

QUARTERLY ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST

4th Quarter 2020 (for programming aired October 1 through December 31, 2020)

This quarterly issues/programs list is a list of a non-entertainment programming which, in the opinion of the management of the station, represents the most significant treatment by the station of certain issues believed to be of community concern.

During this period, WORT 89.9 FM has served the public interest by producing and broadcasting diverse content which addresses local, regional, and statewide issues. The following is a list of the produced programming or news stories in response to areas of concern to listeners. All are locally-produced.

The list is not intended to be a comprehensive list of <u>all</u> of the station's non-entertainment programming. Nor is it designed to list every program broadcast by the station that is responsive to the selected issues. Included are only those programs in which the station devoted significant resources, time or depth to these various issues.

Issues of community concern:

- Environmental issues
- COVID-19
- Fall election
- Economy
- Policing
- Cultural issues
- Housing issues

ISSUE: Environmental issues

TITLE & DESCRIPTION.	PROGRAM	DATE/TIME	DURATION
Dane County sucks the muck A multi-million dollar project will clean up the Yahara River, preventing dangerous flooding like that of summer 2018.	6pm local evening news. News story.	October 1, 2020 at 6pm.	2 minutes, 12 seconds.

Erin Brockovich on America's water crisis Twenty years ago, Erin Brockovich sued Pacific Gas and Electric in California over groundwater contamination. We speak with her about her new project warning of a national water crisis.	A Public Affair Listener call-in talk show. Interview.	October 19, 2020 at 12pm.	52 minutes, 55 seconds.
Trump Administration repeals gray wolf protections The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced it will remove gray wolves from the federal Endangered Species list, endangering a species that has only recently rebounded from near extinction. We speak with a staff attorney at the nonprofit environmental law group Earthjustice.	6pm local evening news. News interview.	November 5, 2020 at 6pm.	8 minutes, 56 seconds.
The wild turkey show In the 1980s, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources embarked on restocking the state's supply of wild turkeys. It's been heralded as one of the most successful programs of the DNR. We speak to a retired DNR wildlife manager who worked on the project in the 1980s.	Perpetual Notion Machine, half-hour science news show. Interview.	November 26, 2020 at 7pm.	28 minutes, 55 seconds.
Some wildlife can't be rehabilitated during pandemic The State DNR has put a moratorium on the rehabilitation of some species during COVID-19, fearing the virus could be transmitted between humans and some animals. Now the local humane society is pushing back on the rule.	6pm local evening news. News story.	December 3, 2020 at 6pm.	5 minutes, 34 seconds.
Airport tests reveal staggering levels of PFAS as state releases action plan New test results of shallow groundwater find unsafe levels of PFAS, the family of toxic forever chemicals, in the same week a consortium releases an action plan for fighting the chemicals through the environment.	6pm local evening news. News story.	December 16, 2020 at 6pm.	2 minutes, 59 seconds.
Indigenous perspectives on the rights of nature We speak to two Indigenous activists about the rights of nature—a philosophy that recognizes the right of all ecosystems and living things to exist and flourish. Simone Senogles is Anishinaabe from the Red Lake Nation in Northern Minnesota, and helps lead the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN). Casey Camp-Horinek is an environmental ambassador, elder, and hereditary drumkeeper of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	December 18, 2020 at 12pm.	52 minutes, 21 seconds.

TITLE & DESCRIPTION.	PROGRAM	DATE/TIME	DURATION
Alliant Energy testing site sees record demand The Alliant Energy Center saw a record demand for testing, as well as unusually high wait times. The increased demand for testing comes as the Wisconsin National Guard is pulling out of testing operations at the center.	6pm local evening news. News story.	October 8, 2020 at 6pm.	2 minutes, 4 seconds.
As COVID cases climb, Wisconsin's rural health providers face increasing hospitalization rate Wisconsin's hospitalization rates have jumped in recent weeks, caused by climbing COVID-19 cases. The jump has put such a strain on the state's hospitals that state health officials opened an emergency overflow facility for COVID patients. We speak with John Eich, at the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health, about the challenges rural medical professionals are facing.	6pm local evening news. News interview	October 14, 2020 at 6pm.	10 minutes, 32 seconds
Wisconsin prisons approach 7,500 COVID-19 cases Nearly 7,500 people in Wisconsin's prisons have tested positive with COVID-19 since the pandemic began. According to the state Department of Corrections, there are more than 1,800 active cases and ten people have died from the virus. We speak to a carceral justice advocate about steps the state government could take to curb the spread.	6pm local evening news News interview.	November 19, 2020 at 6pm.	7 minutes, 55 seconds.
In a pandemic, incarceration should not mean a death penalty Jerome Dillard, of local carceral justice organization Ex-Incarcerated Prisoners Organizing, interviews three individuals who have been recently released from Wisconsin prisons to understand how COVID-19 has posed an infection risk to inmates.	8 O'Clock Buzz, morning drivetime talk program. Interview.	November 25, 2020 at 8am.	49 minutes, 52 seconds.
What we know about the COVID-19 vaccines With several promising COVID-19 vaccines announced in the past few weeks, we spend today's show learning about vaccine development and distribution with Dave O'Connor, Professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the UW Medical Foundation and leader of a viral infection lab.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	December 1, 2020 at 12pm.	53 minutes, 32 seconds.

UW system offers rapid antigen testing for public The local Nielsen Tennis Stadium has been transformed into a COVID-19 rapid antigen testing facility. It's open to the public by appointment, and offers results in 15-20 minutes.	6pm local evening news. News story.	December 2, 2020 at 6pm.	4 minutes, 29 seconds.
As local COVID cases drop, health dept. issues new guidance Public Health Madison Dane County has loosened emergency provisions enacted last month. That comes as Dane County has seen a sustained drop in confirmed COVID-19 cases over the past month.	6pm local evening news. News story.	December 15, 2020 at 6pm.	2 minutes, 25 seconds.

ISSUE: Fall election

TITLE & DESCRIPTION.	PROGRAM	DATE/TIME	DURATION
Absentee ballot dropboxes spring up in Madison The City of Madison has finally received fourteen ballot dropboxes, at which voters living within city limits may return their absentee ballot. It's an alternative to returning ballots through the beleaguered postal system or taking a drip to the city clerk's office.	6pm local evening news. News story.	October 21, 2020 at 6pm.	2 minutes, 29 seconds.
Getting out the student vote UW-Madison student and voter engagement activist Shreya Bandyopadhyay is working to get out the student vote this year during a global pandemic and a historic election at stake. We speak to her about student voting concerns and issues.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	October 21, 2020 at 12pm.	53 minutes, 53 seconds.
Madison voters head to the polls early Early voting has now started in Wisconsin — and it's something many Madison residents are taking advantage of. We speak to some early voters about why they're casting their ballot before Election Day.	6pm local evening news. News story.	October 23, 2020 at 6pm.	3 minutes, 40 seconds.
Avoiding voter intimidation with Attorney General Josh Kaul What constitutes voter intimidation? What should you do if you see or experience it? The Wisconsin Attorney General answers those	8 O'Clock Buzz, morning drivetime news and talk show.	October 23, 2020 at 8am.	10 minutes, 23 seconds.

questions ahead of the November election.	Interview.		
Voting in Indian Country Ahead of election day, we turn our attention to the fight for Native American voting rights with Jean Reith Schroedel, author of the new book Voting in Indian Country: The View from the Trenches.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	November 2, 2020 at 12pm.	53 minutes, 35 seconds.
Why do we still have the Electoral College? This historic election is primed to face more public scrutiny over the voting process and bureaucratic process of counting and certifying the votes. It's also a time when some call to abolish the electoral college. As Harvard professor Alexander Keyssar explains, the electoral college has long resisted attempts to abolish it.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	November 3, 2020 at 12pm.	50 minutes, 13 seconds.
WORT's Election Night Special Among the slate of journalists, voting activists, and scholars who joined us for our four-hour election night special is Michael Wagner, UW Professor in the school of Journalism and Mass Communication and expert on elections and media. Wagner says due to state law restrictions on vote counting and the high number of absentee ballots cast, it'll take a few days to know the results of the election.	WORT's election night special. Interview.	November 3, 2020 at 9:33 pm.	16 minutes.
Debunking the Wisconsin election rumor mill The state Assembly Committee on Elections will investigate Wisconsin's general election. Some lawmakers have repeated vague claims of ballot dumps and voter fraud, mirroring those swirling around an alternative ecosystem. Howard Hardee is the election integrity reporter for the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, and he joins us to help debunk these falsehoods.	8 O'Clock Buzz, morning drivetime program. Interview.	November 9, 2020 at 8am.	11 minutes, 33 seconds.
Scenes of a Biden-Harris victory Honking horns, noise makers, and shouts made up much of the sound of Madison celebrating on Saturday. We visit two starkly different outdoor rallies —one block apart at the state Capitol —on the day the presidential election is officially called.	6pm local news News story.	November 9, 2020 at 6pm.	4 minutes, 41 seconds
Without evidence, Wisconsin GOP claims voter fraud On Tuesday morning, the New York Times headline: Election officials nationwide find no	6pm local news. News story.	November 11, 2020 at 6pm.	4 minutes, 52 seconds.

fraud. The Times contacted top election officials of both parties in every state and found none reported any major voting issues. But the Wisconsin GOP continues to back President Trump's baseless claims of voter fraud in and outside of Wisconsin in a partisan effort to reverse the results of the election.			
Wisconsin voters approve near-record number of school funding referenda Wisconsin voters approved 43 out of 51 school funding referendums in this fall's election — including two in Madison. Combined with those approved in the spring election, voters have passed a total of 95 school funding measures this year. We speak with analyst Ari Brown,, of the Wisconsin Policy Forum.	6pm local news. News interview.	November 17, 2020 at 6pm.	8 minutes, 28 seconds.
Dane, Milwaukee County recounts draw to close The ten-day recount effort in Dane County, which involved hundreds of processors and cost the Trump campaign an estimated \$740,000, shifted the results of Dane County's election by 58 net votes, up from 45 reported yesterday.	6pm local news. News story.	November 30, 2020 at 6pm.	5 minutes, 46 seconds.
State legislature halts recount reimbursement to Dane and Milwaukee Counties The Trump campaign paid the state of Wisconsin roughly \$3 million before the partial recounts in Dane and Milwaukee County even began, but now the state legislature is holding up those funds and are tight-lipped about why.	6pm local news. News story.	December 14, 2020 at 6pm.	1 minute, 56 seconds.

ISSUE: Economy

TITLE & DESCRIPTION.	PROGRAM	DATE/TIME	DURATION
Hazard pay threatened for Willy Street Co-Op workers Management at the local Willy Street Co-op wants to eliminate hazard pay for frontline workers in their grocery stores. Workers at the co-op have been receiving hazard pay as a result of contract negotiations between the union, UE Local 1186, and management because of the increased risk of contracting COVID-19 at the workplace.	Labor Radio, labor-focuse d news show. News story.	October 2, 2020 at 5:30pm.	3 minutes, 29 seconds.

Making the gig economy work for workers The "sharing economy," which has been on the rise for the past decade, has become increasingly important during the COVID-19 pandemic, with US unemployment reaching its all-time high back in April and more workers struggling to make ends meet under ever-changing conditions. We speak with sociology professor Juliet Schor, author of After the Gig: How the Sharing Economy Got Hijacked and How to Win It Back.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	October 5, 2020 at 12pm.	2 minutes, 29 seconds.
Work and workers in a time of COVID-19 We speak with Stephanie Luce, professor of sociology at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, about COVID's ongoing impact on workers, the changing meaning of "essential worker," unions and unionization, and the ongoing fight for workers' rights, health, and safety protections in the midst of the pandemic and beyond.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	October 26, 2020 at 12pm.	53 minutes, 3 seconds.
The latest on FoxConn in Wisconsin Last week, reporter Josh Dzieza broke the story that Foxconn received a permit to use its new Wisconsin facility for storage—not the massive job-creating LCD factory that was promised at the project's outset. We speak to him about what he's learned following this story for years.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	October 29, 2020 at 12pm.	51 minutes, 58 seconds.
City leadership adopts "painful budget" The City of Madison has adopted a new budget during a pandemic-induced difficult fiscal year. Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes Conway describes it as a budget that is "painful," but one that "tries to spread the pain around."	6pm local news. News story.	November 12, 2020 at 6pm.	5 minutes, 2 seconds.
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development continues to wrestle with unemployment backlog On Tuesday, Wisconsin's Assembly Republicans introduced a one hundred million dollar coronavirus relief package. One of the central pillars of the package seeks to reduce the state's Unemployment Insurance backlog — an issue the state's Department of Workforce Development has spent months trying to solve. We speak to an investigative journalist who has been following the issue.	6pm local news. News interview.	December 3, 2020 at 6pm.	9 minutes, 24 seconds.
The looming collapse of American farming Food and agriculture writer Tom Philpot's new book, Perilous Bounty: The Looming Collapse of American Farming and How We Can Prevent It,	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show.	December 7, 2020 at 12pm.	53 minutes, 57 seconds.

examines the effects of climate change and farming practices on two major growing regions in the U.S.: California and the Corn Belt of the Midwest.	Interview.			
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ISSUE: Policing

TITLE & DESCRIPTION.	PROGRAM	DATE/TIME	DURATION
Protesters rally to support hands-up act The Hands-Up Act is a proposed piece of legislation that would mandate a fifteen year prison sentence for police officers who shoot unarmed civilians. Supporters rallied at the Capitol to draw attention to it, and at least 2.7 million people have signed a petition supporting the proposal — but Travis Washington, who is leading the effort, says he's heard nearly radio silence from lawmakers.	6pm local news. News story.	October 5, 2020 at 6pm.	5 minutes, 13 seconds.
City council punts ban on tear gas After a summer of protest, in which tear gas was frequently used, one alder has put forward a measure to ban the police use of tear gas. But the Madison Police say it's one of the least-harmful measures to control a crowd. Now, the Common Council will commission a study on the use of the chemicals.	6pm local news News story.	October 7, 2020 at 6pm.	4 minutes, 25 seconds.
Long-awaited community control board limited in authority Madison's new Police Civilian Oversight Board is the culmination of half a decade of planning across two mayoral administrations. The result is one of the strongest police oversight boards in the nation. Still, our analysis of other boards in the country finds its authority is limited.	6pm local news. News story.	October 14, 2020 at 6pm.	8 minutes, 14 seconds.
A nationwide look at facial surveillance technology The Madison Common Council has passed new restrictions on the use of facial surveillance technology by city departments, including the Madison Police Department. In passing the restrictions, Madison has joined a growing list of American cities limiting their use of the controversial technology. We speak with Jameson Spivack, a policy analyst at the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown University, about the police use of facial	6pm local news. News interview.	December 2, 2020 at 6pm.	9 minutes, 55 seconds.

surveillance technology.			
How police obtain, use, and distribute personal phone data	6pm local news.	December 8, 2020 at 6pm.	7 minutes, 45 seconds.
This year, Americans have re-examined their relationship with law enforcement officers. One of the forefronts of that debate involves the data used by police in investigations — and the methods by which they acquire it.	News interview.		
For more on how police obtain, use and circulate personal cell phone data, we speak with a local journalist following the issue.			
Ahead of hiring decision, Madison community weighs in on new police chief	6pm local news.	December 10, 2020 at 6pm.	4 minutes, 15 seconds.
As the Police and Fire Commission proceeds with its search for Madison's next top cop, some in the community are taking issue with the process itself – that the hiring process does not engage the community.	News story.		
Madison Police and Fire Commission hires Shon Barnes as new police chief	6pm local news.	December 21, 2020 at 6pm.	4 minutes, 41 seconds.
Out of dozens of finalists, the Police and Fire Commission has made a hiring decision for the next Chief of Police: Dr. Shon Barnes, previously of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability in Chicago, will be Madison's next top cop.	News story.		

ISSUE: Cultural issues

Dane County announces funding for the new Center for Black Excellence and Culture	6pm local news.	October 6, 2020 at 6pm.	8 minutes, 26 seconds.
The new Dane County budget will support the construction of a new Center for Black Excellence and Culture on Madison's south side. We speak with Dr. Alexander Gee, Jr, a noted community leader and Senior Pastor at the Fountain of Life Covenant Church.	News interview		
Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Week The U.S. just celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Day, so we extend the holiday by sitting down with Dr. Kasey Keeler, professor of American Indian Studies at UW-Madison, for a wide-ranging discussion of Indigenous issues in North America.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	October 16, 2020 at 12pm.	53 minutes, 21 seconds.

Dick Wagner on Wisconsin's recent gay history How the LGBTQ+ community overturned a century and a half of oppressive legislation and made American gay history is the business that occupies Dick Wagner's new book, <i>Coming Out,</i> <i>Moving Forward</i> , which examines Wisconsin's response to AIDS, gay life and culture, heroes and villains of the fight for gay rights, and so much more. Wagner, who was a leading player in several of these stories as co-chair of the Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues and the first openly gay chair of a county board in Wisconsin.	Madison BookBeat, literary issues talk show. Interview.	October 19, 2020 at 1pm.	53 minutes, 23 seconds.
Burlington School Board meeting ends in protest and police response At a recent meeting, the Burlington Area School Board considered a new anti-racism curriculum. Their discussion ended prematurely, after protesters from both sides of the ideological spectrum derailed the meeting. This, and a previous incident involving a teacher incorporating Black Lives Matter into her curriculum, highlights a difficult dilemma for some teachers and educators — how to teach students about the current movement for racial justice without drawing the ire of other community members. We speak with a reporter who has been following the story.	6pm local evening news. News interview.	November 11, 2020 at 6pm.	9 minutes, 40 seconds.
This is Ho-Chunk land This fall, some first year students at UW-Madison are studying Indigenous education, language, and foodways. Through walking field trips and hands-on learning, they are introduced to the Ho-Chunk land they are now living on. Today, instructor Daniel Cornelius— who is Outreach Specialist with Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center and a member of Oneida Nations of Wisconsin — joins us to talk about his first-year learning group, and what he means when he talks about "Land Education."	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	November 25, 2020 at 12pm.	53 minutes, 7 seconds.
Local Latina artists receive \$10,000 grants The Women Artists Forward Fund aims to help combat inequities in the art community and push for gender parity in the arts. On Tuesday, the fund announced the recipients of this year's grants. In addition to five finalists, who received \$1,000 to further their work, two local Latina artists received \$10,000 in grants.	6pm local news. News story.	December 17, 2020 at 6pm.	2 minutes, 22 seconds.

Angela Russell's podcast is about breathing life back into each other Angela Russell says she loves Wisconsin, but being Black in the state can be difficult. That's why this year, she started Black Oxygen, a podcast dedicated to amplifying Black voices and offering refuge and wisdom to Black listeners. We speak to her about her project.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	December 23, 2020 at 12pm.	53 minutes, 24 seconds.
Indigenous cuisine and Native food solidarity Wild Bearies is the project of executive chef Elena Terry, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation. From Indigenous seed distribution and decolonizing food to her own experiences butchering the hunt and foraging milkweed as a child, Elena brings us into the world of Indigenous culinary traditions and introduces us to important organizations advancing this work like the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance and Dream of Wild Health.	A Public Affair, listener call-in talk show. Interview.	December 28, 2020 at 12pm.	54 minutes, 15 seconds.

ISSUE: Housing issues

Homelessness in a time of COVID-19 The pandemic has put more pressure on those facing rent payments, evictions, and finding a place to call home. We speak with Joe Volk, a leader in the quest to prevent and end homelessness in Wisconsin for 35 years for the Wisconsin Coalition Against Homelessness.	8 O'Clock Buzz, morning drivetime program. Interview.	October 8, 2020 at 8am.	54 minutes, 15 seconds.
Homeless community braces for winter as new shelter announced At McPike Park on the East Side of Madison, a homeless encampment has sprung up with around 36 tents. With winter fast approaching, residents are voicing a variety of concerns even as the City of Madison announces plans for a new warming shelter.	6pm local news. News report.	October 20, 2020 at 6pm.	4 minutes, 8 seconds.
Wisconsin's domestic violence shelters navigate difficult terrain in 2020 Earlier this month, the Barron County Board of Supervisors cut \$25,000 in county funding from a domestic violence shelter.	6pm local news. News interview.	November 2, 2020 at 6pm.	12 minutes, 49 seconds.

The decision was made after the organization that runs the facility issued a statement in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. Since then, a GoFundMe to support the shelter has raised nearly 100,000 dollars. But, not all shelters who have their funding pulled are able to rally that level of community support.			
We speak with Gricel Santiago-Rivera, the Interim Executive Director at End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin.			
City leadership considering new homeless shelter for families	6pm local news.	November 9, 2020 at 6pm.	3 minutes, 9 seconds.
The city of Madison has spent the last seven months of the pandemic attempting to figure out the best method to care for the city's homeless residents. Homeless shelters, often overcrowded, have struggled with safely housing residents. Now, a new proposal before the city's leadership could establish a housing facility for homeless families on the city's far east side.	News report.		
Millions to affordable housing Even in a pandemic, Dane County housing pricewards continue to creep up, and the cost of living in the Madison area has caught the attention of both the public and private sectors. Last week, both the City of Madison and Dane County governments announced a total of over thirteen million dollars in capital funding for affordable housing projects in their respective 2021 budgets. On top of that, the United Way of Dane County and the Madison Development Corporation announced investments totalling another eleven point eight million dollars in the Dane Workforce Housing Fund. Is all that investment enough, though, to make a dent in the unmet demand for affordable housing in the area? We speak with Martha Cranley, Vice-President of Community Impact at United Way of Dane County.	8 O'Clock Buzz, morning drivetime program. Interview.	November 16, 2020 at 8am.	17 minutes, 33 seconds.
Public Cannabis Consumption Is OK In Madison Madison's city council has voted to make it legal for adults to consume or possess small amounts of cannabis in public. While residents of Madison have been able to do that in their residences since 1977, that meant unhoused individuals did not have a legal place to consume cannabis — a large reason for the council's recent action.	6pm local news. News report.	November 19, 2020 at 6pm.	2 minutes, 55 seconds.

Porchlight & city move men's emergency shelter to larger location	6pm local news.	December 16, 2020 at 6pm.	4 minutes, 37 seconds.
Porchlight has, for a long time, provided overnight shelter at three Madison churches on the Capitol Square. But the facilities, which struggles with overcrowding during normal circumstances, has struggled with finding enough space to safely provide shelter during COVID-19. That's led Porchlight, in partnership with local government and the help of CARES funds, to open a new temporary location at the former Fleet Services building.	News report.		
Tinier houses take shape at former Wiggie's Bar When the Occupy Madison movement established a homeless encampment on county-owned land, they found in the late David Wiganowski, owner of "Wiggie's" tavern on Madison's north side and frequent thorn in the side of Madison-area liberals, an unexpected champion and friend. Now, Occupy Madison is building a second tiny home cooperative village on the site of Wiganowski's former bar. We caught up with some of the Occupy folks building new tiny homes for the homeless.	8 O'Clock Buzz, morning drivetime program. Interview.	December 21, 2020 at 8am.	15 minutes, 14 seconds.