

January - March 2024
**DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS PROVIDING MOST
SIGNIFICANT TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Local 4 News at 4:30 am	Monday-Friday	4:30 – 5:00 AM
Local 4 News at 5:00 am	Monday-Friday	5:00 – 6:00AM
Local 4 News at 6:00 am	Monday-Friday	6:00 – 7:00 AM
Live in the D	Monday – Friday	11:00 AM-12:00 PM*
Local 4 News at 4	Monday-Friday	4:00-4:30PM
Local 4 News at 5	Monday-Friday	5:00-6:00PM
Local 4 News at 6	Monday-Sunday	6:00-6:30PM
Local 4 News at 11	Monday-Friday	11:00-11:35PM
Local 4 News Today	Saturday	6:00 – 9:00AM
Local 4 News Today	Sunday	6:00-9:00AM
Local 4 News at 11	Saturday and Sunday	11:00-11:35PM

All of the above programs are locally produced news programs presenting a mix of news, weather, sports and issue-responsive reports, segments, and multi-part series. Issue responsive program segments are usually two to three minutes in duration, unless otherwise indicated.

FLASHPOINT	Sunday	10:00-10:30AM
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Hosted by WDIV News anchor Devin Scillian, this weekly news/public affairs program addresses in depth the pressing issues that are in the forefront of the news.

LIVE IN THE D	Monday – Friday	11:00-12:00PM
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS	Every Day	Run of Schedule
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Public Service Announcements (PSAs) generally vary in length from ten seconds to thirty seconds each and, unless otherwise indicated, appear throughout WDIV’s broadcast schedule including prime time.

DATELINE

Friday 9:00-11:00p 1-12, 1-19, 2-2, 2-9, 2-16, 2-23, 3-1, 3-8, 3-15, 3-22, 3-29

Friday 10-11p 1-5

Sunday 8-10p 1-21

Sunday 9-11p 1-28, 2-4, 2-11, 2-25, 3-31

Sunday 10-11p 2-18, 3-17, 3-24

This NBC network news program features investigative reporting on controversial issues facing the American public.

TODAY SHOW	Monday-Friday	7:00-10:00AM 10:00 AM-11:00 AM
TODAY SHOW SATURDAY	Saturday	9:00-10:30AM
TODAY SHOW SUNDAY	Sunday	9:00-10:00AM

The above three NBC network news programs offer a mix of news, weather, and features, including some interviews and in-depth reports on issues of current concern.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	Monday-Sunday	6:30-7:00PM
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This half-hour NBC network news program provides a round-up of the day's major news events and in-depth reporting on issues of concern to the American public.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

1. **GOVERNMENT**, including updates on the political process, information on the inner workings of various governmental departments, involvement in international affairs and homeland security.
2. **AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**, including information about developments within the industry from both a consumer and employer perspective.
- 3.. **HEALTH AND PUBLIC WELFARE**, including new medical developments, updates on medical research, consumer information on medical issues, and information on healthy lifestyles. Currently, stories about Coronavirus and all that impacts, top our daily coverage.
4. **ECONOMIC WELFARE OF METROPOLITAN REGION**, including issues that have the potential to impact future economic resources, and industry developments that play a role in our region's future growth and our citizen's economic well-being.
5. **CONSUMER WELFARE**, including issues that pertain to notification of the public about products that may be harmful as well as information regarding rights and possible recourse for consumer issues.
6. **EDUCATION**, updates on new developments within the schools, including administrative policy and innovations within the education system.
7. **LEGAL SYSTEM**, including issues that have the potential to affect our lives, local and statewide legislative issues and information on the judicial process.
8. **CRIME**, including information on major crime stories, how crimes are affecting or have the potential to affect the average citizen and preventative measures to combat crime.
9. **RACE RELATIONS AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE**, including information that helps us to better understand the customs, beliefs, and experiences of our multi-cultural region, along with information that pertains to better understanding between our many ethnicities.
10. **CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**, including information about our area's cultural offerings and information about community endeavors.

GOVERNMENT

Program: WDIV News

Dates: March 13, 14.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 12pm, 4pm, 5pm/8:05 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer has signed a pair of bills that would ban the sale of objects used for recreational nitrous oxide use. And the law hopes to curb the use of nitrous oxide as a mind-altering drug.

Local 4 was able to go into a smoke shop and buy it right off the shelves, but with this new bill that the governor signed, it won't be possible for too much longer.

"I think it's been available for a while and kind of been flying under the radar," said Kyle Scarlett.

If you've seen the canisters across the city, you've seen the aftermath of someone getting high by inhaling the nitrous oxide that's inside.

"I've seen some people go a bad way with that stuff," said Kenneth Vadnais.

With hopes of cutting down on those abusing the item that's used for charging whipped cream, Whitmer has signed Senate Bill 57, which will prohibit the sale of the item if the seller knows it's being used as a drug.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 4, 7, 8, 9, 14.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/14:15 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer presented an \$80.7 billion budget that aimed to boost education spending and deliver on her promise to provide students free education from preschool through community college.

The second-term Democratic Governor unveiled her budget proposal in a joint session between the House and Senate appropriations committees. It follows a State of the State speech where Whitmer concentrated on initiatives such as free community college for all high school graduates, free preschool for 4-year-olds and continuing a free breakfast and lunch program for all students.

"My budget today will deliver on the vision I outlined a couple weeks ago," Whitmer told lawmakers. "Lowering costs, improving education and ensuring that anyone and everyone can make it here in Michigan."

Whitmer asked for \$63.5 million to expand free pre-K to 4-year-olds and \$30 million for the free community college program. Continuing to provide free breakfast and lunch would cost \$200 million this year, according to the Governor.

In addition to prioritizing more money for education, Whitmer also proposed increases to address the ongoing repairs of roads and bridges, provide tax credits for family caregivers and expand subsidies aimed at attracting businesses to Michigan.

Republican Senate Leader Aric Nesbitt criticized Whitmer's budget, labeling it as mere "public relations talking points." He said it prioritizes excessive tax incentives for businesses while neglecting support for families.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 19, 22, 23, 24, 25.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/16:20 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer called for increased investments in education through initiatives such as free community college for all high school graduates and free preschool for 4-year-olds in a State of the State speech Wednesday night focused on cutting costs for residents.

The second-term Democratic governor's speech preceded a legislative session that may require lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to work together for the first time since Democrats took full control of the state government last January. The state House will be tied 54-54 until at least April, when special elections for two open seats are set to be held.

Whitmer's speech highlighted an investment of over a billion dollars to build or rehabilitate housing in the state, saying they planned to "build, baby, build." She also called on lawmakers to pass a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for caregiving expenses including counseling, transportation, and nursing or respite services.

"We will build a Michigan where if you get knocked down, you have the support you need to get back up. Lowering costs on the biggest items in your budget, improving education so your kids can thrive, ensuring you can 'make it' no matter who you are or what you've been through," said Whitmer.

The governor also used the opportunity to highlight policies implemented by Democrats in 2023, their first year with full control of the agenda in over four decades. Democrats worked to repeal a union-restricting law known as "right-to-work," overhaul gun laws in the state and further protect both LGBTQ+ and abortion rights.

Much of work highlighted in Whitmer's speech aligned with the key issues that national Democrats are stressing ahead of the November election. Voter sentiment toward the party's agenda in Michigan could prove vital for an upcoming presidential election that could hinge on the battleground state's results.

"I cannot solve global inflation alone. No one person can — not even the President," said Whitmer, who is the co-chair of President Joe Biden's reelection campaign. The governor underscored Biden's policies multiple times in her speech, saying they had driven a "manufacturing renaissance" in Michigan.

Republican leaders criticized Whitmer for what they said has been five years without substantive improvements in education, infrastructure, or economic development in the state. Rep. Matt Hall, the House minority leader, described Whitmer's agenda as "short-term ideas that are designed to generate a lot of press and attention toward perhaps national political ambitions."

“What we saw in the speech tonight is really a long list of promises that only have short-term funding,” Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt told reporters after the speech. Hall and Nesbitt each pointed to a report released in December by a bipartisan commission focused on growing the state's population that was formed last year by Whitmer. According to the report, Michigan ranks near the bottom of all states in population growth, median income and new housing.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: March 25, 26.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 5pm, 11pm/6:35 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported it has been 10 years since the city of Detroit filed for the largest municipal bankruptcy in United States history. On Monday, March 25, the city hit a major milestone in its comeback.

Let's say you have a credit card and a crummy credit score and you can get credit with something like a 27% interest rate. It's not good and that's where the City of Detroit was a decade ago.

Let's now say you could get things turned around and get a credit card at 17% interest instead. It's a much better deal and that's where the city of Detroit is now.

The City of Detroit used to be swimming in red ink, but in March 2024, Mayor Mike Duggan announced a Moody's Bond Rating upgrade of not one, but two levels higher.

Duggan handed out bottles of black ink to staffers to take a victory lap over some bad history.

“It's pretty remarkable the city has higher credit ratings than a lot of other cities in the country, cities we were looking up at for a long time,” Duggan said.

Duggan said there's no going back to the bad old days when Detroit overextended itself with debt to the point where they had to use creative means to get more. Instead, the mayor said fiscal responsibility has to remain at the forefront.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 22, 23.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 5pm/3:55 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported Detroit unseated Miami for the fastest-growing home-owner property values in the nation. Michigan's property tax system is complicated. To simplify, what's most important to know is it's capped at 5% this year, meaning that's the most your tax bill can go up year to year. Additionally, you can appeal that.

Duggan said the property values showcase the city's true comeback, citing significant gains.

“The green areas for the most part have 30 to 50% increases, the blue areas have increases of 50% or more,” Duggan said as he presented a property valuation map.

Duggan said in 2017, Detroit's overall property value amounted to roughly \$2.8 billion -- a hefty jump from the years prior. It doubled again by 2021 and the estimate for 2024 is double again at \$8.7 billion. He added the city appeal process may not net the savings Detroiters want to see.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 1/7/24

Time/Duration: 14:28

Summary:

Flashpoint was hosted by WDIV anchor Devin Scillian. The guest was Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan. They talked about the recent good news that the city's crime numbers have gone down significantly, and Duggan explained some of the factors behind the improvement. He said getting the court system up to speed again after COVID helped a lot and community outreach is better too. He also talked about his desire to increase the clearance rate on non-fatal crimes like carjackings. The next topic was the Mayor's initiative to increase taxes on vacant lots, scrapyards and similar properties who only pay about \$30 per year currently. Duggan said speculators can afford to pay \$60 per year instead since most have no intention to ever build on their property. Next they discussed upcoming groundbreaking, including the University of Michigan's graduate school inside the city of Detroit and what that will mean for technology and innovation companies considering moving here. They talked about efforts to build affordable housing in desirable neighborhoods like Corktown, plans for the upcoming NFL draft, and what should be done to change I-375 which runs through the city's downtown corridor.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 1/14/24

Time/Duration: 15:33

Summary:

The roundtable was Detroit Free Press editorial page editor Nancy Kaffer, political strategists Adolph Mongo and Jason Roe and assistant editorial page editor at the Detroit News Kaitlyn Buss. The group discussed the recent Local 4/Detroit News poll that showed Joe Biden way behind Donald Trump in Michigan, with almost no path to winning. They talked about how Biden has no way to win reelection if he doesn't win Michigan. Roe said the poll is not an outlier nationwide, Biden's support amongst black voters and young voters has eroded significantly. Name recognition among the Senate candidates is very low, and Kaffer said it's still early in the race and most people are not paying attention yet. Buss said she believes people are dividing more along class lines than race lines. The group discussed chaos within the state parties – more blatant in the Republican party, but there was agreement that there are fractures inside the Michigan Democratic party too.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 1/21/24

Time/Duration: 11:25

Summary:

The roundtable guests were Detroit News politics editor Chad Livengood, Michigan Public political director Zoe Clark, political consultant Dennis Darnoi and WDET radio host Stephen Henderson. They talked about the aftermath of the Iowa caucuses and looked ahead to the upcoming New Hampshire primary, discussing what Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis have to do to make any dent in Donald Trump's enormous lead. The next topic was whether the Supreme Court should weigh in on Trump's eligibility to appear on the general election ballot in the states that are questioning it. That led to process by which Trump seems to have been "normalized" again both in the media and by voters across the country. Henderson pointed out that courts like to stay out of final decision making in the political realm. Livengood added that trust in institutions like the Supreme Court and others is at an all-time low, and this kind of dilemma only undermines that further no matter the decision. The final topic was the state of Michigan's Republican state party and the in-fighting and drama that stymies fundraising and other basic party functions.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 1/28/24

Time/Duration: 12:04

Summary:

The roundtable guests were Detroit News editorial page editor Nolan Finley, political strategist Adolph Mongo, the political director of Michigan Public Zoe Clark and former Speaker of the Michigan House Tom Leonard. The group critiqued Governor Whitmer's State of the State address, with everyone agreeing it was not her best speech but the circumstances this year were different than in the past. They mentioned that it will be more challenging to get things accomplished in Lansing with a 54-54 split between Republicans and Democrats and because it's an election year. Leonard added that redistricting will also make things difficult for lawmakers from Detroit who aren't sure who they'll be running against next. Clark echoed the sentiment, saying Speaker Joe Tate will have a hard time determining legislative priorities in this atmosphere. Attention turned to the national presidential primary, and the group agreed that since it all seems to be over so soon, Michigan once again had very little say in the outcome, as will 47 other states that haven't voted yet.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 2/4/24

Time/Duration: 10:00

Summary:

The roundtable guests were the publisher of the Arab American News Osama Siblani, Democratic Representative Debbie Dingell, assistant editorial page editor of The Detroit News Kaitlyn Buss and political strategist Dennis Darnoi. Siblani explained why large numbers of Arab Americans have joined the “abandon Biden” movement, because Biden has not tried to force a ceasefire in Gaza among other issues. He said he is the one who started the “abandon Biden” effort and encouraging people to be “uncommitted” in the primary. Dingell said Michigan is ground zero for the whole country and whichever way the state votes will be the way the election goes. Buss said there are no candidates who are championing the Palestinian cause and said that some Arab American voters were pushing for book bans not long ago. Darnoi agreed that it may all come down to Michigan if current trends hold and Trump is looking strong because Biden’s support is so weak. Siblani said Biden can make up some ground if he advocates for a ceasefire and sends aid to Gaza.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 2/11/24

Time/Duration: 14:12

Summary:

Flashpoint roundtable guests included Detroit Free Press editorial page editor Nancy Kaffer, Detroit News editorial page editor Nolan Finley, former U.S. Representative Mike Bishop and Focus: HOPE Portia Roberson. They discussed the guilty verdict in the Jennifer Crumbley case and whether it will set a precedent in other cases. They speculated about what the verdict means for the case against James Crumbley. The next topic was the Supreme Court case regarding whether Colorado can keep Donald Trump off the ballot this election cycle. Roberson said a unanimous decision would help the court’s perception problem with being seen as political. Then attention turned to the special counsel’s report determining that Biden willfully retained documents but said he wouldn’t be charged. Finley called it a political blow because it made a point to say he was “elderly” with a bad memory, which is the perception he’s fighting against

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 2/11/24

Time/Duration: 8:29

Summary:

State Senator Stephanie Chang sponsored a package of bills that are meant to help people who can't afford their water bill by charging others a \$2 monthly fee. Chang was a guest along with Macomb County Public Works director Candice Miller, who opposes the legislation. Miller said the proposed program is redundant with an existing program called WRAP that provides funds for the same purpose. The two leaders disputed whether the existing programs are well-funded enough, with Chang saying they're not and Miller saying they have excess money every year. They discussed whether water is a right or a commodity, and Chang said it's a public health issue and Miller agreed that we are a compassionate society, but we don't need more fees that send money outside of different counties.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 2/18/24

Time/Duration: 10:39

Summary:

Three members of the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission were the guests. Democrat and chairperson Brittni Kellom, Independent co-chairperson Rebecca Szetela, and Republican commissioner Marcus Muldoon came to talk about their efforts to redraw maps that were deemed unfair to Black voters in southeast Michigan. Kellom said she considers the group underdogs getting a second chance and Szetela attributed the controversy to the "messiness" of democracy. Muldoon described his priorities as the commission figures out where to draw district lines across populations, including trying to keep communities with similar interests together. Kellom agreed, saying demographic information also must be weighed in.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 2/18/24

Time/Duration: 6:26

Summary:

Glengariff Group founder and pollster Richard Czuba came on to talk about the latest changes leading into Michigan's primary election. He talked about former Detroit police chief James Craig failing to get on the statewide ballot for a second time, and the effort among many Arab Americans to voice displeasure with President Biden by voting "uncommitted" in the Michigan

primary. Czuba said Michigan has a long history of sending messages during primary campaigns and that Democrats have a lot to lose in this effort especially with young voters.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 2/25/24

Time/Duration: 14:12

Summary:

The segment started with a portion of a taped interview of WDIV anchor Christy McDonald with Dearborn Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, talking about his decision to support the “vote uncommitted” movement designed to send a message of displeasure to the Biden campaign regarding his policy toward Israel/Palestine. Then the roundtable took up the topic. Roundtable guests were Jill Alper from Alper Strategies, Detroit News assistant editorial page editor Kaitlyn Buss, Dennis Darnoi from Densar Consulting and the CEO of Focus: HOPE Portia Roberson. They debated the merits of making a point while also leading to the success of Donald Trump, a candidate who would be even less palatable to people who might vote uncommitted. Buss said the movement has already garnered a lot of attention, and if it manages 20-30% of the vote it will make big news. The group talked about the continuing role that reproductive rights continue to play in this election cycle and how that may influence results.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 2/25/24

Time/Duration: 9:04

Summary:

The roundtable talked about the question of both candidates’ advanced ages and how Biden isn’t helping the argument against him when he skips media avails. Alper said the strategy is to talk about Biden’s accomplishments not his age, and Buss said Biden’s attempts at social media targeting younger voters is falling flat. Roberson questioned why Republicans said black voters will respond to Trump’s branded sneakers. The guests all agreed that at this point they believe that the rosters are set and that Biden/Harris will definitely be the Democratic ticket. Finally, they talked about the large Polish population in metro-Detroit and whether they will vote based on Trump’s recent comments about telling Russia they can do whatever they want to countries who don’t spend on their own national defense.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/3/24

Time/Duration: 12:03

Summary:

The roundtable guests were WJR host Guy Gordon, political consultant Adolph Mongo and editorial page editor from The Detroit News Nolan Finley. They talked about the results of the past week's primary in Michigan and debated whether the "uncommitted vote" movement will change anything. They also wondered who Nikki Haley's supporters will back once she exits the race. Mongo praised Haley for wounding Trump by refusing to suspend her campaign despite multiple losses. The group talked about Justin Amash joining the Michigan Senate race on the Republican side, and whether leading Democrat Elissa Slotkin appeals to Detroit voters. They also discussed a judge settling who is truly the leader of the Michigan Republican Party, saying Pete Hoekstra is the legitimate head and telling Kristina Karamo to stand down and cancel her rival events.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/10/24

Time/Duration: 10:11

Summary:

Wayne County Executive Warren Evans was the guest. He recently wrote an op-ed in the Detroit Free Press about his decision to vote uncommitted in the primary because he feels Black voters are being taken for granted by the Democratic party. He said the point was to send a message that leaders like him need to be at the table in earlier stages of the campaigns instead of just swooping in at the end. Evans said people like Governor Whitmer and the chair of the Michigan Democratic Party Lavora Barnes do not include him in policy-setting meetings. He pointed out that most Black voters who are disconnected didn't vote uncommitted, they simply didn't vote. Evans said the fact that he talks to regular people regularly and still doesn't have any input is disturbing and confirmed that he's still considering running for Mayor of Detroit in the future.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/17/24

Time/Duration: 9:36

Summary:

The roundtable guests were Detroit Free Press editorial page editor Nancy Kaffer, assistant editorial page editor for the Detroit News Kaitlyn Buss, WDET radio host Stephen Henderson,

and former Speaker of the Michigan House Tom Leonard. They discussed the Crumbley verdict, starting with Kaffer's latest column that had predicted the father would not be convicted since society places more responsibility on mothers. Kaffer said she was satisfied to be wrong about that. The group also talked about whether this case is likely to be used as a precedent in other cases across the country or if the set of facts is too specific to have wide application. The subject turned to congressional efforts to ban TikTok, and whether the issue is more about worries about China or whether it's concerns about social media and misinformation. Buss said it would be very difficult to effectively ban any app, even in the unlikely event that the measure passes the Senate. Leonard predicted there would be legal challenges and he thinks there's a good first amendment argument that TikTok should not be banned. Henderson wondered why people aren't more concerned about many other companies sharing massive amounts of data about users with a lot of different entities.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/17/24

Time/Duration: 6:35

Summary:

Author Mitch Albom came on to talk about being airlifted from Haiti amid widespread gang violence this past week. Albom said he travels to Haiti monthly to work with the orphanage he founded in Port Au Prince and on this last occasion he brought eight other volunteers with him, and he couldn't ask them to stay in dangerous circumstances. Albom advocated for some U.S. intervention because of its proximity to the United States and how easy it would be to end this conflict because it's being wrought by gangs, not an army. He said not welcoming Haitians into the country is dooming them to lives of violence.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 1/08/24

Time/Duration: 6am/:40

The work-from-home option for thousands of General Motors workers is just about over. The story covered the automaker's plan to release detailed information on January 8, 2024 about how and when workers needed to return to the office. The report pointed out the preliminary information suggested most workers would need to be in the office Tuesday – Thursday.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 1/17/24

Time/Duration: 6pm/1:45

The story called attention to the problem electric vehicles are experiencing in cold weather. The report said EV Ford Motor Company announced it is recalling 45,000 cars. The story noted the concern is over a faulty door latch. The report listed the cars impacted by the recall, and in which states most of the vehicles were sold.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 1/24/24

Time/Duration: 5pm/:30

The Ford Motor Company decided to recall nearly two million Explorer SUVs. The story explained the concern is that the trim along the windshield can come off. The story listed the model years covered by the recall and what impacted drivers should do.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 2/06/24

Time/Duration: 11pm/:30

General Motors made the move to recall more than 300,000 of its trucks. The story explained there is a problem with the electronic tailgate system on certain Chevrolet Silverados, and G-M-C Sierra trucks. In some cases, the system has short-circuited when wet, causing the tailgate to unlatch on its own.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 2/19/24

Time/Duration: 6am/:40

The United Auto Workers threatened a new strike against the Ford Motor Company. The story explained which plant would be targeted and how the UAW could call for a strike even though a new national contract has already been ratified, noting that the union is still able to take action if there are local issues that remain unresolved.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 3/01/24

Time/Duration: 6pm/1:30

Ford Motor Company and Tesla are now working together when it comes to Electric Vehicles. The story looked at how Ford will now give its EV owners the opportunity to charge at Tesla super-charging stations. Local 4 Business Editor and auto expert Rod Meloni did the story. The report included an interview with a Ford EV owner who recently had to wait over an hour to charge the vehicle. The story also explained Ford EV owners will need an adapter to use a Tesla charging station. Industry experts say the Ford – Tesla agreement could be a game changer and help spark sales if drivers know they have additional charging options.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 3/26/24

Time/Duration: 6am/:30

What's old is new again in the automotive industry. The story covered efforts by Jeep to bring back concept cars. Four concept SUVs were brought for a pre-Easter launch. The report also noted all the vehicles were either fully gas-powered, or plug-in hybrids.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 1/28/24

Time/Duration: 6:32

Summary:

The founder and host of Autoline John McElroy was the guest to talk about the state of electric vehicles in light of recent news. After a spate of very cold temperatures, a lot of people realized how difficult EVs are to charge, and McElroy said he learned that the batteries must be "pre-conditioned" or warmed up before charging and then it will go smoothly and quickly. They also talked about reduced range in cold weather. McElroy explained the reason that Ford cut production on the F-150 Lightning, saying it's because Lightning buyers love it but it's often the first time these people have owned a truck or a Ford, meaning buyers are not the typical truck owners who are still too conservative to want an electric vehicle. Finally they discussed the challenges of acquiring the minerals needed for batteries, and the politicization of the technology.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 2/4/24

Time/Duration: 12:38

Summary:

UAW president Shawn Fain was the guest. He talked about the process that led the union to endorse Joe Biden for another term in office. He said the endorsement had to be earned but that Donald Trump has never tried to help the union effort and Biden joined the picket line this past summer. He said Trump's actions speak louder than his words, despite the support he has among many working-class people. Fain predicted that the Teamsters will eventually endorse Biden as well despite being courted by Trump. He said EVs are where the world is heading over the next years and the technology must be embraced instead of vilified. Fain reflected on the record contract he negotiated last year and talked about current efforts to unionize additional plants especially in southern states.

HEALTH & PUBLIC WELFARE

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 10, 18, 25, 27. February 2, 8, 10, 15, 29. March 8, 14, 22, 27.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 5am, 7am, 5pm, 6pm/ 31:30 total length

Summary:

Medical reporter Dr. Frank McGeorge presents a regular report on "What's Going Around."

It highlights the most common illnesses affecting residents in five local counties. Our health team contacts area hospitals and doctors' offices each week to collect the relevant information and determine which illnesses should be featured. In January, respiratory illnesses surged following holiday gatherings and travel. Most local hospitals reported increases in Covid, influenza and RSV. Stomach viruses, sore throats, and strep throat were also reported. In February, respiratory viruses continued to make lots of people sick. Snow and ice also caused a lot of slip and fall injuries that sent people to the emergency room. Viral illnesses remained a major issue throughout February, spreading through families, classrooms, and workplaces. In some cases, doctors reported those viruses leading to additional problems like sinus infections or pneumonia. In March, spring allergies and asthma symptoms began to ramp up, but flu cases also remained high. Doctors reported Covid cases appeared to have plateaued. Children's Hospital of Michigan began to see an increase in babies suffering from bronchiolitis, a common infection that causes inflammation in the small airways.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 9, 30, 31.

Time/Duration: 5am, 5pm, 6pm / 9:15 total length

Summary:

Blood donations always dip during the winter months and around the holidays, but in January, the American Red Cross warned of a national emergency blood shortage, as donations dipped to the lowest number of people giving blood in the past twenty years. Medical reporter Dr. Frank McGeorge reported the Red Cross suffered nearly a 7,000 unit shortfall in donations between Christmas and New Year's Day. That meant blood was going out to hospitals faster than it was coming in, forcing some hospitals to delay transfusions for patients. Jamila Wilson from the Red Cross said severe weather and seasonal illnesses like influenza were compounding the dire situation. Only 38 percent of people in the United States who are eligible to donate blood actually do so. Dr. McGeorge profiled a retired teacher named Debbie Teichman who has donated 172 units of blood in her lifetime – easily benefiting over 500 recipients. Teichman also made a point of educating her students about the importance of blood donation. “They asked a lot of questions like ‘Does it hurt?’ ‘How long does it take?’ so I would answer their questions and tell them it’s a really good thing to do,” said Teichman. McGeorge urged viewers to donate blood at blood drives held at Gardner White Furniture stores throughout southeast Michigan.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts / 40:15 total length

Summary:

February is Heart Month, an annual effort to encourage people to focus on their cardiovascular health and raise awareness of lifesaving skills like hands-only CPR. Medical reporter Dr. Frank McGeorge highlighted efforts to make Detroit a Heart Safe Community by increasing the number of residents trained in hands-only CPR. Detroit Fire Chief James Harris explained that it is usually family or friends who are in the best position to save someone's life. “People like to call us and EMS and police officers ‘first responders.’ But in all actuality, a lot of times, the citizen is the first responder because they’re on the scene first,” said Harris. Detroit is also working to map all the available AEDs in the city and to add new ones in identified gaps in coverage. Reporter Kimberly Gill shared the story of a New Baltimore father who suffered a heart attack while running with his 18-year-old daughter. Karly Schornak called 911 and kept her father breathing until help arrived. Local 4 followed the entire Schornak family as they attended a hands-only CPR training to learn the skill and raise awareness. Gill also profiled a 38-year-old Detroit mother who called 911 after suffering chest pain. Paramedics arrived just in time to witness her cardiac arrest and restart her heart. Reporter Shawn Ley updated viewers on the health of community activist Malik Shabazz, who suffered cardiac arrest eight months

ago. Shabazz was saved with CPR and quick medical care. Ley reunited Shabazz with one of the doctors who saved his life. Reporter Priya Mann spotlighted efforts to increase hands-only CPR education in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Mann also profiled the Rayat family from Northville. After losing multiple relatives to heart disease, the family has made a concerted effort to find healthier ways to celebrate their Indian culture by making traditional dishes in new ways and putting an emphasis on exercise.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 31. February 28. March 2.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 7am, 5pm / 8:45 total length

Summary:

Regular exercise is essential for heart health, but many Americans struggle to start exercising and keep exercising. Medical reporter Dr. Frank McGeorge reported on new research that may increase the success rate. Dr. Abbi Lane is an exercise physiologist at the University of Michigan and senior author of the American Heart Association's updated statement on the benefits of resistance exercise. She explained that studies over the past 15 years find that muscle strengthening activities can improve cardiovascular fitness. "For people who don't like aerobic training as much, this is a good place to start and get some base level fitness, so that it's not as daunting to start that aerobic training program," said Lane. Dr. McGeorge shared a specific list of exercises that were used in the research and explained that the goal was to do between one and three sets of eight to ten different exercises that include all of the muscle groups. The ideal weight is one that allows you to do between eight and twelve repetitions of each exercise. Dr. McGeorge also interviewed cardiologist Dr. Herb Aronow from Henry Ford Health about the best questions to ask your doctor before beginning an exercise program and the biggest mistakes he sees his patients make when starting to exercise.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: March 5, 6, 11, 14.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 4:30am, 5am, 5pm, 6pm / 10:20 total length

Summary:

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Medical reporter Dr. Frank McGeorge reported on the increase in cases in younger adults and the potential explanations. This year alone, 152,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Experts predict by 2030, cases of colorectal cancer in people under the age of 50 will nearly double. Dr. McGeorge explained that the reason behind the increase in younger people isn't clear, but many lifestyle habits can increase the risk, such as drinking alcohol, obesity, and eating a Western diet high in meat and processed foods. Reporter Demond Fernandez took viewers on a tour of the Giant Colon – an

inflatable replica of a colon used to educate people about the risk of colon cancer. Dr. Surya Nalamati, a colorectal staff surgeon at Henry Ford Health, explained that colon cancer is an abnormal growth in the lining of the colon that often starts as a small polyp. “The polyps slowly evolve into cancerous polyps, and they look a little bit different if you notice from these polyps,” explained Dr. Nalamati. Symptoms of colon cancer can include bleeding, abdominal pain, and changing bowel habits. Doctors recommend screening at age 45 or earlier if there’s a family history of cancer.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/3/24

Time/Duration: 5:59

Summary:

The guest was University of Michigan immunologist Dr. James Baker to talk about the rise of measles again in Michigan because vaccination rates have dropped. Baker called it incredibly frustrating because measles is very infectious and can do real damage including causing blindness and intellectual damage. Then the subject turned to a rise in syphilis cases despite having it contained in the 1990s. But Baker said people got lackadaisical about it because it often presents as different diseases so it can go untreated for long times.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 2/18/24

Time/Duration: 5:58

Summary:

WDIV Medical Reporter and Emergency Department physician Dr. Frank McGeorge was the guest to discuss the latest changes in COVID guidance. McGeorge explained that COVID immunity is now so widespread because of so much exposure through infection and vaccination that the illness is fundamentally different than what it was before. He also talked about how the virus becomes more transmissible but less dangerous pathogenically over time. Finally they discussed the impact of so-called “vaccine fatigue” on the rise of other preventable diseases like measles.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/10/24

Time/Duration: 6:32

Summary:

This segment was a rerun from 2021 with the author of “Seize the Daylight” David Prerau. He talked about past attempts to end the tradition of Daylight Saving Time and why they have quickly failed. He said that although people complain about gaining or losing an hour for the few days surrounding the time change, in actuality people are much unhappier for much longer if the daylight does not shift. For example, he pointed out that cities toward the western edge of time zones (such as Detroit) would be pitch dark at 9am or 4pm at times if we did not change the clocks.

Program: Gardner White Blood Drive

Dates: January 6 – 11

Time/Duration: General Rotation/ 1x :30, 1x :15

Summary:

These WDIV-produced PSAs alerted viewers to the constant need for blood donations in our area. WDIV, the American Red Cross, and Gardner White Furniture team up for blood drives that save countless lives. This one ended on 1/11/24.

Program: MAB – Michigan Cares

Dates: February

Time/Duration: General Rotation/ 1x :30

Summary:

This PSA from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters tells viewers about Michigan Cares, a free online program for children and teens. It helps them develop the skills they need for emotional and mental health.

Program: McGeorge – Move, Teeth, Doctor

Dates: January – March

Time/Duration: General Rotation/ 3x :30, 3x :15

Summary:

These WDIV-produced PSAs feature Local 4 Medical Reporter Dr. Frank McGeorge with various health messages aimed at children. Topics include brushing teeth, getting a shot at a check-up, and moving around more often.

Program: No Normal

Dates: January - March

Time/Duration: General Rotation/ 1x :30, 1x :15

Summary:

These PSAs from Bring Change 2 Mind talk to young people about how there is no one "normal", and that pretending to be confident does not help in the long run. It encourages them to reach out for mental help if they need it.

Program: SAMHSA – By Your Side, Keeping Our Kids Safe

Dates: October - December

Time/Duration: General Rotation/ 2x :30

Summary:

These PSAs from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration tell parents about the importance of talking to their children about underage use of alcohol, prescription drugs and vaping. They explain the dangers and benefits of an open dialogue.

Program: CCF – Spill Your Guts, Maria

Dates: January - February

Time/Duration: General Rotation/ 2x :30

Summary:

These PSAs from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation talk about the undiagnosed symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease and how important it is to find a specialist who can help.

ECONOMIC WELFARE OF METROPOLITAN REGION

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 1/09/24

Time/Duration: 6pm/1:30

The story covered a new round of problems with Michigan residents getting unemployment benefits. The report highlighted laid off auto workers who say they've been waiting months for money. Local 4 Business Editor Rod Meloni did the story, and noted about a quarter of a billion dollars was improperly sent to others, while the auto workers waited for their unemployment benefits. The story included an interview with a laid off Ford worker and a statement from the Michigan Unemployment Agency.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 1/10/24

Time/Duration: 5pm/2:00

Several million dollars have been earmarked by City of Detroit leaders to be used to revitalize buildings and neighborhoods. The story explained \$14.5 million dollars will be split between five projects across the city. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and the person heading up one of the projects were interviewed for the story. The story also mentioned the other four projects that would benefit from the funding, as well as where the money for the projects came from.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 1/10/24

Time/Duration: 6pm/1:30

The story covered an issue that for some is hard to imagine: The state of Michigan has millions of unclaimed dollars that rightfully belong to Michigan residents. The report explained the program is called "Workers Owed Wages" and it revealed there are thousands of residents who simply forgot about their last check from their old job or didn't realize they had a last check coming. An official with the U.S. Department of Labor was interviewed for the story.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 2/05/24

Time/Duration: 5pm/1:45

The story covered an effort by Michigan lawmakers from across the state who came together to support a bill aimed at preventing water shutoffs. The report explained a “Water Affordability” bill being debated by lawmakers would cap water bills at 3 percent of household income and would add \$2 to the average bill to create a fund to help back bills for those unable to pay. The story included interviews with a key lawmaker behind the effort, a homeowner, and a public policy expert, who cautioned there would be push against the idea of water customers paying for someone else’s bill.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 2/07/24

Time/Duration: 5pm/1:50

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer laid out a plan for her 2025 fiscal year state budget. The report highlighted some of the goals listed in the \$80 billion budget, including expanding spending for education, affordable housing, and job training. In addition to Governor Whitmer, State Senate Minority Leader State Rep. Aric Nesbitt was also interviewed. The story explained the process lawmakers will go through next as they review the governor’s budget plan.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 2/19/24

Time/Duration: 6pm/1:30

This was a good news, bad news story about the City of Detroit housing market. The story looked at the rising cost of renting a home or apartment, and what was fueling the trend. The report included interviews with a current renter concerned about staying in their current spot, and someone who recently moved to the Detroit area who is still looking for a place to call home. The story also pointed out the “higher” rental rates were, overall, a positive for the economy because of the additional revenue being generated.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 3/4/24

Time/Duration: 5pm/1:20

Gas prices usually increase as Michigan moves toward warmer weather, but this report covered a late-winter price hike. The story noted that over a one-week period, gas prices rose 20 cents. The increase means drivers are also paying 45 cents more than the same time last year. The story included comments from drivers and also looked at some of the factors causing the price increase.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 3/05/24

Time/Duration: 5pm/1:20

Credit card debt is at record highs, with credit card companies making billions, much of it through late fees. The story is about an effort by the Biden administration to new set rules that will cap the amount credit card companies can charge. Consumer Investigator Hank Winchester did the report. It included a breakdown of the new rules, for example, late fees would be capped at \$8. A local financial planner was interviewed for the story.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 1/7/24

Time/Duration: 7:53

Summary:

Michigan's first Chief Growth Officer Hilary Doe was the guest to talk about why Michigan is 49th of 50 states in terms of population growth and retention. She said Michigan must do a better job telling its own story about what's already great about the state, but also improve things that people want like transportation options and education and job opportunities. Doe said the Growing Michigan Together Council's recent report did include new information, and said that old subjects like mass transit are still achievable if enough people work together to make it happen finally. She pointed out that it's not just cities that need population growth, but rural areas often feel the pain even more when people move away. Finally she addressed the challenges of people not wanting to raise taxes to pay for any of these solutions and the political divide that makes all cooperation difficult at this time.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/10/24

Time/Duration: 6:15

Summary:

Detroit Regional Chamber CEO Sandy Baruah came on to talk about the organization's latest State of the Region report. He started with the good news, which is that Michigan's unemployment rate and GDP growth are at the national average. He also said Michigan is off the charts in terms of new business starts. On the other hand, Baruah said he's troubled by the politization of electric vehicles, and our innovation efforts are being done in a patchwork fashion instead of interconnecting within a statewide system. Indiana and Ohio are more coordinated than Michigan in that regard.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/24/24

Time/Duration: 14:57

Summary:

Flashpoint was hosted by WDIV anchor Christy McDonald. The segment began with a prerecorded question-and-answer session from earlier in the week with Detroit businessman and developer Dan Gilbert. Then the roundtable reacted to the themes they discussed. The guests were the CEO of sixteen42 Ventures Dennis Archer, Jr., president and CEO of the Detroit Regional Chamber Sandy Baruah, and David Di Rita, the founder and principal of the Roxbury Group. The NFL draft is one month away, and the group talked about how much downtown Detroit has changed since when Detroit hosted the Super Bowl in 2006. They talked about how many people are downtown daily, even taking into account the number of people who at least partially work from home. Baruah said another good sign is that new business starts are at an all-time high. Archer pointed out the number of programs available for smaller entrepreneurs to receive funding. Di Rita said the city should focus on being a hospitable place to develop, so that when a project comes up it can move more quickly to groundbreaking.

CONSUMER WELFARE

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 16, 19, 22, 24, 25. February 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27. March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 22, 28, 29, 31.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/42:55 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported on consumer recalls and shared the information with viewers. Consumer Investigator Hank Winchester kept track of all recalls issued by the Consumer Products Safety Commission. During this period, he profiled among others: contaminated sausage recall, a salad kit recall and an infant formula recall.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 5pm/8:35 total length

Summary:

In our In Your Neighborhood segment, Consumer Investigator Hank Winchester has lunch at a local restaurant to meet viewers and hear their consumer concerns. He does a live shot from the restaurant and then profiles some of their stories.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 15, 16.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 5pm/7:35 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported consumer investigator Hank Winchester helped a church with a persistent boiler problem. The boiler had been installed just a few years prior – and was constantly having problems running and keeping the church heated. The church paid \$40,000 for the boiler and a warranty – and it's the main heat source for the entire building. After back and forth with the company, Winchester confronted them – and got the boiler replaced.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 30. February 27.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 5pm/6:35 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported a Westland woman desperately needs help after receiving an astronomical bill from Superior Ambulance. Help Me Hank first exposed the problem of people getting hit with big bills for short rides last year.

Rodriguez couldn't believe it was a bill for thousands for a 12-mile ride in a Superior Ambulance. The bill was for a bariatric surcharge. "They said they needed a larger gurney to move me," Rodriguez said.

Winchester has exposed the billing issues with Superior and have worked to get money back for many of our viewers.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 5, 6.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 5pm/5:15 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported on a persistent pothole problem on the streets of Belleville. After viewers came to Hank Winchester to complain, he was able to get the city to take care of the problem.

EDUCATION

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 4, 7, 8, 9, 14.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/13:30 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer presented an \$80.7 billion budget that aims to boost education spending and deliver on her promise to provide students free education from preschool through community college.

The second-term Democratic governor unveiled her budget proposal in a joint session between the House and Senate appropriations committees. It follows a State of the State speech last month where Whitmer concentrated on initiatives such as free community college for all high school graduates, free preschool for 4-year-olds and continuing a free breakfast and lunch program for all students.

Whitmer asked for \$63.5 million to expand free pre-K to 4-year-olds and \$30 million for the free community college program. Continuing to provide free breakfast and lunch would cost \$200 million this year, according to the governor.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 18. March 18,19.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 5pm, 11pm/6:50 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy was officially sworn in as Wayne State University's first female president on Monday, March 18. The Wayne State University Board of Governors unanimously voted to elect Espy as the university's 13th president back in June. Espy said she was honored and humbled to be a part of "the next chapter" of Wayne State University. "We have the chance to do something we don't do often enough to reflect on the essence that sets us apart," Espy said.

Before being sworn in at the DIA, Espy has had more than 25 years of experience working in higher education, most recently as Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of Texas.

"Wayne State Wayne State is truly a special place, a dynamic force for Detroit and beyond, a nexus of learning and research of access and community engagement that differentiates us in the higher education landscape," Espy said.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 15, 16. February 20. March 26.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 6pm/7:15 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported families fighting to keep a St. Clair Shores catholic school from closing are reacting to upsetting news. Even though they raised a lot of money, St. Germaine Catholic School will still close permanently.

The school near Martin Road and Little Mack Avenue has been open since 1954.

Local 4 spoke to parents who said they were devastated by the decision.

"It's devastating," said parent and volunteer at St. Germaine Jennette Hexter. "They lied to us and they're closing us still."

Parents like Hexter rallied behind efforts to save St. Germaine Catholic School from the moment they learned it was set to close. They even worked to boost enrollment and raise funds.

"I thought that it wasn't even a question rather they could shut us down, like we exceeded what their expectation was," said parent Emily Shankie.

Shankie was hurt to learn that wasn't the case.

"And to find out during Holy Week that they are going to close us down and we don't have another chance, it's really sad," Shankie said.

“I wish they had to be the ones to tell our children that the schools not opening next year and see their reactions because it broke my heart to watch my boys break down like that,” Shankie said. Shankie said she can’t help but wonder what would happen to the staff at St. Germaine. “I hope in future instances if they do this again that they plan differently and actually think about the kids that are going to have their lives changed and the teachers and the staff,” Shankie said. In a letter to families, the team of priests who made the decision says they’ll work with staff and parents who want to find new opportunities at another Catholic school. They also said the money that was donated to save the school would be returned.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 8, 10, 11.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 6pm, 11pm/5:15 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported significant changes and consolidations are coming to the Taylor School District. The school board voted 6-1 to approve the plan that will ultimately close two district buildings and consolidate several schools in the process. Superintendent Michael Wegher said the district is doing what it needs to save money as it faces a \$4-5 million budget deficit starting in July 2025.

He said the deficit is in part due to COVID relief funds drying up.

In addition to closing two buildings, the district plans to save money by eliminating jobs.

Wegher said the district has no plans for layoffs but instead plans to eliminate jobs by not filling future positions that open due to retirements.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 15. March 21, 25, 28.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/8:05 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported painful budget cuts and layoffs are coming to Ann Arbor Public Schools after a review of school finances shows “some significant budget challenges.” AAPS Interim Superintendent Jazz Parks outlined the cuts and challenges the school district will face in an act of transparency to school families. A decrease of 1,123 students in four years, the addition of 480 staff over 10 years and Board of Education-approved raises for staff have all factored in “multi-year budget shortfalls” impacting the budget.

The district has to cut approximately \$25 million from its 2024-2025 operating budget to be in compliance with Board of Education and state requirements, Parks wrote in a public letter.

To reduce its spending, the district will lay off some office and administrative staff, instill a hiring freeze, conduct additional reviews of budgets and renegotiate vendor contracts. The district will work with accounting firm Plante Moran to confirm the financial findings and help

the district come up with a plan for moving forward. Families and AAPS community members will be able to give feedback and ideas on the cuts in the near future.

Program: Ad Council – Yearbook
Dates: January – March
Time/Duration: General Rotation/ 1x :30, 1x :15

Summary:

These Ad Council PSAs talk about the importance of finishing a high school diploma even as an adult, and they stress the example that educational achievement sets for younger family members. They also lead people to finding a nearby adult education center.

LEGAL SYSTEM

Program: WDIV News

Dates: March 28, 29.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 5pm, 11pm/7:15 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported Better Made is suing companies behind several Michigan marijuana dispensaries that they say are selling products with an altered, and unauthorized, version of the snack food company's logo. The popular Michigan potato chip company filed a lawsuit against nearly 20 companies and the marijuana dispensaries they operate in the state. Better Made says the businesses are selling a cannabis product labeled "Better Smoke," whose logo is a spin off their own. Better Made claims the use of their distinct logo design by Better Smoke is damaging to their brand, since customers may wrongly assume the cannabis products are affiliated with the food company. The defendants named in the lawsuit are being accused of federal trademark infringement and dilution, among other things.

Included among the defendants are several companies and their dispensaries from across all of Michigan -- from Traverse City to Grand Rapids, to Adrian, and throughout Metro Detroit. Better Made is asking the court to make these companies give all their profits from Better Smoke products to the actual snack foods company.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 28, 29. March 1.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 12pm, 6pm, 11pm/6:15 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported new controversy surrounds Northville Downs and its plans to relocate to Plymouth Township. The family-run horse racing operation filed a federal lawsuit against Plymouth Township.

The company accuses the municipality of extortion and other illegal activity over its relocation plans. Some people thought it would be an opportunity for Plymouth Township to help save a rare and dying business when neighbors learned last year that Northville Downs was closing its horse racing operation and relocating to a site off 5 Mile and Ridge roads.

“I’m very disappointed now,” said Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise, as word about the lawsuit began spreading.” We’ve complied with the law. We’ve bargained in good faith with Northville Downs for over a year. And we were very clear with them, from the start, what we were looking for.”

Court documents suggest the problem centers around Plymouth Township’s attempts to get Northville Downs to make specific promises under a Community Benefits Agreement.

They are perks for the Township, which the racetrack’s attorney, Mike Cox, described in the lawsuit as illegal and extortion.

“The bottom line is they’re being extorted,” Cox said. “It’s by a municipal mafia. Not the old-time mafia.”

The lawsuit claims Plymouth Township wants Northville Downs to pay an additional \$5 million over the millions it’s already invested in purchasing the land.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 25, 26.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/5:55 total length

Summary:

A new lawsuit was filed against the city of Detroit and a DDOT bus driver who is facing charges after running over and killing a woman in June 2023 in downtown Detroit. Geraldine Johnson was behind the wheel when 67-year-old Janice Bauer was hit and killed while she walked across the street.

A new disturbing video shows Bauer was hit and then dragged while crossing the street at West Congress and Griswold streets. Bauer’s sisters told Local 4 that what makes her death even more heartbreaking is she worked at SMART, the public transportation company in Oakland County.

“It was hard to talk about how much she relied on public transportation, and that’s how she died,” said younger sister Margaret Bauer.

Janice was the middle child of five.

“She was all about safety,” said another younger sister, Linda Bauer. “She didn’t drive, but when I drove to go home, she would say, ‘Call me when you get home, so I know you got home safe and sound.’”

Linda and Margaret said growing up in Detroit, their older sister would take them on the bus to go to festivals, and now they can’t even look at a bus.

“SMART Bus wanted to commemorate Janice at the funeral by driving a bus,” Margaret said.

“They had a special bus they grant to a service, and I asked them not to. I had to explain to them my sister just got killed by a bus.”

When they learned the driver of that DDOT bus, Geraldine Johnson was involved in seven other crashes, including one that killed Joey Davis in 2015, they felt no other family should have to go through their pain.

“We thought we need to do something because that (Joey Davis’ death) wasn’t enough to make a change to not let someone drive a bus again,” said Margaret.

The Bauer family hired attorney Heather Atnip.

“Every weekend, we have a game (in Downtown Detroit),” Atnip said. “I wake up on Monday hoping that I don’t hear about another tragedy as this case unfolds.”

She filed a lawsuit against the city of Detroit, DDOT, the bus drivers’ union, and Johnson, alleging gross negligence in hiring policies.

“The policies and procedures that allow for a DDOT driver to take time off work for a year and a half and then return with basically an expunged record is ridiculous, it’s offensive, it is designed to cause further harm,” Atnip said.

She’s also accusing the city of withholding information and video.

The city of Detroit declined to comment pending litigation.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22. February 14, 15, 16

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/19:10 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported Kristina Karamo, a failed secretary of state candidate who was elected as the Michigan Republican Party’s chair last February, was “properly removed” from the position by party members, according to an initial review done by the Republican National Committee.

The Republican National Committee, or RNC, said their determination was not final and could change depending on additional information. It came in a letter sent by RNC attorneys to both Karamo and former Congressman Pete Hoekstra, who was elected as the new chair by a group of Michigan GOP members.

“Based upon its initial review, it appears to the Counsel’s office that Ms. Karamo was properly removed in accordance with the MI GOP bylaws,” read the letter, which was obtained by The Associated Press.

While RNC members are expected to meet following a Jan. 30 winter meeting to make further recommendations, the dispute over the Michigan GOP chair position will likely play out in court in the months to come.

The latest development in a months-long dispute over the state party's leadership comes about a month before the state holds its presidential primary and in a year where Michigan Republicans are desperate to win back some power after historic losses in 2022.

Republicans are hoping to win an open U.S. Senate seat next year in addition to multiple competitive House races. Control of the Michigan House, which is currently deadlocked at 54-54 after two seats were vacated by Democrats, will also be up for grabs this year.

Earlier this year, close to half of the Michigan GOP's voting members came together to vote Karamo out as chair, citing fundraising woes and months of infighting. Eight of the state party's 13 congressional district chairs had called on Karamo to resign and her own co-chair, Malinda Pego, aided the effort to remove her.

The group then voted to elect Hoekstra as the party's new chair. Hoekstra served as a U.S. representative from 1993 until 2011 and acted as the United States ambassador to the Netherlands under former President Donald Trump.

Karamo, an election conspiracist who refused to accept the results of her 14 percentage point loss in the 2022 secretary of state race, has claimed the Jan. 6 vote to remove her as chair was "illegitimate" and "illegal." She sent cease and desist letters to Hoekstra and other opponents alleging defamation of character and trademark infringement.

Trump won Michigan in 2016 before now-President Joe Biden won it in the 2020 race.

Michigan's GOP presidential primary Feb. 27 will award 16 of the state's 55 delegates. The remaining 39 delegates will be allocated during a March 2 convention hosted by the state party.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 17, 18, 31. February 1, 15, 16, 28, 29.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/21:15 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported a mother filed a \$100 million lawsuit over the beating of her 10-year-old child when he was a resident at the Hawthorn Center in Northville.

The psychiatric hospital gained national attention in 2022 when it held an unannounced active shooter drill in the facility. Patients and most of the staff were not informed ahead of time. Four law enforcement agencies who responded to panicked 911 calls from inside the hospital weren't notified of the drill, either and responded as if the threat was real.

Soon afterward, the children were moved to the Walter P. Reuther Hospital in Westland. That's where the mother said her child was beaten this last autumn.

At the center of the lawsuit is a three-minute video. The child getting beaten -- Princeton Vaughn -- was admitted to the Hawthorn Center for mental and emotional issues.

The family's attorney, Arnold Reed, said the attack occurred on Oct. 18, 2023. He said the video shows five staff members encouraging a 15-year-old resident to beat the 9-year-old.

Reed credits the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for doing a thorough investigation, but questions why authorities have not made any arrests and continues to allow the facility to operate.

The attack happened inside the Walter Reuther Psychiatric Facility. The children from the Hawthorn Center are currently being held here as their hospital was torn down and is being rebuilt in Northville.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/17/24

Time/Duration: 7:42

Summary:

Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald was the guest, following the guilty verdict for James Crumbley, the father of the Oxford High School shooter. She said she hoped the outcome gave some measure of relief to everyone affected by the mass shooting, and that she never considered the symbolism of the cases overall. McDonald said she hasn't yet thought about what her sentencing recommendations will be. She declined to comment about the potential civil lawsuits against the high school, but said she supports any efforts for transparency and accountability.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 1/21/24

Time/Duration: 11:09

Summary:

Attorneys Lillian Diallo and Todd Flood were guests to talk about the upcoming trials of school shooter Ethan Crumbley's parents, the first time parents have been charged in a crime like this. They talked about why prosecutor Karen McDonald is taking such a unique approach with the parents, and delineated what the parents could have done differently that may have prevented the shooting. The lawyers discussed the arguments over what should and should not be admissible in court. They both agreed that it's possible to get fair trials in Oakland County despite all the media coverage, and talked about how they would approach jury selection. Flood said the real question is do parents have a duty to protect other children when they know their own child has major issues.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/3/24

Time/Duration: 5:26

Summary:

Local 4+ anchor Christy McDonald was the guest to talk about the upcoming trial of James Crumbley, the father of Ethan Crumbley, the Oxford High School shooter. His wife Jennifer was convicted, and McDonald talked about how James' defense can learn from mistakes made in her case. She delineated some of the evidence that the judge decided to admit, and other possible differences between the two trials, including whether he's a more sympathetic person to jurors. McDonald said whether or not the jury believes James was in charge of the gun itself could make all the difference in their determination.

CRIME

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. February 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29. March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts + Special Live Coverage/5:15:00 total length

Summary:

WDIV covered extensively the trials of Jennifer and James Crumbley, the parents of Oxford school shooter Ethan Crumbley. A reporter was in the courtroom every day during the trial and brought live reports of testimony and reaction from inside the courtroom. We also carried the verdicts live on TV as they happened.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: March 10, 11.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 6am, 5pm/5:55 total length

Summary:

WDIV was given a first-hand look at one of the ways police train for threats. A special training event took place at CREST Academy, located on the campus of Oakland Community College. The campus has a small mock-up of a community, featuring a home, a bank, a party store and more. It's designed to give realistic training for real situations law enforcement officials may encounter.

Just like real life, there are distractions and external stimuli to process and those being trained need to be ready for anything.

In 2023, nearly 15,000 recruits and active-duty officers trained at CREST Academy. The simulator adds modern technology to traditional training, simulating the risks and offering a perspective not seen in a classroom.

In an intense situation, emotional intelligence and the ability to remain calm can mean the difference between life and death.

The trainers say improving the relationship between police and the communities they serve starts here from the ground up.

“Citizens need to see things from the police vantage point and unfortunately, they often don’t get to unless they experience something like this,” said Local 4 crime and safety expert Darnell Blackburn. “But just as much, police need to see the citizens’ perspective knowing that citizens don’t understand or grasp the concept of training.”

While there’s more work to be done, Blackburn said stories like this help bridge the divide between law enforcement and the public they’re sworn to protect.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 15, 16.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/13:55 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported the city of Detroit is preparing to safely host the 2024 NFL Draft.

Hundreds of thousands of people are set to attend. Following the shooting at the Kansas City Chiefs’ Super Bowl celebration, Detroit Police Chief James White held a briefing to discuss security for the upcoming draft.

“Our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family and loved ones of Kansas City,” White said. “Tragic event. Just way too many guns in the wrong hands of people in our country.”

White was quick to point out the parade was a local event that was not connected directly to the NFL. White said Detroit has been planning for the draft for two years and solid plans are in place that won’t make many changes to Detroit’s security operations. He added there are state, local and federal agencies working together to make sure things run smoothly.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 10, 18. February 8, 9, 10, 19, 28. March 1, 18, 26, 28.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/19:15 total length

Summary:

WDIV aired a series of reports called “Searching for Justice” – profiling unsolved crimes in the community, generally homicides where the case has gone cold. Crimestoppers of Michigan organizes events where family members of crime victims come forward to speak about their lost

loved ones. This quarter we profiled among others: an 11-year-old shot while playing in his yard, a dad killed in a home invasion and a deadly assault inside a liquor store.

RACE RELATIONS AND RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 1/18/24

Time/Duration: 5pm/:40

An audit reveals Michigan State Police stop Black drivers at a higher rate. The story also noted the audit suggests poor policies, training, and a lack of oversight, were the reason for the disparity. The report said community leaders point to bias and racism, but MSP official do not believe there is widespread “discriminatory

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 1/25/24

Time/Duration: 5pm/:45

This was an update to the racially charged case of a police officer from Grand Rapids police charged with killing an unarmed Black man. The report cited a ruling by the Michigan Court of Appeals which determined there is sufficient evidence to require former officer Christopher Schurr to stand trial on murder charges for deadly shooting of Patrick Lyoya.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 1/30/24

Time/Duration: 5am/:30

A new report from the United States Justice Department sheds new light on incidents of hate crimes in schools. The story explained the number of hate crimes at school have more than doubled from 500 in 2020 to more than 1,300 in 2022. The Federal report noted most offenses involved ethnic intimidation, vandalism, and assaults. Most attacks were motivated by anti-Black sentiments, followed by antisemitism, and anti- LGBTQ bias.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 2/1/24

Time/Duration: 5A/1:30

As part of the efforts to highlight Black History Month, a story was done on the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. The report included interviews with the museum director and a visitor touring the facility at the time of the story. The story also explained the history behind the museum, which is in the City of Detroit.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 2/5/24

Time/Duration: 6pm/1:30

The story covered the controversy created by a Wall Street Journal column which described the City of Dearborn as “America’s Jihad Capital.” The report included responses from local Arab American leaders, many of whom called for a retraction. The report also explained local leaders feared the column would create even more tension in the community already on alert because of the on-going Israel-Hamas war. The author of the WSJ was also included in the story, defending what he wrote.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 2/12/24

Time/Duration: 5pm/1:30

Police in Washtenaw County are investigating two types of Ethnic Intimidation and vandalism. The report covered several thefts of Pride Flags and Black Lives Matter signs. The incidents took place in Pittsfield Township, and one of the incidents was caught on camera. Several homeowners in the area were interviewed for the story, each vowing to continue flying a flag and/or posting their sign. The story also noted police are urging people with information to contact them.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 3/4/24

Time/Duration: 6A/2:30

The report told the story of a trailblazing athlete many may not be familiar with. The story covered the life of Wendy Hilliard, who – despite her struggles against racism – became the first Black athlete to represent the United States in international competition. Hilliard competed in Rhythmic Gymnastics. The report explained how she grew up in Detroit and later founded the Wendy Hilliard Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting athletes and in all aspects of their life beyond just sports.

Program: Local 4 News

Date: 3/7/24

Time/Duration: 6am/1:00

Four River Rouge police officers ended up on the wrong side of the law, accused of racial discrimination. The report covered a lawsuit which has been filed and interviews with other officers who described the River Rouge Police Department as a hostile work environment. The story included an interview with the attorney representing the person bringing the lawsuit.

CULTURAL ENDEAVORS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 15, 16.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/14:45 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported on the MLK Day of Service in Metro Detroit. Many offices and schools were closed on Monday in recognition of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. While many people were off, community members spent the national holiday hard at work. They participated in community service projects and acts of volunteerism across the Metro Detroit area.

It was a busy scene at Auntie Na's Village on Detroit's west side. Dozens of volunteers showed up to help sort items and organize several buildings the grassroots organization owns.

"We give out free food, clothes, hygiene kits, bikes," said Sonia Brown of Auntie Na's Village. Brown said the organization is known for various services, including providing emergency shelter, clinical resources, and a safe space for youth, among other things.

Nonprofit organizers said they could use volunteers throughout the year. They're urging residents to contact an organization in their community to see how they can help.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/27:35 total length

Summary:

WDIV set up a massive book drive for March is Reading Month. We put out the call for people to donate new or gently used books – and the community came out in droves. We broadcasted the drive live during our newscasts. They donated 9,500 books to the cause and then those books were delivered to local schools in need. We aired several stories in the days leading up to the drive to promote the donations – and explain both the need for books and the benefits of reading for young children.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: March 14, 16,17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/31:25 total length

Summary:

As part of Local 4's Go 4 It community campaign, we partnered with the City of Detroit for a day of free hands-only CPR training, open to anyone who wants to learn. We trained 1500 people and did cut-ins all day to encourage people to come and learn. To save more lives, more people need to be trained in how to perform hands-only CPR, a relatively simple technique that any bystander can learn to do without having a medical background.

Hands-only CPR, even if it's not performed perfectly, greatly increases a person's chances of survival.

Hands-only CPR is faster and easier to learn than traditional CPR. Hands-only CPR is a pandemic-safe way for bystanders to help save a life.

Three out of four cardiac arrests happen at home. That means you are most likely to need to know hands-only CPR to save someone you love. Getting immediate CPR can double or even triple someone's odds of surviving.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 8, 9. February 11, 12, 13.

Time/Duration: All Newscasts/12:10 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported a beloved museum/arcade located in Farmington Hills is slated for demolition after the city council approved redevelopment plans for the same property.

After months of back-and-forth, and continuous outcry from the community, Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum is expected to be toppled to make room for a redevelopment project. The Farmington Hills City Council approved plans to partially redevelop Hunter's Square Shopping Center, a strip mall, on Orchard Lake Road near 14 Mile Road, and to add a new, smaller-footprint Meijer on the property.

Community members and fans of Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum have continuously denounced the redevelopment plan that seeks to demolish the widely known and locally loved venue. Home to 5,000 square feet of vintage coin-operated machines, macabre, oddities, and more, the museum has served as a destination for people of all ages from near and far.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: February 26, 27, 28.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 5pm/6:05 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported a popular Metro Detroit bakery is permanently closing its doors after nearly 50 years in business.

The owners of the Butter-Nut Bakery on Van Dyke Avenue in Center Line are going to close up shop for good.

The owners said deciding to close the bakery wasn't easy. Desa Acovski said she has been working the family business with her husband since 1975. She said that while closing is a bit sad, it's time for them to move on.

"Things do happen in life," Acovski said. "You do have to move on. You can't just work until you die and be dragged off, right? We're gonna relax. We've got five grandchildren to look after and hopefully, you know, help raise."

Customers like Herb Wilson say they will miss Butter-Nut Bakery.

"It's gonna be terrible," Wilson said. "The neighborhood -- everybody comes in here. Everybody loves the place. It's been a staple of the community for decades now, you know?"

Acovski said the doors will close permanently in mid-April.

Program: WDIV News

Dates: January 16, 17.

Time/Duration: Local 4 News at 5am, 6am/5:55 total length

Summary:

WDIV reported community members remembered the life and legacy of a faith leader who was known for his charitable work across the Metro Detroit area.

Family and church members who attend Divine Restoration Ministries gathered at a public visitation for Bishop J. Richard Evans who died in early January.

Bishop Evans was a father of five. He had eight grandchildren. He was an author, an entrepreneur, and a religious and community leader who made community service his mission. Bishop and Tenisia Evans started Divine Restoration Ministries in their home 25 years ago. The couple saw their ministry expand globally from their church on Harper Avenue in Detroit, Michigan.

“He just had a passion,” Tenisia said while remembering her husband.

Bishop’s drive and passion for helping others allowed him to mentor dozens of church members who had dreams of entrepreneurship.

The couple started Restoration House Community Center. That program helped feed over 400 people a week at Mt. Clemens and Detroit campuses.

It was during the pandemic when Bishop Evans launched the 1,000 Souls Fed Initiative.

“And we did it,” Tenisia said. “We made it happen. And every year, we fed 1,000 people.”

The food distribution program is still viable and growing.

Tenisia said she wants people to remember the Bishop as a man of integrity who had a godly character and who loved God’s people.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 1/14/24

Time/Duration: 7:16

Summary:

Former Detroit Lions great Eddie Murray and DetroitLions.com columnist Mike O’Hara were the guests. They talked about the upcoming Lions playoff game, the first one ever hosted at Ford Field. They analyzed what makes this team better than past years, with credit going to the head coach Dan Campbell. Murray said free agents expressed actually wanting to come to Detroit for the first time in his memory. O’Hara and Murray agreed that Detroit is a football town very eager for success in the postseason.

Program: Flashpoint

Date: 3/24/24

Time/Duration: 6:55

Summary:

This segment was recorded on location at a part of Ford Motor Company's new autonomous vehicle complex called Michigan Central Station. The guests were Ford CEO Bill Ford's wife Lisa and the CEO of the Children's Foundation Andrew Stein. This past week, they announced a new initiative called MCS Children's Endowment Campaign, which aims to raise \$10 million to be used to seed endowments for local nonprofits. Ford talked about endowments are unusual in the world of children's charities. Stein explained what the process will be for choosing the charities that ultimately benefit. They also described the positive reactions they're getting from people who hear about the undertaking.

Program: Bookstock

Dates: March

Time/Duration: General Rotation/ 2x :30, 1x :15, 1x :10

Summary:

These WDIV-produced PSAs tell viewers about Bookstock, the area's largest used book and media sale. Proceeds benefit local literary programs and education initiatives. The sale runs from April 7 - 14, 2024.

Program: Go 4 It Reading Month

Dates: March

Time/Duration: General Rotation/ 1x :30

Summary:

This WDIV-produced PSA encourages viewers to read with their children and describes all the developmental benefits it brings. The message is meant to coincide with March being reading month.