

Indiana Public Radio: WBST, WBSB, WBSH and WBSW 2024 1st Quarterly Issues Report

For the period of January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024.

Indiana Public Radio, consisting of FM radio stations WBST, WBSB, WBSW, and WBSH, has determined that the following issues were of importance to its audience community during the past three months and has aired the following news stories to address these issues:

Health

01/04/24 Health First Indiana Funding Abigail Ruhman (SLW Local Adds)

Eighty-six Indiana counties recently received the first round of public health funding to come from the state's Health First Indiana initiative. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Abigail Ruhman reports, local health departments that opted into the funding have since received a total of 75 million dollars from the state.

CUT 29002 TRT: 0:46 OUT: SOC

Local Outro: All IPR-area counties opted into the funding. For 2024, Delaware County will receive 1-point-3-5 million dollars. Madison County is getting 1-point-5-7 million. And Grant County is receiving more than 800-thousand dollars.

01/04/24

1604, 1704, 1804

1:20

1/15/2024 Vaping Farah Yousry

January marks the 60th anniversary of the landmark report by the U.S. surgeon general that highlighted, for the first time, how bad smoking is for our health.

Since then, rates of smoking sharply declined. It's a success story – but as Side Effects Public Media's Farah Yousry reports, that success is now overshadowed by a new epidemic.

CUT 25164 :30 SOQ

01/16/24

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

:47

03/04/24

1704, 1804

0:45

03/12/24 Gov Signs LARC Legislation Voicer Abigail Ruhman

Governor Eric Holcomb is signing dozens of bills this week to wrap up the 2024 legislative session. One signed yesterday (MON) requires hospitals to ensure Medicaid members have the option – during a delivery visit – to get a long-acting reversible contraceptive. It’s also known as a LARC. And as Indiana Public Broadcasting’s Abigail Ruhman reports, the new law also requires Medicaid to cover the cost of keeping a LARC option stocked.

CUT 29002 TRT: 0:47 OUT: SOC

03/12/24

1630, 1730, 1830

1:15

Economy

01-04-2024 IEDC investments report Violet Comber-Wilen

According to an annual report by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, the state agency says it had nearly 29 billion dollars in investments during 2023. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports, this money stems from businesses moving to or expanding within Indiana.

CUT 29001 TRT: 0:50 OUT: SOC

01/04/24

1630, 1730, 1830

1:10

1/10/24 2024 Black Caucus Agenda Brandon Smith

The Indiana Black Legislative Caucus says housing should be more accessible, affordable, and equitable for all Hoosiers. And that's the focus of the caucus's agenda in 2024.

Caucus bills include measures to prohibit housing discrimination against active duty and veteran military servicemembers ... to ban foreclosures based on medical debt ... and to double the tax deduction for renters.

Caucus Chair Earl Harris, Junior says housing is an "integral part of the American dream."

CUT 29001 TRT: :06 OUT: "sense of security"

Some of the bills have come up before, notably Representative Cherrish Pryor's legislation to ban discrimination in housing appraisals.

Pryor says some members of the Republican supermajority don't seem to think such discrimination is real.

Cut 29002 TRT: :07 OUT: "as they should"

Harris did say that House Speaker Todd Huston (HOUSTON) acknowledged the need this session for further work on housing issues.

01/10/24

1604, 1704, 1804

1:00

2-22-2024 Bill undermining debt protections passes out of committee Violet Comber-Wilen

A House committee today (Thurs) passed a bill that could limit debt protections for Hoosiers. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports, the legislation would shorten the period Hoosiers have to dispute charges and other issues with their banks.

CUT 29001 TRT: 0:54 OUT: SOC

ANCHOR OUT: The bill now heads to the House floor for consideration.

02/22/24

1630, 1730, 1830

1:15

03-06-2024 Tax advice for seniors and retirees Violet Comber-Wilen

How can older adults and retirees efficiently and effectively file taxes in Indiana? Several listeners inspired this question. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports, there are several resources to help guide this process.

CUT 30000 TRT: 0:51 OUT: SOC

03/06/24

1630, 1730, 1830

1:05

3/18/24

Brad Chambers Economic Plan-v1

Brandon Smith

Former state commerce secretary Brad Chambers says the number one job of a governor is to grow the economy and increase wages. And the Republican gubernatorial candidate unveiled his 10-point economic plan today (Mon).

The plan includes tax reform, entrepreneurship support, child care access, and housing availability.

Chambers says boosting economic growth unlocks so many other possibilities.

CUT 29001 TRT: :09 OUT: "is being addressed"

Part of Chambers' plan includes continuing with the strategies he led during his tenure at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Some of those — most notably the development of the LEAP district in central Indiana — have been sharply criticized by other candidates, some legislators, and local leaders.

But while Chambers says he's learned lessons from that experience, he says the state can't stop its work to develop sites in a bid to lure big investment.

Cut 29002 TRT: :11 OUT: "or we're not"

Early, in-person voting for Indiana's primary begins April 9.

03/18/24

1630, 1730, 1830

1:15

Local Stories

Volunteers and federal ARP funds help people living in now-condemned Muncie motel

SLW 01/31/24

Muncie volunteers have been helping nearly two-dozen families find housing after the city condemned the motel they were calling home. As IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, Muncie has also approved unused federal pandemic funds for the cause.

CUT 31584 2:00 ... SOQ.

01/31/24

1604, 1704, 1804

2:15

Muncie Mall is sold to southern property group

SLW 01/31/24

After years of uncertainty over its future, the Muncie Mall has been sold to a new company.

Hull Property Group from Augusta, Georgia, says it owns 35 enclosed shopping malls over 17 states, mostly in the south and east. But its portfolio already includes two Indiana properties - the mall and a Dunham's Sports in Richmond.

In a statement, owner Jim Hull says "There are no bad properties, just bad ownership, and job one for us is to do the things necessary to improve viability for the existing tenants."

The Muncie Mall lost its first anchor store in 2018 as part of a national decline in sales, eventually losing all its anchor stores. New managers, The Woodmont Company, took over in 2020 to market the mall for sale from Washington Prime Group. The next year, Washington Prime filed for bankruptcy and stopped paying the building's mortgage. The mall was eventually sold to Wells Fargo Bank in a county sheriff's sale in 2023 so the financing bank could recoup losses.

Muncie Mayor Dan Ridenour has talked about the need to save the Muncie Mall since his first year in office in 2020. That's because it's the second most-expensive property on the city's tax rolls.

No financial details were included in Hull's press release. When advertised in last year's sheriff's sale, the asking price was \$32 million.

01/31/24

1630, 1730, 1830

1:15

01/31/24 Volunteers, Funding Help People In Condemned Muncie Motel SLW

Muncie volunteers have been helping nearly two-dozen families find housing after the city condemned the motel they were calling home.

IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, Muncie has also approved unused federal pandemic funds for the effort.

CUT 31584

2:00

SOQ

02/01/24

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

2:10

MRC approves TDS bid for YMCA

SLW 02/05/24

In a short special meeting, the Muncie Redevelopment Commission approved the sale of the former YMCA building and development plan to the same developer building homes in downtown Muncie. IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann explains.

CUT 31585 1:08 ... SOQ.

02/05/24

1604, 1704, 1804

1:20

03/13/24 MCS CEO Hired After State Takeover Is Retiring SLW

The head of Muncie Community Schools is retiring.

As IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, she was hired to help guide a first-in-the-state partnership between the district and Ball State University.

CUT 31590 1:28 SOQ

03/14/24

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

1:38

Winchester and Selma Tornado

SLW 03/15/24

In an evening of severe weather, a tornado did extensive damage to two towns in Randolph and Delaware counties. But, as IPR's Stephanie Wiechmann reports, officials say the storm could have been much worse.

CUT 31591 1:05 ... SOQ.

03/15/24

1604, 1704, 1804

1:15

Local and State Government

01/03/24 Abortions Under IN Ban IN Capital Chronicle (SLW Short Edit)

A quarterly report from the Indiana Department of Health shows 17 women had abortions in Indiana since the statewide ban officially went into effect in late August.

The majority of the procedures fell under an exception for a lethal fetal anomaly.

The report shows 764 abortions were performed in Indiana from July 1st through September 30th. All but 17 came before August 21, when the Indiana Supreme Court decision upholding the new law was certified.

That law has three exceptions - lethal fetal anomaly, cases of serious health risk to the mother, and for up to 10 weeks only in cases of rape or incest. Nine of the 17 abortions since August 21st cited a fetal anomaly. Seven were due to a serious health risk or life of the woman ... and one was due to rape or incest. To use one of these exemptions, the attending physician has to certify the reason in writing to the hospital.

01/03/24

1630, 1730, 1830

1:00

1-26-2024 Anderson redistricting update Violet Comber-Wilen

The plaintiffs in a redistricting case against the Anderson City Council have filed a motion in federal court for summary judgment. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Violet Comber-Wilen reports, the motion was filed following November general elections ... where the groups say voting districts were not equally apportioned.

CUT 30000

TRT: 0:52

OUT: SOC

HOST OUT: The parties reached no agreement during a settlement conference late last year ... and Anderson City Council has since paid a Chicago-based law firm for representation in the lawsuit.

01/26/24

1630, 1730, 1830

1:20

02/01/24

Mobile Unit Grant Program Bill

Abigail Ruhman

More communities could have access to financial support to build mobile crisis response units or teams under a proposed pilot program.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Abigail Ruhman reports a Senate committee passed a bill that would establish a grant program to create or expand programs connecting people in crisis to resources in the community.

CUT 25023

:44

SOC

HOST OUT: The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

02/02/24

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

1:10

02/12/24

Class 3 Wetland Gov

Rebecca Thiele

The governor signed a controversial bill Monday that further reduces protections for the state's wetlands.

Because of a state law passed three years ago and the result of a recent U-S Supreme Court case, few wetlands in Indiana are protected today. The bill would lower the number of wetlands that could fall into Class 3 — Indiana's most protected group of wetlands, and the only class that didn't lose significant protections when the state changed its wetlands law in 2021.

Proponents say the bill strikes a good compromise between developers and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. But environmental advocates and wetland experts say they weren't consulted on the bill and that it will lead to the loss of even more wetlands in Indiana.

The House bill is the first to get signed by Governor Eric Holcomb this legislative session. Opponents say it was fast-tracked through the legislature.

02/13/24

0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

:39

02-16-2024

Ivy Tech, Ball State Join IU Speaking Out On Higher Ed Bill

Sandweiss

After I-U President Pamela Whitten spoke out against Senate Bill 202, more public universities and colleges are opposing the bill that would change tenure and leadership on campus.

Mary Jane Michalak (Michael-ak) is Vice President for Legal and Public Affairs for Ivy Tech Community College. She spoke out specifically against a provision that would give the commission for higher education authority to review and make decisions on complaints against faculty members by students and staff.

CUT 25192 :08 "...discipline decisions?"

"We don't know what remedies the commission will be able to provide. Will they be able to make employment termination decisions? Student discipline decisions?"

The commission currently exists as a coordinating body and doesn't have a role in administration.

Ball State Vice President for Governmental Relations and Industry Engagement Becca Rice asked lawmakers to strike parts of the bill that would impose changes on university boards of trustees.

CUT 25193 :12 "...like BSU's."

"This bill treats institutions and boards uniformly. Current law differentiates between those boards. We ask that you continue to differentiate between those boards: those boards that are highly effective like Ball State University's."

The bill would allow the legislature to appoint two members to each university's board of trustees.

A spokesperson says Purdue University is still QUOTE "working to fully understand" the details of the bill.

02/19/24

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

1:10

03/20/24 **Priority Climate Plan** **Rebecca Thiele**

Indiana and 44 other states have released their initial plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the help of a federal grant.

Climate advocates told Indiana Public Broadcasting's Rebecca Thiele there's a lot to love in Indiana's plan — but the Indiana Department of Environmental Management is likely **under-estimating** what the state can achieve.

CUT 25212 **:50** **SOC**

03/21/24

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

1:04

3/25/24 **Two Weeks To Register For '24 Primary** **Brandon Smith**

You have two weeks left to register if you want to vote in this year's primary election. Indiana Public Broadcasting's Brandon Smith reports on what you need to know to cast a ballot this spring.

CUT 30000 **TRT: :51** **OUT:SOQ**

03/25/24

1604, 1704, 1804

1:05

Education

1/16/24 **SB 32 Library Bill** **LEE GAINES**

Indiana Republican lawmakers introduced a bill that would drastically change the way public libraries are funded and limit the types of events and activities they can host.

Indiana Public Broadcasting's Lee Gaines explains.

CUT 25171 **:45** **SOQ**

01/17/24

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

:56

1/26/24 **Religious education bill** **Kirsten Adair**

Public schools may soon be required to let students attend religious instruction during the school day. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Kirsten Adair reports, a proposed bill intends to make it easier for parents to work with schools ... so children can receive faith-based teaching.

CUT 29001 **TRT :45** **OUT: SOC**

01/26/24

1630, 1730, 1830

1:00

2/7/24 Preview on new diplomas Kirsten Adair

Speaking of education ... The state is preparing to overhaul graduation requirements in an effort to better prepare students before they enter the workforce. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Kirsten Adair reports, the State Board of Education received guidance this week ... before the rulemaking period for the new diploma requirements begins on March 27th.

CUT 30187 TRT :47 OUT: SOC

02/07/24

1604, 1704, 1804

1:05

Literacy for Liberation

Ransom True 02/23/24

Representation in the classroom for non-white students has been a historic battle in America. It's meant generations of Black students that rarely read books in school with characters like them ... only finding mention of themselves in history textbooks. As IPR's Ransom True reports, a program in Muncie's Whitely neighborhood is hoping to change that for local students.

CUT 31590 1:30 ... SOQ.

02/23/24

1630, 1730, 1830

03/12/24 Ball State Extends 2024-25 Enrollment Deadline BSU/IPR

Ball State University announced Tuesday it is extending its national enrollment confirmation deadline for the 2024-25 academic year from May 1 to June 1.

A university news release says the decision follows a recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Education regarding a delay in schools receiving student financial aid information through the FAFSA program. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Ball State says that delay has resulted in the postponement of the formulation of financial aid packages.

The university says it will begin sending financial aid award letters to accepted students in mid-to-late-April.

03/13/24

0604, 0704, 0804, 0904

:32

03/24/24 IU GRAD STUDENT STRIKE THREAT GEORGE HALE

The Indiana Graduate Workers Union is proposing a three-day strike next month.

Organizer Zara Anwarzai ('an-WAHR-zie') announced the proposal at a town hall in Bloomington.

CUT 25263 :08 " ...AND NINETEENTH."

"Here's the idea. So, our plan is to shut down campus for three days this semester. April seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth."

If authorized, the strike would fall on I-U Day, when the campus is packed with visitors.

The graduate workers union last went on strike in 2022.

Last month, the group voted "no confidence" in I-U President Pamela Whitten after they requested higher pay and union recognition — but didn't get either.

They say Whitten never responded to formal requests to meet.

An I-U spokesperson didn't respond to inquiries over the weekend.

03/26/24

0531, 0631, 0731, 0831, 0931

:37

3/27/24 High school diploma overhaul Kirsten Adair

High school will look different for Indiana students in the coming years. As Indiana Public Broadcasting's Kirsten Adair reports, the state revealed its first draft of new graduation requirements today (Wed).

CUT 29001 TRT :50 OUT: SOC

03/27/24

1604, 1704, 1804

1:05