



Welcome to another WCMUnow! Thanks for catching up on the news with us.

This was an excellent week for the WCMU newsroom!

Our environmental reporter Teresa Homsy teamed up with photographer Adam Miedema to produce a profound story about how PFAS-contaminated fertilizer destroyed a Michigan farmer's livelihood. Teresa's story was distributed through our partners at *Harvest Public Media*, a collaboration of public media newsrooms in the Midwest and Great Plains that dive into these kinds of agriculture issues.

I highly recommend reading or listening to this story and checking out Adam's great photos in the web article below. Teresa's reporting paired so well with the photos and really helped bring the story to life.

Taking the time to dive deep into a story like this takes resources. From travel, equipment and frankly, a lot of time to double and then triple-checking complex data and facts. The extra work is worth it in our effort to inform our listeners and share locally produced stories that reach a wider audience across the region.

We could not produce great work like this without listener support. You are the reason we are better together, the theme of our spring fundraiser.

Help us continue producing high-quality, independent journalism with a gift to WCMU today. Click [HERE](#) to make your donation. Thank you for your support!

Rick Brewer
Your local news director

From the WCMU Newsroom



Applying organic waste like manure to farmland has been going on for centuries. But a group of toxic “forever chemicals” known as PFAS are slipping through the cracks and could be inadvertently contaminating millions of acres of farmland. [WCMU's Teresa Homsi explains how few states are regularly testing for PFAS in their biosolids.](#)

Grayling residents are calling on the Department of Defense to help bring clean drinking water to the community and implement measures - they say would advance PFAS cleanup around Camp Grayling. [WCMU's Rick Brewer, spoke with environmental reporter Teresa Homsi](#) about a recent letter the Lake Margrethe Property Owners Association sent to top defense officials.

A federal Court has dismissed an attempted bankruptcy filing by the former operator of the Edenville Dam, Lee Mueller, who petitioned for Chapter 13 bankruptcy in his home state of Nevada. Mueller was ordered to pay nearly \$120 million to the state of Michigan for his role in the collapse of the dam. [But the court dismissed his petition](#), ruling Mueller knowingly concealed the true extent of his debts.

Black Lake in Cheboygan is one of only two places in the country where lake sturgeon spearing is permitted. But a petition to make the species endangered could put an end to Michigan's limited season. [The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to make a decision on the species' listing later this year.](#)

A repaving project on the Mackinac Bridge is planned to begin March 25 closing down all but one lane on each side for a two-month period. [The project is expected to cause traffic backups for travelers.](#) The Mackinac Bridge Authority is cautioning drivers to plan ahead and consider crossing the bridge at off-peak times.

From our Capitol Correspondents



The Michigan Supreme Court heard arguments this week on whether schools can be sued for failing to protect students from sexual harassment by other students. The family of an Alpena Public Schools student is suing the district under [Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act](#).

Michigan public school students could start undergoing dyslexia screenings at least three times a year—through third grade. Supporters of the legislation say Michigan is allowing students with dyslexia to fall through the cracks too often. But Republican Senator Ruth Johnson says [the current timeline for screening requirements to kick in by the fall 2027 school year is too long](#).

A state House committee held its first hearing this week on a bill to permanently bar people convicted of many election-related crimes from serving on boards that certify election results. The bill lists a wide variety of state or federal election fraud, illegal influence or voter threat convictions that would [disqualify a person from serving on the Michigan State Board of Canvassers or county canvassing boards](#) that confirm vote tallies.

[Read more local and regional news](#)

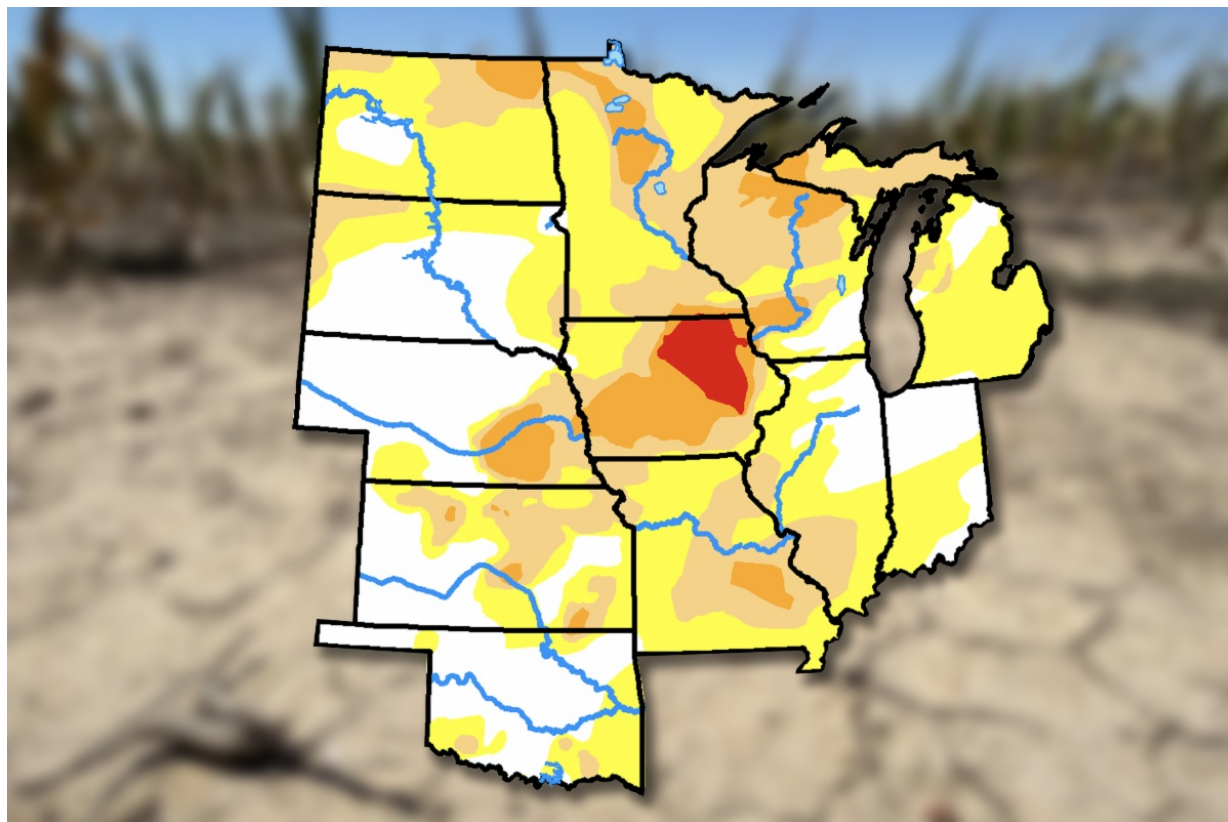
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From our partners at Harvest Public Media



Much of the Midwest is continuing to face drought conditions as farmers approach planting season. [Michigan just had its warmest winter on record.](#) A record-setting warm winter has meant the ground could absorb more snow and rainfall because it wasn't frozen.

Harvest Public Media is a collaboration of public media newsrooms in the Midwest and Great Plains - including WCMU Public Media.

From NPR & PBS



A TikTok ban in the U.S. could violate 1st Amendment rights. The House voted overwhelmingly to pass a bill that could ban TikTok here in the U.S. unless the app cuts ties with China. [The bill now heads to the Senate where its fate is unclear.](#)

The Alabama Supreme Court's decision that frozen embryos have the same rights as children came as a surprise even to many who oppose abortion rights. But for researchers and activists who have long tracked narratives at the most extreme end of anti-abortion movement, [this legal determination was inevitable.](#)

Oil and gas companies emit more climate-warming methane than EPA reports. [Getting accurate measurements is important](#) because the U.S. is among countries pledging to cut methane pollution as one of its key climate goals.

Cole Brauer became the first American woman to sail solo nonstop around the world. [The 29-year-old joins a group of fewer than 200 people who have made the trek](#), capturing worldwide attention through her Instagram posts chronicling the journey.

Weekend Watching



As new questions arise about Boeing's troubled 737 Max jet, FRONTLINE and *The New York Times* update an award-winning investigation into the design, oversight and production of a [plane that was involved in two crashes that killed 346 people](#).

Photo Extra: How PFAS ruined this Michigan farmer's livelihood



WCMU's Adam Miedema joined environmental reporter [Teresa on her trip to Jason Grostic's farm](#) in Brighton to capture these images.

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