

WBBH

1st Quarter 2024

Community Issues/Program List

Covering the period: January 1 – March 31, 2024

Filed: April 5th, 2024

WBBH TV broadcasts a wide array of programs that address the issues of the communities we serve. The station produces and broadcasts 50 hours of local news each week. When flooding, hurricanes, severe storms or brush fires threaten the area, our news crews provide continuing coverage greatly exceeding the 50 hours of locally produced programming.

The weekly, regularly scheduled local news programs that provide significant treatment of community issues are as follows:

Monday-Friday:

4:30AM-5AM	NBC2 News Early Today
5AM-6AM	NBC2 News Today at 5AM
6AM-7AM	NBC2 News Today at 6AM
11AM-12PM	NBC2 News at 11AM
12PM-1PM	NBC2 News at Noon
3PM-4PM	NBC2 News at 3PM
4PM-5PM	NBC2 News First at 4PM
5PM-5:30PM	NBC2 News at 5PM
5:30PM-6PM	NBC2 News at 5:30PM
6PM-6:30PM	NBC2 News at 6PM
11PM-11:35PM	NBC2 News at 11PM

Saturday:

6AM-7AM	NBC2 News Today Saturday 6AM
8:30AM-9:30AM	NBC2 News Today Saturday
9:30AM-10AM	NBC2 News Today Saturday
6PM-6:30PM	NBC2 News at 6PM
11PM-11:30PM	NBC2 News at 11PM

Sunday:

6AM-7AM	NBC2 News Today Sunday 6AM
7AM-8AM	NBC2 News Today Sunday 7AM
9AM-10AM	NBC2 News Today Sunday 9AM
6PM-6:30PM	NBC2 News at 6PM
11PM-11:30PM	NBC2 News at 11PM

In addition to local news programs, WBBH broadcasts network news and information programs that address local issues of concern and health issues, which are of particular interest to our audience.

Monday-Friday:

4AM-4:30AM	Early Today
7AM-11AM	The Today Show
1PM-2PM	Dateline
2PM-3PM	NBC News Daily
6:30PM-7PM	NBC Nightly News
VARIOUS NEWSCASTS	Rossen Reports

Saturday:

7AM-8:30AM	NBC Saturday Today
6:30PM-7PM	NBC Nightly News

Sunday:

8AM-9AM	NBC Sunday Today
10AM-11AM	Meet the Press

6:30PM-7PM

NBC Nightly News

Various Days and Times:

Dateline NBC

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & BROADCAST SPECIALS:

“Deadly Plane Crash on I-75 Special Coverage”

On February 9th, 2024, around 3:30 p.m. a small plane crashed on Interstate 75 in Collier County near the Golden Gate Parkway exit. This event prompted the station to start special coverage. From 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., WBBH had non-stop coverage of the accident, focusing on what happened, where roads were closed, and speaking with witnesses on-air who saw the crash. Multiple crews were on the scene, including NBC2 anchor Peter Busch, who anchored from the crash site for the NBC2 News at 11PM. In the days following, WBBH reported on the latest information from the Federal Aviation Authority, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the Florida Highway Patrol about the crash. Both pilots died at the scene; the flight attendant and two passengers survived. The plane was heading to Naples Airport. The preliminary report stated that the first warning reported left engine oil pressure issues, and the second reported problems with the right engine oil pressure. Seconds later, the crew announced they had lost both engines.

“Black History Month”

During one week of Black History Month, WBBH ran several 2-minute stories in the 5:00 p.m. newscast, highlighting Black American individuals' stories. Several Black individuals were recognized for impacting the Southwest Florida community this quarter. During February, WBBH ran a 2-minute promotion focusing on how the station uses Black voices to tell stories throughout the community.

“Edison Festival of Light Parade”

The WBBH news team was invited to participate in the Edison Festival of Light Parade on February 17th. Dozens of team members walked in the parade through the Fort Myers neighborhood. The First Alert Storm Tracker, Southwest Florida's only weather center on wheels, took center stage during the parade.

REGULAR SEGMENTS IN NEWSCASTS:

NBC2 News @ 11:00 am Thursday: *Florida Weekly Reports*

We team up with SWFL's only weekly newspaper to highlight stories of interest to our viewers.

NBC2 News @ Noon Friday: *SWFL Most Wanted*

We team up with CRIMESTOPPERS to highlight the most wanted criminals in our area. The segments run each Friday at noon; lasting approximately 3:00. During that time we show mugshots and describe the crimes committed. Oftentimes this segment leads to tips that lead to the felon's arrest.

NBC2 News @ 11:00 am and 3:00 pm Daily: *Health Matters Reports*

WBBH teams up with Lee Memorial Hospital – the largest health employer in the county - to bring our viewers the latest medical breakthroughs, tips for healthy living and information about new programs being offered to our viewers in Southwest Florida.

NBC2 News @ Noon Daily: *Mr. Food Test Kitchen*

WBBH is the home of the nationally syndicated TV segment Mr. Food Test Kitchen in Southwest Florida. Mr. Food delivers quick and easy recipes that viewers can try at home. This segment is an exclusive broadcast during the Noon newscast.

NBC2 News @ 5:00, 5:30 & 6pm Routinely: The Investigators

The NBC2 Investigators dig deeper into daily stories, uncovering wrongdoing, public safety issues and consumer alerts.

NBC2 News @ 6 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: "Story2Share"

NBC2's Sean Martinelli brings you the "Story2Share." These stories are often inspiring, uplifting--and bring a smile to the viewer's face. This franchise is broadcast exclusively during the 6 PM newscast.

Local Public Service Announcements for NBC2 & Heroes and Icons:**BBH546091 – Ad Council Youth Fentanyl – 121 TIMES**

To increase awareness of the dangers & prevalence of fentanyl, this campaign, Real Deal on Fentanyl, was created to educate young people 13-24 and arm them with lifesaving information. The campaign also includes a distinct forthcoming creative effort, targeted to parents of 13–24-year-olds, to help parents also understand the risks posed by fentanyl, and how they can talk to their children about this issue.

BBH546055 – Ad Council Drugs/Driving 1 – 84 TIMES

Many marijuana users do not see a problem with driving after use, but research shows marijuana can slow reaction time, impair judgment of distance, and decrease coordination - all skills necessary for the safe operating of a vehicle. The campaign targets young men aged 18 to 34, many of whom reject the common stereotypes of marijuana users - and reminds viewers that if you feel different, you drive different.

BBH546093 – Ad Council Drugs/Driving 2 – 84 TIMES

Many marijuana users do not see a problem with driving after use, but research shows marijuana can slow reaction time, impair judgment of distance, and decrease coordination - all skills necessary for the safe operating of a vehicle. The campaign targets young men aged 18 to 34, many of whom reject the common stereotypes of marijuana users - and reminds viewers that if you feel different, you drive different.

BBH546090 – Ad Council Youth Vape 1 – 70 TIMES

Vaping can cause irreversible lung damage and affect kids' brain development, but parents can play a vital role in preventing their kids from using e-cigarettes. This campaign drives parents to visit TalkAboutVaping.org for tips on when and how to have the vape talk with their kids.

BBH546098 – Ad Council Youth Vape 2 – 91 TIMES

Vaping can cause irreversible lung damage and affect kids' brain development, but parents can play a vital role in preventing their kids from using e-cigarettes. This campaign drives parents to visit TalkAboutVaping.org for tips on when and how to have the vape talk with their kids.

BBH546189 – FL Rep Children PSA – 366 TIMES

Florida Rep is a fully professional regional theatre company located in the heart of downtown Fort Myers River District. The locally owned theatre company released a series of PSA's about upcoming shows. Florida Rep's Education Department is also dedicating more time to enriching the lives of children and families with exceptional theatre experiences.

BBH546054 – FAMU 2356 MMERI 9 – 316 TIMES

Florida A&M University is educating and informing Florida about the consequences of taking medical marijuana while pregnant.

BBH546059 – FAMU 2355 MMER1 8 – 292 TIMES

Florida A&M University is educating and informing Florida about the differences between THC and THCV.

BBH546067 – OFR2386 CHECKYOURINVEST – 339 TIMES

The Florida Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) provides regulatory oversight for Florida's financial services industry. The OFR produced several PSAs aimed at protecting Florida's financial services consumers and promoting a safe financial marketplace.

BBH550825 – FAMU2354 MMER17 – 30 TIMES

Florida A&M University is educating and informing Florida about the benefits of THCV.

BBH549767 – FAMU2355 MMER18 – 30 TIMES

Florida A&M University is educating and informing Florida about the differences between THC and THCV.

BBH549768 – FAMU2356 MMER19 – 26 TIMES

Florida A&M University is educating and informing Florida about the consequences of taking medical marijuana while pregnant.

BBH549769 – FAMU2357 MMER10 – 26 TIMES

Florida A&M University is educating and informing Florida about the consequences of taking medical marijuana while pregnant.

BBH548354 – OUNCE2026 HEALTHYSTEPS – 19 TIMES

Healthiest Weight Florida is a public-private collaboration bringing together state agencies, not for profit organizations, businesses, and entire communities to help Florida's children and adults make consistent, informed choices about healthy eating and active living. Currently, only 36 percent of Floridians are at a healthy weight. To address this important public health issue, the Department of Health launched the Healthiest Weight Florida initiative.

BBH548363 – OUNCE2294 NEWBORNSCREENING – 19 TIMES

Newborn Screening is a state public health program that reaches nearly 4 million babies born in the United States each year. Approximately, a quarter of a million of those babies are born in Florida. Newborns are screened for certain genetic, endocrine, hemoglobinopathy, immunology, and metabolic conditions. Florida screens for more than 55 conditions. If a baby's newborn screen is abnormal, parents will be notified, and the Newborn Screening Follow-up Program will ensure access to diagnostic testing to confirm results.

BBH548364 – OUNCE2297 COUNTTHEKICKS – 18 TIMES

Count the Kicks is an evidence-based campaign that teaches expectant parents about the importance of tracking fetal movements. The goal is to make kick counting a common practice in the third trimester by reaching as many providers and expectant parents as possible.

BBH548365 – OUNCE2372 POOLSAFETY – 18 TIMES

To improve pool and spa safety, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission launched *Pool Safely: Simple Steps to Save Lives*, a national public education campaign to reduce childhood drownings, submersion injuries and entrapments. The campaign is a call-to-action for consumers and industry to adopt proven water safety steps and join a national conversation about pool and spa safety by sharing best practices and other life-saving information.

LIST OF COMMUNITY ISSUES:

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice:

WBBH reported on several murder investigations. A man was killed in a murder-suicide on New Year's Eve at the Port of the Islands Resort. Two men were found shot and killed in a Charlotte County home. A 15-year-old girl died after being shot in Cape Coral, and police were looking for her killer. WBBH reported on a deadly bank robbery in Lee County. The station followed the case of Collier County Commissioner Rick LoCastro after he was arrested for battery. A Fort Myers mother was arrested after her baby overdosed on fentanyl. A man was accused of breaking into the Page Field Airport and attempting to steal an airplane before crashing into a fence.

Weather and Public Safety:

On January 15th, heavy thunderstorms brought flooding and damage to parts of Southwest Florida. The station reported on the impacts of the severe weather. WBBH reported the effects after a semi-truck crashed on Interstate 75 and spilled 40,000 pounds of raw chicken. Water outages were reported across Collier County that caused a boil water notice. WBBH reported that city leaders are considering adding more water restrictions to northeast Cape Coral. After a small brush sparked in Lehigh Acres, firefighters reminded people how to help prevent them from sparking. WBBH reported on sand safety after a girl died from getting crushed by sand in Florida.

Consumer Issues and Healthcare:

WBBH reported that Cape Coral residents were upset over city council members voting for a new stipend that effectively doubled their salaries. The Naples City Council approved the construction of the Naples Comprehensive Health (NCH) Heart Institute. NBC2 anchor Lisa Spooner highlighted the damaging skincare products teenagers use and how they are being targeted to buy them. Collier County Commissioners voted to remove fluoride from the water treatment facilities in the county's unincorporated portions. Some pediatricians in Lee County were concerned over a cluster of measles in South Florida. WBBH reported that Florida Power & Light (FPL) customers in Southwest Florida could see savings on their electricity bills beginning in May.

Consumer Development and Tourism:

WBBH reported on the City of Fort Myers decision on what to do with the City of Palms Park. The station reported on restorations being made to the Sanibel Lighthouse from damage from Hurricane Ian. WBBH reported on the spring break crowds on Fort Myers Beach. The station reported that the Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) terminal expansion project was delayed an extra year. WBBH reported on creating the Naples Pier Fund to aid in financing the renovations to the iconic landmark. The station reported on the traffic shift that marked progress on I-75 construction.

Environment:

WBBH reported on a Cape Coral woman dealing with an unfinished driveway due to an eagle's nest being too close. The Collier Mosquito Control District was advocating for the passing of Florida House Bill 509, which would nearly double the area permitted the organization to treat mosquitos. Starting February 17th, the Army Corps of Engineers released more water from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee and Saint Lucie rivers. WBBH reported an alligator was found sunbathing on a Naples resident's dock. A reporter with the station spoke with a turkey hunter who found himself face-to-face with an endangered panther. WBBH reported on a recent study suggesting python farming could be a sustainable solution to global hunger issues.

Florida Primary Election:

WBBH reported on several stories relating to the Florida Primary Election. On March 19th, voters around the state cast their votes in the primary. The Collier County Supervisor of Elections blamed a political action committee for sending mysterious text messages to confuse voters about

their mail ballots. Some Lee County Republicans were questioning the safety of ballots and pushed for the next election to be counted by hand. With former President Donald Trump as the presumptive nominee, election officials feared it would impact Florida's voter turnout. Each candidate for Naples Mayor spoke with NBC2's Chief Political Reporter, Dave Elias, in one-on-one interviews. The tightly contested race for Naples mayor sat at a 12-vote difference, which forced a mandatory recount. WBBH reported that Naples Mayor Teresa Heitmann managed to keep her position after a recount and won by a razor-thin margin.

The following list provides some examples of the local coverage provided by WBBH that addresses the issues in our community. While WBBH provided significantly more coverage than demonstrated here, this list serves as a sampling of what was broadcast in the quarter to respond to the community's needs.

Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Murder-Suicide at Port of the Islands Resort
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 1/2, 1/3
Length: 10+ Minutes

A man was murdered, and the shooter later killed himself in the afternoon hours on New Year's Eve at the Port of the Islands Resort. According to employees inside the restaurant, Zachary Ludwig was shot multiple times in the face. Later, the suspect, James Gamble, shot and killed himself with his handgun. According to family friends, Ludwig was hired to work at Port of the Islands Resort just three weeks prior.

Two Men Found Shot and Killed in Home
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 1/24, 1/30, 1/25, 1/26, 1/30, 2/8
Length: 30+ Minutes

Weeks after two men were found shot and killed in a Charlotte County home, Sheriff Bill Prummell said drugs and money could be a motive in the crime. According to Sheriff Prummell, the victims, Anthony and Mario, were heavily into the drug trade. The conspiracy charges fell around drugs and money. Investigators believe both men were targeted. Arrest warrants were issued for Mario's wife, Kelly Schiano, and his worker, Michael Everett Harper.

Man Killed by Sniper in Bank Hostage Situation
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/6, 2/7, 2/8
Length: 15+ Minutes

One man was killed, and two hostages were set free after a tense situation and standoff at a south Fort Myers Bank. In a confrontation inside the Bank of America at Bell Tower along US-41, the Lee County Sheriff's Office, alongside Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents, responded to the report of an armed robbery incident. The situation escalated inside the bank, where the suspect, Sterling Alavache, who is now dead, took two hostages. WBBH reporters spoke with a witness who was inside the bank and recounted the moment when they said Alavache leaped over the counter, claiming to possess a bomb.

Collier County Commissioner Arrested
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/6, 2/7, 2/12, 2/13, 3/7, 3/12
Length: 40+ Minutes

Collier County Commissioner Rick LoCastro was in custody at Collier County Jail after a warrant for his arrest was issued. According to the Collier County Sheriff's Office, the warrant was issued for a

battery offense from an incident in October 2023. The Sheriff's Office said a physical altercation reportedly occurred between LoCastro and his girlfriend at the time. LoCastro was being held on a \$1,000 bond and bonded out.

Mother Charged After Baby Overdoses
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/13, 2/14, 2/21
Length: 15+ Minutes

Fort Myers Police responded to a call for service about a baby not breathing. Upon arrival, officers found an unresponsive baby and immediately began CPR. The baby regained consciousness and was transported to the hospital. Narcan was administered due to the baby showing signs of an overdose. Police say, through evidence from the home, medical records showing the baby positive for fentanyl, and statements, they had probable cause to arrest the baby's mother, Mary Sinopoli.

Man Accused of Trying to Steal a Plane
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/26, 2/27, 2/28
Length: 15+ Minutes

A Fort Myers man was accused of breaking into the Page Field Airport and attempting to steal an airplane before crashing into a fence. According to the Lee County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), the suspect, Bruce Plummer, broke into the airport overnight. Plummer first got into one plane, and after being unable to start it, he got into another. Plummer got the plane to move but crashed into a pole and fence shortly after. LCSO stated that the airport video showed Plummer exiting the first plane around midnight. According to the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), Plummer got his student pilot license in 2008.

15-Year-Old Girl Murder Investigation
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/18, 3/19, 3/20, 3/21, 3/25
Length: 30+ Minutes

A 15-year-old girl died after a shooting in Cape Coral. Kayla Rincon-Miller was shot and taken to the hospital, where she later died. Cape Coral police officers said Rincon-Miller and two other girls had seen a movie at the Coralwood 10 movie theater and were walking to a McDonald's when multiple suspects confronted them. Two days later, Cape Coral police officers say 16-year-old Thomas Stein. He faced homicide charges in the shooting death of Rincon-Miller. They also said the shooting was not random, and they were still searching for other suspects.

Weather and Public Safety

Semi-Truck Spills 40,000 Pounds of Raw Chicken
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 1/5
Length: 5+ Minutes

A semi-truck crashed on Interstate 75 near mile marker 124 and spilled 40,000 pounds of raw chicken. WBBH reported on the delays and cleanup of this crash. The Florida Highway Patrol said the truck veered off the road and collided with several trees in the wood line. According to the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), the truck driver experienced a medical episode and was transported to an area hospital with minor injuries.

Heavy Rain Brings Flooding to Cape Coral
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 1/15, 1/16, 1/17
Length: 15+ Minutes

On January 15th, heavy thunderstorms brought flooding and damage to parts of Southwest Florida. NBC2 Meteorologist Rob Duns said the storms dropped between 6 and 9" of rain over areas of Cape Coral. Other areas of Lee County experienced flooding rain totals from 2 to 5" of rain. WBBH reported on the impacts of the rain and flooding. In the days following, auto shops were being inundated with flooded cars, and towing companies were working overtime to remove cars.

Widespread Boil Water Notice

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 1/22

Length: 5+ Minutes

The Collier County Sheriff's Office received several 911 calls concerning water outages. According to Rick Carabajal, plant operator for the North Collier County Water Treatment Plant, Collier County was aware of a potential water main break, and crews were restoring water to normal. A water ban was implemented as a precaution to protect the health and safety of customers. A few days later, bacteriological tests confirmed that the water was safe to drink.

Possible Water Restrictions in Cape Coral

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/14

Length: 5+ Minutes

City leaders were considering adding more water restrictions to northeast Cape Coral. The South Florida Water Management District was worried about well water users in that part of the city. City council members weighed in on 12 potential initiatives. Nearly every council member agreed to accelerate the 2023 Conservation Ordinance. That applied to new rules for sprinkler systems to manage water use. Most also agreed to increase fines for people who water their lawns more than once a week. However, there was debate on whether fines should increase before or after the first violation.

Sand Safety on Fort Myers Beach

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/21

Length: 5+ Minutes

After a seven-year-old girl in Florida died from digging a hole on the beach near Fort Lauderdale and became trapped underneath the sand, the tragedy cast light on beach safety, specifically when it comes to playing in the sand. Chadd Chustz, the environmental project manager for Fort Myers Beach, said their neighborhood services team, which patrols the beach, was strengthening protocols. With Spring Break coming up, Chustz said their beach patrol ensured sand holes were covered by dark.

Brush Fire Ricks During Dry Season

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/12

Length: 5+ Minutes

After a small brush sparked in Lehigh Acres, firefighters wanted to remind people how to help prevent them from sparking. Katie Heck, public relations officer for the Lehigh Fire Control and Rescue District, said people need to make sure there is a 30-foot buffer zone around their homes and to never toss cigarette butts or other flammable objects out the window and make sure any fire started is completely put out.

Consumer Issues and Healthcare

Cape Coral City Council Pay Raise Opposition

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11

Date: 1/2, 1/10, 1/11, 1/18 1/25

Length: 30+ Minutes

Source: Local

On December 13th, 2023, the Cape Coral City Council approved a stipend giving the mayor an extra \$5,000 a month and councilors an additional \$3,300 a month. Over 7,000 Cape Coral residents signed a petition calling the City Council to undo the new stipend. Hundreds of Cape Coral residents attended the City Council meeting in January, calling on members to undo a new stipend that nearly doubles their pay. WBBH reported on the community's frustration over the stipends. All council members favored the latest pay increase they had given themselves, except for District 5 Councilman Robert Welsh.

Hospital Expansion Approved

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11

Source: Local

Date: 1/18, 2/7

Length: 10+ Minutes

The Naples City Council approved the construction of the Naples Comprehensive Health (NCH) Heart Institute. The new heart center would be constructed at NCH's downtown Baker Hospital. It would be an 189,000-square-foot, five-story expansion. Discussions stretched for nearly three years, and with the city council's approval, construction of the approximately \$200 million project can move forward. An issue that caused extended debate was the proposed height of the 87-foot-tall facility, which soars over the city's 42-foot limit for a commercial building.

Teens Using Harmful Skincare Products

Program: NBC2 News @ 5

Source: Local

Date: 2/5

Length: 3+ Minutes

NBC2 anchor Lisa Spooner highlighted the damaging skincare products teenagers use and how they are being targeted to buy them. On average, in 2023, teens buying skincare products jumped 19% compared to the year before. The ingredients in so many of the products are not meant for young skin. The report also emphasized that parents should monitor what their children buy and use on their skin.

Commissioners Vote to Remove Fluoride from Water

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11

Source: Local

Date: 2/13, 2/15

Length: 10+ Minutes

In a unanimous vote at the Collier County Commission meeting, Commissioners elected to remove the mineral fluoride from the water treatment facilities in the unincorporated portions of the county. About 85,000 commercial buildings and homes would be impacted. About 50 community members spoke publicly for about 3 hours, focusing on free will. Fluoride, which has been used in the county's water treatment since 1985, is mainly used to treat tooth decay. Everglades City, Marco Island, and Ave Maria already do not use the mineral. Dr. Marilyn Sandor, a pediatric dentist at Naples Pediatric Dentistry, discussed fluoride's role as critical in children's oral health in their early years.

Concerns Over Measles Outbreak

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11

Source: Local

Date: 2/20

Length: 5+ Minutes

Some pediatricians in Lee County were concerned over a cluster of measles in South Florida, as there were six cases of the highly contagious disease now in Broward County. The entire series of the MMR vaccine prevents measles, mumps, and rubella and protects others from the highly infectious disease that can get people sick and spread that rash. According to the Florida Department of Health, 94% of people are vaccinated against measles.

Florida Power & Light Rate Decrease
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/13
Length: 5+ Minutes

WBBH reported that Florida Power & Light (FPL) customers in Southwest Florida could see savings on their electricity bills beginning in May. FPL has proposed a decrease in rates, aiming for an average relief of \$14 per month. In April, rates could also go down following a temporary hurricane surcharge that ends after FPL added the fees to customers' bills to cover the restoration costs from Hurricane Ian. An additional potential cost reduction comes from FPL's proposal to the Florida Public Service Commission. FPL requested a rate reduction in May due to lower fuel cost estimates.

Consumer Development and Tourism

Fort Myers City of Palms Park
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 1/3, 1/31, 2/20, 3/18
Length: 20+ Minutes

WBBH reported on the City of Fort Myers decision on what to do with the City of Palms Park. The Fort Myers city manager announced that negotiations with Pitch Prime were underway despite being sued by the United Soccer League (USL). The gates have been closed at the City of Palms Park for years, and the community wanted answers about what the new facility will look like. Pitch Prime was the city's first choice to develop the park into a pro soccer venue. The second choice, the United Soccer League (USL), sued the city, saying the city council violated its rules in the selection process.

Sanibel Lighthouse Restoration
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 1/19, 1/23, 3/1
Length: 15+ Minutes

The Sanibel Lighthouse got a new leg in January after Hurricane Ian destroyed its previous one. In March, the Sanibel Lighthouse was covered in a gown. The city said the entire lighthouse was sand blasted to check for corrosion. The massive tarp on the historic lighthouse served as protection as crews worked on their next phase of restoration.

Businesses Brace for Spring Break Crowds
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/13
Length: 5+ Minutes

WBBH reported on the spring break crowds on Fort Myers Beach. It was their first spring break back open for some restaurants and shops since Hurricane Ian, and they looked forward to the extra boost of visitors. According to The Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau, not even half of the hotel rooms on the island are back in business since Hurricane Ian. The Lani Kai Resort had been a spring break icon for decades. The hotel was still shut down from storm damage, but the beach bar prepared to serve cold drinks on the sand.

RSW Terminal Expansion Delay
Program: NBC2 News @ 6
Source: Local

Date: 2/27
Length: 3+ Minutes

The Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) terminal expansion project was supposed to be finished this fall, but now officials say it could take an extra year. Leaders at the Lee County Port Authority (LCPA) say there are multiple causes: the pandemic, supply chain shortages, and Hurricane Ian. One LCPA official told a WBBH reporter it was not until last fall that they realized they could not make the deadline. The designs for the new RSW terminal include one centralized security

line, two new food courts, and other changes. Construction for the terminal expansion project started in 2021.

Donations for Naples Pier
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/6
Length: 5+ Minutes

To complete the estimated \$23 million rebuilding of the historic Naples Pier, the City of Naples created the Naples Pier Fund with the Collier Community Foundation. While the city got funds from insurance and federal and state governments, the Collier Community Foundation hopes the donation fund will raise approximately \$6 million to offset remaining costs.

Traffic Shift Marks Progress on I-75 Construction
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/18
Length: 5+ Minutes

Many Southwest Florida residents know the ongoing construction along Colonial Boulevard and I-75. A notable shift in traffic patterns has given the area a new look. Construction has been underway in this area for the past three years, and the recent traffic shift signifies another step forward in the project. According to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), all westbound lanes of traffic were shifted to the newly constructed roadway.

Environment

Eagle's Nest Forces 'Stop Work Order'
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/2, 2/5
Length: 10+ Minutes

WBBH reported on a Cape Coral woman who has been dealing with an unfinished driveway for the past three months. She was asking the city and paving company to devise a solution. Marie Gdula hired Next Level Pavers to redo their driveway at the corner of Agualinda Boulevard and Southwest 45th Street. The city stuck a "Stop Work Order" on their door right after work began. City officials said it is because there is an eagle's nest about 500 feet from her home, and an eagle management plan was never submitted. After the story aired on WBBH, the paving company finished the work on her driveway by hand a few days later.

Collier County Mosquito Control District
Program: NBC2 News @ 6
Source: Local

Date: 2/5
Length: 3+ Minutes

The Collier Mosquito Control District was advocating for passing Florida House Bill 509, which would nearly double the area permitted the organization to treat mosquitos. At the local level, a Collier County referendum passed with 71% of the vote during the 2022 primary elections. The passing of the bill would permit the District to spray organic larvicides and insecticides in Northern Golden Gate Estates, Ave Maria, Port of the Islands, and surrounding communities, increasing the District's area of operations by nearly 300 miles. Many areas included in the expansion needed to be occupied, but the District believed they would impact tens of thousands of residents in the coming years.

U.S. Army Corps Increases Lake Okeechobee Releases
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/13, 2/15, 2/23, 3/1
Length: 20+ Minutes

Starting February 17th, the Army Corps of Engineers began releasing more water from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee and Saint Lucie rivers. They were hoping to reduce the abnormally high lake level before the summertime. The lake was sitting just under 16.5 feet, much higher than it should be. The idea behind starting releases was to avoid high-volume releases in the warmer months when they cause more problems like algae blooms.

Alligator Found in Naples Bay

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/28

Length: 5+ Minutes

An alligator was found sunbathing on a Naples resident's dock in Moorings Bay. According to the Naples Police Department, they received a call about the gator, but when they showed up, it was gone. One woman shared her surprising experience with a WBBH reporter. She said that what she thought would be a typical dolphin-watching adventure was a rare encounter with a gator swimming through the saltwater. Professor Win Everham, an ecology expert at FGCU's Water School, explained that while it is uncommon to spot alligators at the beach or bay, it is not impossible. With the start of mating season for these reptiles, he believes this gator might be looking for a mate. However, it is more likely that the gator was cruising by.

Close Encounter with Florida Panther

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/13

Length: 5+ Minutes

A turkey hunter found himself face-to-face with an endangered panther, and the incredibly close encounter was caught on camera. Jason Francis, who lives in Punta Gorda, set out to hunt turkey in the Babcock Ranch Preserve when he suddenly found himself in a standoff with a different wild animal, a Florida panther. Francis said he was making a hen call to attract a turkey when the big cat wandered out of the trees instead. He told WBBH the panther was only 10 to 15 feet away.

Python Farming

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/15

Length: 5+ Minutes

A recent study published in Scientific Reports suggested that python farming could be a sustainable solution to global hunger issues, describing it as "a flexible and efficient form of agricultural food security." The study by leading snake biologists across the United States focused on analyzing snake farming techniques for Burmese and Reticulated pythons. Over a year, researchers examined areas where snake meat is commonly consumed in Thailand and Vietnam. A local snake trapper who frequently removes invasive apex predators from Collier County neighborhoods and the Florida Everglades expressed skepticism about the feasibility of the python food trade in the United States.

Florida Primary Election

Political Action Committee Sent Mysterious Text

Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/14, 2/15

Length: 10+ Minutes

The Collier County Supervisor of Elections blamed a political action committee for sending mysterious text messages to confuse voters about their mail ballots. Trish Robertson with the election office in Collier County said the office had received phone calls and emails from voters who received a text message thanking them for requesting a vote-by-mail ballot when they had yet to request one. The election supervisor took to social media, warning voters the text came from the

"Win America" PAC, which made it look like the ad came from Naples candidate for Mayor Gary Price.

Lee County Voting Machine Accuracy
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 2/21
Length: 5+ Minutes

Some Lee County Republicans were questioning the safety of ballots and pushed for the next election to be counted by hand. Collier and Lee County reviewed the election equipment that will be used in the upcoming election. They showed, step-by-step, exactly how the votes would be counted. They did that before a small group of Republican voters, who, despite seeing everything, say it is still not good enough. The machines were tested for accuracy all before the public, and a group of Republican voters used their phone cameras to document every step and questioned election officials on nearly every aspect of the election, even insisting the county turn back time.

One-on-One with Naples Mayoral Candidates
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/8
Length: 5+ Minutes

The three candidates to be the next mayor of Naples were battling it out. Each agrees that the city's number one issue is development and that it should be ensured that it is not overdeveloped in the wake of Hurricane Ian. Each candidate spoke with NBC2's Chief Political Reporter, Dave Elias. Teresa Heitmann is the incumbent mayor, and she said she would be the mayor who protects the city's lifestyle. She is running against opponent and former councilman Gary Price. Councilman Ted Blankenship is also in the race. He and all the candidates pledged to fight over development.

Concerns Over Election Turnout
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/7, 3/15
Length: 10+ Minutes

With former President Donald Trump as the presumptive nominee, election officials feared it would impact Florida's voter turnout. Few people showed up for early voting, and most vote-by-mail ballots still needed to be returned. Some poll workers reported they have sat for hours with nothing to do. Collier County Supervisor of Elections Melissa Blazier predicted that the overall countywide turnout will be around 30%. She predicted the race for mayor and council in Naples could help turnout in the city.

Primary Election Day Voting
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/19
Length: 10+ Minutes

On March 19th, voters around the state cast their votes in the March primary. Viewers in Naples also got to vote for Naples mayor and Naples City Council. Marco Island residents have two referendums to vote on. NBC2's Chief Political Reporter Dave Elias, reporting on the races across Lee County.

Naples Mayor Race Recount
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/20
Length: 5+ Minutes

The tightly contested race for Naples mayor sat at a 12-vote difference, with current mayor Teresa Heitmann maintaining her lead over challenger Gary Price. The closeness forced the race to have a mandatory recount. According to a news release from the Collier County supervisor of elections, the Collier County Canvassing Board declared a machine recount. Florida law states that the

canvassing board will order a machine recount if a difference of less than half of one percent of votes is cast for an office between candidates. If the totals from the machine recount differ by one-fourth of one percent, the recount will proceed to a manual recount.

Naples Mayor Results Finalized
Program: NBC2 News Today, NBC2 News @ 3, 4, 5, 6, 11
Source: Local

Date: 3/30
Length: 5+ Minutes

WBBH reported Naples Mayor Teresa Heitmann managed to keep her position after a recount and won by a razor-thin margin. The race for the mayoral seat in the City of Naples came close, with a mere 22 votes deciding the outcome. Heitmann edged out Vice Mayor Gary Price and Council Member Ted Blankenship.

NETWORK AND SYNDICATED PROGRAMMING

MEET THE PRESS, Sundays, 10-11 am

JANUARY 7, 2024 - KRISTEN WELKER TALKED EXCLUSIVELY WITH ISRAELI PRESIDENT ISAAC HERZOG ABOUT CONCERNS THAT THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR WILL ESCALATE INTO A WIDER CONFLICT ABROAD. NEW YORK CONGRESSWOMAN ELISE STEFANIK DISCUSSED THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE JANUARY 6TH ATTACK ON THE CAPITOL. WELKER ALSO TALKED WITH BIDEN'S DEPUTY CAMPAIGN MANAGER ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S RE-ELECTION STRATEGY.

JANUARY 14, 2024 - IOWA SENATOR JONI ERNST EXCLUSIVELY JOINED KRISTEN WELKER TO DISCUSS THE 2024 RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE. ERNST CALLED NIKKI HALEY A "GREAT CANDIDATE," BUT DID NOT RULING OUT ENDORSING FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP. MINNESOTA GOVERNOR TIM WALZ DISCUSSED BIDEN'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

JANUARY 21, 2024 - NEW HAMPSHIRE GOVERNOR CHRIS SUNUNU DISCUSSED HIS STATE'S REPUBLICAN PRIMARY. AND NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATOR MAGGIE HASSAN ALSO JOINED KRISTEN WELKER TO TALK ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN, AND WHETHER OR NOT PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN CAN WIN AS A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE.

JANUARY 28, 2024 - REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE NIKKI HALEY TALKED ABOUT WHAT IS NEXT FOR HER CAMPAIGN AS THE PRIMARY ELECTION IN HER HOME STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA LOOMS. AND NEW YORK CONGRESSWOMAN ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ TALKED ABOUT PRESIDENT BIDEN'S RE-ELECTION CHALLENGES INCLUDING HIS APPEAL TO VOTERS.

FEBRUARY 4, 2024 - NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER JAKE SULLIVAN SPOKE WITH KRISTEN WELKER ABOUT THE TWO ROUNDS OF RETALIATORY STRIKES FROM THE U.S. IN IRAQ AND SYRIA. AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH HOUSE SPEAKER MIKE JOHNSON WERE HE TALKED ABOUT A POTENTIAL BORDER DEAL AND THE IMPEACHMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS. JOHNSON ALSO DISCUSSED PUSHING A STAND-ALONE BILL TO PROVIDE AID TO ISRAEL.

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 - DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS SPOKE WITH KRISTEN WELKER ABOUT THE GOP'S DESIRE TO IMPEACH HIM. AND THE BIDEN CAMPAIGN'S NATIONAL CO-CHAIR, MITCH LANDRIEU, REACTED TO ROBERT HUR'S REPORT ON THE PRESIDENT'S HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS.

FORMER NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE DISCUSSED THE REPORT AND RECENT CONTROVERSIAL COMMENTS MADE BY FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP ON NATO.

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 - OHIO CONGRESSMAN AND CHAIR OF THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE, MIKE TURNER, SPOKE WITH KRISTEN WELKER AFTER WARNING THAT RUSSIA MAY BE DEVELOPING A SPACE-BASED WEAPON THAT COULD TARGET U.S. SATELLITES. MINNESOTA SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR DISCUSSED PRESIDENT BIDEN'S PATH TO RE-ELECTION. PATTI DAVIS, THE DAUGHTER OF RONALD AND NANCY REAGAN, TALKED ABOUT HER FATHER'S LEGACY AND HER OWN.

FEBRUARY 25, 2024 - NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER JAKE SULLIVAN SPOKE WITH KRISTEN WELKER ABOUT THE STATE OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE, THE LATEST ON THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR, INCLUDING POSSIBLE NEW EVACUATION PLANS FOR RAFAH. FLORIDA CONGRESS MAN BYRON DONALDS DISCUSSED FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP'S RECENT COMMENTS ABOUT BLACK VOTERS. CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM ALSO JOINED THE SHOW IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO TALK ABOUT THE ALABAMA SUPREME COURT RULING ON IVF AND THE BIDEN CAMPAIGN.

MARCH 3, 2024 - KRISTEN WELKER SAT DOWN WITH FORMER UN AMBASSADOR AND REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE NIKKI HALEY TO DISCUSS HER STAYING IN THE RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND HER VIEWS ON IVF. MICHIGAN CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE DINGELL ALSO JOINED TO TALK ABOUT "UNCOMMITTED" MICHIGAN VOTERS.

MARCH 10, 2024 - KRISTEN WELKER SPOKE WITH GEORGIA SENATOR RAPHAEL WARNOCK ABOUT PRESIDENT BIDEN'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN AS THE PRESIDENT PREPARES TO TAKE ON FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AGAIN. AND SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE LINDSEY GRAHAM SHARED HIS PERSPECTIVE ON BIDEN'S HANDLING OF THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR. CALIFORNIA CONGRESSMAN ADAM SCHIFF TALKED ABOUT HIS SENATE CAMPAIGN.

MARCH 17, 2024 - KRISTEN WELKER GOT LOUISIANA SENATOR BILL CASSIDY'S REACTION TO NEW COMMENTS BY FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP WHERE HE SAYS THERE WILL BE A "BLOODBATH" IF HE IS NOT RE-ELECTED. WELKER ALSO SPOKE WITH DEMOCRATIC SENATOR BEN CARDIN ABOUT HIS PARTY'S POSITION ON ISRAEL FOLLOWING MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER'S CRITICISM OF PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU. AND CHEF JOSÉ ANDRÉS TALKED ABOUT HIS EFFORTS TO BRING AID TO GAZA DURING A MEET THE MOMENT INTERVIEW.

MARCH 24, 2024 - FORMER REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIR RONNA MCDANIEL JOINED KRISTEN WELKER SAYING SHE DISAGREES WITH TRUMP'S PLAN TO FREE SOME JANUARY 6TH PRISONERS. AND FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE STEPHEN BREYER REFLECTED ON HIS TIME ON THE HIGH COURT.

MARCH 31, 2024 - KRISTEN WELKER SPOKE WITH SOUTH CAROLINA CONGRESSMAN AND BIDEN CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR, JAMES CLYBURN, ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S RE-ELECTION BID. CLYBURN ALSO DISCUSSED CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR THE COLLAPSED FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE. AND NEBRASKA CONGRESSMAN DON BACON JOINED TO DISCUSS AID FOR UKRAINE AND HOUSE REPUBLICANS' IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY INTO BIDEN.

DATELINE NBC

"Ghosts Can't Talk" Friday, January 12

When Corey Shaughnessy wakes up to gunfire in the middle of the night, she shoots at the intruder and miraculously survives, only to discover that her husband Ted has been killed. Detectives wonder if the couple's job as local jewelry shop owners could be a possible motive until the investigation takes a turn that no one saw coming.

"The Sleepover" Friday, February 2

Navy petty officer and devoted mother Sherri Malarik is found shot to death in her minivan after she disappeared. The case remains cold until new revelations and old memories resurface, dividing the Florida family. Her grown-up children speak out about the two-decade search for answers.

"The Evil that Watches" Sunday, February 4

A triple murder sends shockwaves through a small Kentucky town. As secrets come tumbling out, residents begin to wonder: how well do we really know our neighbors?

"Death at the Spa" Friday, February 9

When a package bomb explodes at a day spa in Southern California, killing beloved esthetician Ildiko Krajnyak and injuring two clients, law enforcement discovers that the bomb was intended specifically for her. Who would want Ildiko dead? An investigation into her love life reveals several possibilities.

"Evil Paid a Visit" Sunday, February 11

A Connecticut woman speaks out about her years-long journey for justice after being raped in her own home and the fight to keep her assailant from walking free.

"The Perfect Life" Friday, February 16

Jennifer Ramsaran, a devoted mother of three, is found murdered in her New York town. More than a decade later, the story takes an unexpected turn as a twist emerges that leads to an unforeseen conclusion. Friday's two-hour broadcast features the latest developments in the case, including a new interview with her husband, Remy Ramsaran, who was convicted for her murder.

"The Secret in Black Rock Canyon" Sunday, February 18

A series of mysterious events occur while 16-year-old Cassie Jo Stoddart is housesitting, and days later, she's found stabbed to death. When police retrace her final hours, they uncover evidence including a homemade horror film that points to her killers.

"True Confession" Friday, February 23

Idaho resident Christopher Tapp is sentenced to life after falsely confessing to the murder of his friend Angie Dodge. When the real killer is caught over 20 years later, the case appears to finally be closed until a chilling twist begins a new chapter in the decades-long saga. Friday's two-hour episode features the latest developments, including correspondent Keith Morrison's sit-down with Tapp.

"The Last Walk" Sunday, February 25

Keith Morrison reports on the 2009 spring break disappearance of 17-year-old Brittanee Drexel, whose murder would take 13 years to solve.

"Deadly Swap" Friday, March 15

After a 25-year-old mother is gunned down in broad daylight by a murderer wearing a disguise, detectives confront a most unlikely suspect.

"Fire & Ice" Sunday, March 17

Firefighters make a grisly discovery while responding to a fire at the house of Carmela and David Knight in a Toronto, Canada suburb. As a family searches for answers, investigators launch an elaborate undercover sting that reveals a devious murder-for-hire plot and the ultimate betrayal.

“Hit List” Friday, March 29

Details come to light in an alleged murder-for-hire plot targeting a former NYC police officer's husband; the officer's ex-boyfriend and other insiders close to the case speak out.

“The Perfect Guy” Sunday, March 31

A man steals millions of dollars by conning numerous women and businesses over 25 years; one woman brings together a group of his victims to hold him accountable and make him face justice.

ROSSEN REPORTS

Tuesday, 1/2

Rossen Reports PKG: Return Guide

The holidays are over and you might be stuck with a gift you don't love. Whether you're heading out to the stores to return it or you just want to return things from the comfort of your couch, we've got you covered in our *Rossen Reports Return Guide*. We're covering it all; from the new fees retailers are charging you to return by mail, to how long you have to return things with new holiday policy windows. Plus, a new feature from Uber that lets you schedule a driver to pick up your return and drop it off at USPS, UPS or FedEx FOR YOU. You know us...we're testing it out!

Wednesday, 1/3

Rossen in 60: 2024 CAR FORECAST

New and used car prices weren't in the budget for us last year, but could this be a better year to buy a car? Rossen Reports has the inside scoop on whether this will be the year to buy a car or not. Plus, we have couple tips you'll need while car shopping.

Thursday, 1/4

Rossen in 60: MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Minimum wage is getting hiked in several states across the country. Could more money be going into your pocket? We're showing you a new map of states with the largest minimum wage increase, and which ones are staying the same. See where your home ranks compared to other states.

Friday, 1/5

Rossen Reports PKG: NEW YEAR FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

A new year means new money goals. We've got the financial resolutions that experts say will set you on the right path for 2024. From retirement to getting rid of debt, Rossen Reports is here to back you up!

Tuesday, 1/9

Rossen Reports PKG: Grocery Guide

We're putting together the ULTIMATE grocery guide! We're comparing Costco vs. Sam's Club, Instacart vs. Shipt and Walmart+ vs. Amazon Fresh. What are the costs of each? What kind of perks come with the grocery services? Rossen Reports has the guide you need to see to save you major cash on groceries this year.

Wednesday, 1/10

Rossen in 60: 2024 Travel Forecast

If you're planning to travel this year, a new report is out showing the demand will be strong and the prices will be low! Rossen Reports will break down the numbers...from airfare to hotels to car rentals. How much cheaper will your 2024 vacation be?

Thursday, 1/11

Rossen in 60: Recall Report

A new report (from the US PIRG) is out, detailing how recalls are on the rise. We will break down how many more recalls there were in 2023 versus 2022 and why it's getting harder to get a solution. Plus, we've got the tips on how to fight back.

Friday, 1/12

Rossen Reports PKG: Tax Announcements

Tax season's opening day is set! We have the dates on when you can start filing, when the IRS Free File will open up, how long it will take to get a refund and the websites you can use to help get you started ahead of time.

Tuesday, 1/16

Rossen Reports PKG: Dipping Your Toes Into AI

Artificial Intelligence sounds scary, but there are so many ways you can dip your toes into it. You don't have to be a tech expert and you don't have to compromise your personal information. We will show you a few cool ways to use it in your everyday life; from helping your kids with their homework to getting professional headshots in minutes!

Wednesday, 1/17

Rossen in 60: Women's Health Fitness Awards

A new ranking is out and we've got the best fitness products! Hundreds of equipment, accessories, clothes, and shoes were tested and now, we have the big winners and where you can buy them. Rossen Reports is helping you accomplish your fitness resolutions and look good in 2024.

Thursday, 1/18

Rossen in 60: Auto Recalls

We've got helpful information if you're looking for a used car this year. New data from the NHTSA shows which vehicles were recalled the most in 2023. Plus, how

you can check if your car has had an unrepaired recall issued on it in the last 15 years. And it only takes a few seconds!

Friday, 1/19

Rossen Responds PKG: Moving Problems

In the new year, we're focusing on the questions you have for Jeff Rossen. When you send him an email, he'll do the research to help you out. (And maybe more of you have these problems too!) This week, Steve sent us an email saying his moving company is trying to squeeze him for more money. They've already cashed his deposit, so what should he do? We're digging up the answers; from what you should tell your bank, how much a deposit should be, and what words should be in your moving contract. Rossen Reports - helping you fight back!

Tuesday, 1/23

Rossen Reports: Power Outage Checklist

Nearly every corner of the U.S. is getting hit with severe weather. With the blizzards, tornados and floods, the threat of prolonged power outages comes too. So, what should you do if a blackout hits your home? From keeping your pipes from freezing to what to do with your electronics...

We're creating your power outage checklist so you can handle it like a pro!

Wednesday, 1/24

Rossen in 60: Free Tax Services

We've all heard the FTC's order, saying Intuit used deceptive advertising techniques promoting TurboTax as a free service...when it isn't free for everyone. Now, everyone is asking...then what free services are out there? You don't want to spend a fortune filing your taxes. So we're breaking down all the ways you can get your taxes filed without spending a penny.

Thursday, 1/25

Rossen in 60: Winter Danger Warning

An urgent winter warning is being sent out right now! As temperatures drop, you're using space heaters and generators to keep warm. But authorities are issuing an alert about these appliances and how they can cause fires and even death. Rossen Reports has the important information you need when using generators and space heaters to keep you and your family safe.

Friday, 1/26

Rossen Responds PKG: Windows Defender Hack

Cyber Security Alert! A hacker takes over your computer, demands money and you think you have no choice but to pay up. How can you fight back? We're answering an email from a viewer on what you can do. Plus, the one thing that you might be doing wrong that's putting your personal and financial information at risk.

Tuesday, 1/30

Rossen Reports: Fast-Food Value Menus

What can you really get for \$1? What about \$5? How about \$10?

From groceries to eating out at restaurants, inflation is still hitting the major food categories. Now, fast-food joints are beefing up their value meals...making it easier for us to get more food for less! What else can we do...but to test it out! We're going from chain to chain, comparing menus and seeing just how much a dollar can get us.

Wednesday, 1/31

Rossen in 60: Super Bowl Savings

Right now is the BEST time to get a new TV. But how do you know if the deal is good...or too good to be true! We have with the tips on how to score a great television without breaking your budget — before the big game!

Thursday, 2/1

Rossen in 60: Data Breach Increase

We have a new cyber security alert for you. We just hit a data breach record and you can bet; your information was stolen in at least one of those breaches! We've got details on the new report, and what actions you can take right now to keep your personal and financial information safe from the criminals.

Friday, 2/2

Rossen Responds PKG: Do Not Call Registry

We're in a robocall nightmare! They're endless and annoying and they can even open you up to scams. You've emailed us, wanting to know...does the "Do Not Call Registry" work? How do you stop robocalls? Rossen Reports is getting you the answers!

Tuesday, 2/6

Rossen Reports: Repair or Replace?

Your appliance is busted...but is it worth the repair or should you just replace it? With Presidents' Day coming up, we're already seeing deals on major appliances, but once the weekend comes and goes...big sales will be limited.

Wednesday, 2/7

Rossen in 60: Job Market Growth

New reports say job growth is trending up but we keep hearing about layoffs. We'll explain how both can happen. Also, if you're looking to land your dream job... we've got important tips on how to get the gig off LinkedIn.

Thursday, 2/8

Rossen in 60: Car Insurance Spikes

A new report is out showing how much car insurance has increased this year...and the numbers are pretty shocking! We will break it all down and bring you new ways to save and cut the cost of your bill every month.

Friday, 2/9

Rossen Responds PKG: Fight Robotexts

We are getting flooded with emails after we covered how to fight back against robocalls, last week. As robotexts continue to increase month-by-month (you won't believe the numbers), you want to know how to beat these now too. So we're getting you the tips from the experts on how to fight robotexts to keep your information safe.

Tuesday, 2/13

Rossen Reports: Break Bad Tech Habits

More than 70% of us got new tech gadgets over the holidays, but we could be cutting the life of our tech down by YEARS with some bad habits. We're going straight to the professionals, finding out what mistakes are draining batteries and damaging devices like laptops, smartphones, tablets and gaming consoles.

Wednesday, 2/14

Rossen in 60: Romance Scam Warning

True love or true crime? Romance scams spike around this time of the year...but now they're getting harder to spot due to artificial intelligence. Rossen Reports with the major, urgent warning and the red flags to keep your money safe.

Thursday, 2/15

Rossen in 60: Food Recall Alerts

We hear about food recalls often, but sometimes it can be too late. But there are apps and websites that can keep you up-to-date and on top of the recalls. Rossen Reports with the easy ways to keep you and your family healthy and safe!

Friday, 2/16

Rossen Responds PKG: Save on Streaming

Save on streaming! Subscription prices are increasing but you're trying to get the biggest bang for your buck without having to sacrifice what you want to watch. Rossen Reports has the secret ways to save!

Tuesday, 2/20

Rossen Reports: Solar Eclipse Glasses Alert

A solar eclipse is heading for the U.S. and tens of millions of us are going to see it! Whether you'll be in the path of totality or you'll be seeing a partial solar eclipse... you'll need solar eclipse glasses no matter what. But scammers are always looking to make a quick buck, selling counterfeit glasses online. Don't worry...Rossen Reports is going to take you through all the tips to make sure you buy real glasses

instead of fakes. We've got the places you should be buying glasses from and ways to tell if the glasses you have now are safe for your eyes. Before you buy anything, you're going to need to see this!

Wednesday, 2/21

Rossen in 60: Checked Baggage Fees

Baggage fee hikes are here! Checking a bag on American Airlines will now cost you more money after the airline announced fee changes.

If you're planning a spring break trip but you don't want to break the bank... Rossen Reports is doing the work, comparing baggage fees so you don't have to!

Thursday, 2/22

Rossen in 60: Spring Break Travel Forecast

Many of us are sick of the cold weather and ready for a vacation! But is it too late to book?

From flights to hotels... Rossen Reports has the booking sweet spots that will save you major bucks!

Friday, 2/23

Rossen Responds PKG: Pet Insurance

Pet insurance dilemma...Is it worth it or just more cash flying out of your pocket every month?

You love your pet, so we're digging for the pros and cons to find out if pet insurance is right for you. Plus, the top-ranked pet insurers that you'll want to look into!

Tuesday, 2/27

Rossen Reports: Tax Guide

Time is running out... you need to file your taxes and we're here to help! We're breaking down all the things you need to get together to file your taxes. Plus, the only good thing about tax season...the deductions! From your kids to your car...you can get money back. Rossen Reports with the new things you can write off!

Wednesday, 2/28

Rossen in 60: Tax Form Confusion

There are so many forms and all of those letters and numbers make tax time even more confusing. The IRS announced new rules for using third party payments apps - but that's created even more confusion! So we're digging into 1099-k forms, as more of us are selling and buying things online.

Thursday, 2/29

Rossen in 60: Tax Tools

Filing your taxes can be stressful. The one IRS phone number you may be looking to call for help, may be the thing that causes even more stress. We'll give you the

online resources you may need for tax help and how to find the status of your refund in seconds.

Friday, 3/1

Rossen Responds PKG: Do I need to file?

We're getting hit with this question from several viewers. Do I have to file if I'm on social security? What about if I make less than \$25,000? We will break down the different qualifications that have to be met in order to not have to file your taxes. Plus, the important reason why you may WANT to file your taxes...even if you don't have to!

Tuesday, 3/5

Rossen Reports: Inflation Report

We keep hearing inflation is coming down and the percentages don't seem to be as high...but what does it all really mean for our wallets? We're bringing you the current prices on everything from groceries to gas to cars. Plus, ways you can save on everything in the Rossen Reports Inflation Reality Check.

Wednesday, 3/6

Rossen in 60: Uber Teen Account Change

Uber is creating a new feature for its teen accounts: monthly spending limits for rides and for ordering food. We'll show you how it will work.

Thursday, 3/7

Rossen in 60: Slam the Scam Day

This week is the Federal Trade Commission's National Consumer Protection Week. We'll break down why right now is the BEST time for scammers and the things you need to be on high alert for to keep your money safe. The red flags that will show you if that call or email is a social security scammer and the times to make sure you don't fall for it.

Friday, 3/8

Rossen Responds PKG: Dark Web Warning

We're getting emails from viewers, asking what it means if your email is on the "dark web." We'll show you the tools that can help monitor the dark web for your personal and financial information, what to do if you get an alert and how to protect your information if it does get compromised.

Tuesday, 3/12

Rossen Reports: Thrift Like a Pro

Thrift shopping is going viral! It's become so popular, that new predictions show the secondhand market is expected to reach \$350 billion by 2027. But going thrift store shopping is overwhelming. How do you sort through all of the racks to find that hidden gem? Whether you're looking to save money on clothes and kitchenware, or

you're looking for that really great vintage find... we're getting the guide from the experts on how to thrift like a pro!

Wednesday, 3/13

Rossen in 60: Cheap Easter Dinners

Two major retailers (Target and Walmart) are helping you fight grocery inflation, giving you Easter dinner for a fraction of the regular cost. We've got the details and how to cash in.

Thursday, 3/14

Rossen in 60: Worst Airports for Spring Break

Nothing ruins a vacation faster than a delay or cancellation at the airport. ! As you head off on Spring Break, we just got the list of the airports with the most disruptions. Find out if the airport you're traveling to/from is on the list and tips to get through the busy travel season with your sanity!

Friday, 3/15

Rossen Responds PKG: Best Travel Credit Cards

You want airline miles, hotel points, cashback and discounts...but there are so many travel credit cards out there. How do you choose the right one for you? We've got the tips on how to do that - and a few suggestions along the way!

Wednesday, 3/20

Rossen in 60: Grocery Coupon Savings

Grocery prices are still too high for your budget, we get it! It may sound "old school", but coupons are an EASY way to save serious cash.

Let us show you how to clip coupons the digital way and how much you can be saving. This will change the way you shop!

Thursday, 3/21

Rossen in 60: Amazon Scam Report

New numbers are in from the Global Anti-Scam Alliance, showing that we lost more than \$1 TRILLION globally last year. As scam numbers keep rising, Amazon is working to go after the bad guys.

We have the biggest scheme that scammers are using with Amazon's name on it, that's sweeping the country. And you know we've got the red flags to help you spot it before they get your money.

Friday, 3/22

Rossen Responds PKG: What to do with Old Credit Cards

You have old, expired cards sitting around collecting dust, but you don't know what to do with them. Believe it or not, we've gotten several emails asking about this topic!

Rossen Reports has the important things you should do to dispose of your plastic and metal credit cards while keeping your information safe!

Tuesday, 3/26

Rossen Reports PKG: Car Repair Guide

Finding honest mechanics can be difficult! Your car has a small problem but when you take it in...they start charging you major cash for major repairs. What are you supposed to do? What kinds of questions are you supposed to ask? Rossen Reports is heading to a real auto expert to find out!

Wednesday, 3/27

Rossen in 60: Water Bead Warning

Urgent safety warnings are being sent out by the CPSC to avoid a specific toy that you could have in your house right now. A new report is warning about the two major reasons why water beads are extremely dangerous for your kids. We break it down and what to do if you have this toy in your house.

Thursday, 3/28

Rossen in 60: Sales Calendar

Amazon's major spring sale just came and went by fast...did you miss it? That's okay! Rossen Reports is putting together a whole calendar to show you when the next sales are and when is the perfect time to buy things like major appliances and electronics.

Friday, 3/29

Rossen Responds PKG: Is travel insurance worth it?

You're watching everyone go and come back from spring break...so that might have you looking ahead to summer travel! Right now, you should start booking your vacations if you plan on traveling at the beginning of the summer. But you want to know...should you be buying travel insurance? We're breaking down if it's worth it or not, so you don't have to!

**MATTER OF FACT
WBBH, Sundays 5:30-6am**

Sun 1/7:

This week Matter of Fact explores the efforts to encourage a new generation of rural farmers. Plus, we meet a member of the EPA's new youth council focused on improving the

environment. And, members of one of the largest Protestant denominations divide over LGBTQ policies.

Sun 1/13:

This week Matter of Fact travels to Michigan as citizens debate changes to the cash bail system. Plus, a clinical psychologist discusses techniques to help children who have lived in war-torn countries. And, an organization makes computers more accessible.

Sun 1/21:

This week Matter of Fact learns why one St. Louis organization is encouraging migrants to move to the city. Plus, actor and director Rob Reiner talks about some of his iconic films and his latest projects. And, the VA announces a major development towards helping treat veterans with PTSD.

Sun 1/28:

This week Matter of Fact travels to a rural California high school where teachers are coming together to address teen mental health. Plus, model-turned-actor Beverly Johnson talks about her historic Vogue cover and new one-woman show. And, a program in Milwaukee helps residents get ahead of private companies in the housing market.

Sun 2/4:

The Supreme Court will soon hear a case that is critical to the presidential primary calendar. A group of Republican and unaffiliated voters in Colorado said that former President Trump cannot be on the state's Republican primary ballot. Their decision pertains to the 14th Amendment, which states that anyone who has taken an oath to the Constitution and gone on to engage in insurrection, cannot hold office. In early 2022, Kim Wehle, a professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law, was one of the first people to note the 14th Amendment's potential impact on any future run by former President Trump. Soledad speaks with Wehle about how the Supreme Court might handle the case.

"I have finally gotten so I'm not angry, but it's taken a long time." Those are the words of educator and Portland, OR native, Donna Maxey. She was 12 years old when her family was forced out of a predominantly Black community. The city had claimed much of their neighborhood, called Albina, for what it dubbed "urban renewal." Their home, and her father's business, were demolished along with dozens of others. Correspondent Alexis Clark visited Portland where a non-profit now has a bold plan to build a new community where the neighborhood once stood.

More than 30 million children in America can't afford school meals, increasing lunch debt for many. During the pandemic the government paid for every public-school student to eat, but now only nine states offer free meals. Correspondent Laura Chavez traveled to Pennsylvania, where advocates are pushing for free lunches, to talk to teachers and cafeteria employees who are fighting for all children to eat.

Plus, tax season is underway, and this year brings some big changes. Tax brackets have been amended and could prove favorable for many families. And for those moving to cleaner energy, the IRS is offering tax credits on new electric vehicles, as well as for any energy-efficient home

improvement. Soledad reports about additional changes and tools to help you file.

Finally, most workers in the U.S. have desk jobs. According to a new study published by the American Medical Association, that's taking a toll on people's health. Those who sit all day have a 16% higher risk of mortality - from all causes - than those who have more active jobs. But the research also found that if desk-workers did 15 to 30 minutes of additional exercise each day, the increased health risks disappear.

Sun 2/10:

As Congress stalls on border legislation, the residents of Denver are confronting the migrant crisis head on. More than 38,000 migrants have arrived in Denver in the last 14 months, straining the city's services. Now, local volunteers and business owners are filling the gap. Correspondent Jessica Gomez traveled to Denver to meet the city's new mayor and a local motel owner who has opened her doors, taking in hundreds of migrants in need of shelter.

Lilliana Mason is a political psychologist who for years has been tracking Americans' feelings about politics. Recently, she started to notice a disturbing trend. As Americans became more divided politically and geographically, they became more distrusting, hostile and even accepting of political violence against people in the opposing party. In fact, these sentiments were particularly high around the January 6th insurrection. Mason shares her findings with Soledad and explains how George Washington actually warned hundreds of years ago that this could happen.

"Our voices were largely absent from the conversation and we had really important insights." Those are the words of Aaliyah Bilal, a Black Muslim American. When she realized she didn't see anyone like herself in the media, literature or the national conversation, she decided to do something about it. Her resulting book, "Temple Folk", landed the first-time author a final spot in the National Book Award in 2023. She shares how she approached the book and the role she hopes it plays in shedding light on the Black Muslim experience.

Tip earners are not guaranteed the minimum wage under federal law, but some states are considering stepping in. Many tip workers earn the federal sub-minimum wage of \$2.13. If their tips plus those wages don't add up to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, employers are expected to make up the difference, but industry analysts say many don't. Now some states are considering ballot measures that would require businesses to pay all employees the minimum wage, regardless of whether they earn tips or not.

Finally, researchers would like you to go outside and count the birds. The annual Great Backyard Bird Count runs from February 16 to 19. Participants are asked to spend 15 minutes counting and recording all the birds they see or hear. They then report that information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Birds are an excellent indicator of environmental issues, so the global count helps researchers build a better understanding of the world around us.

Sun 2/18:

It's the first in the South! South Carolina's Republican primary is fast approaching, and it's gained a reputation for being incredibly important in the race for the White House. South Carolina's Republican voters have a nearly perfect record of picking the eventual presidential nominee. And this election is especially interesting with the state's former governor on the ballot. Nikki Haley won South Carolina twice as governor and was quite popular in the state. But, as Gibbs Knotts, chair of the Political Science Department at the College of Charleston, explains to Soledad, Haley is up against someone who also won the state twice and is extremely popular with its voters, former President Donald Trump.

Philadelphia's Chinatown is one of the oldest in the country. But now, the National Trust for Historic Preservation lists it as one of America's most endangered historic places. The organization sites a plan to build a new basketball arena abutting the neighborhood, as the primary threat. Residents worry the years-long construction project could block its streets, hurting local businesses. But the developers tell special correspondent Joie Chen that their project would actually benefit the community and that private investment is "critical for the long-term health and vibrance of Center City." Joie Chen travels to the City of Brotherly Love where a community finds itself caught between development and preserving identity.

America's schools are facing shortages on several fronts: teachers, custodians and in many places, bus drivers. Correspondent Laura Chavez travels to a school district in Carroll, Iowa that's taking an all-hands-on-deck approach to getting kids to class. Everyone from teachers to the school superintendent is driving a bus, easing the burden on the parents like Adam and Bailey Warnke whose son uses a wheelchair and needs a specially equipped bus to get to school.

In the 1980s, America's malls were in their prime. But recently, spurred by the convenience of online shopping, malls have struggled, and many have had to close their doors. That's left massive, empty retail spaces across the country. Dr. Resa Lewiss, a professor of emergency medicine and physician health care designer, is lobbying for these spaces to be converted into medical malls. Medical malls are one-stop-shops for health care needs. From seeing the doctor to getting an MRI to physical therapy, it would all be under one roof. Dr. Lewiss says such centers could be especially helpful for disadvantaged neighborhoods where people often lack access to proper health care.

Finally, humans are changing the geology of the planet. Scientists have found that plastics in our environment are starting to fuse with rocks. These part-plastic rocks have been found in more than 11 countries. Now, scientists say they're distinctive and pervasive enough to merit their own designation as a type of sedimentary rock. Soledad takes us to science class.

Sun 3/3:

Children are missing school at a record rate in the United States. During the 2021-2022 school year, nearly 15 million students were chronically absent. That's almost twice what it was before the pandemic. "If we don't address this issue among our youngest learners, we are going to suffer huge consequences as they grow older," says Hedy Chang, the executive

director of Attendance Works. Now, one school in Virginia is taking a new, more personal approach to getting kids back into the classroom by working with their families. Correspondent Jessica Gomez travels to Richmond, VA and meets the people going door-to-door to make sure kids are getting the education they need.

Wastewater testing is quickly becoming an important tool for communities' health. This testing method rose to prominence during the Coronavirus pandemic as a way to measure infection rates at a time when individual tests were still hard to come by. BioBot, an MIT startup in Massachusetts, assisted in that testing but its head of chemistry, Kaitlyn Hess Jimenez, says wastewater can help communities with so much more, from detecting other illnesses like flu to substances like medications in wastewater.

Finding love online can be exciting but it can also be exhausting. Researchers say our brains can only process a few options at a time, making "dating app fatigue" an issue as people become overwhelmed by possible connections. Correspondent Laura Chavez talks with a dating app expert about the impact all that swiping, and messaging has on our brains.

Methane is a greenhouse gas that traps heat, raising the earth's temperature. Researchers say cutting methane emissions from fossil fuel operations, agriculture and other sectors could slow global warming by as much as 30%. But tracking the sources of those emissions is challenging. One solution could be an innovative satellite that is about to launch. It will provide accurate, detailed, free mapping of methane emissions around the world.

Finally, this spring brings an historic event. For the first time in more than two centuries, two broods of cicadas will emerge at the same time. Soledad explains that while annoying and maybe a little unsettling, this massive influx of cicadas actually has environmental benefits.

Please join us this week for Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien.

Sun 3/10:

Comedian and Alabama native Roy Wood Jr. joins Soledad in the studio to talk about the 2024 election, his passion for baseball and his commitment to his home state. He says, "a lot of people make a mistake of thinking that the news that comes out of Alabama represents all of the people that are in Alabama, and that's not the truth." Alabama is on the verge of making state history if it sends a second Black representative to the U.S. Congress. Roy Wood Jr. also digs into the role and responsibility of comedy in politics.

And we head to Virginia to meet a retired coal miner who suffers from black lung. The disease is caused by exposure to silica dust which, when inhaled, can damage and scar lungs. John Robinson is being treated in an Appalachian clinic that has seen a spike in cases. From 2013 to 2017, more than 400 people were diagnosed with black lung. Robinson, who started working underground when he was 20 years old, shares his story.

Plus, at least 10 million people around the world are considered stateless, someone who the UN

defines as "not recognized as a national by any state under operation of its law." More than 200,000 of them live in the United States. Matter of Fact's special correspondent Joie Chen talked to two stateless people trying to navigate their unusual immigration situations.

Some U.S. cities are turning to zoning reform to try and mitigate the country's housing crisis. Strategies they're employing include allowing multifamily homes to be built in neighborhoods that traditionally only had single-family dwellings. Stephen Menendian, the University of California, Berkeley's assistant director of the "Othering and Belonging Institute," tells us about an interactive map tracking these zoning reform efforts.

Finally, our Viewfinder segment features images from the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Houston Chronicle photographers give viewers a glimpse of the world's largest show and rodeo of its kind, with famous musicians, carnival rides and portraits of some of the more than two million people expected to attend this year's event.

Sun 3/17:

With nearly 400,000 children in foster care, the system is strained. That means when kids turn 18, they're often pushed out of the system and on their own. Young people who age out of foster care are more likely to experience homelessness and incarceration. Correspondent Laura Chavez travels to Boulder County, Colorado where volunteers and non-profits are stepping in to make sure these young people land on their feet.

From work contracts to internships to grants, a series of lawsuits across the country is taking aim at programs that help minorities. One of the latest cases is against the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), a federal agency that's been around more than 50 years. A federal judge in Texas says it's violating the constitution by providing services based on race. Soledad speaks with civil rights attorney Alphonso David about the ruling's potential impact. David also represents the Fearless Fund, an organization that's being sued because it helps businesses run by women of color.

Plus, this winter didn't feel much like winter at all for most of the United States. According to NOAA, this was the warmest winter on record for the Lower 48. It's the latest indication of the impacts of climate change. The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking some fresh perspectives as it looks to address climate concerns. It's launched the first-ever federal advisory council comprised solely of young people. We meet a 25-year-old climate activist who now sits on that panel.

There's a national push to remove the lead service pipes still carrying water to millions of homes. This effort could be getting a little easier, thanks to researchers at Drexel University, who say that by pinging a pipe still buried underground and measuring the sound waves, they can determine whether it is made of lead.

Finally, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum is marking Women's History Month with an inaugural online exhibition. Digital curator Liz Harmon explains that the exhibit brings attention to some of history's hidden women.

Sun 3/24:

With nearly 400,000 children in foster care, the system is strained. That means when kids turn 18, they're often pushed out of the system and on their own. Young people who age out of foster care are more likely to experience homelessness and incarceration. Correspondent Laura Chavez travels to Boulder County, Colorado where volunteers and non-profits are stepping in to make sure these young people land on their feet.

From work contracts to internships to grants, a series of lawsuits across the country is taking aim at programs that help minorities. One of the latest cases is against the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), a federal agency that's been around more than 50 years. A federal judge in Texas says it's violating the constitution by providing services based on race. Soledad speaks with civil rights attorney Alphonso David about the ruling's potential impact. David also represents the Fearless Fund, an organization that's being sued because it helps businesses run by women of color.

Plus, this winter didn't feel much like winter at all for most of the United States. According to NOAA, this was the warmest winter on record for the Lower 48. It's the latest indication of the impacts of climate change. The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking some fresh perspectives as it looks to address climate concerns. It's launched the first-ever federal advisory council comprised solely of young people. We meet a 25-year-old climate activist who now sits on that panel.

There's a national push to remove the lead service pipes still carrying water to millions of homes. This effort could be getting a little easier, thanks to researchers at Drexel University, who say that by pinging a pipe still buried underground and measuring the sound waves, they can determine whether it is made of lead.

Finally, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum is marking Women's History Month with an inaugural online exhibition. Digital curator Liz Harmon explains that the exhibit brings attention to some of history's hidden women.

Sun 3/31:

From overseeing the election to the power of voters, this week *Matter of Fact* focuses on the foundations of democracy.

The presidential election is just months away but with high turnover in election offices, are states ready for voting day? According to a survey by the Brennan Center for Justice, this will be the first presidential election for one in five local election officials. Correspondent Dan Lieberman travels to Pennsylvania, one of the states looking to recruit and retain its election staff. Officials there tell him more security and support are needed to improve conditions for the people at the backbone of our democratic process.

Nearly 70 percent of U.S. adults say the political climate is a significant source of stress in their lives, according to the American Psychological Association. But a political cartoonist is hoping

brevity, and some levity, can help people engage in politics. Soledad sits down with award-winning cartoonist Christopher Weyant who says his goal isn't to change minds but to make people think about important issues.

Every vote counts, but where you live can impact how your vote counts. In Ohio, advocates are concerned that current voting maps are gerrymandered to weaken the political power of minorities. Redistricting has been a long-running issue in the state, and a commission was founded to help draw fairer maps. But critics say the commission is making the situation worse. Correspondent Diane Roberts travels to Ohio and meets the people divided over the state's dividing lines.

During an election year, billions of dollars go to turning out the vote. The last three national general elections saw some of the highest voter turnout in decades. Still, less than 40% of Americans voted in all three elections. That's according to new numbers from the Pew Research Center. Soledad explains what the findings tell us about who is and who isn't heading to the polls.

Finally, we pivot from politics to astronomy. NASA is looking to build on research from the 1930s during April's solar eclipse. Soledad explains the project and why NASA is asking for your help to complete this mission.