pick a plan through the federal exchange - if you want coverage to kick in January first. There's a panel discussion on the Affordable Care Act tonight at the Northwest Activities Center in Detroit. Sunday, the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield is hosting an event to help Oakland and Macomb County residents get signed up.

LEADERSHIP/POLITICS/ELECTIONS

10/1/13

3:05pm

Jon Hewett reporting

Prosecutor to Endorse Sheriff in Election

Benny Napoleon's bid to become Detroit's next mayor gets a boost from Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy. Worthy joined other law enforcement leaders -- representing thousands of police officers and sheriff's deputies -- at a news conference today to announce their endorsement of Napoleon's candidacy.

10/2/13

5:05am

Paul Snider reporting

Duggan to Receive Endorsement

One Detroit mayoral hopeful is about to pick up a key endorsement, a day after his opponent locked in some influential support. The union that represents Detroit's firefighters is about to throw its support behind Mike Duggan. The former CEO of Detroit Medical Center recently participated in a screening process to earn the endorsement of Fire Fighters Union Local 344. Duggan also has the backing of Detroit's EMS workers' union.

10/3/13

6:07am

Scott Ryan reporting

Local Township Faces Financial Problems

Royal Oak Township could be the next community facing a state-appointed emergency manager. The state treasury recently reported that the township failed to file a deficit elimination plan or keep up with pension payments. The Detroit News says the township has been running a deficit for five years and been taking money from funds designated for police and fire services--and using it for the general fund.

10/28/13

8:10am

Charlie Langton reporting

Governor to Testify at Bankruptcy Hearing

Governor Rick Snyder is scheduled to testify today in the trial to determine whether Detroit is eligible to fix its troubled finances in bankruptcy court. The Governor's testimony will be historic, but it's not the first time he's had to give sworn testimony in this case.

11/3/13

7:07am

Newsroom

Lawmaker Wants to Limit Use of Bridge Cards

A bill being considered by the Michigan House would make sure that Bridge Cards are not used inside strip clubs, horse race tracks or liquor stores. The measure requires the state to work with ATM service providers to make sure bridge cards could not be accessed for cash at specified locations. State Representative, Margaret O'Brien of Portage is among the supporters who say the changes are long overdue.

11/5/13

Various

Newsroom

Election Day in Detroit and Suburbs

WWJ had special election-day coverage running from when the polls opened at 7 a.m. until the votes were counted and the races were finalized at 11 p.m. Detroiters elected Mike Duggan as their new mayor. City Council seats were also decided. In Pontiac, incumbent mayor Leon Jukowski was beaten by Deirdre Waterman. We also had school mileages and city bond issues decided.

11/6/13

6:32am

Mike Campbell

Residents Have Ideas for Mayor-Elect Duggan

Now that Detroit has a new man in charge -- residents are speaking out this morning to WWJ's Mike Campbell about what they'd like to see Mayor-elect Duggan tackle first. Getting more police officers on the streets and tearing down abandoned buildings, are at the top of most Detroiters wish list.

11/6/13

7:30am

Roberta Jasina and Tom Jordan

Mayor-elect Duggan Interview on WWJ

Detroit Mayor-elect Mike Duggan talks about the election and his victory. He talks about his challenges and goals for the coming year. Duggan will take office January 1st.

11/15/13

11:12am

Vickie Thomas reporting

Longtime Congressman May Face Challenge

Longtime Michigan Congressman John Conyers could be facing a challenge next year from a well-known religious leader in Detroit. Reverend Horace Sheffield is considering a run for Congress.

11/21/13

9:05am

Jeff Gilbert reporting

Government to Sell More GM Stock

The U-S government expects to sell its remaining General Motors stock by the end of the year. The Treasury Department says it still owns 31 million shares of the auto giant--and has recovered more than 38 billion of the 49 billion dollars it spent bailing out G-M. Taxpayers are poised to lose about ten billion dollars on the bailout. The treasury has been gradually selling off shares since a November 2010 initial public offering.

12/3/13

6:31pm

Charlie Langton reporting

Detroit Receives OK to File for Bankruptcy

Detroit's Emergency Manager says Detroiters will see improvements in services SOON, following today's ruling by the bankruptcy judge that Detroit IS eligible for bankruptcy. The judge also ruled that pensions aren't protected in the bankruptcy proceedings.

12/12/13

3:06pm

Jayne Bower reporting

Right To Work Turns 1

It was a year ago that Governor Snyder signed legislation passed by a Lame Duck Legislature...making Michigan the nation's 24th "Right To Work" state. Gary Klotz, an employment law partner at Detroit's "Budzel Long" believes Michigan has yet to realize the full effect Klotz says despite the divisive nature of the law...he believes it will NOT be repealed.

12/13/13

12:07p

Newsroom

Detroit Emergency Manager Claims Services Improving

Detroit's emergency manager says public services are already improving in the now bankrupt city. Kevyn Orr tells The Associated Press that police are responding more quickly to 911 calls - - and 26,000 lights have been added or fixed on the city's streets. He also says efforts to tear down vacant houses have been stepped up. There's also a private effort to raise \$500 million to help the city pay its bills.

12/19/13

6:07am

Scott Ryan

Governor Signs Legislation Affecting Welfare Recipients

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder has signed laws to block welfare recipients from withdrawing their taxpayer-provided cash from ATMs in liquor stores, horse tracks and strip clubs. The laws are similar to a state law enacted last year for casino ATMs. Supporters say the law was needed because the system was being abused by recipients.

12/19/13

4:06pm

Pat Sweeting reporting

Mayor-elect Duggan Names Members of Administration

Several Members of Mayor Elect Mike Duggan's cabinet we're introduced today in Downtown Detroit. Former Detroit Police Chief Isaiah McKinnon will serve as deputy mayor. Among his responsibilities -- oversight of the Detroit Fire Department. McKinnon says it will be his top priority.

HOMELAND SECURITY ISSUES

10/02/13

8:30am

Scott Ryan reporting

Government Shutdown Affects Homeland Security Offices

The effects of the partial federal government shutdown are being felt at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. Workers have been sent home and travel and training are on hold. The center offers support, facilities, instruction and airspace for the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security and others.

10/18/13

9:35am

Pat Vitale reporting

New Homeland Security Director

President Obama today is expected to announce Jeh Johnson as his nominee to take over the Homeland Security Department. Johnson has previously served as the Pentagon's top lawyer, and his selection is seen as a signal that, if he's confirmed, the department's focus will turn more toward protecting the nation from attack than immigration issues.

10/29/13

10:06am

Jackie Paige reporting

Reflecting on Hurricane Sandy- 1 Year Later

It was one year ago today that super storm Sandy devastated the east coast. Though the state of Michigan did not experience a direct hit from the storm, our emergency crews were working just as hard helping those affected by it. Ted Quizzenberry is with Oakland County Homeland Security says in the event of any major emergency or catastrophe like Sandy it's best for individuals and families to expect to be on their own without any government assistance for at three days.

10/30/13

12:32pm

Marie Osborne

New FBI Director to Focus on Counterterrorism

The new person in charge of the Detroit office of the FBI is getting the lay of the land. Marie Osborne sat down with Paul Abbate for a one-on-one interview. Abbate said his three top priorities for the city of Detroit are countering terrorism, fighting public corruption and trying to alleviate violent gangs.

11/7/13

10:22am

Matt Roush

Homeland Security Interested in Michigan Company?

A Lansing software developer has opened its third office in suburban Washington, D.C. IDV Solutions develops software that gives a visual representation of security risk. Sounds like something the homeland security people might be interested in -- so it's no surprise IDV has just opened a new office in Reston, Virginia. The suburban Washington, D.C. office is the third IDV Solutions location, after its Lansing headquarters and an Orlando, Fla. expansion that opened in August.

11/21/13

Various

Russ McNamara reporting

Federal Agents Arrest Man after Child Porn Investigation

An international investigation leads to an area man being arrested on child porn charges. John Millmine of White Lake remains in custody on charges of production, distribution and possession of child pornography. The charges stem from a long investigation involving Customs agents and Homeland Security.

11/25/13

2:30pm

Newsroom

Man Pleads Guilty to Stockpiling Weapons

Federal prosecutors in Toledo say a man who pleaded guilty to having a stockpile of weapons and ammunition wanted to start a race war. Richard Schmidt's writings show his plans were to kill people because of their race, religion and ethnicity. His attorney says the accusations are over-the-top and that Schmidt adamantly denies that he had any sinister motives -- but the FBI told black and Jewish leaders in the Detroit area that their names were on a list kept by Schmidt.

11/27/13

5:06pm

Brian Larsen reporting

Homeland Security Program to Fund New Firefighters

Michigan Senators are bringing home some Federal money to fight fires in Detroit. Senators Stabenow and Levin have announced a \$24 million dollar grant for the Detroit Fire Department to hire 150 firefighters. The funds come from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Program.

11/28/13

Newsroom

Various

Prepare For Border Delays This Holiday Weekend

U-S Customs and Border Protection officials have a reminder for those crossing borders with Canada this holiday weekend -- Be prepared. Officials say travelers should prepare for the inspection process before arriving at the inspection booth by having their crossing documents out and available for inspection. They also say folks should be prepared to declare all items acquired outside the U-S. Officials say they're anticipating "heavy holiday traffic" at Michigan border crossings.

12/1/13

7:33pm

Mike Blank reporting

Congressman Warns of Al Qaeda Attack

The chair of the House Intelligence Committee warns Americans aren't as safe as they were a year or two ago. Michigan Republican Mike Rogers tells CNN's "State of the Union" the terrorism threat against the U.S. is increasing. Rogers says Al Qaeda as we knew it, is evolving into something different.

12/3/13

4:04pm

Stephanie Davis Reporting

Feds, Detroit Police Raid Apartment Complex

Detroit Police and federal agents conduct another major raid at an apartment complex, arresting dozens of people. Detroit Police chief warned that this raid "Super 6" would be bigger than the one last month. It is nearly 200 officers from several law enforcement agencies were part of this operation including the FBI, U-S Marshalls and State Police. The raid took place at the Martin Luther King apartment complex--that stretches a few blocks on Layfayette between St. Aubin off Chene -- on the east side.

12/27/13

Various

Newsroom

Court Ruling Regarding NSA Leaks

A judge says the N-S-A is acting legally. A federal judge finds the National Security Agency's bulk collection of millions of Americans' telephone records is legal - saying it's a valuable part of fighting terrorism. Republican Congressman Peter King of Long Island says the judge did the right thing.

LABOR/WORKFORCE ISSUES

10/1/13

4:07pm

Ron Dewey Reporting

Michigan Jobs Coming Back

Michigan is doing a lot better when it comes to job growth than federal labor statistics would have you believe. So says University of Michigan economist Don Grimes, who says one set of numbers from the Bureau of Labor statistics has painted a bleaker picture of Michigan's economy than has actually been the case. Grimes say's Michigan's economy is actually growing half a percentage point more than the rest of the country.

10/2/13

7:13am

Sandra McNeill

Job Fair for Veterans

It's a chance for veterans today in Ypsilanti to find a job. More than 55 employers will be offering jobs for vets and military spouses as part of the Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair. The fair runs from 10am until 1pm at the National Guard Armory on Huron River Drive.

10/3/13

Various

Scott Ryan

Furniture Store Holds Job Fair

Gardner-White is putting out the Help Wanted sign at all ten of its furniture stores in Metro Detroit. The company is looking for salespeople, who'll work on commission. The job fair runs from noon until seven at its Canton store on Ford Road--and they'll be hiring on the spot. Gardner-White recently invested in a 450-thousand square foot distribution center in Auburn Hills.

10/8/13

10:22am

Newsroom

Retailers Looking for Holiday Help

It's that time of year again: time for retailers to start hiring seasonal help for the Christmas shopping season. English Gardens is among the retailers hiring. They're looking for employees to staff their five Metro Detroit locations and one in Ann Arbor. Job openings include cashiers and holiday lighting technicians.

10/22/13

3:06pm

Pat Sweeting reports

Unemployed and Looking for Work

The Labor Department says the economy added just 148,000 jobs last month -- a steep drop from the 193,000 created in August. The release of the September jobs report had been delayed by more than two weeks by the government shutdown -- which likely further slowed economic growth and hiring. 34-year old Jacob Williams stopped by the Michigan Works office in Southfield. He calls himself a "returning citizen" -- meaning he's been released from prison. He's been trying to find a job, but so far, hasn't had any success.

10/22/13

8:12pm

Jon Hewett

Challenge Detroit Brings Workers to Michigan

It was quite a party downtown last night for the inaugural graduates of "Challenge Detroit" -- the urban revitalization program looking to stem the so-called "brain drain" of talent leaving the city - by placing participants in one-year jobs. Bryce Gamper is one of 27 "fellows" in the inaugural "Challenge" graduating class... having spent the past year living and working in Detroit. 90% of the "Challenge" participants say they plan on STAYING in Detroit -- as 32 new "fellows" now enter the program.

10/26/13

7:22am

Rob Sanford reporting

Americans Plan To Work Longer

More than 4 in 5 older Americans expect to keep working during their later years, a sign that traditional retirement is out of reach for a vast swath of society, according to a new survey. Among Americans ages 50 and older who have jobs, 82 percent expect to work in some form during retirement, according to a poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The still-sluggish economy, battered 401(k) plans, and inadequate savings are upending traditional notions of retirement.

11/8/13

5:22am

Murray Feldman reports

Unemployment Report Due Out

The government reports October employment data today and economists think fewer jobs were created than in September and that unemployment will rise for the first time since May. WWJ and Fox 2 Business Editor Murray Feldman say's the recent government shutdown may affect the numbers.

11/21/13

1:07pm

Mike Blank reporting

New Jobs Coming to Troy

New jobs are coming to Troy. HTC Global Services has been awarded tax breaks and state incentives to expand its development center. The company will invest more than 3-million dollars in the project. More than 200 jobs are expected to be created.

11/21/13

1:37pm

Ron Dewey

New Jobs Forecast for the U.S.

Five million. That's how many jobs will be created over the next two years in the U-S, according to experts at an economic summit at the University of Michigan. They also predict that unemployment will fall from just over seven percent to about six percent in that same time frame. A steadily recovering housing market is also in the cards for both new home construction and existing home sales. Tomorrow, experts will reveal their forecast for Michigan's economy.

11/23/13

Various

Beth Fisher reporting

Job Growth Expected in Michigan

Steady job growth is expected in Michigan over the next couple of years. That's according to the annual November forecast by University of Michigan economists. The director of economic forecasting there, George Fulton, says it's an encouraging forecast. Fulton says that follows a gain of 80-thousand jobs this year...the third largest job growth over a year since 1996 in Michigan.

11/28/13

Various

Paul Snider

Job Benefits Tied to Medical Marijuana Case

Can Michigan workers who are fired for using medical marijuana collect unemployment benefits? The state Court of Appeals has agreed to take on the thorny issue by combining two cases. One involves a hospital employee in Charlotte, the other a forklift driver in Grand Rapids. The issue of whether they can be fired is not in dispute, but Kemp and Braska think they should be entitled to jobless benefits.

12/12/13

3:06pm

Jayne Bower reporting

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It was a year ago that Governor Snyder signed legislation passed by a Lame Duck Legislature...making Michigan the nation's 24th "Right To Work" state. Gary Klotz, an employment law partner at Detroit's "Budzel Long" believes Michigan has yet to realize the full effect Klotz says despite the divisive nature of the law...he believes it will NOT be repealed.

12/13/13

11:33am

Beth Fisher reporting

Detroit Police Looks to Hire Civilian Dispatchers

Detroit Police are hiring 15 new civilian emergency service operators, who will undergo 40 hours of training. Detroit Police Chief James Craig says they've reduced response time in the past several months from 50 minutes to eight or nine minutes for emergency calls. Craig says it will take time, but he hopes to eventually have about 100 civilian dispatchers hired.

12/30/13

Various

Marie Osborne reports

Unemployment Benefits End For Thousands

Emergency unemployment benefits expired on Saturday for 1.3 million people — including almost 44,000 people in Michigan. President Obama vowed to win an extension next month when Congress returns from the holiday recess. Among those reeling from the loss, Di Ann Fairfield of Frasier who's was laid off from her contracting job with Chrysler in April. She says most jobs are requiring more and more education--something she can't afford when she's unemployed.

RACE RELATIONS

10/5/13

8:12am

Kathryn Larson reporting

Community Meeting with Muslims

A former FBI agent who's now a senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union will lead a community discussion with Detroit-area Muslims. The ACLU's Michael German will talk about FBI protocols with Muslim communities. Islamic leaders have been holding protests and ramping up "know your rights" training for community groups following news reports revealing a secret program by the New York Police Department to infiltrate Muslim groups.

10/11/13

Various

Newsroom

Forum Focuses on Transgendered People

Over 100 people gathered at Oakland Community College for a forum on transgendered people. The forum was an effort to promote diversity and understanding within the community.

10/27/13

5:33am

Newsroom

NAACP Leader Discusses Strategy for Power

The president of the NAACP says laws that aim to undermine the coalition that helped elect President Obama is the No. 1 issue facing Americans. Benjamin Jealous told a Salt Lake City audience on Friday that the nation's power structure has seen the way Blacks, Hispanics and students of all races are voting and it realizes time is running out on its "strategy for power."

11/1/13

6:05pm

Pat Sweeting reports

NAACP, ACLU Push Voter Turn Out

As the November 5th General Election draws near, local leaders remind Detroit voters that the eyes of the nation are on the Motor City. Attorney Nabih Ayad of the Arab American Civil Rights League says it is VERY important that Detroiters get out and vote. Detroit leaders taking part in a Detroit Branch NAACP voter turn-out news conference reminded motor-city residents the people you elect are those who will represent you after the E.M. is gone.

11/17/13

5:05pm

Zahra Huber reporting

Cops Accused of Harassing African Americans

A big controversy in Grosse Pointe Park, after some city police officers are accused of harassing African Americans. The Grosse Pointe Park police department opened an investigation following a blogger post showing photos and videos of the officers. Adolph Mongo, a Detroit political consultant, says he is shocked. We have calls into the Grosse Pointe Police department for comment.

11/20/13

5:36pm

Newsroom

Poll Shows Most Use Racist, Sexist Comments

A new poll finds 6 in 10 young people say it's WRONG to use sexist or racial slurs online....even if the writer says they're just kidding. According to the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV ---- Americans ages 14 to 24 say people who are overweight are the most frequent target, followed by gay people, then blacks followed by women.

11/27/13

1:12pm

Rob Mason reporting

Macomb County Settles Race Discrimination Case

Macomb County has settled a lawsuit by an African-American sheriff's deputy who claims repeated harassment over his race. Deborah Gordon is the attorney for Raymond Langley. She's pleased that the settlement came after only four days of testimony. For her client, she says the pressure became just too much for him to handle.

11/27/13

1:14pm

Mike Blank reporting

Redskins Urged to Change Name

Lion's fans listening to pre-game coverage tomorrow on our sister station -- 97.1 -the Ticket -- will have a chance to hear a commercial denouncing the NFL's Washington Redskins mascot. Paid for by the United Indian Nation of New York, the ad calls on fans to demand the team and the League change their name. The Redskins were the last organization in the NFL to allow non-white players... they began integrating the team in 1962.

11/27/13

6:03pm

Stephanie Davis reporting

Cops Disciplined in Harassment Case

After an investigation -- several Grosse Pointe Park police officers will be disciplined for their role in the making of a video showing an officer humiliating a mentally-challenged African American man.

12/1/13

6:05pm

Stephanie Davis reporting

Police Officers to Undergo Sensitivity Training.

The entire Grosse Pointe Park Police Department is expected undergo cultural sensitivity training soon---this in response to a group of officers who recorded and circulated a video tape making fun of a mentally challenged African-American man. Five officers are facing up to 60-days suspension without pay as a consequence. The department upholds its position that it does not discriminate against black people.

12/1/13

Various

Mike Blank Reporting

Author Uncovers Sundown Towns in Michigan

Sundown towns -- do they still exist in Michigan? Dr. Jim Loewen, a best-selling author and sociologist, will be in Birmingham this week to speak at a Michigan Roundtable about towns that purposely kept black people out. He says in his research, he was surprised to find that there were more than 500 sundown towns in Illinois and hundreds more in Michigan

12/13/13

Various

Newsroom

SNL to Add Black Cast Members

"Saturday Night Live" plans to add one or two black female performers to its cast as soon as January. That's a response to criticism of the show's lack of diversity by its two only black cast members, Jay Pharoah and Kenan Thompson. The New York Times reports that a special audition for seven or eight finalists will be held Monday on the "SNL" stage in Manhattan.

REGIONAL REVITALIZATION

10/1/13

5:12am

Russ McNamara reporting

Google for Entrepreneurs

The Madison Block - a start-up neighborhood in downtown Detroit is partnering with 'Google for Entrepreneurs'. Detroit Venture Partners C-E-O Josh Linkner says this is one of just seven such partnerships in the country with the internet giant. The Madison Block also includes 'Grand Circus' which offers classes in web and mobile development.

10/3/13

11:30a

Newsroom

Michiganders Pushed To Support Local Stores

This Saturday is "Get Caught Blue-Handed," day at many stores around the state. Michiganders are encouraged to go shopping nearby with friends and family and have fun "getting caught" supporting local retailers. Michigan retailer association president Jim Hallan says the Buy Nearby campaign is an attempt to unify the many "buy local" campaigns throughout the state.

10/8/13

10:22am

Newsroom

Retailers Looking for Holiday Help

It's that time of year again: time for retailers to start hiring seasonal help for the Christmas shopping season. English Gardens is among the retailers hiring. They're looking for employees to staff their five Metro Detroit locations and one in Ann Arbor. Job openings include cashiers and holiday lighting technicians.

10/22/13

8:12pm

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10/26/13

7:33am

Kathryn Larson

Cleaning Up Around Schools

Vacant houses near two Detroit schools will be boarded up as part of a blight-elimination program. Volunteers also will gather at 9 a.m. Saturday to remove debris and other trash from properties near Dixon Educational Learning Academy and Cody high school on the city's west side. The cleanup is part of the national "Make a Difference Day." Detroit Public Schools officials say the goal is to improve safety for students.

11/3/13

2:05pm

Beth Fisher reporting

Kroger Investing in Michigan

Thousands of people turning out today for the grand opening of the largest Kroger in Michigan! The 95-thousand square foot store is located on Union Lake Road in Commerce Township. The store is part of a 110-million-dollar investment in Michigan this year.

11/11/13

7:13pm

Rob Mason reports

Deconstruction Project Could Affect Environment

A pilot project in Detroit's Springwells Village is underway to evaluate the environmental effects and cost-worthiness of using partial deconstruction as a way of eliminating dangerous structures in Detroit. Partial deconstruction is tears down portions of structures to salvage materials prior to demolition. NextEnergy program manager Erin Kelly says the outcomes from this project will be poised to mobilize other projects that wish to enlist deconstruction into the demolition process.

11/11/13

Various

Sean Lee

DMC to Expand in Detroit

Big changes coming to Children's Hospital of Michigan on the Detroit Medical Center campus! The D-M-C plans to construct a six-story patient tower and reconfigure all of its double-occupancy rooms to private rooms for an estimated investment of \$100 million or more.

11/12/13

6:05pm

Newsroom

State To Take Control of Belle Isle

A state panel has approved Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr's plan to lease control of Belle Isle to the state for 30 years. Under the agreement and starting next year, visitors will have to buy the state's 11-dollar annual state park passport to get on Belle Isle. People who walk onto the island or take a bus will still get in for free. State management of Belle Isle will save Detroit up to six-million-dollars a year. The state's investment into the island will come from grants, bonds, and private donations.

11/27/13

Various

Ron Dewey

Buffet Invests in Detroit

A multi-million dollar announcement in Detroit! Investment group Goldman Sachs spelled out details a partnership with the city to give money to small businesses. Multi-billionaire Warren Buffett touts some of the successes of the 'Ten-thousand small business initiative.

12/3/13

6:31pm

Charlie Langton reporting

Detroit Receives OK to File for Bankruptcy

Detroit's Emergency Manager says Detroiters will see improvements in services SOON, following today's ruling by the bankruptcy judge that Detroit IS eligible for bankruptcy. The judge also ruled that pensions aren't protected in the bankruptcy proceedings.

12/6/13

3:04pm

Stephanie Davis

Group Pushes for Expansion of I-94

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments is holding an emergency meeting to accelerate plans for a four billion dollar plan to expand I-94 through Detroit. The cities of Detroit, Royal Oak and Hazel Park have all passed resolutions asking for the massive construction project to be re-considered. When the expansion plan was put together, MDOT had projected an 11% increase in driving on I-94 by 2025, but the amount of driving has decreased 13% according to the latest figures.

12/13/13

12:07p

Newsroom

Detroit Emergency Manager Claims Services Improving

Detroit's emergency manager says public services are already improving in the now bankrupt city. Kevyn Orr tells The Associated Press that police are responding more quickly to 911 calls - and 26,000 lights have been added or fixed on the city's streets. He also says efforts to tear down vacant houses have been stepped up. There's also a private effort to raise \$500 million to help the city pay its bills.

12/13/13

9:07pm

Stephanie Davis reporting

Arena Project Moves Forward

The Joe Louis Arena is one step closer to a taxpayer funded demolition as the Downtown Development Authority votes to approve another sports complex in Detroit. The plan is to build another hockey arena for the Red Wings just north of I-75.

12/16/13

4:05pm

Jeff Gilbert reporting

GM Announces New Investments in Plants

General Motors is investing 1.3 billion dollars in 5 different plants. The announcement made this afternoon at Flint assembly by GM North America President Mark Reuss. New jobs are also planned for the plants.

12/18/13

9:07am

Scott Ryan

Home Prices Rising

The real estate listing service RealComp says that home sale prices in Metro Detroit were up more than 40 percent in terms of year-over-year comparisons. It's the fourth straight month of big increases. Across Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties, the median sale price was just over 120-thousand dollars last month. Industry-watchers say the increases are fueled by a small selection of desirable homes on the market.

12/22/13

7:05am

Kathryn Larson

Art Project Planned After Implosion in Flint

A temporary public art project will rise in the space left by the demolition of Flint's tallest building. Mayor Dayne Walling says he's excited about the project after the implosion of the Genessee Towers. Plans will transform the site into Exploration Park, a family-friendly plaza with a science theme. It's part of a larger downtown redevelopment effort.

TRANSPORTATION/LOGISTICS

10/1/13

5:14pm

Brian Larsen

UM Receives Transportation Grant Money

The University of Michigan has received a 1.4 million federal grant to open a center to promote better transportation safety. The grant to its Transportation Research Institute comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The school says that three early projects will focus on alcohol-impaired nighttime driving, child safety in cars and reducing fatalities and injuries from heavy truck crashes.

10/9/13

11:12am

Mike Blank

New Road Projects Announced

There may be some delays coming for Oakland County Motorists... The Oakland County Road Commission has announced more than a dozen ongoing and new road projects. They include the resurfacing of Rochester Rd. between Lakeville and Mack. And the replacement of the 13 Mile Road bridge, between Telegraph and Lahser roads.

10/10/13

10:12am

Scott Ryan reporting

Meeting to Discuss I-75 Road Work

M-DOT is considering a plan to widen I-75 thru southern Oakland County. A nine-a-m meeting today will include engineers and others to discuss the effort to add lanes to I-75 between Eight Mile Road and M-59. The Road Commission for Oakland County says widening I-75 would be positive for Southeast Michigan and help in the region's economic recovery.

10/12/13

Various

Rob Sanford reporting

Crackdown on Drivers

A new traffic enforcement and education initiative is now underway in West Michigan. Michigan State Police troopers, Kent and Ottawa county sheriff deputies and officers from the Grand Rapids, Walker and Wyoming police departments will be patrolling U.S. 131 and I-196 through October 18. Officers will be on the lookout for violations by both passenger vehicle and truck drivers such as improper lane use, careless and reckless driving, speeding, following too close and failure to yield the right of way.

10/19/13

Various

Newsroom

Shake Your Mailbox Day

It's the 5th Annual Shake Your Mailbox Day -- and the U-S Post Office hopes you'll do just that today as a reminder to be proactive in maintaining your mailbox to prevent future troubles over the winter. Most mailbox damage is not caused by snow plows hitting the mailbox, but rather by the force of the snow thrown from the roadway. Like other Road Commissions -- the Macomb County Department of Roads says will not replace mailboxes and posts damaged by routine snow removal operations.

11/13/13

10:07am

Zahra Huber

Merged Airline to Continue Flights in Michigan

American Airlines and US Airways have agreed to continue daily flights from six Michigan airports for at least five years as part of a larger deal with the government over their planned merger. The combined airline will maintain service in Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Marquette and Traverse City.

11/20/13

3:07pm

Newsroom

Michigan Seatbelt Use Remains Same As Previous Years

How's Michigan doing when it comes to getting drivers to buckle up when they're behind the wheel? For the second year in a row, 93 per cent of drivers and front seat passengers are wearing their seat belts, according to surveys conducted this summer by Wayne State University and the Transportation Research Group. Only four states have a higher rate of seat belt use than Michigan.

11/22/13

5:33am

Pat Vitale reporting

Airlines Consider Use of Cell Phones

Flight attendants and airlines say a proposal to allow cell phone calls on airline flights is not a good idea -- and not what passengers want. But the new chairman of the Federal Communications Commission says modern technologies can deliver mobile services in the air safely and reliably -- and it's time to do away with the ban. Tom Wheeler says the commission will take up a plan to allow greater in-flight access to mobile broadband ... at a commission meeting next month.

11/25/13

4:07pm

Marie Osborne reporting

New Bus Service for Metro Airport

There's a new "BUS" in town! The Department of Transportation and the Detroit Bus company have launched a pilot shuttle to Detroit Metro Airport for the upcoming holiday. Detroit Bus Company owner Andy Didorosi says the bus will run this Wednesday and Sunday from 4:50am to 11:15pm. The cost: 12 dollars.

11/26/13

4:33am

Gary Lundy

Slick Roads Greet Early Morning Drivers

There were some rough driving conditions Monday evening across southeast Michigan, with slippery roads and plenty of spin-out accidents. Cindy Dingell is the spokesperson for the Wayne County Road Commission. She says there were some problems on the west side of the county, but they quickly were dealt with.

12/5/13

Various

Brooke Allen

Federal Grant to Help Maintain Detroit Buses

Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow have announced that the Federal Transit Administration will be giving nearly 42-million-dollars to the Detroit Department of Transportation to upgrade and maintain city buses. The funds will also be used for preventative maintenance on the bus shelters, vehicle maintenance, and to overhaul 60 D-DOT buses. Security equipment will also be added to DDOT facilities.

12/6/13

3:04pm

Stephanie Davis

Group Pushes for Expansion of I-94

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments is holding an emergency meeting to accelerate plans for a four billion dollar plan to expand I-94 through Detroit. The cities of Detroit, Royal Oak and Hazel Park have all passed resolutions asking for the massive construction project to be re-considered. When the expansion plan was put together, MDOT had projected an 11% increase in driving on I-94 by 2025, but the amount of driving has decreased 13% according to the latest figures.

12/12/13

Various

Gary Lundy

Plans To Reconfigure I-375

A study is being planned that would reconfigure I-375 in downtown Detroit. The Detroit Downtown Development Authority has approved a planning contract to develop alternatives to the current configuration of the one-mile expressway that runs from Gratiot Avenue to Atwater Street. The freeway corridor connects I-75 to downtown. The state Department of Transportation and other sources will pay for the \$373,000 study.

12/23/13

3:05pm

Sandra McNeill

Trees, Potholes Dot Area Roads

Fallen trees have been keeping road crews busy today. Craig Bryson with the Oakland County Road Commission says crews are cutting down trees and moving them out of the roadway in the northern part of the county where an ice storm hit. But that's not the only problem they're dealing with crews are on pothole patrol in southern Oakland County.

12/29/13

1:04pm

Roberta Jasina reporting

Big Road Construction Project on I-96

The good news is the Michigan Department of Transportation is going to get rid of all the potholes and ruts in the road along I-96 through Redford and Livonia. The bad news is this is a seven mile long project...and will include the complete closure of I96 for the reconstruction. They're going to not only fix the road, but also the 37 overpasses.

WWJ Community Outreach Events

10/10/13

Detroit's Tech Comeback

WWJ's Matt Roush moderated a morning program at Lawrence Technological University titled "Detroit's Comeback: New Businesses and New Residents Moving Downtown." Panelists included Gabe Karp, Partner, Detroit Venture Partners, LLC.

11/14/13

Social Media and Your Business

WWJ Newsradio 950 Technology Editor Matt Roush moderates a discussion on how Detroit's sports teams are using social media to make better, deeper connections with their audiences? Learn how they do it – and how you can use social media to forge deeper relationships with your customers and prospects too. Panelists included Kevin Currie, Dir. of Digital Media, Detroit Lions, Ayrton Sequeira, Dir. of Integrated Media, Olympia Entertainment Detroit Red Wings and Doug Wernert, Manager Brand Networks, Detroit Pistons.

12/30/13

Detroit Rising

WWJ Newsradio 950's Vickie Thomas hosted a one hour special, "Detroit Rising," featuring leaders of five community organizations working across the city to transform neighborhoods. Guests included Luther Keith, executive director of ARISE Detroit!; Alice Thompson, CEO of Black Family Development; Linda Smith, president of U-SNAP-Back and a co-chair of the federal blight task force; Kirk Mayes, executive director of the Brightmoor Alliance, and Kathy Wendler, president of the Southwest Detroit Business Association. Keith and Thompson are both members of the steering committee for the Detroit Future City Initiative which is a new plan to redevelop neighborhoods.

WWJ Regularly Scheduled Features

Made in Michigan

10/2/13

SHAKE AND SHARE.

22 Year old founder Justin Covich developed and patented a new container to serve popcorn in movie theatres. It's now used in thousands of movie houses around the country and is poised to enter the world market.

10/9/13

VERNDALE PRODUCTS.

One of the Nations three producers of roller dried whole milk which is used in fine chocolate manufacturing around the world. The company just purchased a long abandoned building in Detroit and hired two dozen new employees.

10/16/13

DISPLAY PACK OF GRAND RAPIDS.

Founded in 1967 the company today is one of the Nation's leading producers of thermo form plastics and wood grain plastics for the automotive industry.

10/30/13

MICHIGAN VENISON COMPANY, TRAVERSE CITY.

Founded five years ago, the company grows and processes venison meat for distribution around the state. The company also produces pies, sausages and other products using venison meat.

11/6/13

FRENCH PAPER COMPANY, NILES MICHIGAN.

Founded in 1871, the company produces text and cover paper, one of the few remaining companies to do so.

11/13/13

CHALK FLY, DETROIT.

Founded just two years ago the on line office supply company has become one of the top three on line office supply companies in the nation.

11/20/13

MITTEN CRATE, WEST BLOOMFIELD.

The company is an on line mail order subscription company that provides purchasers with Michigan made products from around the state.

11/27/13

CRYPTON FABRICS, FRANKLIN.

Randy and Craig Rubin developed a water proof fabric which can be used in homes. Former fabrics would often be covered in plastic, Crypton fabric is infused with fibers making it completely water proof.

12/4/13

OLGA'S.

Olga's was founded in Birmingham 43 years ago by Olga Lazone. After rapid growth in the 80's the company has now contracted to a few dozen Michigan only outlets. The restaurant serves Greek food.

12/11/13

MURDICKS FUDGE, MACKINAW ISLAND

Bob Benzur's father bought the company from the founding family and continues with its secret recipes today.

12/18/13

GERYCHS FENTON.

One of the last Poinsettia growers in the state! The company continues to operate an 80 thousand foot green house to grow the Christmas season plants.

Difference Maker in the Community

OCTOBER, 2013

Molly McDonald. Founder of the PINK FUND.

Eight years ago McDonald founded the Pink Fund after discovering she had breast cancer. The fund supports worthy recipients who are battling breast cancer by paying their bills for 90 days.

NOVEMBER, 2013

Debra Bowers.

Bowers is the founder of Sunshine is Always Brighter with a second chance, a shelter for homeless women and children. Bowers used all of her savings to establish the center which helps a dozen needy women at a time with food, shelter and education.

DECEMBER, 2013

Sr. Mary Giovanni Mangi, CEO of Angela Hospice.

Sr. Giovanni founded Angela Hospice 28 years ago at a time when the concept of hospice was new to the community. She says providing physical and emotional comfort to families while they are experiencing a death is something she feels she was called to do.

Making the Grade

10/1/13

Giving teachers cash they can use in the classroom. Pete Gates, President and CEO of Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union: The Credit Union is offering 40 thousand dollars in grants for teachers to buy supplies, books, and other items for their classroom. Gates says many teachers now reach into their own pockets to pay for the materials.

10/3/13

Helping students afford the high cost of higher education. Shawn Blackburn is an Eastern Michigan University from Warren majoring in pre-med. He received a Regents Gold Scholarship from EMU that pays for tuition and fees for four years. EMU Regents have just approved 44 million dollars in financial aid. Kevin Cuchera is Vice President for Enrollment Management at EMU. He says financial assistance can include grants, loans, and campus employment. And he tells parents don't panic, and apply for assistance early.

10/8/13

More kids in Michigan and across the country are walking to school this week. Sue Belquava is Principal at Morgan Elementary School in the Utica Community Schools, one of the schools taking part in the national walk and bike event. She says waking is good exercise for the kids and is "green" for the environment.

10/10/13

This Macomb County School is going green. Kelly Scarmazino heads the Green Team Initiative at Morgan Elementary in the Utica Community Schools. She says the school is working with students to encourage recycling and other programs that help promote the environment.

10/15/13

Making sure students get a good financial education. Richard Rockwell is Superintendent of the Lincoln Park Schools, one of 95 Michigan Schools taking part in the TCF Financial Scholars program. He says financial literacy is an important life skill, and is often not addressed early enough. The program uses online gaming and other programs to help teach kids the basics of finances.

10/17/13

Preparing students today for the high-tech jobs of tomorrow: Jill Reily, is Lead Teacher at the Center for Science and Industry in the Utica Community Schools. She says the school's motto is "Figure it out," because they want the students to come up with the answers themselves instead of just having the teachers give them the answers. Natalie Magda is a sophomore at the school, which has 330 students who enroll starting in the 9th grade. She says she was always interested in building things and electronics so the CSI program was perfect for her. Megan Berry teaches Digital Media at the school. She says they stress collaboration and working in groups for the students.

10/22/13

Now students can earn their nursing degree in as little as one year. Linda Poley-Droulard, Director of Nursing Laboratories' Riverview Institute in Detroit, part of Oakland University. She says the economic downturn actually encouraged more people to go into nursing, because it gave them the opportunity to go back to school and be the nurse they always wanted to be. She says students can earn their BSN in as little as three semesters in an accelerated program.

10/24/13

Can you really get a job if you graduate from college with a Theater degree? Kevin Corcoran is Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Oakland University. He says they found that many theater majors actually wind up as successful entrepreneurs because they know how to meet deadlines and prepare for challenges and fears, because they have been through "Opening Night." He says Liberal Arts Majors are getting a well-rounded education that will benefit them no matter what they do for a living.

10/29/13

Giving future teachers more experience in the classroom before they graduate. Bob Maxfield is Interim Dean and Associate Professor of Education at Oakland University. OU is partnering with the Avondale Schools to observe and work with kids as soon as their sophomore year. Oakland University student Trevor Chicowitz is one of the students in the program. He says it takes away a lot of the nerves and fears about teaching because they are learning in a real classroom with students, not just hearing about it from a professor.

10/31/13

What will cities be like 150 years from now? Michigan students are getting a chance to design "Future Cities." Allison Marrs is the program coordinator for the Engineering Society of Detroit's "Future Cities Competition." She says the project is a great way to get students involved in science, technology, engineering and math, challenging them to come up with their own solutions to problems.

11/5/13

Too many kids in Michigan and across the country do not have the skills they need to succeed in school and in life. Laura Speer is with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which just released a report showing one in three kids has the necessary cognitive skills they need to be successful by third grade. She says we need to invest in more high-quality pre-school education to make sure kids what they have needs to succeed.

11/7/13

Giving kids the gift of a quality education for the holidays. Jennifer Howey is with the Michigan Education Savings Program. Howey says the MESP has just revealed a new gifting program, which allows family and friends to contribute to a child's college savings account, just by clicking on a link. She says it "takes a village" to help raise a child, and this will help give parents a helping hand in helping to pay for college.

11/12/13

Helping students of modest means achieve the dream of a college education. Mark Jackson is Director of the Upward Bound program at Eastern Michigan University, a federally funded program aimed at young people whose parents did not attend college. He says the program has been a big success and has been around for 47 years. EMU Freshman Kaylan Roberson, an Ypsilanti High School Graduate who went through the program starting in 8th grade, says she and her sister were the first in their family to go to college.

11/14/13

More teens are just saying no to alcohol. Jan Withers, National President of MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving. She says a new survey shows 3 out of 4 teens (77 per cent) do not drink alcohol. She says that is encouraging. But there is more work to do. 47 hundred people die every year as a result of underage drinking.

11/19/13

Two local students honored for their work in writing and photography. Detroit Country Day Grad Richa Bijlani, now a freshman at Vanderbilt University, has her memoir on display at the National Education Department Building in Washington. Detroit Country Day Sophomore Hannah Hansen had her photography recognized and displayed in Washington in the Art, Write Now competition. Photography teacher Susan Lucas recognized Hannah's talents right away as soon as she met her.

11/22/13

Educators at this all local all-girl's school are getting a different kind of Apple on their desks. Mercy High School Associate Principal Larry Baker says the school has received the Apple Distinguished School Award, for its innovative use of technology in the classroom.

11/26/13

Good news about the number of Michigan students covered by health insurance. Joan Elker is Executive Director of the Georgetown Center for Children and Families. Only 13 per cent of those polled in a new survey realize that more children have health insurance now. Most people believe that the number of uninsured children has gone up. And she says even more Michigan families will be covered starting next year.

11/28/13

Things are looking up for the Detroit Public Schools. DPS students showed record gains in the latest MEAP tests, according to DPS Emergency Manager Jack Martin. Martin says enrollment losses have also slowed, and the number of newly-enrolled high school students has actually increased.

12/3/13

A local school district is making a difference by caring and sharing with the community. Avondale High School Principal Michelle Imbrunone says this year during caring and sharing week, the students are volunteering and raising money to help the Gleaners Community Food Bank and Blessings in a Backpack. Avondale High Senior Shelby Drake was surprised at how many people in the community needed help.

12/5/13

Is a high school yearbook still relevant in this high-tech digital age? Yearbook Advisor Stacy Smale at Utica High School says studies show the one thing people will save from their high school 20 years from now is their yearbook. The school's Warrior Yearbook has just been named among the state and nation's best. The staff has been earned top honors from the International Scholastic Press Association and the Columbia Press Association. Senior Amanda Koss is one of the Editors of the yearbook. She says all the hard work is really worth it to see how much seniors enjoy looking through the memories. Co-Editor Lizzie Wilson says the yearbook is still a big deal at Utica.

12/10/13

Detroit Public Schools Survey: DPS Spokesman Steve Wasko says school officials will be conducting the first district-wide survey of parents to see what their biggest concerns are for their child's education. Early results show parents are most concerned about their child's safety on their way to and from school, along with academic progress.

12/12/13

It's a big honor for a local teacher who's just been named the Waterford Education Foundation teacher of the year. Teacher of the year Brian Wilson is the Newspaper and Journalism Advisor at Waterford Kettering High School. He says an outstanding teacher must be able to connect with kids and have a real impact on their lives.

12/17/13

A fun way to get more girls into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math: Margaret Poppe and her twin sister Elizabeth are girl scouts and juniors at the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills. They have been working with young girl scouts to get them involved in robotics and other science and engineering projects. They want them to know that science is not just for boys.

12/19/13

Santa is coming early for kids at a Dearborn Elementary School. Brigitte Annouti, Social Services Director at ACCESS, which is working with volunteers from local business and community groups to distribute gifts to hundreds of kids at Salina Elementary School in Southwest Dearborn. She says for many kids, this is the only visit from Santa this year.

12/24/13

It's that time of year for giving. And the Detroit College Promise is counting on the community to make sure kids in the Detroit Public Schools can afford to go to college. College Promise Founder Dr. Nat Pernick says they have given out over 140 thousand in scholarships to more than 400 students over the past five years. He says huge donations would be nice, but most of their contributions are of the 25 to 50 dollar variety.

Car Chronicles

10/1/13

Ford analyst Erich Merkle talks about their strong October sales. We talk with Jessica Caldwell of Edmunds and Jeff Schuster of LMC about pickup sales.

10/2/13

We're nearing the 100th anniversary of the assembly line. We talk about it with Bruce Hettle, director of manufacturing engineering at Ford.

10/3/13

Tesla has a car fire. We talk about the fire in the model S and public perceptions of Tesla with Jim Hall, analyst with 2953 Analytics.

10/4/13

We test drive the electric version of the Fiat 500.

10/7/13

We talked with Karl Brauer of Kelly Blue Book about the new Cadillac Escalade. GM is ready to unveil new vehicle that night.

10/8/13

We take a ride in GM's prototype self-driving car. We also talk to John Kapp, who's heading up the project to put a "super cruise control" on the market by 2020.

10/9/13

Chevy updates the Malibu mid-size car. We talk about it with marketing manager Russ Clark.

10/10/13

We talk about upscale performance seats with Marcus Gussman of Recaro. We also visited the company's Auburn Hills factory.

10/11/13

We test drive the Infiniti Q50 Sport Sedan.

10/14/13

IHS Automotive's Mike Robinet talks about expansion in Mexico, and efforts to meet strict new fuel economy standards.

10/15/13

Bill Matthew of Mazda talks about their important new small car, the Mazda 3.

10/16/13

We talk about issues facing auto dealers, and the economy in general with National Automobile Dealers Association President David Wescott.

10/17/13

Why is General Motors going to sell an Impala that runs on both gasoline and natural gas? We talk about it with Kelly Blue Book analyst Alec Gutierrez.

10/18/13

We test drive the Jaguar F-Type.

10/21/13

The rapid rise in car production leads to quality issues. We talk with Ford's new purchasing Vice President Hau Thai Tang.

10/22/13

We talk with Boston Consulting partner Nikolous Lang about the growth of sales in emerging markets.

10/23/13

Chevy has big car plans. We talk with marketing director Chris Perry.

10/24/13

Ford posts a 3rd quarter profit of 1.3 billion dollars. We talk with Chief Financial Officer Bob Shanks.

10/25/13

We test drive the Nissan NV 200.

10/28/13

Consumer Reports looks at the reliability of new cars. We talk with their chief auto tester Jake Fisher.

10/29/13

Ford's new 1 liter ecoboost engine will get 45 miles per gallon. We talk with Steve Gill, who is chief engineer for North American engines for Ford.

10/30/13

GM and Chrysler post strong third quarter profits. We hear from Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne and GM CFO Dan Ammann.

10/31/13

LMC Automotive analyst Jeff Schuster talks about sales trends in October.

11/1/13

We test drive the Chevrolet Corvette Stingray.

11/4/13

Mark Trostle, design chief of Chrysler's Mopar and SRT departments talks with us about the upcoming SEMA show.

11/5/13

Ford racing chief Jamie Allison and racer Scott Pruitt discuss using Ford's EcoBoost technology in racing.

11/6/13

We speak with Dodge brand CEO Tim Kuniskis about the decision to bring back the "Scat Club" for people who are into performance.

11/7/13

Ford sales and marketing Vice President John Felice discusses the importance of the SEMA show.

11/8/13

We test drive the Lexus IS

11/11/13

We talk about the reasons behind Cadillac's turnaround with GM North America President Mark Reuss.

11/12/13

We visit the only independent test track in the Detroit area. We talk with Mike Benjamin who heads the FT Techno Fowlerville Proving Grounds.

11/13/13

Lincoln unveils the MKC small SUV. We talk with Chief Engineer Lisa Drake.

11/14/13

Is GM ready for life after Dan Akerson. We talk with Edmunds.com analyst Michelle Krebs.

11/15/13

We test drive the Cadillac CTS.

11/18/13

We talk with analyst Karl Brauer about the LA Auto Show.

11/19/13

Connectivity is important to the auto industry. We talk about it with Ford marketing VP Jim Farley.

11/20/13

We talk with GM North America President Mark Reuss about the new Chevy Colorado pickup truck.

11/21/13

We talk about fuel cell powered vehicles with Toyota North America Vice President Bob Carter

11/22/13

We test drive the Toyota Corolla.

11/25/13

Car companies are moving more to smart phone and tablet apps, outshining online sites. We talk with Brian Murphy of eBay Motors.

11/26/13

Ohio State University opens a new auto safety lab. We talk with lab director Umit Ozgunner.

11/27/13

Northern Michigan is becoming more of a manufacturing destination. We talk about it with Oliver Racing CEO Joe Moch.

11/28/13

Consulting company Pilot systems is doing more work with Chinese customers. We talk with CEO Roger Berry.

11/29/13

We test drive the Nissan Versa Note

12/2/13

We talk with Toyota Vice President Bob Carter about pickup trucks and green vehicles.

12/3/13

November car sales come in stronger than expected. We speak with Edmunds.com analyst Michelle Krebs and GM Sales Operations Manager Kurt McNeil.

12/4/13

Will strong Black Friday sales change car companies incentive strategies? We talk with analysts Jeff Schuster of LMC Automotive and Jessica Caldwell of Edmunds.com.

12/5/13

Ford reveals the all new Mustang. We talk with the company's Chief Operating Officer Mark Fields.

12/6/13

We test drive the Buick LaCrosse

12/9/13

We visit GM's new Customer Experience Center and talk with the company's VP of Global Quality, Alicia Boler-Davis.

12/10/13

We talk with Ed Lapham from Automotive News and Mark Phelan of the Detroit Free Press about the finalists for North American Car and Truck of the Year.

12/11/13

GM North America President Mark Reuss talks about their new product plans for 2014.

12/12/13

We talk with Autoweek editor Wes Raynal about their choice of the Chevy Corvette and Silverado as car and truck of the year.

12/13/13

We test drive the Kia Cadenza.

12/16/13

We look forward to next year with projections from IHS Automotive chief economist Charles Chesborough. He expects growth in the U.S. and globally.

12/17/13

We look at preparations for the North American International Auto Show with Chairman Bob Shuman.

12/18/13

We look at Ford's projections for the coming year with CFO Bob Shanks.

12/19/13

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety CEO Adrian Lund talks about the safest vehicles of the year.

12/20/13

We test drive the Jeep Cherokee

12/23/13

We take a look at Toyota's plans for fuel cell powered vehicles. We interview Toyota North America Vice President Bob Carter.

12/24/13

Faurecia North America CEO Mike Heneka talks with us about their plans for the North American International Auto Show.

12/25/13

Chrysler's Dodge Durango marketing campaign won sales and praise. We talk with marketing vice president Olivier Francious

12/26/13

Edmunds.com chief economist Lacey Plache talks about the impact older buyers are having on car sales.

12/27/13

We test drive the Mazda 3

12/30/13

We get the year in review for Hyundai from the company's North America CEO John Krafcik.

12/31/13

With the North American International Auto Show just weeks away, we talk with Edmunds.com features editor Carol Lachnit about strategies for car shoppers.

Staying in Touch

10/5/13

CAREGIVERS EXPO

Sallie Justice from Area Agency on Aging 1B on next Saturday's Solutions for Family Caregivers Expo at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi...a free event that provides resources information and support to people caring for aging and disabled family members....their numbers have grown by 10 percent just in the last three years in Michigan.

10/12/13

CELEBRATE MY DRIVE

Erica Thurmond is a nurse and manager of Beaumont Hospital pediatric trauma unit, she says next Saturday's event at Northwood Center in Royal Oak is intended to show kids the consequences of not paying attention to the road ahead while they are behind the wheel.

10/19/13

FRIGHT NIGHT FESTIVAL

Paying it forward...while having fun. Lisa Swanson is part of the 1st ever Fright Night Festival and 2nd annual Road Rally in Northville next Saturday October 26th...an idea that grew out of last year's inaugural road rally as a fundraiser for local charity.

10/26/13

WILLOW RUN BOMBER PLANT CAMPAIGN

Preserving history...and the effort to save the Willow Run plant....Dennis Norton of the Yankee Air Museum says most of the 5-million square foot plant will be coming down, but they want to save part of it as the future home of the museum, and to tell the story behind the plant.

11/2/13

MICHIGAN BELL BUILDING DEDICATION

Edwin Harlin S-E MI director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority....at the dedication for the Bell Building...a six-year \$52-million dollar plus project--made possible through a host of public and private funding sources that renovated the iconic Michigan Bell building long abandoned and vacant...now serving as an apartment building, providing a permanent address for 155 formerly homeless residents.

11/9/13

KIDS COUNT

Investing in Michigan's future--one child at a time... Gilda Jacobs of the Michigan League for Public Policy delivering this year's KIDS COUNT policy report, on the state of children's welfare in Michigan. And there have been some areas of progress in terms of more state funding for early childhood development.

11/16/13

WORKING FAMILIES CONFERENCE

Big step forward in helping working families in Detroit and across America! Sterling Speirn, CEO of the WK Kellogg Foundation, speaking at the nation's largest foundations meeting in Detroit recently: A new coalition being formed--The Working Families Success Network--to provide individuals and families the means of attaining greater financial stability. Speirn says working families need a greater voice at a time they are seeing less wealth.

11/23/13

DETROIT ZOO WILD LIGHTS

Turning the lights back on to a holiday tradition! Patricia Janeway at the Detroit Zoo on the return of Wild Lights, a holiday light display for 24 days through the holiday season, including weekends and selected weekdays: The "Wild Lights" display first came to be in the mid-90's and continued until 2004 due to the high cost of conventional lighting.

11/30/13

TSA PRE-CHECK PROGRAM EXPANSION

One line that will move faster for the holidays...Bob Ball of the Transportation Security Agency at Metro Airport says the program is expanding beyond applicants and the ultra-frequent flyers...as of October, they now have the means to choose travelers at random for the expedited pre-check lines.

12/7/13

STOP HIGH SCHOOL DROP OUTS

Keeping drop-outs in school...Information Center President and CEO Edward D'Angelo discusses Monday night's panel discussion "Stop High School Drop Out" 6pm at the Southgate Library on Dix-Toledo Road... a free seminar for youth and their parents to understand drop out risk factors, the warning signs, along with steps to prepare for college, financial assistance and the essentials of job readiness.

12/14/13

ST VINCENT DEPAUL CBS CARES

St Vincent De Paul is December's partner in the CBS Cares Campaign...Executive Director Bill Brazier says the holidays are a busy time for his organization. With colder weather, they have greater demand to meet the critical needs of the less fortunate.

12/21/13

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Salvation Army Captain Peter Mount on the Angel Tree program, where families in need are adopted by businesses, individuals as well as other families who provide gifts, clothing and other necessities so they can enjoy the holidays with the rest of us.

12/28/13

WEST RIVER TRAIL

Jerry Cyr oversees the Huron Metroparks system, on the last of a two-part project to construct the West River trail from Huron Mills to Dexter, a five-mile stretch...he calls it an important part of the trail development.

Caregivers Resource Guide

10-7-13

Protecting an infant against Sudden Infant Death Syndrome can be as easy as placing the child on its back when sleeping. Also, keep items like bumper guards, blankets and pillows out of the crib. A footed sleeper is a preferable alternative.

10-11-13

This weekend help is as close as the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, where more than 100 exhibitors are taking part in the Solutions for Michigan Caregivers Expo. Sallie Justice, spokesperson for the Area Agency on Aging 1-B, says this is an opportunity for caregivers to learn about the resources available in their community which may provide assistance.

10-14-13

Handcrafts teacher Ninoska Guillen takes her 4th and 5th grade students to Eastern Market where they learn to select healthy fruits and vegetables that they learn to prepare in their cooking class. Students are from Charlotte-Mason Community School in Southwest Detroit.

10-21-13

Denise Hill is Manager of Patient Services for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program at the Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit. Thousands of women have enrolled in the program, but Hill says many women who do qualify -- are unaware B-Triple-CP exists. So, volunteers are getting the word out at events like job fairs.

10-25-13

At the Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit, Laura Zubeck -- Manager of Patient-Community Education and Volunteer Services -- provides assistance to women [and some men] under age 40 that has breast-health issues, but don't qualify for other programs. For those who qualify, diagnostic exams are covered. Those requiring treatment, may qualify for a program like Medicaid. Zubeck thinks the Affordable Care Act may help fill some but not all of the gaps for these patients.

10-28-13

During a recent Caregiver Expo, we spoke with Caite Morgowicz of the Greater Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association about their respite care program designed to allow caregivers time for themselves. The respite care programs are offered in Detroit and Southfield, Monday-thru-Friday, 8:30 to five. [Podcast loaded on cbsdetroit.com]

11-1-13

Men and testing for prostate cancer: Dr. Isaac Powell of the Karmanos Cancer Institute says a lot of controversy and discussion was prompted by recommendations last year that healthy men skip the PSA blood test and that African American men talk to their doctor about when to be screened. But, Dr. Powell says African-American men are often at an advanced stage of cancer when diagnosed. He recommends they begin testing at age 40; the gene responsible for the advanced prostate cancer occurs more often in this group.

11-4-13

Jodi Speck presents the 30-to-40 minute programs on behalf of the Michigan Attorney General's Office. Speck reminds senior citizens and others they shouldn't allow just anyone into their homes; they should be wary of transient workers. But, the biggest scam Speck warns is the one targeting grandparents who are told a favorite grandchild has been in an accident and needs money. Days later, another call is received asking for more money. Too often it works.

11-8-13

Work continues in Lansing towards helping cancer patients who'd benefit from oral medication. State Representative Gail Haines and State Senator Roger Kahn are again pushing for Michigan to join other states that offer improved coverage of oral cancer drugs. Right now, it's usually intra-venous therapy that's covered. But, Senator Kahn says there are benefits to oral, rather than intra-venous, application. Meanwhile, Representative Haines suggests that voters write or call state lawmakers about the Cancer Treatment Fairness Act. Or, visit the State House.

11-11-13

How prevalent is elder abuse? Bloomfield Hills attorney Christopher J. Berry of the Elder Care Firm says it happens often. The abuser often targets the older person's bank account or tries tricks them with financial scams. Powers-of-Attorney and specialized trusts may be the way to protect elderly loved ones from money scams. But, Berry says that may mean going to court to set-up a conservatorship.

11-15-13

How often should we have our hearing tested as we age? Licensed Audiologist Lisa Berch, Owner of the Healthy Hearing Center in Novi, says a hearing consultation will then be held. If the screening reveals hearing loss that can also be addressed with a hearing aid. Newer hearing aid designs allow them to be hidden deep in the ear canal and they come in a variety of colors. Berch says they can also be linked to your cell phone via blue-tooth.

11-18-13

In the past, the process of developing a breast cancer treatment first involved testing in mice, then patients. But, Oncology Professor Wei-Zen Wei -- Director for Basic Sciences at the Karmanos Cancer Institute -- says patient response may mean going back to the lab for additional pre-clinical testing. Over time, she says, researchers have discovered cats are better animal test subjects than mice. If the model can be well-developed, says Dr. Wei-Zen Wei, it can also be used to test other targeted molecules.

11-22-13

At what point should we begin making our final arrangements? Jane Freed the Family Service Counselor at Elton Black Funeral Home in White Lake recommends undertaking that task before it's needed. To spare their loved ones the cost of burial, more people are not opting for cremation. But, it's possible to select a traditional burial now, lock-in a price and pay it off over a period of 10 years.

11-25-13

During the 60th Annual Trauma Symposium hosted by DMC Detroit Receiving Hospital, medical experts were put on the spot; required to make a sudden call about treatment for a case they hadn't worked. Trauma Director Dr. Anna Ledgerwood says it shows even the leaders in their fields sometimes missed a critical factor. One case that stumped the experts involved a patient who'd stabbed himself. Despite treatment, the patient died. No one had picked-up on the fact the patient had also overdosed on aspirin.

11-29-13

The December 7th deadline for selecting a Medicare Part D provider is fast approaching. Any changes made after that date could mean penalties in the form of higher premiums. The procedures seniors are being asked to elect coverage for would be anything not covered by basic Medicare insurance. First time Part D shoppers and those who want to change their providers can find information at the federal government's Medicare & You website, your local Area Agency on Aging, the AARP website your labor union and health insurance providers.

12-2-13

Is your emergency car kit ready for winter driving? It's recommended that all motorists keep an emergency goody bag in the trunk which contains extra fluids for your car, flashlight, candles, a lighter, portable radio, batteries, non-perishable snacks, blanket and newspaper for insulation against the cold. Your emergency kit should also contain boots, a warm change of clothing and keep your cell phone charged so you can call for help if necessary.

12-6-13

Giving a child a pet as a holiday gift requires planning. Is your child ready to handle the responsibility? Lisa Thompson of Last Day Dog Rescue says giving your child his or her own dog can be a great way to learn to care for something other than them.

12-9-13

Local research may aid in diagnosis of patients with breast and other cancers. Dr. Csaba Juhasz, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology at the PET-scan Center at Children's Hospital of Michigan, uses the PET scan to target more than extra-cranial cancers. It appears to successfully detect other cancers. Should brain scans become a standard part of the diagnostic process for breast cancer patients? Dr. Juhasz says more research is expected.

12-13-13

Carol Goss, President of the Skillman Foundation believes 18 and 19 year old foster children who are aging-out of the state foster care systems are not ready to live completely independent lives. While Michigan does not offer more assistance to these youngsters than it used to, more transitional housing programs are needed.

12-16-13

It's been a problem in the past... and remains a problem today says, DMC Detroit Receiving Hospital Trauma Director Dr. Anna Ledgerwood. She indicates patients visit hospital emergency departments and medical clinics complaining of pain in order to score pain medications. In the past, they often scored pain meds. Now, there's a state data base in place which lists the patients who frequently seek pain meds.

12-23-13

Help for some first-time home buyers in Macomb County. Julie Bachand, an Outreach Specialist with the Macomb County Community Services Agency, says first-time, low-income home buyers are educated through a special program in saving money, securing loans and a mortgage. They also can take advantage of having an inspection done of the property they plan to buy. When they're ready to buy, the program provides part of the down-payment. Bachand says, so far, none of the program participants has defaulted.

12-27-13

As we age, local Elder Law Attorney Jim Schuster reminds us not to forget our list of must-haves; items like a Durable Power of Attorney, a regular and a Living Will. The latter will designate someone to make medical decisions on your behalf should you become unable to do so. Schuster recommends talking-over your decision with family members so there's no arguing about your wishes.