

Quarterly List of WGBH-TV Programming Providing the Most Significant Treatment of Community Issues - WGBH-TV (October to December 2017)

I. Education/Schools/Youth

PBS Newshour, N 12/05/17, 6pm, 60 min.

If there's a shooting at a school, should educators be prepared to shoot back? Across the country, 15 states already allow concealed carry of some kind in schools, with lawmakers in many more states considering or having recently debated the idea. But all major teacher- and school-employee groups oppose the idea. Special correspondent Kavitha Cardoza of Education Week reports.

Greater Boston, L 12/12/17, 12am, 30 min.

“The battle for change in school start times is being fought in districts across the country.” For years, parents have argued that high school should start later to better align with teens' natural sleep schedules; and elementary schools should start earlier so kids are not coming home in the dark, during rush hour. Here in Boston, the school committee voted last week to approve the new school start and end times for next fall. With more than 80 percent of start times changing — some by two hours or more — the announcement was met with fury from many parents. Adam Reilly was joined by two Boston parents — Annissa Essaibi-George, city councilor at large, vice chair of the Education Committee and a former Boston school teacher; and Dorothy Fennell, a parent and activist who has one child in Boston schools and another who will be soon.

Greater Boston, L 12/05/17, 12am, 30 min.

“Tax Plan And Travel Ban Effect On Higher Education.” There has been a lot of uncertainty in the air at our nation's colleges lately. After the Supreme Court announced that the latest iteration of the Trump travel ban can take effect, many international students and students-to-be are wondering how it might affect them. Then there's the GOP tax plan which may or may not eliminate the student loan interest deduction and make tuition waivers — given to many graduate students and other school employees — taxable income. Jim Braude was joined by Lee Pelton, the president of Emerson College, and Richard Doherty, the president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts, to discuss.

II. Housing/Urban Development

PBS Newshour, N 12/06/17, 6pm, 60 min.

The plummeting price of solar panels has led to a boom of customers and solar industry jobs. What does it mean for the evolution of utility companies? William Brangham reports.

Greater Boston, L 12/20/17, 12am, 30 min.

“Washington Train Tragedy Turns Trump Agenda Back To Infrastructure.” Three people died and more than one hundred others were hurt Monday when an Amtrak passenger train jumped the tracks outside of Tacoma, Washington, and landed on the highway below. Rosabeth Moss Kanter, a Harvard Business School professor and the author of “Move: How to Rebuild and Reinvent America’s Infrastructure,” joined Adam Reilly to discuss the state of Trump’s infrastructure plan and what can be done to prevent accidents like these in the future.

Greater Boston, L 12/04/17, 12am, 30 min.

“Cambridge Builds For Bikes, But Not Without Bumps In The Road”. The Boston area has a reputation as a cycling hotspot. However, as tensions have been rising between drivers, cyclists, motorists and pedestrians, cycling enthusiasts in Cambridge discuss the impact of the design of bicycle lanes on local businesses, safety and urban planning. According to Cambridge Mayor Denise Simmons, the new bike lanes have also generated a fair amount of confusion — especially in the heart of Harvard Square, where bikes are now going in both directions on Brattle Street, which remains one way for cars. Moving forward, Simmons says, the city has to do a better job balancing a range of competing interests — and so do Cambridge residents.

III. Public Safety/Crime/Justice

Independent Lens, N 12/12/17, 1am, 90 min.

“Newtown” explores the aftermath of the mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, where 20 first-graders and six of their educators were killed on December 14, 2012. Joining the ranks of a growing club to which no one wants to belong, the lives of several characters profoundly affected by the fallout of gun violence interconnect and propel the town toward introspection and action.

Frontline, N 12/23/17, 3am, 60 min.

“Putin’s Revenge, Part 2” – How the U.S. struggled to confront Vladimir Putin over Russian involvement in the 2016 election. The film investigates how revenge may have

motivated Putin to target American democracy, and the U.S. responses under Presidents Obama and Trump.

Frontline, N 10/18/17 10pm, 60 min.

“Mosul” – Inside the brutal battle to defeat ISIS in Mosul. With extraordinary combat footage, the film follows an Iraqi special forces unit that bore the brunt of the fight. Also this hour, a rare look at airstrikes on Yemen by a Saudi Arabia-led coalition.

IV. Needs of Special Interest Groups

POV, N 11/14/17, 1am, 90 min.

“Almost sunrise” – In an attempt to put haunting combat experiences behind them, two friends embark on a 2,700-mile trek on foot across America. The film captures an unprecedented portrait of veterans—one of hope, potential and untold possibilities.

Arab Americans, N 10/01/17, 5pm, 60 min.

The Arab Americans is the new 60-minute documentary illustrating the contributions made to the American fabric for almost 200 years by those who immigrated to the United States from the Middle East, North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. This untold story vividly paints a portrait of the Arab-American immigrant experience through the stories of people who, like all Americans, immigrated in pursuit of the American Dream. With historical immigration patterns as background, the film explores the personal stories of Arab-Americans and how they have contributed to the collective American experience. At a time when the media tends to paint people from Arabic speaking countries and culture with the broad brush of terrorism, it is increasingly important to present a positive image of the many people of the Middle East, North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula who have made America their home, and highlight their American journey as an important part of the larger American Experience.

Greater Boston, L 12/07/17, 12am, 30 min.

“Local Haitian Families Face Looming TPS Deadline And Gut-Wrenching Decision.” In Brockton, home to one of the state’s largest Haitian populations, fear of being sent back to Haiti is widespread. After the earthquake, tens of thousands of Haitians were granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS). However, the Trump Administration recently ruled to expire that program in 18 months. When the program ends, Haitians living in the U.S. under TPS will have to leave. That includes an estimated 5,000 Haitians in Massachusetts. There is another power that could help: Congress. Democrats have drafted legislation that would enable TPS holders from Haiti and other countries to

remain in the U.S. Given the climate around immigration, it's unclear if there's enough Republican support to turn those proposals into law.

V. Employment/Unemployment/Poverty

PBS Newshour, N 12/08/17, 6pm, 60 min.

The U.S. economy had a strong November with a net gain of 228,000 new jobs.

Greater Boston, L 10/18/17, 12am, 30 min.

“How Does Boston Fare In The Battle For Amazon HQ2?” Cities across the country are hoping Amazon will transform their future, including Boston and several cities around Massachusetts. Tomorrow is the deadline for any place hoping to host Amazon’s second headquarters — and the stakes are high, with as many as 50,000 new, full-time, high-paying jobs on the line. Jim Braude is joined by former third-party candidate for governor Evan Falchuk, who helped lead the opposition to the Boston Olympics, WGBH Contributor and Boston Globe Business Columnist Shirley Leung, and president and CEO of the online backup company Carbonite, Mohamad Ali.

VI. Environment/Ecology

Frontline, N 10/14/17, 3am, 60 min

“War on the EPA” – How Scott Pruitt went from fighting the EPA to running the agency and rolling back years of policy. An investigation into the conservative political forces and causes, like climate change skepticism, that propelled Pruitt's takeover of the EPA.

Windows to the Wild, L 10/22/17, 6pm, 30 min.

Radio host Ray Brown joins a group of his friends at Boston's Public Garden to go birding - right in the middle of the city.

PBS Newshour, N 12/07/17, 6pm, 60 min.

Part of the GOP tax overhaul tax bill that has not gotten a lot of attention is the possibility of opening up a pristine and long-protected part of Alaska to oil extraction. The Alaska National Wildlife Refuge is 19 millions acres of rich ecosystem. Why are lawmakers talking about drilling now? William Brangham joins Miles O'Brien to take a closer look.

VII. Medical and Mental Health/Social Services

NOVA, N 12/03/17, 5am, 60 min.

“Memory Hackers” – Discover how researchers on the cutting edge of mind-control can implant, change and even erase memories. On this thought-provoking journey into the mind, NOVA investigates the mysterious nature of how we remember.

PBS Newshour, N 12/11/17, 6pm, 60 min.

Consumer groups are worried that the tax deduction for medical expenses could be killed by the Republican tax overhaul. How does the deduction work, and who would be affected if it gets scrapped? Lisa Desjardins talks to Cristina Martin Firvida of AARP, an organization that is lobbying lawmakers to keep the deduction.

PBS Newshour, N 12/14/17, 6pm, 60 min.

Fighting the public health threat of counterfeit drugs.

VIII. Economy/Business

WGBH News Special, L 10/24/17, 7pm, 60 min.

Boston Public Radio co-hosts Jim Braude and Margery Eagan host a Boston Mayoral Debate between Mayor Marty Walsh and City Councilor Tito Jackson.

Frontline, N 11/11/17, 3am, 60 min.

“Business of a Disaster” – Disasters are big business. Follow an investigation with NPR into who profits when disaster strikes. The film focuses on Superstorm Sandy: the thousands still not home, the agencies that were supposed to help and the companies that made millions.

Tavis Smiley, N 12/01/17, 3:30am, 30 min.

The Fmr. U.S. Secretary of Labor and professor discusses the GOP’s trillion dollar tax cut and the documentary Saving Capitalism based on his book of the same name.

IX. Family/Morality/Religion

Independent Lens, N 12/26/17, 1am, 90 min.

“Meet the Patels” – Ravi Patel is almost 30 and still single, and his tradition-minded Hindu family is not happy. After he breaks up with his white girlfriend, he enters the semi-arranged marriage system in America. Meet the Patels explores the influences of culture and identity on the most intense, personal, and important part of one's life - love.

Jewish Journey: America, N 12/03/17, 5:30pm, 90 min.

A film that tells the three part story of I) Jewish life in the old country, II) the reasons behind leaving their respective homes and journeying to the US and III) both the establishment of communities and the great accomplishments made in the US.

Sultan and the Saint, N 12/28/17, 3am, 60 min.

Explore how St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt risked it all to end the Crusades. A simple Christian friar and a mighty Muslim leader met on a bloody battlefield 800 years ago. What happened next changed world history.

END REPORT