

Section I: Issues

WFUM has identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

1. Arts/Humanities:
2. Children's Issues:
3. Civil Rights/Race:
4. Crime/Safety:
5. Economy:
6. Education:
7. Environment:
8. Government:
9. Labor Relations:
10. Legal System/Court Cases:
11. Public Health/Medicine:
12. Social Policy/Welfare:
13. Transportation:

Section II: Responsive Programs

WFUM broadcast programming dealing with the various issues outlined in Section I of this list. The programming was aired on the dates and times as follows:

1. Arts/Humanities:

Stateside: The Future of Arts Education in Michigan

Broadcast on 2013-04-25 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. The Lansing School District and its teachers ratified a new contract this month it overhauls the way art and music will be taught in its schools.

Art, music, and phys ed teachers will be replaced in Lansing elementary schools. Instead...contract consultants will teach those subjects alongside the regular classroom teachers.

This story got us wondering about the future of arts education in Michigan.

How can school districts who are coping with cuts in funding...and eroding tax bases and population...manage to still provide arts education. How much does ARTS education really matter in these days of heavy emphasis on the STEM classes....science, technology, engineering and math.

Joining me now is Kathy White she s the President and C-E-O of the Michigan Assessment Consortium and she s the Project Director of the Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment Program.

Kathy, what's your reaction to what has happened with changes in the Lansing district... particularly what it says about what art education means to districts around the state?

Stateside: Flint Artists to Get Residents Involved in the City's Master Plan

Broadcast on 2013-06-27 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. The city of Flint is currently working on a master plan to help shape the city s future in the next 20 years. And part of that plan involves the role of arts.

Recently the National Endowment for the Arts gave a grant to hire nine artists who live in each of the city s wards to explore the role arts can have in the community and get residents involved in the master plan.

2. Children's Issues:

State of Opportunity: The Indian Child Welfare Act and Michigan's Similar Law

Broadcast on 2013-04-17 at 6:35AM, 8:35AM and 6:20PM; Duration 07:32. The United States Supreme Court heard arguments yesterday on the Indian Child Welfare Act. The law is designed to make sure Native American children in the child welfare system stay connected with their tribes.

Michigan has a similar law, and advocates say it could be a fix for the rest of the state's troubled child welfare system. But as State of Opportunity's Sarah Alvarez reports, enforcing the law isn't easy. And supporters are afraid a ruling from the nation's high court could undo years of progress.

State of Opportunity: Parents Talking to Children About Race

Broadcast on 2013-05-01 at 6:35AM, 8:35AM and 5:45PM; Duration 04:18. A few weeks ago, our State of Opportunity team reported on research showing that children become aware of race at a very young age, and they seem particularly prone to developing stereotypes. The message from that research is simple enough: If parents don't want their kids to develop racial biases, they need to talk to their kids about race. But what do parents say, and how early in a child s life should the conversation start? State of Opportunity s Dustin Dwyer tried to find the answer.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

2. Children's Issues (Continued):

State of Opportunity: Documentary on Race

Broadcast on 2013-05-02 at 3:00PM and 10:00PM; Duration 60:00. Think we live in a post-racial society? Think again. Jennifer Guerra presents an hour long State of Opportunity special on RACE.

Gary Orfield, co-director of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA says, "Michigan is an absolute national leader in segregated schools."

Orfield means in reality and not by law, but how is this possible in 21st century America?

Jennifer Guerra goes into Michigan high schools and neighborhoods---from Grand Haven to Detroit's west side---to see how race and racism are playing out today in an era some are calling "post-racial." She speaks with researchers, teachers, and school administrators to talk about how race influences achievement and discipline for students.

We also hear from a diverse group of students on what race means today. The teens Jennifer talks to are wise beyond their years in their reflections on the meaning of difference and diversity for their generation.

Stateside: International Adoption and the Documentary, "Stuck"

Broadcast on 2013-05-01 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. We take a closer look at the families and children stuck in the complicated, long process of international adoption. You're listening to Stateside on Michigan Radio.

There's a special screening tonight at the AMC Livonia 20 of the documentary "STUCK"...an Audience Choice Winner at the Heartland Film Festival.

The film focuses on the process of international adoption...and the children and prospective parents who get "Stuck" in that process.

"Stuck tells the story of four children and the families who want to adopt them....following the children and families as they try to negotiate the bureaucratic ins and outs of the international adoption system.

Michigan Watch: Adoption Legal Difficulties for LGBT Partners

Broadcast on 2013-06-10 at 5:45PM; Duration: 04:00. In Michigan, if you're gay or lesbian, you can't get married. And for LGBT partners who adopt children it's nearly impossible for both to have parental rights.

Lester Graham with Michigan Watch reports that causes legal difficulties in providing a secure future for the kids they're raising.

Michigan Watch: Gay and Lesbian Couples Might Face Discrimination with Some Michigan Adoption Agencies

Broadcast on 2013-06-12 at 4:45PM; Duration: 03:30. If you're gay or lesbian and you want to adopt a child, not every adoption agency in Michigan will be willing to help. Lester Graham reports, if you do find an agency that will help, you might run into more discrimination.

Even if you have a home, pass the background checks, and otherwise meet the state requirements for adoption, you can be turned down by an adoption agency if you don't meet its standards.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

2. Children's Issues (Continued):

Stateside: College Graduates and the So-Called "Brain Drain"

Broadcast on 2013-06-17 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. And, speaking of students...let's turn our attention to college students, or, more specifically, college graduates.

There has been much talk and hand-wringing about the so-called "brain drain": young people earning a degree at a Michigan college or university...and then hitting the road. Heading OUT of Michigan and taking their skills to places like LA...Chicago...Boston....New York.

Is that "brain drain" the fault of Michigan's depressed-and-slowly-recovering economy? Or might it just be the age-old truth that young people want to spread their wings?

Writer John Schneider mused upon these questions in a column in this week's Bridge Magazine called "Children's departure is part of the cycle of life".

Now, John, you were one of the dads that got a card and a long-distance phone call for Father's Day... where did your kids head after they graduated?

Stateside: Annual Kids Count Report Issued by the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Broadcast on 2013-06-24 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has issued its annual Kids Count report on the well-being of children across the nation. In Michigan, the outline is a mixed bag, but overall Michigan is last among Great Lakes states for child well-being.

There were improvements in how well kids are doing in school, some improvements in the area of the health of kids and the number who have health insurance, but in every category of economic well-being, children in Michigan are in worse shape.

Patrick McCarthy is the President and Chief Executive author of Kids Count. Thanks for joining us.

3. Civil Rights/Race:

Michigan Radio News: Senate Bill 136

Broadcast on 2013-04-23 at 4:45PM; Duration: 04:59. Senate Bill 136 would allow health care providers, facilities and insurance providers to deny service based on religious, moral or ethical objections. State Senator John Moolenaar, a Republican representing Michigan's 36th District is the bill's sponsor. He spoke with Jennifer White earlier this week.

Michigan Watch: LGBT Housing Discrimination

Broadcast on 2013-04-29 at 4:20PM; and on 2013-04-30 at 6:21AM and 8:21AM; Duration 06:58. Some Michigan residents are turned away for housing even if they can afford the rent for an apartment or the mortgage for a home.

In many cases, landlords and bankers can legally discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Lester Graham with Michigan Watch reports this discrimination happens even in communities with laws that protect L-G-B-T people.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

3. Civil Rights/Race (Continued):

State of Opportunity: Parents Talking to Children About Race

Broadcast on 2013-05-01 at 6:35AM, 8:35AM and 5:45PM; Duration 04:18. A few weeks ago, our State of Opportunity team reported on research showing that children become aware of race at a very young age, and they seem particularly prone to developing stereotypes. The message from that research is simple enough: If parents don't want their kids to develop racial biases, they need to talk to their kids about race. But what do parents say, and how early in a child's life should the conversation start? State of Opportunity's Dustin Dwyer tried to find the answer.

Michigan Watch: Michigan Legislature and LGBT Civil Rights

Broadcast on 2013-05-01 at 6:21AM, 8:21AM and 4:50PM; Duration 07:05. Public polling and recent court cases have prompted greater discussion about adding protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Michigan's civil rights law.

Advocates for the change say it's time to stop legally discriminating against L-G-B-T people.

Others say changing the law would mean people opposed to homosexual behavior would be discriminated against.

Lester Graham with Michigan Watch says the issue is beginning to play out in the Michigan legislature.

State of Opportunity: Documentary on Race

Broadcast on 2013-05-02 at 3:00PM and 10:00PM; Duration 60:00. Think we live in a post-racial society? Think again. Jennifer Guerra presents an hour long State of Opportunity special on RACE.

Gary Orfield, co-director of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA says, "Michigan is an absolute national leader in segregated schools."

Orfield means in reality and not by law, but how is this possible in 21st century America?

Jennifer Guerra goes into Michigan high schools and neighborhoods---from Grand Haven to Detroit's west side---to see how race and racism are playing out today in an era some are calling "post-racial." She speaks with researchers, teachers, and school administrators to talk about how race influences achievement and discipline for students.

We also hear from a diverse group of students on what race means today. The teens Jennifer talks to are wise beyond their years in their reflections on the meaning of difference and diversity for their generation.

Rick Pluta: Gay Marriage

Broadcast on 2013-06-27 at 6:35AM, 8:35AM and 5:55PM; Duration 03:29. The U-S Supreme Court's decisions on gay marriage don't really change the legal status of same-sex couples in Michigan.

In 2004, voters amended the Michigan Constitution to enact a sweeping ban on same-sex marriage and civil unions.

But, as we hear from Michigan Public Radio's Rick Pluta, there's a lot happening on the issue in courts, the Legislature, and on the campaign trail.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

3. Civil Rights/Race (Continued):

Stateside: Michigan House Democrats Explain New Bills that Would Allow Marriage for Gay or Lesbian People

Broadcast on 2013-06-24 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. You're listening to Stateside, I'm Lester Graham sitting in for Cynthia Canty. This morning, some Michigan House Democrats gathered on the front lawn of the Capitol to explain some new bills that would allow marriage for people who are gay or lesbian.

Polls of Michigan citizens indicate a growing number of people say it's time for marriage equality for LGBT folks - about 57% approve.

And that's quite a turnaround. Just nine years ago the people of Michigan approved a state constitutional amendment specifically banning gay marriage. It passed by nearly 59%.

So, in the midst of this, we're waiting for decisions on two gay rights issues in the U.S. Supreme Court. To help wade through all this and what it means is Rick Pluta, capital bureau chief for the Michigan Public Radio Network.

4. Crime/Safety:

Michigan Radio News: Congressman Kildee on Legislation for Federal Aid to Help Cities Tear Down Abandoned Homes

Broadcast on 2013-04-16 at 4:45PM; Duration: 05:25. Democratic U.S. Representative, Dan Kildee is one of the newest members of congress. He represents Michigan's 5th congressional district. Kildee's first piece of legislation is a proposal to free up more than 1 billion dollars in federal aid to help cities such as Detroit and Flint tear down thousands of abandoned homes. He hopes this plan will serve to stabilize neighborhoods. Congressman Kildee joins us now welcome to the program.

Stateside: What Can Be Done To Stop Sexual Assault?

Broadcast on 2013-05-07 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. Well, statistics from the Centers for Disease Control support some of our concerns.

The CDC reports nearly one in five women report having been raped at SOME time in their lives. The figure for men is 1 in 71.

And other studies find college women are at greater risk for rape and other forms of sexual assault than women in the general population. What can be done to stop this and keep young women safe?

Jess Klein joins us in the studio. Jess is with the Women's Resource Center at Eastern Michigan University. Welcome.

Stateside: Michigan to get Funding from Federal Government to Demolish Vacant Houses and Clean up Struggling Neighborhoods

Broadcast on 2013-06-10 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. Michigan will get 100 million dollars from the federal government to tear down thousands of vacant houses and clean up struggling neighborhoods.

The money will be used in Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Pontiac and Saginaw.

Democratic Congressman Dan Kildee has been pushing hard for this funding... and the Congressman joins us now from Flint... a city that he represents. Welcome back to Stateside!

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

5. Economy:

Stateside: Representative Dan Kildee on Michigan's Finances

Broadcast on 2013-04-01 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. We spoke with Detroit Free Press reporter Todd Spangler in Washington D.C who said it's just too early to figure out the exact implications that these budget cuts will have on the Michigan economy. We also spoke with the man in charge of Michigan's finances: Budget Director John Nixon he says the uncertainty surrounding the cuts is making his job difficult.

Well, today let's turn to a member of Congress someone ON the ground, in the middle of these financial equations: Representative Dan Kildee.

Kildee is a Freshman Democrat taking over the seat left by his Uncle Dale Kildee who retired from Congress this past session. He represents the 5th District including Flint, Saginaw and Bay City.

Representative Kildee welcome to Stateside.

Stateside: Tax Credits for College Graduates Who Stay in Michigan

Broadcast on 2013-05-06 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. Colleges are holding commencement ceremonies right about now.

What will all those graduates do with their shiny new degrees?

Well, based on recent surveys... something like half of the graduates from OUR state HIT the ROAD....seeking greener pastures in other states within a year of graduating. It's the Michigan "Brain Drain."

One state lawmaker wants to help stem the brain drain by offering tax credits on their student loan payments to college grads who stay in Michigan.

Could tax credits help stem the brain drain? Or is it a band-aid that masks a deeper challenge for college graduates in Michigan?

Joining me is State Representative Andy Schor..A FRESHMAN Democrat from Lansing...and the sponsor of House Bill 41-82... Welcome to Stateside!

Stateside: Columnist Rick Haglund on Growing Push to Match Courses with What Business Wants in Michigan Grads

Broadcast on 2013-04-30 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. Here's a question to consider: are we doing the students of Michigan a disservice by steering them to the jobs that businesses are demanding RIGHT NOW, in 2013?

It's certainly a big push for Governor Rick Snyder.

But Columnist Rick Haglund writing this week in MLive DOT COM - has some misgivings about this growing push to match courses with what business wants in Michigan grads.

Rick one might think that the Governor is on the right tack why do YOU think this approach could backfire in the long run?

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

5. Economy (Continued):

Stateside: Scott Allard on How we Think of Poverty in Michigan

Broadcast on 2013-05-22 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. When one thinks of POVERTY in America....poverty in Michigan...what images come to mind? Where are poor people living?

Chances are, an image of an inner city neighborhood flashes in your mind.

Well, THAT would be wrong.

The Brookings Institute this week released its study called..."Confronting Suburban Poverty in America". Bottom line: poverty is moving into the suburbs. Both here in Michigan and across the country, the suburbs are home to the largest and fastest growing poor population in the country."

Joining me to talk about what this study means in terms of HOW we think of poverty in our state is Scott Allard...he's an associate professor at the University of Chicago...and a research affiliate of the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan. Welcome, Scott!

Stateside: Edward McClelland's New Book, "Nothin' But Blue Skies: The Heyday, Hard Times, and Hopes Of America's Industrial Heartland"

Broadcast on 2013-06-18 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. If you've grown up in Michigan---or elsewhere in the Midwest, you don't need us to tell you: there's been an unbelievable shift in the lifestyle, the economy, the job expectations from, say, your parents' or grandparents' day....to what we face in 2013.

Here in the Great Lakes...we've gone from the "Arsenal of Democracy" during World War Two...to the center of manufacturing, especially of automobiles....to present day, where many of those once-booming factories are empty and rotting away...or falling to the wrecker's ball.

Writer Edward McClelland grew up in Lansing...where once upon a time, a kid could go from a high school graduation ceremony right into a GM plant..make a great living thanks to contracts won by the UAW...and go right up to retirement. As we all know here in Michigan, those days are gone forever.

Edward McClelland's new book digs into what happened to the industrial midsection of America...including Michigan. It's called "Nothin' But Blue Skies: the Heyday, Hard Times, and Hopes Of America's Industrial Heartland". Edward McClelland joins us here in the studio.

This was an incredibly detailed piece of reporting you've done as you track the history of the Midwest from boom to bust...and now as we try to rebuild and find new directions. What gave you the impetus to tackle this HUGE story, spanning so many states?

Stateside: The Michigan Economy and Unemployment

Broadcast on 2013-06-24 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. The Snyder administration has maintained its "relentless positive action" to reinvent Michigan. Restructured taxes to give businesses better than a billion dollar tax break to encourage job growth in Michigan, he approved the right to work law which proponents insist will bring jobs to Michigan.

And there has been some growth in jobs, but it s been kind of anemic.

Joining us is Charles Ballard, he s a professor of economics at Michigan State University, and Rick Haglund, who is a freelance writer for Bridge Magazine, MLive, a blogger at MichEconomy.com, I m not sure who else you write for Rick, but I couldn t keep up with your pace. Let s talk about the economy a little bit and start with unemployment.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

6. Education:

Michigan Radio News: Political Roundup with Susan Demas and Ken Sikkema

Broadcast on 2013-04-11 at 4:45PM; Duration: 04:52. Each week we take a look at Michigan politics with Susan Demas, political analyst for Michigan Information and Research Service, and Ken Sikkema, former Senate Majority Leader and Senior Policy Fellow at Public Sector Consultants.

Both houses of the Legislature are presenting their versions of the budget. We talk about major deviations between the House and Senate versions. And, pre-K education gets a lot of attention from Governor Snyder. Plus, two things to watch for in the coming weeks: road funding and the expansion of Medicaid.

Stateside: Governor Snyder's Education Summit in Lansing

Broadcast on 2013-04-22 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. Education is front-and-center these days in Michigan.

Governor Snyder spoke today to a summit of education leaders...calling for businesses to get more closely involved with public education.

He believes too many students have been pushed toward getting four-year-college degrees when vocational education...technical career training or community college might have made more sense.

And in the State House and Senate, there is movement towards changing Michigan's high school graduation requirements.

Some lawmakers want to make changes to the Michigan Merit Curriculum...the MMC.

Then-Governor Granholm signed the MMC into law in 2006...putting into place some of the toughest high school graduation requirements in the nation.

But from the perspective of 2013...critics like the Governor say those standards favor students heading to four-year colleges....at the expense of those who might want to explore career and vocational training options.

Under the bills making their way through the State House and Senate, students would still need four years of math, but they would be able to replace Algebra-Two with statistics or technical math. The foreign language requirements would go...and students would be able to use extracurricular activities to replace some phys-ed credits.

The State Board of Education and the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals have come out strongly IN FAVOR of maintaining the MMC. Supporters of the changes say it's time to allow options for students whose career plans point more towards career or technical education.

This debate cuts right to the heart of the question: what type of high school education will BEST serve the students of Michigan??

Joining me...is ...Wendy Zdeb-Roper, the executive director of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals....she actually joins us from Lansing where she is attending the governor's education summit. Welcome to Stateside Wendy. . .

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

6. Education (Continued):

Stateside: The Future of Arts Education in Michigan

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Kathy, what's your reaction to what has happened with changes in the Lansing district... particularly what it says about what art education means to districts around the state?

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The CDC reports nearly one in five women report having been raped at SOME time in their lives. The figure for men is 1 in 71.

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Jess Klein joins us in the studio Jess is with the Women s Resource Center at Eastern Michigan University. Welcome

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We also hear from a diverse group of students on what race means today. The teens Jennifer talks to are wise beyond their years in their reflections on the meaning of difference and diversity for their generation.

Jack Lessenberry: What's Going on in State Politics (4)

Broadcast on 2013-05-08 at 7:51AM; Duration: 04:04. It's Wednesday, the morning we speak with Michigan Radio's Political Analyst Jack Lessenberry about what's going on in state politics.

A Michigan House panel approved changes to the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

That's the state's high school graduation requirements that were put in place in 2006.

The changes that were approved yesterday could waive the required year of a foreign language and algebra TWO, among other things.

How do you think these changes would affect Michigan?

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But Columnist Rick Haglund writing this week in MLive DOT COM - has some misgivings about this growing push to match courses with what business wants in Michigan grads.

Rick one might think that the Governor is on the right tack why do YOU think this approach could backfire in the long run?

State of Opportunity: Low-Income Families Impacted by Sequester Continue to Wait for Congress' Help

Broadcast on 2013-05-22 at 6:35AM and 8:35AM; Duration 04:18. When airlines and travelers complained of long flight delays due to the sequester, Congress jumped into action and passed a speedy resolution to end the delays. Meanwhile the millions of low-income families whose lives are being impacted by the sequester continue to wait for Congress help. From Michigan Radio's State of Opportunity project, Jennifer Guerra reports:

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

6. Education (Continued):

State of Opportunity: A Program That Helps New Teachers Navigate More Diverse Classrooms

Broadcast on 2013-05-29 at 6:35AM and 8:35AM; Duration 03:58. Classrooms are becoming more diverse, with Black and Latino students filling up more seats than ever before.

But across the country, for the most part, teachers are still white, middle class and female.

For Michigan Radio's State of Opportunity project, Jennifer Guerra looks at a program that helps new teachers navigate that divide:

Stateside: What Should Determine Teacher Salaries in Michigan?

Broadcast on 2013-05-23 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. A state House panel has approved a plan to tie teachers' pay to student performance. Coming up next, we'll ask - just what should determine teacher salaries in Michigan?

State of Opportunity: Three High School Girls Take Buses from Their Struggling Detroit Neighborhood to go to School in Dearborn

Broadcast on 2013-06-12 at 6:15PM; Duration: 04:17. School is almost out for summer! For the three high school sophomores you're about to meet, it means a break not just from school, but from riding the bus. Every day, the girls leave their homes in the struggling Detroit neighborhood of Brightmoor and hop on two city buses and one yellow bus to get to their school in Dearborn Heights. Their names are Shaqueria Harris-Bay, Navia Daniel and Tanesha George, and they captured their morning trip in an audio diary for our State of Opportunity project. Tanesha starts our piece:

Michigan Radio News: Education Reform with Nancy Derringer, Bridge Magazine

Broadcast on 2013-06-25 at 5:25PM; Duration: 05:03. Education reform is a hot topic in Michigan these days. Governor Snyder's school reform agenda includes rewarding schools for so-called 'best practices'. Those include providing physical education, offering online instructional programs or blended learning opportunities, or being a school of choice. Districts meeting seven out of eight of those best practices are eligible to receive 52 additional per pupil dollars but as Nancy Derringer with Bridge Magazine discovered, there's a curious loophole in this plan. Nancy joins us now welcome to the program.

Stateside: Many Michigan Families not Getting Support Needed to Avoid Losing Cash Assistance

Broadcast on 2013-06-17 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. With school out for the summer, state officials are already looking for ways to get more students to show up for classes in the fall. The state Department of Human Services wants to expand pilot programs that put more social workers in schools with high truancy rates.

At the same time, DHS has a new statewide policy that threatens to take away welfare benefits from families with kids who persistently miss school.

But, critics say that still means too few families are getting the support they need to avoid losing their cash assistance. Michigan Public Radio's Jake Neher reports.

7. Environment:

The Environment Report: Ticks are Booming this Year in Michigan

Broadcast on 2013-06-04 at 5:45PM; Duration: 04:03. Ticks are booming this year in Michigan and the species of tick that carries Lyme disease has been increasing over the past several years. We'll talk with a tick expert to find out which areas of the state are affected. Next time on the Environment Report.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

7. Environment (Continued):

The Environment Report: Urban Forests and Air Pollution, and Crowd Hydrology

Broadcast on 2013-06-25 at 8:50AM and 5:25PM; Duration 04:08. It s no secret that trees do some good things for us. But scientists are putting numbers on just how good trees are at removing certain kinds of pollution from the air.

David Nowak is a project leader with the U.S. Forest Service. He and his team looked at the overall impact urban trees have on fine particle pollution. Those are very tiny particles found in smoke and haze.

These particles tend to stay in the atmosphere longer and tend to go deeper into your lung system and have greater human health impacts.

The particles can make asthma worse and lead to premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Nowak looked at ten cities across the U.S. He found that urban trees removed a small amount of fine particle pollution. That pollution can stick to a tree s leaves.

We re talking fractions of a percent annually. But because of these health impacts, even minor changes from the plants have health impacts on humans.

Nowak says trees do help reduce air pollution but it s much better to reduce particle pollution at the source from things like power plants, cars and industries.

Stateside: Carbon Dioxide Levels and Climate Change

Broadcast on 2013-06-24 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. Recently scientists issued a statement indicating the world's atmospheric carbon dioxide level had reached 400 parts per million. Prior to the industrial revolution the level was about 280 parts per million.

For those concerned about climate change, this is an alarming threshold. We don t know yet what it will mean in the coming decades, but the last time the CO2 level was this high in the atmosphere, about two and a half million years ago, the Earth was a much warmer, much different place.

Those who have been concerned about climate change have been talking about this and some have taken action. One of those people lives here in Michigan.

Matthew Grocoff, with Greenovation.TV, joins me.

Stateside: Stewardship of the Earth by Christians and Other Faiths

Broadcast on 2013-06-24 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. You re listening to Stateside on Michigan Radio. I m Lester Graham sitting in for Cynthia Canty.

It s been written "you will know them by their fruits." And what some congregations of faith are harvesting these days is energy - saving energy, producing energy from the sun, from the wind.

Joining me right now is Julie Lyon Brickers, she s the executive director of Michigan Interfaith Power and Light. So, I ve heard that some Christians and other faiths have been looking at this as stewardship of the earth. How did Michigan Power and Light get started?

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

7. Environment (Continued):

Stateside: Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing Causing Concerns About Risks

Broadcast on 2013-06-24 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. Right now we have abundant supplies of natural gas because of what the U.S. Energy Information Administration calls robust inshore production there is a glut of natural gas and that means cheaper gas.

This increased supply is mostly due to hydraulic fracturing - more importantly, a newer way to use the drilling method horizontal hydraulic fracturing. Horizontal fracking has made it easier and cheaper to extract natural gas and oil from shale deposits in the U.S. and other sites around the globe for that matter. Horizontal fracking has meant a boom in gas drilling in the U.S. and it's meant more jobs in certain areas of the country. It's meant less dependence on foreign sources for energy. And because burning natural gas emits about half the CO2 emissions of coal or oil, it means less of the greenhouse gases that are causing climate change. It also means families can heat their homes more cheaply.

But there are also risks and concerns. The extraordinary expansion of natural gas extraction through this use of horizontal hydraulic fracturing is causing some real concerns about risks to air and water quality.

Joining us now to talk about some of those risks are Andy Hoffman, professor of sustainable enterprise at the University of Michigan, and Abraham Lustgarten, a reporter for ProPublica, and in my estimation the preeminent journalist on horizontal fracturing in the nation.

Stateside: Michigan's Dependence on Coal Now and in the Future

Broadcast on 2013-06-26 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. This is Stateside on Michigan Radio, I'm Lester Graham filling in for Cynthia Canty. There's a huge disconnect between our use of electricity and the burning of coal. So let me connect the dots for you: the average American's use of electricity in a day equals 20 pounds of coal, that's what you burn on average.

And in Michigan, all the coal we use is imported from out of state.

Joining us to talk about coal and our dependence on it now and in the future is DTE Energy's Skiles Boyd, welcome, he's the vice president of environmental management and resources at DTE, and Tiffany Hartung with the Sierra Club, where she is the organizer for the Moving Beyond Coal campaign.

Stateside: Wind Energy and Michigan

Broadcast on 2013-06-27 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. This is Stateside, I'm Lester Graham sitting in for Cynthia Canty. The potential of wind energy is just beginning to be realized in the U.S.

Some states have been embracing this technology to create electricity, Michigan's been a little slower to put up as many wind turbines.

Our guests to talk about wind and Michigan are Mark Clevey, he's co-chair at the Great Lakes Wind Collaborative, and Victoria Pebbles, program director with the Great Lakes Commission.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

8. Government:

Stateside: Representative Dan Kildee on Michigan's Finances

Broadcast on 2013-04-01 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. We spoke with Detroit Free Press reporter Todd Spangler in Washington D.C who said it's just too early to figure out the exact implications that these budget cuts will have on the Michigan economy. We also spoke with the man in charge of Michigan's finances: Budget Director John Nixon he says the uncertainty surrounding the cuts is making his job difficult.

Well, today let's turn to a member of Congress someone ON the ground, in the middle of these financial equations: Representative Dan Kildee.

Kildee is a Freshman Democrat taking over the seat left by his Uncle Dale Kildee who retired from Congress this past session. He represents the 5th District including Flint, Saginaw and Bay City.

Representative Kildee welcome to Stateside.

Michigan Radio News: Political Roundup with Susan Demas and Ken Sikkema

Broadcast on 2013-04-11 at 4:45PM; Duration: 04:52. Each week we take a look at Michigan politics with Susan Demas, political analyst for Michigan Information and Research Service, and Ken Sikkema, former Senate Majority Leader and Senior Policy Fellow at Public Sector Consultants.

Both houses of the Legislature are presenting their versions of the budget. We talk about major deviations between the House and Senate versions. And, pre-K education gets a lot of attention from Governor Snyder. Plus, two things to watch for in the coming weeks: road funding and the expansion of Medicaid.

Jack Lessenberry: What's Going on in State Politics (3)

Broadcast on 2013-05-01 at 7:51AM; Duration: 04:08. It's Wednesday, the morning we speak with Michigan Radio's Political Analyst Jack Lessenberry about what's going on in state politics.

U.S. Representative Gary Peters is expected to announce his intention to run for U-S Senate today.

He'll run for the seat that will be vacated by Senator Carl Levin, after he retires at the end of this term.

Peters has been considered a likely candidate for the seat.

Tell us a little bit about him.

Michigan Radio News: Flint Emergency Manager Ed Kurtz To Resign

Broadcast on 2013-05-07 at 4:53PM; Duration: 06:09. The City of Flint has been under the control of emergency management for nearly a year and a half. Now, the city's emergency manager, Ed Kurtz, says he will resign come June 30th, which may put Flint a step closer to returning to local control.

Joining us now is Flint mayor, Dayne Walling. Mayor Walling, welcome to the program.

Michigan Radio News: Reform to Michigan's No-Fault Auto Insurance in Legislature

Broadcast on 2013-04-29 at 4:45PM; Duration: 04:44. A proposed reform to Michigan's no-fault auto insurance is circulating in the legislature. Among other things, it would cap benefits for people who suffer severe injuries in auto accidents at 1 million dollars.

Oakland County Executive, L. Brooks Patterson, has come out as a strong opponent to this legislation and he joins us now. Mr. Patterson, welcome to the program.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

8. Government (Continued):

Stateside: Congressman and Senate Candidate Gary Peters

Broadcast on 2013-05-07 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. It's been nearly two months since US Democratic Senator Carl Levin announced he would NOT seek a seventh term.

That announcement sets up one of the biggest political questions in Michigan: WHO will take over his seat in 2014?

Last week, three-time Congressman Gary Peters announced he will run for Levin's seat. Democrats say Peters gives them a strong candidate...Republicans say the Congressman has supported left-leaning policies that have become unpopular in Michigan.

Congressman---and now Senate candidate ---Gary Peters joins us...welcome back to Stateside Congressman.

Michigan Watch: Some Michigan Legislators Again Proposing Changes to No-Fault Auto Insurance

Broadcast on 2013-05-13 at 5:35AM and 7:35AM; Duration 04:00. Some members of the legislature are once again proposing changes to no-fault auto insurance in Michigan.

They say it will save auto owners money.

Lester Graham with Michigan Watch reports opponents say the plan is good for insurance companies, but not for accident victims.

State of Opportunity: Low-Income Families Impacted by Sequester Continue to Wait for Congress' Help

Broadcast on 2013-05-22 at 6:35AM and 8:35AM; Duration 04:18. When airlines and travelers complained of long flight delays due to the sequester, Congress jumped into action and passed a speedy resolution to end the delays. Meanwhile the millions of low-income families whose lives are being impacted by the sequester continue to wait for Congress help. From Michigan Radio's State of Opportunity project, Jennifer Guerra reports:

Michigan Radio News: Susan Demas and Ken Sikkema on State Budget not Including Three of Governor Snyder's Major Priorities

Broadcast on 2013-06-06 at 5:23PM; Duration: 05:04. It's Thursday, the day we talk Michigan politics with Susan Demas, political analyst for Michigan Information and Research Service, and Ken Sikkema, former Senate Majority Leader and senior policy fellow at Public Sector Consultants.

The state budget is on its way to Governor Snyder while there is an investment of 65 million dollar in early education, the Governor did not get three of his major priorities met Medicaid expansion, transportation funding, and Common Core for K-12 education.

Ken, what does it mean that the Governor was not able to get traction on those issues?

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

8. Government (Continued):

Stateside: Medicaid Expansion in Michigan

Broadcast on 2013-06-11 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. More than 30 conservative and tea party activists say they won't support Governor Snyder's re-election in 2014... that's because of his support for expanding Medicaid. The expansion is part of the federal health care law.

In an open letter to Snyder, the activists fault him for consulting with U-S Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

They accuse Snyder of purposefully sticking a, QUOTE, "finger in the eye of his own conservative base"... and they say, "a line must be drawn."

Snyder and Republican legislative leaders sent a letter to Sebelius late last month asking her to meet with them.

Joan Fabiano is with the Tea Party Group Grassroots in Michigan.

Meanwhile, a group of Michigan nurses is in Lansing today to try and raise SUPPORT for the expansion. They say a deal to expand Medicaid eligibility to more than 400-thousand Michigan residents is a good thing.

John Karebian is the Executive Director of the Michigan Nurses Association. He says the Medicaid expansion is being held up by Republicans still angry over the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

Michigan Radio News: Governor Rick Snyder Calls Senate Republications Back to Lansing to Vote on Medicaid Expansion

Broadcast on 2013-06-21 at 6:35AM and 8:35AM; Duration 04:11. Governor Rick Snyder is calling on state Senate Republicans to return to Lansing.

That s after the Senate adjourned for its summer recess without voting on a Medicaid expansion under the new federal healthcare law.

Michigan Public Radio s Rick Pluta tells us how the episode left hard feelings, and dimming prospects for extending health coverage to many thousands of low-income working households.

Stateside: The Champion of the Farm Bill - Michigan Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow

Broadcast on 2013-06-19 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. As we just spoke about, the Farm Bill would cut the funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, by more than four billion dollars over the next ten years.

The House version of the bill includes \$20-billion in cuts!

Nationwide, more than 47 million people receive federal food assistance...and one-point-seven million in Michigan.

Joining us now is the head of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee.... and, really, the champion of the Farm Bill - Michigan Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow.

Senator, welcome back to Stateside.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

10. Legal System/Court Cases:

Jack Lessenberry: What's Going on in State Politics

Broadcast on 2013-04-11 at 7:51AM; Duration: 04:02. We now speak with Michigan Radio's Political Analyst Jack Lessenberry about what's going on in state politics.

A set of bills has been introduced that would take a first step toward fixing problems in Michigan's public defense system.

Those problems include no training for public defenders, and excessive caseloads.

Jack, tell us, how big of a problem is this?

State of Opportunity: The Indian Child Welfare Act and Michigan's Similar Law

Broadcast on 2013-04-17 at 6:35AM, 8:35AM and 6:20PM; Duration 07:32. The United States Supreme Court heard arguments yesterday on the Indian Child Welfare Act. The law is designed to make sure Native American children in the child welfare system stay connected with their tribes.

Michigan has a similar law, and advocates say it could be a fix for the rest of the state's troubled child welfare system. But as State of Opportunity's Sarah Alvarez reports, enforcing the law isn't easy. And supporters are afraid a ruling from the nation's high court could undo years of progress.

Michigan Watch: LGBT Housing Discrimination

Broadcast on 2013-04-29 at 4:20PM; and on 2013-04-30 at 6:21AM and 8:21AM; Duration 06:58. Some Michigan residents are turned away for housing even if they can afford the rent for an apartment or the mortgage for a home.

In many cases, landlords and bankers can legally discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Lester Graham with Michigan Watch reports this discrimination happens even in communities with laws that protect L-G-B-T people.

Michigan Radio News: U.S. Immigration Changes

Broadcast on 2013-05-03 at 6:35AM and 8:35AM; Duration 04:23. The U-S appears to be on the verge of the biggest immigration changes in a generation.

A bill being debated in Congress would allow many immigrants now here illegally a path to citizenship.

But while Washington grinds out the details, the government is detaining and deporting record numbers of people.

Some of them are people who would likely benefit from immigration overhaul including one young woman who recently found herself in a West Michigan jail.

Michigan Radio's Sarah Cwiek reports.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

10. Legal System/Court Cases (Continued):

Michigan Watch: Michigan Legislature and LGBT Civil Rights

Broadcast on 2013-05-01 at 6:21AM, 8:21AM and 4:50PM; Duration 07:05. Public polling and recent court cases have prompted greater discussion about adding protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Michigan's civil rights law.

Advocates for the change say it's time to stop legally discriminating against L-G-B-T people.

Others say changing the law would mean people opposed to homosexual behavior would be discriminated against.

Lester Graham with Michigan Watch says the issue is beginning to play out in the Michigan legislature.

Stateside: International Adoption and the Documentary, "Stuck"

Broadcast on 2013-05-01 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. We take a closer look at the families and children stuck in the complicated, long process of international adoption. You're listening to Stateside on Michigan Radio.

There's a special screening tonight at the AMC Livonia 20 of the documentary "STUCK"...an Audience Choice Winner at the Heartland Film Festival.

The film focuses on the process of international adoption...and the children and prospective parents who get "Stuck" in that process.

"Stuck tells the story of four children and the families who want to adopt them....following the children and families as they try to negotiate the bureaucratic ins and outs of the international adoption system.

Stateside: Issues Surrounding Michigan's State Constitutional Amendment Banning Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage

Broadcast on 2013-06-26 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. From Michigan Radio, this is Stateside. I'm Lester Graham in for Cynthia Canty. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional, meaning same-sex couples who are legally married will be recognized by the federal government. The court also ruled in a case that basically makes same-sex marriage in California legal.

But what about Michigan?

In 2004 voters approved a state constitutional amendment banning recognition of same-sex marriage or similar union. What's the future of that amendment? What changes for same-sex couples legally married in another state but living in Michigan?

Joining us now to discuss some of those issues are Larry Dubin, he's professor at the University of Detroit Mercy law school, and Emily Dievendorf, she is the managing director of Equality Michigan.

11. Public Health/Medicine:

Michigan Radio News: Senate Bill 136

Broadcast on 2013-04-23 at 4:45PM; Duration: 04:59. Senate Bill 136 would allow health care providers, facilities and insurance providers to deny service based on religious, moral or ethical objections. State Senator John Moolenaar, a Republican representing Michigan's 36th District is the bill's sponsor. He spoke with Jennifer White earlier this week.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

11. Public Health/Medicine (Continued):

Stateside: Health Differences in Washtenaw and Wayne Counties

Broadcast on 2013-04-23 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. If you harbor hopes of living a long and healthy life...WHERE you live Michigan matters...a lot!!!!

That's according to a report this week in Bridge Magazine...that hammers home the fact that we all - probably deep down already knew: health and wellness is NOT evenly spread out in our state.

No where is that fact more starkly illustrated than the neighboring counties of Washtenaw...and Wayne, where living on the right side of that county line means a longer life with better health.

Contributing Bridge writer Ron French joins us now from Lansing...welcome back to Stateside Ron!

Stateside: Medicaid Expansion in Michigan

Broadcast on 2013-06-11 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. More than 30 conservative and tea party activists say they won't support Governor Snyder's re-election in 2014... that's because of his support for expanding Medicaid. The expansion is part of the federal health care law.

In an open letter to Snyder, the activists fault him for consulting with U-S Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

They accuse Snyder of purposefully sticking a, QUOTE, "finger in the eye of his own conservative base"... and they say, "a line must be drawn."

Snyder and Republican legislative leaders sent a letter to Sebelius late last month asking her to meet with them.

Joan Fabiano is with the Tea Party Group Grassroots in Michigan.

Meanwhile, a group of Michigan nurses is in Lansing today to try and raise SUPPORT for the expansion. They say a deal to expand Medicaid eligibility to more than 400-thousand Michigan residents is a good thing.

John Karebian is the Executive Director of the Michigan Nurses Association. He says the Medicaid expansion is being held up by Republicans still angry over the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

State of Opportunity: Childrens' Health Threatened by Nationwide Drug Shortages

Broadcast on 2013-06-19 at 6:35AM, 8:35AM and 5:15PM; Duration 04:43. Our State of Opportunity project focuses on kids and what it will take to get them ahead. At the most basic level, that means ensuring children are healthy. But as Michigan Radio s Jennifer Guerra reports, nationwide drug shortages could threaten even that most basic task.

12. Social Policy/Welfare:

Stateside: Legislation Proposed for Drug Testing Welfare Recipients

Broadcast on 2013-05-07 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. But first...to Lansing...where we've been following a bill that's working its way through the State Legislature.

The legislation would require people getting welfare benefits to pass a drug test in order to receive those benefits. The substance abuse screening would be required if there's---quote--- "reasonable suspicion" that the person is using illegal drugs.

Republican Representative Jeff Farrington sponsored the bill in the House...he says the government should NOT pay for people's drug habits.

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

12. Social Policy/Welfare (Continued):

Stateside: Scott Allard on How we Think of Poverty in Michigan

Broadcast on 2013-05-22 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. When one thinks of POVERTY in America....poverty in Michigan...what images come to mind? Where are poor people living?

Chances are, an image of an inner city neighborhood flashes in your mind.

Well, THAT would be wrong.

The Brookings Institute this week released its study called..."Confronting Suburban Poverty in America". Bottom line: poverty is moving into the suburbs. Both here in Michigan and across the country, the suburbs are home to the largest and fastest growing poor population in the country."

Joining me to talk about what this study means in terms of HOW we think of poverty in our state is Scott Allard...he's an associate professor at the University of Chicago...and a research affiliate of the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan. Welcome, Scott!

Stateside: How Would Proposed Bill to Allow Suspicion-Based Drug Testing Affect Medical Marijuana Patients in Michigan?

Broadcast on 2013-06-04 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. State lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow suspicion-based drug testing as a condition of welfare in Michigan. People on cash assistance could lose their benefits if they test positive for an illegal substance.

As Michigan Public Radio's Jake Neher tells us, it's not clear how the bill would affect medical marijuana patients.

Stateside: Many Michigan Families not Getting Support Needed to Avoid Losing Cash Assistance

Broadcast on 2013-06-17 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. With school out for the summer, state officials are already looking for ways to get more students to show up for classes in the fall. The state Department of Human Services wants to expand pilot programs that put more social workers in schools with high truancy rates.

At the same time, DHS has a new statewide policy that threatens to take away welfare benefits from families with kids who persistently miss school.

But, critics say that still means too few families are getting the support they need to avoid losing their cash assistance. Michigan Public Radio's Jake Neher reports.

Stateside: Possible Cuts to the SNAP Program

Broadcast on 2013-06-19 at 3:00PM; Duration: 18:30. So, let's continue looking at the SNAP program... and the possible cuts to it. Terri Stangl is the executive director of the Center for Civil Justice in Flint...She joins us now.

Terri, we just heard Senator Stabenow that people who legitimately qualify for federal food assistance will not lose anything and that the Senate bill tightens loop-holes and reduces fraud. Does that ring true from where you sit?

Section II: Responsive Programs (Continued)

13. Transportation:

Jack Lessenberry: What's Going on in State Politics (2)

Broadcast on 2013-04-17 at 7:51AM; Duration: 03:51. It's Wednesday, the morning we speak with Michigan Radio's Political Analyst Jack Lessenberry about what's going on in state politics.

For months, Governor Snyder has been trying to get support from lawmakers to fix Michigan's roads.

We haven't seen a whole lot of progress on how the state will pay for road repairs.

But now, a state House committee has begun hearings on a road funding strategy.

Jack, tell us about these recent developments.

Stateside: Today Average Gas Prices in Michigan Second Highest in US

Broadcast on 2013-06-04 at 3:00PM; Duration: 12:00. As gas prices kept marching ever-upward...one thing we could always say here in Michigan was..."Well, at least we're not as bad as....."..fill in the blank: Chicago....LA...Alaska.

As anyone who's gassed up this week has sadly realized, that is NO longer the case. Michigan's average gas price is...today...the SECOND highest in the country. Only Hawaii tops our pump prices!!

Triple A finds we're paying an average of 4-10 a gallon...that's up 23 cents from a week ago...and 47 cents more than the same time last year. And this comes as the national average slips a penny...to 3-62 a gallon!

What happened, you ask??

Let's find out as we turn to Patrick Dee-Hahn, Senior Petroleum Analyst with GasBuddy.com. Hi Patrick!